

Part B – Summary of Green School Activities

Sandpiper Shores continues to build on the ideas and programs of last year such as our Walk/Bike/Bus to School Days and our TerraCycle collection. We have also added some new, innovative ways to go green as well as improved upon programs that have already been implemented. We are continuing to follow our School Improvement Plan and have incorporated staying a green school in every aspect of how our school operates.

One of our focuses has been to reduce paper usage. PTA, along with the grade level team leaders, have worked together to purchase Ipad's in order to achieve this goal. PTA, through various fundraisers, has been able to purchase Ipad's for each primary grade level. This has reduced the number of worksheets teachers have had to copy thus reducing paper usage. In addition, PTA has made its focus to use half sheets for flyers whenever possible as well as using emails to communicate events to parents. These are only two ways our school has been successful with reducing paper usage.

Sandpiper has also focused on improving student involvement when it comes to maintaining our campus. Student Council showed their leadership skills by making posters that reminded students to recycle and not to litter. Our Green Club keeps up our garden beds up by planting tomatoes, lettuce, corn peppers and basil. Once these items are grown, students take them home and ask their parents to incorporate them into their meals. Our fifth grade students are solely in charge of collecting the recycling everyday and very eagerly walk around the entire campus collecting paper and water bottles.

Our School Clean Up Days have been extremely successful resulting in not only a beautiful campus, but a group of students, teachers and community members who understand the value of planting, maintaining and teamwork. New mulch was put in, flowers and vegetables were planted and our courtyard benches were repainted. Our Boy Scouts have been instrumental in helping us achieve this goal.

As far as curriculum goes, our teachers have been utilizing many different "Go Green" programs. One new program is the Harvest of a Month program where students focus on one vegetable a month. Newsletters, lesson plans and worksheets about that vegetable are delivered. Students learn about that vegetable and its nutritional value. Every single one of our classrooms has created a "Go Green" goal at the beginning of the year. Students brainstorm ideas in small groups and led by the teacher, pick one goal they want to focus on all year. These include turning off the lights, recycling water bottles, and using less paper.

We have also focused on fundraisers that not only incorporate going green, but also keeping healthy. Our Walk-a-Thon encouraged students to get active and eat healthy foods. Our Safety Patrols have also participated in fundraisers that encourage students to reduce waste. For example, Give for Growth is a web-based fundraiser that requires very little paperwork. They also sold Smencils, pencils that are made of recycled materials. Overall, Sandpiper Shores is excited to continue making progress in reducing, reusing and recycling. We have done our best to build on what was started last year, but also to incorporate new ideas that make our Earth a better place to live!