

### **Summary:**

The student body of Palm Beach Central High School is committed to becoming more environmentally friendly each year. Four years ago the PBC Gone Green Environmental Club was formed and our commitment to environmental stewardship has continued to bloom. As we have grown and our mission has solidified we decided to change our name to Environmental Agents Restoring The Habitat or EARTH Club. The club has continued to transition and this year we are once again changing our name and our status. We are now the Environmental Society and will be (by month's end) the first Palm Beach County National Environmental Honor Society.

Through the hard work of many dedicated students at PBC we have achieved great things. One of the first projects we decided on completing was to enhance our school's aesthetic value. We planted native grasses that have flourished over the years, enhancing the natural beauty of our courtyard. This year we enhanced and maintained our nature trail. The first stop on the trail is the new Urban Wetland, featuring aquatic plantings and cypress trees. The next stop is Environmental Society's organic vegetable garden. Organically grown produce is grown and harvested. Walking on music will fill your ears. This is the site of our Purple Martin houses. There are no vacancies at this stop as native Floridian birds occupy these houses daily. Next on the trail are the donated Mahogany trees and, standing 4 feet high, these trees hold the potential of becoming a nice shaded haven for reading a good book. Just a little further down is our brand new wildflower garden. We developed this with a grant from the Wildflower Federation and it has flourished into a thriving space. The final stop for this year is our Observatory Garden. This project has recently been completed and provides an educational area for our biology classes next year, showcasing native species of Florida.

Making our school sustainable is also a goal. We continued an energy saving campaign, which was extremely successful. We have sustained our energy saving practices by having all staff recommit to turning off electronics when leaving campus and hanging placards on their doors to remind them of sustainable practices. Our recycling programs have become habit at PBC. All of our students and staff are actively recycling paper and plastics, so that our trash cans are not overflowing at the end of the day. Both programs have fostered a sustainable awareness in our campus community.

Not only did we complete these projects and learn some new knowledge but we wanted to share the environmental concept to the whole school. We integrated environmental thinking into; AP World History, AP Human Geography, AP Environmental, AP Biology, AICE Environmental, AICE Marine, English, Spanish, French, Culinary and so many other courses. Our science classes have done many environmental focused labs ranging from the "Capture and Recapture Lab" to the "Seal Lab". Some very dedicated students at PBC enrolled in the Pine Jog program at FAU, which will teach them all about local environmental issues.

Innovation has become a way of life for us, "PBC Gone Green", is our battle cry. We have worked together as a school community to spread environmental news. In doing this we have enlisted the help of our favorite steed, Bucky. He now wears a "Gone Green cape at all of his engagements.

All of these efforts could not have been possible without the support shown from the entire staff at Palm Beach Central High School. Together the students, faculty, and staff of PBC are building a better tomorrow for everyone.