

Part B: Summary of Green School Activities

As a current Green School of Quality, the faculty and students of Good Shepherd Episcopal School aspire to become a Green School of Excellence. The staff and students continue to work collaboratively to raise environmental awareness and be GOOD SHEPHERDS of our Earth.

Once again, The Good Shepherd "Green Team" has taken pride in utilizing and enhancing our school grounds this school year. We continue to provide students with many opportunities to connect with the outdoors and become stewards of the environment in our outdoor classrooms. This area continues to be utilized in many aspects of our curriculum. Scientific observations, nature walks, Chapel services, field studies, Project WILD activities, scavenger hunts, reading buddies, and creative writing are just a few of the activities you might observe in this oak hammock canopy surrounded by Florida's indigenous plants. Every opportunity to learn in our schoolyard is taken. Through outdoor education, our students are able to connect with nature through various hands-on activities. In addition to our butterfly garden, we have added our Growums vegetable garden. This has been a community builder and has really inspired our children to go green and share our success with our school pals in Aruba.

The Good Shepherd School Community continues to make sustainability efforts on a day to day basis. We strive to encourage our students to protect and preserve the Earth's natural resources through experiential learning opportunities. Continuous efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle are being made by our "Green Team." We believe it is our responsibility to teach students about environmental sustainability throughout all areas of our curriculum. It is important to get children involved in global issues and sustainable solutions at a young age. They are never too young to start thinking about how they can help make a difference in their communities.

The Good Shepherd School engages children in learning through a developmentally appropriate core curriculum. We seamlessly weave environmental themes into all subject areas. Good Shepherd is devoted to helping young minds explore the world around them, gain respect for the environment, and promote stewardship. Students are continuously learning about current topics concerning the environment in our own school yard. Starting in preschool, our students are immersed in our natural world as a focus for reading, writing, visual arts, and more.

At Good Shepherd School, we strive to be active participants in our church, school, and global communities. In 2014-2015, we became part of the Grow One Give One pilot project. Not only have our children become budding botanists, they are eager to share their knowledge with their pals through Skype and blogging. The Good Shepherd green team consists of 5 teachers and 10 students this year. Together, they have spent countless hours planning and mentoring environmental projects within our school in our community including the Gleaning Event, Growums School Pals, Coastal Clean-ups, Spring Sprint and Wishing Well Wednesdays.

Our administration strives to raise student, staff, and community awareness of our school's environmental footprint. In keeping with our Episcopal tradition and in line with our mission to develop values as well as teach skills, each month we select a virtue of guiding principles. These virtues are integrated into all areas of our curriculum recognizing each child as an integral part of the environment in which we all live and share. Stewardship, responsibility, respect, gratitude, integrity, fairness, honesty, empathy, and courage are all essential components that will lead them as they explore the world around them. Through experiential education, students develop a deep appreciation for nature, beauty and humanity.

We are proud of the new green initiatives and innovative projects we launched this year. The Wishing Well Wednesdays, Natural Community Quilt, and Growums Budding Botanists have truly raised environmental awareness in our school community. We aspire to empower our children to continue to grow into GOOD SHEPHERDS of our earth.
