

Greenacres Elementary School's main "green" project happening at this time is to create an outdoor Reading Lab on a patio near our veggie garden areas. We plan to provide seating enough for at least one class and hope to make it into a very attractive area for students and teachers to enjoy. Our administration and the 8 teachers on the Green Team Committee, are working together to try to make this happen. Mrs. Patterson, our principal, completed a Lowe's toolbox grant in the hopes of the dream becoming a reality sooner!

We would also like to further beautify the campus by planting more native plants and trees with edible fruits. In addition, we would like to add plants around all of the portables and we are investigating the possibility of providing a new habitat for animals, perhaps starting with the creation of birdfeeders made from recycled materials.

This year we added an additional garden club so that the gardens are taken care of more often and to accommodate all of the interested students. We have many green clubs for students after school, including two garden clubs, a recycling club, boys' and girls' Archery Clubs, Fuel up to Play 60 club, Winner Scholars, the K-Kids, Fabulous Fitness and the Art & Music clubs.

We are proud to say that we have incorporated many more green fundraisers this year and sent a list of examples of green fundraisers to all teaches. The Green Team also sent a pledge to every staff member and every classroom for everyone (including students) to sign and post, promising to follow the listed green behaviors whenever possible.

Most classrooms seem to us an interdisciplinary approach when using curriculum with environmental themes. The grade levels plan together so that this approach across a grade level is possible. One of the current environmental topics used by the intermediate grade levels was: "Should Plastic Bottles be Banned?" Students read articles, debated, and wrote essays. After completing units on economics and money, the first graders walked to the Green Market and purchased fruit. They also walked to the Greenacres Historical Society Museum.

One event that we continue to provide to our students is Career day so that students have the opportunity to learn about careers and to learn from people in the nearby communities.

We provide our students with so many field experiences, which our principal highly encourages and supports. Classes have gone to the Solid Waste Authority, to the Kravis Center, walked to a neighborhood market, and saw an act from the Nutcracker by the Harid Conservatory Dancers. In addition, we have had other important programs at our school including a Drowning Prevention program and an Anti-Bullying program. Later this year the Palm Beach Pops and a small family run zoo out of Ethel, Louisiana will be visiting our school.