

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

Plumosa School of the Arts is a Choice program for Visual, Performing and Communication Arts as well as Dual-Language (Spanish). Here at Plumosa, the students are involved in various Green projects such as tending to a community garden where the students not only plant indigenous species of trees, bushes and flowers they tend to them on a daily basis. Each class takes turns looking after our garden. The students take great pride in their work and it is wonderful to see their faces when their plants sprout. We focus on the importance of planting native species that help to maintain the local ecosystem. Students learn that non-native species of both plants and animals can be detrimental to the environment.

Along with our community garden, the entire school is involved in the recycling process. The fifth grade classes help to maintain and spread awareness about the importance of recycling. They are responsible, on a daily basis, to collect and distribute recyclable materials to the proper containers for pickup. Not only do they recycle paper, they also report to the cafeteria after breakfast and lunch to separate recyclables from the trash. To date, Plumosa has recycled over 20,000 pounds of material. Students are taught the importance of not only recycling while at school, but anywhere they might go. They are amazed to learn that the plastic water bottles that we take for granted never biodegrade in a landfill and are much more cognizant about carrying water in containers that can be reused.

Something new that we plan to implement this year is called "The Salad Project." This will entail that individual classrooms grow vegetables with the hopes that once all vegetables are ripe, the classes will be able to combine their vegetables to create a salad to be shared by all. Plumosa is blessed with much green space and every classroom will be given a particular area, most likely below their classroom window, to plant, water and maintain. We have applied for the Green Seed Money Program to help fund each of the classes in the purchase of soil, seeds and fencing. The classes will be required to label, with student generated work, everything within their garden. The classrooms will be responsible for taking pictures and recording data. Once all has been recorded and pictures taken, a bulletin board will be dedicated to the classroom gardens and, hopefully, a nutritious home-grown salad will be sampled by all of the students.

As we implement continued energy saving measures at Plumosa School of the Arts, students, teachers and administration will continue to work hard to help conserve energy. Our current outdoor environments provide a great opportunity for learning. We currently have four places available that we use for outdoor activities in Science and other areas of the curriculum.

A school wide "Energy Patrol" program continues to be strong at Plumosa School of the Arts. Our student council even participates and makes posters displayed in our cafeteria and near recycling bins throughout the school. One of the best things about undertaking this energy saving program in our school is that it will help educate young people about energy savings and take this knowledge and apply it at home.

As the Choice Programs School of Visual, Performing and Communication Arts, Plumosa is in a unique position to combine arts integration into every content area, as well as into our green initiatives. Our art program makes extensive use of recycled products both to create art as well as to use for art room supplies.