

BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT 754-321-1874



SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES:

- ❖ BROWARD COUNTY GREEN INITIATIVE.
- ❖ TRADEWINDS ELEMENTARY WINS JIMINY CRICKET ENVIRONMENTALITY CHALLENGE
- ❖ SILVER RIDGE ELEMENTARY TOPS IN STATE "AMERICA RECYCLES DAY" PLEDGE CARD CONTEST

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We encourage the electronic distribution of this newsletter to reduce paper usage.

INTRODUCING...

Welcome to our first publication of The Broward Enviro-News. This newsletter is an exciting undertaking that brings together information and updates on all of the major environmental initiatives taking place in our schools for everyone and anyone who is interested in our growing concern for our environment. The Broward School Board is committed to environmental stewardship, and recognizes the need to work together to save our vital resources and protect our delicate environment.

As a Broward Schools stakeholder, you may be aware of some of our efforts to

promote environmental stewardship. You may not be fully aware of all the different aspects of our "green initiative." This publication will serve to keep you updated on the many different undertakings and opportunities within our county.

It will also showcase best practices, environmentally active students and high achieving school programs. For example, did you know that the Broward School System recycles, reuses materials, and reduces waste products? It is true, and we also conserve electricity, water and paper.

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ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE MONTH: DR. ROBERT "BOB" PARKS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, DISTRICT 7

You may not know it to look at him, but Dr. Bob Parks is a 'Tree Hugger.' This is no secret to the people who know Dr. Parks, as he has been an active environmentalist and aggressive School Board Member who has worked diligently to make environment stewardship a part of our county culture. Dr. Parks has been active in many environmental events, including Pompano Proud, Earth Day, and Arbor Day. Most recently he has been working on the County-wide Environmental Initiative, and has been seen tossing dirt and planting plants in many of our newly developed butterfly gardens. For these reasons and many others, Dr. Parks is our Environmentalist of the Month.

A native Floridian, Dr. Robert D. "Bob" Parks grew up in Key West. He received



a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Belmont Abbey College, NC; he obtained his Master of Education and Bachelor of Business degrees from Florida Atlantic University and his doctoral degree in Education Leadership from the University of Miami. He has been a member of the School Board of Broward County, Florida since 1986 and has provided leadership three times as the Chairperson during the last twenty-two years.

Prior to becoming a School Board Member, Dr. Parks taught in the Broward County School System for 17 years; first at Pompano Beach High School, then at Boyd Anderson High School.

BROWARD COUNTY GREEN INITIATIVE IT INVOLVES US ALL!

In 2005 – 2006, the School Board of Broward County approved a green initiative for a countywide tree and plant analysis and evaluation. Driven by the canopy damage from Hurricane Wilma, the School Board wished to replace non-native trees with native Florida species that would withstand future storms and be environmentally stable.



To assist in accomplishing this task the School Board of Broward County formed a partnership with the Broward Department of Environmental Protection (BDEP). The BDEP would assist in providing training and teacher assistance. The School Board of Broward County would provide the materials and installation. The partnership would connect the campus landscaping with the curriculum and instruction in the classroom. This plan and partnership has proven to be highly successful in our pilot schools.

5-YEAR PLAN TO
REPLACE THE NON-
NATIVE CANOPY WITH
INDIGENOUS SPECIES
AND NATIVE PLANTS



In 2006 – 2007, three pilot schools started the Broward County Green Initiative as approved by the School Board of Broward County. As part of that pilot program, Sunrise Middle, Pompano Middle and McNicol Middle Schools were all replanted with native species after a complete landscape evaluation and analysis. Teachers at these sites were provided with, and trained in environmental curriculum materials.

Butterfly gardens were constructed, and students, teachers, administrators and groundskeeping personnel all worked collaboratively towards the success of this program. In each case, the program was successful, and continues to be an integral part of the campus and the curriculum at these schools.



Your time is coming soon! All schools in Broward County will have a complete campus assessment and replanting effort connected directly to the curriculum in their classrooms over the next 5 years. This 5-year plan replaces the non-native canopy with indigenous species and native plants.

In 2007–2008, 25 schools were selected to begin the second aggressive phase of the 5-year program. This plan focuses on the middle school and the feeder schools for each of them. The middle schools identified for 2007 – 2008 are: Lauderdale Lakes Middle School, Deerfield Beach Middle School, Sawgrass Springs Middle School, Indian Ridge Middle School, and Gulf Stream Middle School.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

JIMINY CRICKET ENVIRONMENTALITY WINNER

Fifth graders from **Tradewinds Elementary School** won the Jiminy Cricket Environmentality Challenge. A class of caring and enthusiastic elementary students from Tradewinds Elementary School earned top honors and an all-expense-paid trip to the Disneyland Resort as part of this year's Jiminy Cricket Environmentality Challenge program.

The statewide competition promotes "environmentality" -- thinking and acting environmentally -- among elementary school students.

Tradewinds students developed a coloring book entitled *H2O Heroes*. The book promotes water conservation.



"ENVIRONMENTALITY"
— THINKING AND
ACTING
ENVIRONMENTALLY

2008 LIMIT THE SUN, NOT THE FUN! WINNER

Vivianese Tuccio, a 6th grader from **Glades Middle**, has been selected as The Florida State Winner of the 2008 Limit the Sun, Not the Fun! SHADE Foundation of America national poster contest.

The SHADE Foundation is dedicated to eradicating melanoma through the education of children and the community in the prevention and detection of skin cancer and the promotion of sun safety.

FLORIDA SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROJECTS

Three Broward County students won in the Environmental Sciences category at the 53rd State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) of Florida. SSEF, sponsored by the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (FFFS) is the largest academic competition in the state.

communities. Not only did these people encourage their students' talents towards their special skills at the SSEF held in Lakeland (April 16th-18th), but also acted as a driving force for propelling them on to a fascinating academic career in the science and engineering fields.

Chelsea Hazlett of Crystal Lakes Middle won Fourth Place in the Junior section and Caylin Drews of McArthur High School won Fourth Place in the Senior section. Elizabeth Miles of Westglades Middle also won Recognition in the Junior section.

There were more than 300 judging experts and special award judges from the science community representing all areas of the state of Florida and they were extremely impressed with the valuable scientific research and the creativity of this year's Finalists.

There were more than 831 science research projects with approximately 870 Finalists participating in grades six through twelve. The Fair was a success due to the dedicated Regional Fair Directors and the support of their teachers, Districts, and science





STUDENT ECOLOGY CORPS OF
SILVER RIDGE ELEMENTARY

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY IS
DEDICATED TO ENCOURAGING
AMERICANS TO RECYCLE MORE.

A RECYCLING UPDATE FROM THE BROWARD COUNTY WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

SILVER RIDGE ELEMENTARY WINS THE 2007 “AMERICA RECYCLES DAY” PLEDGE CARD CONTEST!

Students and staff at Silver Ridge Elementary School in Davie continued Broward County Public Schools' tradition of excellence in America Recycles Day by winning last year's Florida Schools Recycling Pledge Card Contest.

Silver Ridge, led by its Student Ecology Corps and faculty advisor, Karen Gonzalez, and Lisa Scott's 4th grade class, topped all Florida schools by submitting 2,184 individual recycling pledge cards. In total, some 14,000 pledge cards were submitted throughout Florida and more than 75,000 nationwide. By completing pledge cards, individuals promise to do more to protect the environment by recycling, reducing waste and buying recycled materials.

Silver Ridge Elementary received a computer and a cash award from the contest sponsors, Creative Recycling Systems (CRS), Recycle Florida Today (RFT), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The school also won bragging rights heading into 2008's contest later this fall.

Silver Ridge was honored at a ceremony on March 10 in the schools' cafetorium.

It was attended by district administrators, officials from Broward County, the DEP and RFT, and several hundred students, teachers and parents. Ceremony highlights included environmentally themed skits from the school's Ecology Corps Players, and a group pledge to recycle and protect the environment led by the Ecology Corps and Assistant Principal, Saemone Hollingsworth.



From L to R: Notosha Austin, Broward County; Stephen Webster, DEP; Phil Bresee, Broward County and RFT; Karen Gonzalez; Marion Gundling, Principal, Silver Ridge; Damian Huttenhoff, Director of Athletics, BCPS; and Saemone Hollingsworth, Silver Ridge.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

America Recycles Day (ARD) is an 11-year-old nationwide event held every November 15 that is dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle more and buy products made with recycled materials. The pledge to recycle is one of ARD's key features, and many Broward County Public School students and teachers have participated by signing pledge cards over the years.

ARD is not just about pledging to recycle, but about participating in recycling programs. We hope that Silver Ridge's success from last year will go a long way toward teaching lessons about recycling and waste reduction from which all Broward County schools can learn.

2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR RECYCLING UPDATE

The Broward County Public Schools' recycling program continues to be one of the leading education institutional recycling programs in the nation, and continue to help Broward County Public Schools lower its carbon footprint and save money on trash collection and disposal costs.

So far, during the 2007-08 school year (August through March), 1,595 tons of recyclables have been recovered through the program. The estimated environmental benefits from this year's efforts to date, as well as historically, are shown on the table below.

	2007-08 School Year (through March)	Historical (1992-2008)
RECYCLABLES COLLECTED (IN TONS)	1,595	26,595
EST. # OF TREES SAVED	6,596	414,171
EST. CO ₂ REDUCTION (IN TONS)	3,749	62.282
EST. EQUIVALENT ENERGY SAVINGS (IN MWH)	7,328	118,583
EST. EQUIVALENT SAVINGS IN BARRELS OF OIL	4,749	76,851



SCHOOL RECYCLING GUIDELINES

A variety of recyclables are accepted in Broward County schools. Recyclables are typically collected from classrooms, staff lounges, offices, and from some cafeterias. Broward County's Waste and Recycling Services' Recycling and Contract Administration (RCAD) provides specialized blue recycling bins for all of these areas. The following recyclables are accepted:

In paper recycling bins (found in classrooms, offices, next to copiers, etc.) place:

- ◆ Office paper, copier paper, fax paper, file folders
- ◆ Newspapers and inserts, cardboard (please flatten!)
- ◆ Self-adhesive notes, envelopes.

In bins marked "Bottles & Cans" (typically in break areas, lounges, etc.) place:

- Aluminum and steel cans
- Plastic bottles #s 1 and 2 (milk jugs, water bottles, soda bottles, etc.)



Blue bins are emptied by school service staff in most schools, with ecology clubs and other student groups emptying them in others. Recyclables are brought to centralized collection dumpsters typically located near school loading docks, etc. Metal cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, and milk cartons and juice boxes need to be secured in a see-through plastic bag before they are placed into the dumpster.

If your school needs new recycling bins, bags, labels or program flyers, call Broward County's RACD at 954-474-1868 or 954-765-4999. You can also send an e-mail to:

recycleandrecover@broward.org

THINK GREEN!

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INTRODUCING, CONT.

We plant indigenous plants, teach about Florida ecology, train our groundskeepers on proper maintenance of our landscape, and certify our properties with NatureScape certifications. We have replaced our lights with low energy fluorescents, replaced our sprinkler systems with smart water sensors, changed the types of paints and cleaners we use, and get regular inspections by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Our students submit award-winning papers, compete in local and national environmental events, and can be found at the beach picking up trash and planting sea oates on a regular basis. This only

covers a few of the many events happening in our schools daily. We hope that this publication will provide you with current updated information on all of the events that may impact your school and community. I welcome you to this first edition, and am excited about our ability to communicate all of our green successes in the Broward Enviro-News! If you would like to submit any articles of interest and/or sign up to receive the Enviro-News please send your story and e-mail address to JP Keener.

*Robert "Bob" Parks
School Board Member
District 7*

FLORIDA WILDFIRES

Florida wildfires are a natural part of our everglades ecosystem. Without fire, many types of plants and animals would not reproduce or survive. We often think of fires as being destructive forces of nature. In reality, the fires are extremely beneficial to the environment. You may not enjoy the smoke and ash, but you should know that the benefits to the environment far outweigh the negative impacts of smoke in the air.



Fires are a natural part of our ecosystem. (photo with permission from usgs.gov)

Learn more about Florida wildfires at: <http://www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/> and fires in other parts of the country at: <http://www.enviroliteracy.org/article.php/46.html>

You can detect and follow the plumes of smoke at:
<http://www.firedetect.noaa.gov/viewer.htm>

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