

PART B: SUMMARY OF GREEN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Limestone Creek Elementary School has been continuing its efforts throughout campus to create a culture where every lesson, activity and special event is environmentally conscious. Students, teachers, staff, and parents are committed to growing our green initiatives and support the green team fully. Limestone Creek has had many green events this year with its green team growing from last year.

We are extremely proud that we have received the honor of being one of school selected as a Green School of Excellence in Palm Beach County who have earned money from the **Transportation Incentive Program**. We reduced our number of cars in parent pick up line in 2014 and received a \$ 500 award that went into our school improvement fund.

This is the 3rd year we have implemented our **Green Monitor** program where students take turns monitoring various activities in the classroom to ensure green procedures are being followed. We held our 4th **Zero Waste Lunch Day** in February where the entire school participated in. Every class received a score for the amount of trash per student and completed an assignment to learn how to recycle in the cafeteria, throughout the school, and at home. The winning class had ½ piece of trash total for the entire class and they received an award on the school morning news and a spirit day. Recycling in our cafeteria has significantly reduced the amount of trash we collect daily as well as our successful **Terracycle** program.

We have turned an area on our campus into 4 x 8 gardens where 20 classrooms have a **teaching garden** to care for and learn from. Our Master Gardener from Mounts Botanical Garden has been extremely instrumental in making these gardens successful. She has supplied the classrooms with starter plants and provided information on watering and care of the plants. The pride in the student's faces when they walk by the gardens is priceless. Many student's have taken home vegetables from the gardens and started their own gardens at home.

Our **Cool Pool** events that we started several years ago at Limestone Creek have been a success. We have implemented them every month on the first Friday of the month. We are proud to have come up with an idea that helps increase carpooling, biking, and walking to school and decreases pollution and traffic congestion. We purchased a banner that lets parents know when the event will take place. We have once again partnered with the **School Pool** on many events and value our relationship.

Our teachers have received **Professional Development** training at Limestone Creek Natural Area across the street from our school. Many of our teachers have brought their classrooms to the natural area to learn about Florida eco-systems. Several teachers have provided information to students about the Flatlands Park in northern Palm Beach County

and we are in the process of gathering information as a study guide for students to encourage protection of our wildlife sanctuaries.

Limestone Creek places the utmost importance on being environmentally conscious and recognizes that because we are teaching our students early about the importance of sustainability, energy and water conservation we are giving them skills and values that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

PART C: NARRATIVE SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION

A. School Grounds Enhancement

- 1. Green Apple Day of Service 9/14:** This is our 3rd year participating in the Green Apple Day of Service. The Center for Green Schools is behind the Green Apple movement, working to ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend a green school within this generation. Over 75 student, staff, teachers, and parents helped pick up garbage at Coral Cove Park in Tequesta.
- 2. Teaching Gardens:** This year at Limestone Creek we are taking our teaching outside. We spruced up our courtyard area by planting some plants that attract butterflies and continuing with our outdoor garden beds. The gardens encompass a core belief that when you educate a child about nutritional choices, that child will teach his or her family and ultimately pass that knowledge on to others. Our goal for the teaching gardens is to incorporate them into the culture of our school. We want our students to not only learn how to grow and sustain their own food source but also to increase their compassion by caring for something outside of themselves. Students are learning how to cooperated and build team work by working towards a common goal. 24 classrooms are participating in our gardens and have planted vegetables, flowers, and herbs. All of the students are able to examine the gardens, see and smell what is growing and feel a sense of pride for our beautiful garden areas.
- 3. Environmental Club:** The Limestone Creek Environmental Club has 12 students who meet every other week and care for 10 vegetable gardens. The Environmental Club has been in existence at Limestone Creek for 10 years. The students plant and care for their gardens and bring the harvest home to share with their families. The garden plots are located near our mural that was painted 2 years ago. The entire area has added a true sense of Cougar Pride at Limestone Creek and all the students love to walk in the area and look at the colorful and vibrant outdoor areas.
- 4. Outdoor Planting on Campus:** Over 20 classrooms this year planted flowers and plants outside of their classrooms to spruce up our campus. Mrs. Battle's 3rd grade class has planted sunflowers again this year for her students to study plant growth and measurement. All 5 classes in the portable units have planted