

## **RT B: SUMMARY OF GREEN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Jerry Thomas Elementary School is a Green School because the administration encourages a culture of sustainability within their school environment through eco-friendly school grounds' enhancements, student led energy conservation initiatives, a focused curriculum and strong community involvement.

Jerry Thomas students participate in a variety of environmentally friendly projects and activities, including the Green Tiger Club. The club's focus is to teach the 62 members about the *environment, energy and recycling*. Each year the club maintains a flower and a vegetable garden, promotes environmental awareness, participates in earth friendly contests, and is responsible for the management of all recycling on campus. Jerry Thomas currently collects, school uniforms, textiles, paper, plastic, aluminum, books, cardboard, small electronics, ink and toner cartridges. Students were encouraged to purchase Earth friendly supplies to begin the school year. Student eco-field trips to Pan's Garden, the River Center, SWA, Biz Town and McCarthy's Wildlife have provided educational awareness. The curriculum at Jerry Thomas regularly includes lessons that teach about environmental awareness and best practices. Classes plant gardens, conduct investigations, perform plays, sing songs, and create artwork with environmentally friendly themes. Lessons involving the Lorax, water cycle, conservation, native plants, and animals are regularly taught using hands on experiences.

The Jerry Thomas Elementary Green Team has developed a partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation School Pool Program. The groups have been working closely together to evaluate transportation needs, generate ideas and come up with strategies to assist with the program. Jerry Thomas currently has a carpool lane. The Tiger Running Club is always a huge success. Approximately 50 students plus parents meet twice a week before school to run/walk. The students discuss healthy eating and exercise habits.

The PTO, Solid Waste Authority (SWA), Sole Hope, Meier Orthodontics, Brush Strokes, Fresh for Florida Kids, Jerry Thomas Food Services Team and FDOT have been valued partners on the path to being Green. The SWA provides guest speakers and presentations. We are continuing our Tigers on Track program for the third year. This program promotes and teaches about healthy eating, personal hygiene and exercise habits. This is part of our school improvement plan. This year Jerry Thomas began collecting clothing and other items for "Funraising" for Dollars. The students have developed quite an understanding about how items can be reused. We are once again making a donation to the Sole Hope Organization. This is a program that recycles denim and milk jugs in order to make shoes for African children. The shoes are necessary to prevent infection from Jiggers. A pattern is used to make the cutouts. They are pinned down. These are sent to Uganda where the villagers are employed to complete the work on the shoes. The shoes are then given to the children. Without the shoes the infections eventually get so bad the children cannot walk. This is a great way to teach students about reusing and helping others. Dr. Meier and his staff present the importance of healthy eating habits and personal hygiene to the students. Many classes are participating in the Florida Department of Agriculture Harvest of the Month Program. This program promotes a different fresh, locally grown fruit or vegetable each month.