

Part B

Summary of Green School Activity

Becoming a Green School was a goal for JC Mitchell this 2014-2015 school year. We have not applied for Green School status in years, and it feels good to be knocking on the Green School door again. JC Mitchell Elementary is a dynamic community of learners - where all students love to participate and all teachers love to pitch in for a little bit of innovation.

When the instructional and support staff were approached about our school goal of Green School status this year, immediately teachers began implementing Green School principles within their daily routines and classroom structures.

Our campus is bountiful with many outdoor learning spaces. We are able to perform science experiments to study force, space, photosynthesis, and more in our outdoor learning environment. Many classes and reading clubs will enjoy the Florida air while completing their activities. Additionally, habitat restoration is a long-term goal for the school. We are currently waiting to hear about a grant for hydroponic and aquaponic gardening, we have an established butterfly garden that needs a little TLC, and we have a great assortment of natural habitats surrounding our school to observe plants and animals in nature.

Our school sustainability is focusing on all aspects of the category with energy, water, and solid waste focuses in the classrooms and broadcast as community challenges, we established an Alliance for a Healthier Generation this year to focus on the health and well-being of our staff and students, and we have created a partnership with SchoolPool to begin to implement some changes within our transportation systems to reduce emissions pollution and encourage wellness among students through walking or biking to school.

Curriculum across grade levels is interdisciplinary, covering a multitude of environmental topics and issues, and includes field studies of our school environment to understand our natural ecosystem in South Florida. Fifth grade students also conducted a field study on the impact of bees pollination on reproductive systems within plants in our school garden.

We have multiple community partners in thanks to our Principal, Mrs. Joan Pierre-Jerome who maintains positive support through Boca High, the Boca PD and Fire Departments; our SAC Chair, who has created a strong community bond with Florida Peninsula; our PTA, who reach out to local businesses for monthly family fun nights and donations; and our Guidance Counselor, who has initiated and maintained programs within our school to benefit our students of need.

Becoming a Green School was a goal of our administrator, Mrs. Pierre-Jerome. At first, it seemed like an insurmountable project, but as we began to gather together as a staff towards this goal, more and more projects and initiatives that make our school Green were discovered.

One of the most powerful innovation aspects of our school is our giving back to the community. We host multiple charitable donation drives - all which support members of our community. Additionally, our Music Teacher has implemented an entire music program this year focused on Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling. Additionally, murals in existence around the school, maintained by teachers and students alike, create an enjoyable environment for learning.