

PART B: SUMMARY OF GREEN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Golden Grove Elementary is located in the Acreage, a rural area west of West Palm Beach. The school within an area that allows our students the opportunity to see wildlife in their natural habitats on a daily basis. To the north, our school is bordered by a large canal, where it is not unusual to see alligators and various water birds. East of us, we have a large open field that we have been developing with a community walking trail and trees. On the west, we have our own Golden Pond, where alligators visit and nest, and various birds of prey search out their food.

School Grounds Enhancement

Golden Grove is fortunate to have two main outside areas that consist of a butterfly garden, reading areas for students and garden beds to grow flowers and vegetables. Classrooms use the outside areas for learning and observations of a variety of animals in their natural habitat and learn how plants and vegetables grow.

School Sustainability

Golden Grove students, staff and families continue to work hard and participate in our green fundraising activities such as mixed bag sales, Jump Rope for Heart, and walkathon. Health and wellness is a school-wide focus that incorporates fun, knowledge and cooperation. All of our students are aware of and help in improving our school's ability to conserve- reduce- recycle and reuse not only our natural resources but also man-made items that are a part of school life.

Curriculum Integration

As a school located in a rural area Golden Grove benefits from our students being able to see nature all around them. This allows our teachers to create lessons that give our students the opportunities to understand cause and effect of what they do and how they do it. Students take field trips to promote learning. Students have taken trips to a pumpkin patch, Corbett, and the South Florida Fair.

Community Involvement

Golden Grove has partnerships both in the school itself as well as in the local community. These partnerships allow Golden Grove to continue growing as a Green school. Golden Grove students participate in multiple community service projects such as food and toy drives that help not only the Acreage community but also families throughout the county.

Administrative Support

Faculty and staff support the green School Initiative by using Sharepoint, attending professional development, using Google Docs and computer based lesson plans. The school also uses Facebook, Edline parent link callouts and an electronically delivered monthly newsletter.

Innovations

Golden Grove's newsletter was changed to electronic this year. As we reduce the use of paper in preparing the newsletter more people than ever can read about the great things going on at Golden Grove. A Wrapping Paper Challenge was created this year as a way for our students and families to understand the increased volume of recyclables that enter our landfills during the holidays.