

## **Part B – Summary of Green School Activities**

Felix A. Williams Elementary School is special in so many ways. Not only are the students, teachers, administrators and staff members outstanding, but the location of the school is what truly makes it unique. Being located within a nature preserve provides a wonderful opportunity for the teachers and students of our school to connect with nature on a daily basis. Most days various species of wildlife can be spotted in the pond and marsh areas bordering our campus. The calls of sand hill cranes are often heard echoing through our halls and on occasion black snakes can be spotted sunning themselves on our fences or slithering across our sidewalks. We even had a very teachable moment this year with The outdoor classroom at FAWE is a wonderful asset that allows the children to take spontaneous “field trips” to observe, record, and collect data from their natural surroundings. However, Felix Farm is most definitely our proudest “green” accomplishment. Now in its fourth year, the excitement among the kids is still growing! They definitely take a sense of ownership in the vegetable crops that we grow and share in the responsibilities of watering and caring for the plants.

Our students are exposed to healthy practices every day at school. Starting with our breakfast program in the mornings, healthy food choices are encouraged. That continues on our monthly Early Release Day fitness walks that promote health, fitness and fun. Even our two main fundraisers this year – Boosterthon Fun Run and Pi Day 5K Run – promote health and fitness among our Felix students, staff and families.

We continue to strive to implement a green curriculum at FAWE again this year. Environmental topics are taught at every grade level, in the classrooms, in the Science Lab, through use of the Felix Farm, in the outdoor classroom and through visits to the Environmental Studies Center. The students in first grade especially enjoyed their multidisciplinary unit on Monarch butterflies which included growing milkweed plants in our Felix Farm and setting up butterfly nurseries so students could witness the life cycle of the butterfly.

Fourth grade students make up the FAWE Green Team that is responsible for collecting and emptying the recycling bins from all of the classrooms every Thursday morning and our K-Kids club is comprised of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who plan and organize many of our community service projects such as Food For Families and Pennies For Patients. We also maintain strong relationships with several community partners to aid in our green projects and environmental awareness. Our Felix Farm would not be possible without the support of our PTA, Bonnie Plants, Lowe’s and Home Depot. The Everglades Project done in our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade gifted science classes was made possible by partnering with volunteers from the Savannas State Preserve Park, Everglades Law Center and Wrensong Science & Environment Education.

We are excited to be sharing our accomplishments with the Green School Recognition Program again this year and hope to continue to build upon our green endeavors in the future.