

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

In 2013, Liberty Park Elementary applied for the Lowe's Toolbox for education Grant and received \$5,000 to begin the process of becoming a green school. The grant was written for the development of an outdoor garden. At the same time, we applied for the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Grant and received an additional \$500 to create a sustainable vegetable and fruit garden. We were able to purchase the majority of the supplies at wholesale prices, which allowed us to purchase twice as much as we had originally planned allowing us to start with the following green projects:

- We purchased six long benches for the outdoor garden area so that it could be used as a classroom.
- Also, we ordered a hundreds of seed packets for the student garden club.
- The center of the garden was planned out with a path leading to a covered bench.
- We ordered a variety of butterfly-attracting plants for the center of the garden.
- We ordered trellises and fruit trees to teach students healthy eating habits.
- We also ordered a number of small children's benches, especially for Kindergartens to have a special place to sit as they learned to read.
- Taking into account school gardens provide a hands on, virtual classroom where students can learn about responsibility, teamwork, healthy eating and the benefits of being healthy and active, around the outside of the garden, six raised bed planters were built for students to plant and grow their own fruits, vegetables and herbs.
- In an effort to embellish our school the After School Green Team planted bushes around the new portables area.
- After School Green Team also planted seeds of multiples flowers around Building number ten.

We had a great deal of help from school commercial partners, civics organizations, parents and the community in the process and we are very thankful to them. It was a group effort.

- Lowe's helped by delivering and assembling many of the items.
- We held monthly "garden days" on Saturday to get the garden started. Parents of tutorial students would stay to help, along with family and friends of students in the community.
- We had an entire Boy Scout Troop out to help us on many Saturdays as well.

A recent addition, in 2015, has come from the Myrna Kramer Educational Grant, founded by Ira Klosk, the senior volunteer at Liberty Park Elementary. The majority of the donors to the project are from New York and Long Island. The grant is also helping to fund present and future green projects. Right now they are considering a Green Team proposal for a second emission of funds to cover expenses of resents creates Green Team new projects like:

- More tree-planting efforts around campus and to also, in our raised beds, seed perennial plants that won't go dormant at various seasons during the year and will look full all year.
- Another project that we have started and want to continue to work on is our reading sanctuary called "The Solarium". This is actually an old air conditioner chiller area that is no longer being used. The goal is to turn this into a retreat for teacher and students, a place where they can come and get lost in a good book. We have already started Pressure cleaning the concrete area and planting some fruit trees for the fruit of knowledge.

Since this campus transformation started to take place in Liberty Park Elementary the administration, teachers, staff, students, parents, and community members continues working together to create a more eco-friendly learning environment.

*Our formula is to create a safe learning environment which our students become first life-long environmentally conscious learners and graduate our system college and career ready. We want a positive green school environment in which all families, the school and the community work collaboratively to ensure that success. As a school we will LEARN GREEN and GROW GREEN with our students in an effort to maximize student achievement and become the top-rated green school in our state, and the nation. We are committed to our efforts and believe that you cannot teach every child, until you teach each child.*

Teachers already started to collaborate in rewriting lesson plans to align Florida Standards and give all students in every subject a green education. Students are building and using the environment around the school in an effort to better enjoy and achieve their learning goals. They have conducted field studies, expanded research projects, and used the natural habitat around them for inspiration in various subjects; after all we are the **GREEN LIBERTY PARK.**