

Everglades Elementary

Lean and Green is Everglades Elementary School's unofficial nickname. In just five fabulous years we have become a place where 'learning about living green and healthy' was part of our curriculum, to 'living green and healthy' has become the way of life.

School Grounds/Enhancement

There are various areas on our school grounds in which learning takes place. Our hydroponic garden, run by our Green Plant Team continues to produce vegetables daily. The Green Plant Team plans on entering their vegetables and plants in the county fair under the guidance of the Palm Beach County 4-H Club. The Butterfly Garden is expanding every year with added benches and plaques along with butterfly friendly plants. Students are actively engaged in meandering through the garden to find fluttering butterflies and/or obtrusive insects that harm our garden and brainstorm ways to continue to make our garden of beautiful butterflies thrive.

School Sustainability

The school sustainability is closely monitored and strategies/tools are posted throughout the school. As you enter the building, you will find students standing at a touch screen T.V. where they are able to pull up the electricity and water usage for the five years our school has been open.

Curriculum Integration

Students at Everglades Elementary progress from Kindergarten - 5th grade with a "green" curriculum integrated weekly. Each grade level has a different topic covering the spectrum of recycling to types of energy. Integrating the "green" curriculum into our day has helped shape our students into who they are today. Our school has implemented a 'Healthy Cooking Club' as well as re-established our 'Environmental Club'.

Community Involvement

Our community knows how important being green and lean means to us as well as other service minded organizations. Our school works closely with our PTO and other school clubs to support our vegetable garden, butterfly garden, healthy cooking endeavor and environmental activities as well as benefits for Kids' Cancer, Toys for Tots, Read, Run, Pennies for Pets, and the Student Council run Food Drive.

Administrative Support

Our Administration supports us completely and it is through them that we are able to make all of this happen. Our amazing clubs, after school activities, and efforts to save energy all stem from our school's backbone, Ms. Tara Dellegrotti and Ms. Jennifer Benn. You can always find them participating in all of our efforts to better our school. Our leaders continually embrace and promote our green way of living every single day.

Innovation

Everglades Elementary continues to raise the bar. We have started a 'Healthy Cooking Club' and re-established an 'Environmental Club'. Our 'Walk to School' day was a success, and our administration has eliminated the use of Styrofoam cups for coffee and Styrofoam trays at lunch. The cafeteria also has begun recycling milk and juice containers and our Newsletters are now online. Everywhere you look innovating ideas are being put in place.