



Part B

Our school mascot is the Dolphin and it is a great representative of our school philosophy! We strive to provide an environmentally aware campus for our students to flourish and grow. Learning is enriched with all of our STEAM program resources and our environmental commitment to the campus and the community.

Palm Beach Gardens Elementary School is proud to be participating in the Green Schools program for the fifth year. Our efforts have continued to evolve and we are very excited to have expanded our program into many new areas of our school campus and environment. This was our second year hosting a school and community Science Night which featured several hands on learning activities presented by The South Florida Science Museum. One of the featured activities was a collaborative project by the art department to have students and families painting colorful slats for our hydroponics garden enclosure.

Our mission includes becoming one of Palm Beach County's premier STEAM initiative choice programs. The integrated STEAM activities and lessons are environmentally focused this year and reflect our commitment to improving our Green profile. We have also added an engineering program of studies to our fine arts curriculum for grades three to five and they have focused on studying a Green Engineering program including solar energy and its applications. Our "STEAM MATES Days" allow the pairing of grade levels to explore environmental topics including, oceans, energy, animals and the water cycle.

The Green committee is comprised of representatives from all areas of our school to maximize the impact on our campus. The "Green Communication Board" and the school newsletter communicate current events, environmental activities and school news related to our Green initiative. Several of our staff members attended the Green Conference last October and have shared many creative ideas with the team. Our new composting barrel and bin will allow for the students to recycle food scraps to produce fertilizer for our gardens.

Energy saving practices includes; lighting timers, computer shut down programs, temperature management with door and window usage and reducing water waste. All of our classrooms have new smaller recycling bins which allow for easy disposal. Our efforts have reduced electricity usage over 32%. This added to the last two year's savings is a cost reduction of over 13%.

We have invited several guest speakers and conservation groups to teach students about environmental awareness. A presentation was given for the students by local bee farmers on the environmental impact of pollution and the use of chemicals in farming. Our students have done many hands on activities and lessons studying conservation, energy and recycling. Our school garden is bigger and better than ever! Our new hydroponics garden is equipped with a solar panel watering system which uses a rain barrel. We have numerous student field trips to nature and environmental centers. Our club's activities also support the Green effort. Our "Garden Club" and "K Kids" Program participate in the school gardening, recycling programs and community beach clean-ups. Our new afterschool clubs for running and cross fit training develop student endurance and demonstrate healthy lifestyle choices.

The Boy Scouts, local high school students and community members have contributed to enriching the natural environment of our campus with plantings and decorated garden benches. Our recycling programs have been expanded to include used books, shoes, batteries and now a clothing and textile drop bin. Participating in the "Caps for Love" recycling allows the proper disposal of plastic caps to benefit children in need of wheelchairs.

We have improved our new traffic flow plan for student pick-up and drop-off with a number system. This pick-up plan promotes energy efficiency by moving the traffic more efficiently and reducing idel time for the vehicles. We have just completed our third year of our green fundraiser, "Boosterthon" which raises health and environmental awareness. We are committed to improving our green growth in all areas of our school environment. Our curriculum has been enriched with many environmental topics throughout the subject areas fostered by our STEAM and engineering programs.

Summary