

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

While there is a growing concern for the myriad of our environmental problems, there is still a lack of public understanding on how to solve them. Palm Beach Day Academy understands the interdependency between human actions and the environment, and that the condition of our environment plays a direct role in the quality of our lives and our health. We feel environmental education to all citizens is seen as one of the most powerful ways to create an environmental literate society that is capable of taking on the challenge of creating a sustainable planet, ultimately improving the health and quality of life for global citizens for generations to come. We strive to create ecoliterate students who move from environmental awareness to action.

Palm Beach Day Academy has been committed to maintaining its Green School of Excellence recognition since the initiation of the program. Administration, teachers, staff, parents, community partnerships, and students all play an important role in keeping our school moving toward becoming more sustainable each year. We are excited that our newly upgraded air conditioning system has cut our energy bill in half this year and our program to save water has reduced water usage school wide.

We strive to promote student driven exploration to discover new ways of maintaining sustainability and healthy ways of living. From our preprimary earth friendly art projects to our extensive environmental studies in fourth grade, students are taught to consider how their everyday actions impact Earth, working towards understanding how humans and nature are connected. No Child Left Inside is one of our philosophies that we live by. Daily lessons often take place outdoors where our newly established schoolyard habitat and various gardens can serve as an experiential learning environment. We are constantly on the road, participating in place-based learning activities at local community centers such as Grassy Waters, Pine Jog, and Archbold Biological Station. Our ninth graders even got to experience a long weekend at The Island School, a sustainable school in the Bahamas. The students lived sustainably and conducted research and field studies on aquatic life. Along with this, organic snack choices from the garden and innovative programs like Girls on the Run encourage responsible choices and healthy lifestyles.

Built right into our curriculum are the essential questions that guide our instruction and prepare our students to take action. Overarching questions such as, “How do my actions affect myself, my community, and the environment?” are woven into our everyday experiences. Our community partnerships provide hands-on experiences and allow us to make connections with the community, learning from various perspectives. Our service projects are also heavily emphasized, as we want our students to understand that working together can help make our environment and community a better place. We actually fed over 100,000 families by leading a Feeding Children Everywhere event this February. Challenged to Excel, Empowered to Act, Prepared to Lead. Our school mission statement is the powerful drive that encourages our Palm Beach Day Academy family to take action to improve the lives of all species of the planet.