

Green Schools Recognition Program

2014-2015 Application

PART B: SUMMARY OF GREEN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

At Timber Trace Elementary we are growing leaders to be native green thinkers who will positively impact their environment and actively involve others in their commitment to develop and sustain a green lifestyle. School grounds enhancement continues to be a priority with a focus on curriculum integration. The multigrade Tree Huggers Club designed, planted, and maintain new gardens as natural learning environments with the addition of Quick Response codes to educate students about plants during nature walks. Community members provide, guidance, and instruction on native plants and animals. All students take an active role in restoring and maintaining a healthy habitat for native life to thrive in our Adopt-A-Spot program. The Student Council/K-Kids act as litter patrols by presenting the class with the cleanest spot the “Tidy Tiger” award. This environmental leadership group, partnered with the Singer Island Kiwanis, cleans the Ocean Reef Park and beach several times each year. They also sponsor yearly campus clean-ups, Zero Waste Day, and green fundraising. The Student Council/K-Kids are planning to complete every step of green school fundraisers this year: Earth Day Smencils, Mixed Bags, and Trash the Teacher. The money raised will be used for a nature trail and citrus grove.

Students lead school sustainability activities in roles such as “Technology Assistants” and “Energy Activists” to conserve energy. Fifth graders analyze school energy use and make recommendations to save energy and reduce associated costs and present at Green Team meetings. We conserve water through the use of rain barrels to irrigate over 40 garden plots. In conjunction with the school gardens and spacious fields, health and well-being is promoted with lessons on healthy eating and physical education. Students and staff participated in the Riverbend Green 5K. Everyone reuses materials and resorts to recycling as the last option. Innovative projects this year include our Recycled Dog Show, creating clipboards from election boards, and creating upcycled enrichment toys for animals at Lion Country Safari. We have increased recycling efforts for paper, plastic, ink cartridges, cell phones, books, shoes, clothing, and other textiles by hosting recycling contests and fundraising projects for donated items. The Student Council/K-Kids complete recycling weekly and teach lessons in primary classes on waste reduction, recycling, and composting.

The Green Team (staff, students, and community members) meets monthly to implement greening efforts and provide faculty with resources to reinforce our commitment to using the environment as an integrating context for curricular development across all subjects. Students learn about local environments through first-hand-investigation and guest conservationist authors. A short term goal involved the successful reduction of food waste at lunch by creating a “Tigers Care, Tigers share” table which allowed students to share unwanted items.

Digital newsletters (class and PTA) and the Edline website communicate the school’s green projects and initiatives to families and community members. At our annual Go Green PTA Night members of the Green Team and student-led Tree Huggers will assist at the recycled craft center and present tips to lead green lifestyles. Families experience our environmental accomplishments and ways to support our greening efforts at booths with information on energy and water conservation, waste reduction, reusing materials, recycling, and gardening. Resource Depot and the Green Team provide professional development to help us build Green School capacity. Being a Green School is incorporated into the School Improvement Plan and major planning efforts are discussed at monthly School Advisory Council meetings. Timber Trace has strived to improve our community involvement in implementing student-led, innovative green school initiatives to develop our green school philosophy and culture.