

## Whispering Pines Elementary School 2014-15 Green Schools Recognition Program

### PART B: SUMMARY OF GREEN SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES

- Whispering Pines Elementary students and staff are excited as we journey towards having our school become a more “Green School” environment through educational programs and activities that include community support.
- Outdoor learning experiences include educational programs. The Arthur R. Marshall Foundation is our featured speaker for our Earth Day program presented to the entire school and the Boca Raton Garden Club’s presentation on the endangered habitat of the monarch butterfly to the garden club. The Friendship and Tolerance Garden provides an educational environment for students to learn about the ecosystem while including all academic curriculum.
- Habitat improvement is critical as we had a school wide planting to create and maintain new areas of plants. Thanks to local nurseries and their donation of trees, bushes and flowers and reduced prices for items purchased our campus is becoming more ecofriendly. Plants provided were Florida native and therefore requiring no extra use of water.
- Student participation is an integral part of our school green culture. It is important to have the students feel they have a role and “ownership” in promoting our school being green. Students in the garden club plant and care for flowers in the Friendship and Tolerance Garden and added new plant to help the monarch butterfly. Teachers learn about the ecosystem by growing plants and then having students plant them in the garden. Animal lifecycles are taught and supplemented by catching and raising caterpillars from in the garden, learning what plants they eat and watching them change into butterflies and following our adopted manatee and sea turtle. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade planted a native slash pine tree for Florida Arbor Day. Teaching the importance of sustainability to our students include ESE students go to all the classrooms to collect recycled paper and water bottles, student council making posters to encourage the recycling of paper and water bottles and the importance of conserving energy by turning off lights and water, classroom Green Helpers on job charts, a No Waste Lunch Day, recycling of ink cartridges and e-newsletters.
- The “Green School” culture also includes being a healthy individual. We have initiated programs such as fitness15, an apple a day, daily PE activates, walk/bike to school, Just Say No to Drugs, basketball and running clubs and more.
- Green program/activities are integrated into the classroom curriculum. Each grade level actively uses the resources provided to the staff from various green workshops, uses the garden and other programs such as our adopt a manatee and sea turtle to enhance learning. Topical issues are discussed to educate student of the importance of caring for their environment (monarch butterfly, bird count, beach cleanup, everglades awareness).
- The community involvement within the school and service projects is evident by enlarging the Green Team Committee, donations for beautification by families and plant nurseries, beach cleanup, collecting clothing, counting birds and caring for monarch butterflies.
- Administrative support is the foundation of our success for implementing new programs and curriculum. They encourage continuing education and the sharing and implementation of ideas (adding Environmental Green page to website) , planting and inviting guest speakers.
- Finally, we have initiated numerous new programs this year to include recycling of water bottles, collecting clothing, carpooling, e-newsletters by teachers and administration, bird counting, and monarch butterfly habitat awareness.