

Liberty Hyde Bailey once said "A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them." We have expanded our efforts in going green for the last 4 years. This year we began our year with being awarded the Florida Green School Network, Green School of the Year for 2014. We were so excited to have achieved this level of award and that we were able to continue the growth that brought us to this point. We view our school as a total unit as a culture to grow, nourish and protect. Four years ago we made the decision to Go Green and a five year plan to guide us. Whether we truly understood the impact that it would have on our campus or on our campus's culture we do not know. What we do know is that the change has been remarkable with students utilizing the Outdoor Learning Center daily. All grades, all students, all subjects use the OLC for a variety of learning advancements and expansions of learning. The OLC has become also a source of sustenance for our schools culinary program and a major component to our ESE population. Teachers integrate environmental topics into all classrooms, whether it is writing, science, reading, math, history, or electives. Environmental education has been intertwined within the different subjects. We have made great strides in the area of school sustainability with the most notable gains being in the realms of Green Fundraising and Solid Waste. This year we worked with the Growums Company and what a great project that became so much more. It started as a way to encourage green behaviors at home, provide in class learning kits and raise money for our green initiatives. It became the foundation for what has become one of our greatest accomplishments our Talking Gardens. As one of our teachers took these garden kits given to her by the PTSA and began a whole new program with her ESE Population who is severely speech delayed or impaired. The results are amazing and garden tours now given by her students will make you cry and smile at the same time. Our advancements in the area of solid waste are that the culture of the school has changed to recycle all of the time and not just when they remember. We have added new dumpsters and have a reliable company now working with us to recycle our paper. It took three years to truly see the change of culture but the culture is now more evident than ever before with 100% participation. We have continued our partnership with NASA CFL with over \$600,000 worth of repurposed equipment and artifacts just this year and over \$1,500,000 over the last three years. Our goal is to expand our technology not our landfills. We have continued this year with our Make Your Mark Not Your Footprint program and have expanded it to our sister school Olympic Heights High School where graduating students choose from a list of approved native plants and donate a tree or plant to the Outdoor Learning Center with a self designed engraved repurposed wooden marker with their name to stay in the garden. It is a culture that we have seen go far beyond just walls and the grounds of our school. Our community partners are fully invested in the programs that we have now and it continues to encourage our staff, administration, students and their families to be involved to carry it to the own lives and make environmentally conscious decisions in their everyday lives. We have an administration that not only promotes the Green School initiatives, but actively participates in the planning and execution of the program, while always incorporating it into the trainings and encouraging more staff to attend the Green Conference. In addition to this our Principal, PTSA president, ESE teacher and parent of one of our talking gardens students attended the Florida Green School Network and were honored as their Green School of the year and as having one of the three finalists in the Green Teacher of the year category. Eagles Landing has brought about a change and cultural attitude that follows what Albert Einstein once said "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."