

Part B – Summary of Green School Activities

Pine Crest School is committed to the green school initiatives by supporting collaboration between students, faculty, administrators and staff. As a school, it is our mission to develop leadership and provide a nurturing learning community that prepares students to meet the global challenges of the future.

Lower School and Middle School students enjoy making use of the outdoor learning spaces on and around campus. Teachers provide small group reading instruction in the courtyards, math motivation on the playground, music lessons in the amphitheater, art classes in the garden and science experiments on the fields. Outdoor learning is an ongoing, vital component of the interdisciplinary learning approach at Pine Crest.

Many of our Lower School students arrive early each morning to help with the animals on campus. The Student Zoologists participate in the maintenance of the bunny huts, bird aviaries and turtle pond. Students play an active role in the day to day care of the animals and work with the school's staff to meet the animal's everyday needs. In addition to animal care and habitat conservation, students also play an active part in planning, planting, harvesting and/or general maintenance of the school's organic vegetable garden along with much of the school's native Florida landscaping.

Conservation is a priority at Pine Crest. Although the classroom lights and plumbing fixtures are automatic, Student Conservationists are responsible for monitoring energy and water usage on campus. Students also play an important role in school sustainability. They support the dining hall's zero waste policy and have initiated the "Caps of Love" collection. Pine Crest is collecting plastic caps which will be donated to the Caps of Love organization. The caps will be sold as recycling and the proceeds will be used to purchase wheelchairs for people who are physically handicapped. This year, Earth Day will now extend into Earth Week. During Earth Week, the Green Team will be selling repurposed products and the students who visit the Loggerhead Marine Life Center will be selling turtle shaped cookies as fundraisers. Money earned will be donated back to the Marine Life Center to help care for the rehabilitation of sea turtles.

Our school has partnered with the local community by participating in beach clean-ups, water conservation contests, Florida panther education, donating recycled supplies for needy schools and partnering with local farmers to engage our students in project based learning opportunities while focusing on our natural habitats, ecosystems, and animal life. Pine Crest School is diligent in its efforts to create a caring community where students are learning to lead by example. The faculty, staff, administrators and families are committed to the green culture and are confident that their efforts will be sustained over time.