

# 2018-19 Nominees

## *Seventh P3 Eco-Challenge Awards Ceremony*



**May 8, 2019**

**Long Key Nature Center, Davie**

**Summaries provided by the nominator**

# STUDENT NOMINEES

## Elementary School Students

### Anthony Cunningham - Sheridan Hills Elementary



Anthony Cunningham is a Second Grade student and a member of SHE's Groovy Garden Club. When he is out working in our school's garden his high level of energy and excitement is contagious. His respect for the garden and all that it encompasses is immeasurable. He is an out-of-the-box thinker and is always working to problem-solve garden issues, such as weed control. When given an opportunity to work with one of our preschool students in the garden, Anthony displayed sensitivity and the ability to be an excellent peer role model. Anthony is involved in our garden club's wildflower garden project as well as our project with The Fairchild Challenge. He assisted in the readying and planting of our wildflower garden. He had to help clear the grass and then place a plastic sheet down to solarize the area to kill unwanted pests. This work was done in September which is extremely warm and humid and it took great effort,

motivation and energy to complete. Anthony also participated in our project for the Fairchild Challenge which was a study of ethnobotany and the planting of a cultural garden. When discussing the topic of ethnobotany and what we learned, Anthony said, "I learned more about my family." His energy and strong emotion toward the garden and our projects is inspiring to me as a teacher and to his fellow classmates. Anthony is learning how to plant, maintain and grow a sustainable garden. He, along with our garden club is experimenting with plant propagation, as well as, learning about how to care for seedlings and the proper way to harvest crops. He is cultivating an interest in environmental stewardship that he is eager to share with our school community and his family.

### Kingston DeSouza - Griffin Elementary

Kingston DeSouza is a fifth-grade student at Griffin Elementary. He has been a member of Eco Partol for two years and has been very active addressing environmental issues at our school and in his community. He has a passion for the environment and a huge desire to learn about our environment and how to protect it for the future. Kingston just successfully transitioned from the Cub Scouts to the Boy Scouts in March. He told me the other day that when he goes camping, he always takes a bag to clean up litter around the campground. That is the kind of civic responsibility he consistently demonstrates. In addition to saving the environment, he participates in our school's SECME club. They "Griffin Gizmos" just completed a competition and placed very well. Last year he received the "Just Do It" award and this year he won 7th place in our school's Science Fair. He has a passion for science and learning.

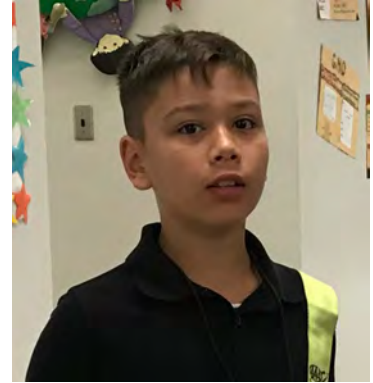


### Jenessa Hodgson - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8

I am Janessa Abygail Hodgson, and I represent "Beauty and Brains", as part of my name suggests. Math and Science are my favorite subjects. My hobbies are watching cooking shows and inventing new recipes in the kitchen. Do you know what I love more than animals? The environment, so please keep it safe. My ambition is to become a Veterinarian. Janessa has been involved in environmental issues at school. She is part of the reduce, reuse and recycling project with other 5th graders. These students try to find ways to become involved in issues that affect all people and the environment.

## **Mathew Malave - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8**

My name is Matthew Malave and I am 10 years old. I go to Annabel C. Perry and I am a fifth-grade student. I am a safety patrol at my school. I have two older twin sisters who are 11 years old. I move around a lot and have lived in 3 different states. I am funny, sweet, and enjoy helping others. On the weekends I like to play basketball, nerf wars with my friends, and video games. Matthew is bright child, who has always enjoyed helping those in need. He has always been very social and accepting of anyone around him. When he was about 3 years old, he ran out of the car as soon as we open the door to talk to homeless woman who also had down syndrome. He sat with her and spoke to her for a good 10 minutes about her cat. After we finished eating, he asked if he could take her some pizza because she told him she was hungry. He did and was so happy about it. Another time, he was about 8 years old, a friend of ours took him and his sisters to deliver items to the homeless around Washington, DC. He enjoyed it so much, he asked to do it every weekend. He also enjoys being a leader and volunteered his free time before and after school to be a patrol at his school. I am very proud of Matthew's giving heart and that he participated in Socktober to collect money for those in need.



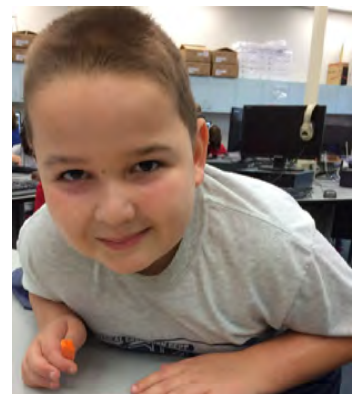
## **Nicholas Patsalos - Sheridan Hills Elementary**



Nicholas Patsalos is a self-described “cool kid”. Anyone who knows him would agree! He’s one of the most active participants in his school’s gardening club called SHE’s Groovy Gardeners. Nicholas’ teachers describe him as a curious, sensitive and thoughtful student. He is always willing to help his peers in and out of the classroom. Nicholas enjoys school, cares deeply about the environment and takes learning very seriously. He’s insightful and a reflective thinker, which is routinely demonstrated by his comments and questions during garden club activities. When he is not in school, he enjoys drawing and spending time with friends. Nicholas prides himself in knowing some words in Greek and Russian, which are his family’s native languages.

## **Joseph Pino - Griffin Elementary**

Joseph “Cash” Pino is a fifth-grade student at Griffin Elementary School and has been a devoted Eco Patrol member for two years; although, his passion for the environment started much earlier in his school career. In addition to his commitment to Eco Patrol he is a member of Student Council, WGES (our morning program), and Chorus. He has always been that student who is there to help; whether you are his teacher, his friend, his sister, his son. He has an incredible sense of awareness of the natural environment and cares for all those and everything around him. Students, like Cash, give me hope that our future will be more sustainable.





## Manya Singh - Central Park Elementary



Manya Singh is a fourth-grade student at Central Park Elementary. She is curious about the world around her but especially: environmentalism and engineering and how these two disciplines can be combined to create sustainable ways of living. Don't let Manya's calm demeanor trick you! She is a power house when it comes to advocating for sustainability! She expresses her passion for the environment and using it responsibly in a variety of ways. Manya although reserved, exhibits great leadership skills as a mentor to her peers and younger students (kindergartners) as she shares her passion for gardening and scientific experiments showing the power of human impact on the environment. She volunteers her time during the school day to help younger students maintain the school garden and promote the garden-to-table nutrition. She loves to express her thoughts artistically and her work is often submitted to local art

contests. Just recently, her 2020 Clear Air Calendar submission won, and her work will be featured as one of the calendar pages distributed throughout the county. Manya loves to research and learn about available technologies that promote sustainability. As one of the two Solar Girl Power team members, she researched, designed and built a car powered by a solar panel. She participated in the first South Florida Solar Whiz Expo where she won two major awards: Junior Solar Sprint – Innovation recognition (2nd place) and JSS Design Award (1st place.) Her successful performance qualified her for the state competition which she and her partner will be attending in May. Keep your fingers crossed! Manya shares her passion for sustainable energy with students at Central Park Elementary who look up to her and seek her advice and expertise on a regular basis. She encourages her peers to join her class in various after school or weekend educational events such as Water Matters Day or a visit to the local planetarium to learn about the effects of human actions on our planet. And that's not all! She has ambitious plans about many environmental initiatives for her school and community for next year that she cannot wait to share and implement. Stay tuned!

## Aubrey Struzenberg - Sheridan Hills Elementary

Aubrey Struzenberg is an excellent student and citizen. She is a diligent worker and enjoys school and the activities presented to her. She completes all classwork and homework assignments on time. Aubrey embraces challenging projects and her creative attributes are unique. She is very helpful in assisting the teacher and her classmates. She is always willing to help. She is respectful to her peers and teacher alike as a member of our first "Groovy Gardeners Club." She is very attentive and shares many recipes with our club. One of her recipes is recorded in our Garden Club Book. She has made recipes at home and then shares them with our garden club members. Aubrey attended our awards ceremony Nature Scape at Tree Tops Park and STEM night at Sheridan Hills Elementary School.



## Maria Villavicencio - Sheridan Hills Elementary

Maria Villavicencio is an awesome 2nd grader at Sheridan Hills Elementary School. She is polite and does what is right. She enjoys school and the activities presented in class. Saying "thank you" – always, is a natural part of her characteristics. Maria is a responsible student and citizen. She is an only child and her parents are extremely involved in her education. As she learns more about the environment and conservation, her determination to be a part of preserving our planet is impressive. Her Dad said, "When I'm brushing my teeth she comes and turns off the faucet." That is awareness. As she learns more about the environment,

she wants to be a part of teams that are making a difference in preserving our planet. Maria is a member of our first Groovy Gardeners Club at Sheridan Hills Elementary School. At such a young age Maria is becoming very knowledgeable of what can save our planet. In all, her attentiveness and determination can only build her curiosity, which can lead to efforts as she becomes an adult to save our planet.

## Middle School Students

### Tristan Castillo - Driftwood Middle

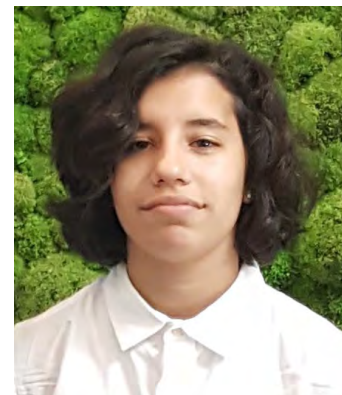


Tristan Castillo is set on improving himself, the environment, and the people around him and inspire others in his community to do the same. Tristan puts in the effort to get where he believes he should be. Tristan puts large amounts of effort into what he does and tries to perfect it as he grows with his peers. He is a leader in the classroom, in the club he participates in, and outside of school in his community. Tristan serves as a role model to the people around him and motivates them to be the best they can be and don't settle for what they can get. Tristan carries this where ever he goes and inspires people to strive for greatness. In the environmental club, he is in he is the vice president of the Green Team and with the help of his peer's problem solve and create solutions to the problems his community. This has inspired not only students but

teachers and administrators in his school to become green and reduce their carbon footprints. One of Tristan's best quality is his leadership ability. Tristan is a born leader who shows it on a daily basis whether it be in clubs, the classroom or in after-school activities like sports, he is a leader how pushes the people around him to be a difference maker. With this Tristan's end goal is to make a difference it may not be the difference that changes the world but a small one that sparks an interest in somebody to change the world. This is the same with the environment he sees problems in the environment and makes a difference whether it be small or large the difference is made and has inspired others to join him.

### Kylie Castro - Driftwood Middle

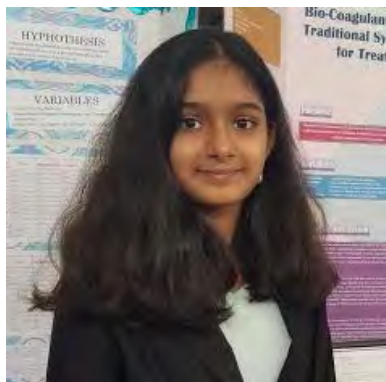
What makes Kylie so very special? Kylie is very shy and she finds the courage to do it anyway! Kylie has been an environmental champion at Driftwood Middle since 6th grade. Kylie is instrumental in Driftwood Middle being recognized as the 1st National Wildlife Federation Green Flag School in Broward. She has taken on different leadership roles and has been an officer every year. Kylie Castro is a hard-working student that puts in a high amount of effort towards reaching her daily goals. She strives to better herself daily: physically, educationally, and socially within her peers. In addition, peer accomplishments, even though they do not directly affect her, have quite a bit of importance in her life. Her friends are more like family and she often puts aside personal tasks and time in order to help them achieve goals. When



that occurs, she celebrates with all her heart and in the moments that some fall short she offers a shoulder to lean on and words of encouragement. Finally, the environment and its well-being is something she considers as she moves throughout her day. In addition to her personal actions, she takes every opportunity given to educate others on how teamwork will reduce our carbon footprint and consequently make our world a better place. Several accomplishments that Kylie has made while a student at Driftwood includes the following: \*Along with two other peers Kylie designed and presented an app at Magic Leap Headquarters to help inform others about the number of kilowatts saved in local school devices. The app showed others about not only how many kilowatts saved, but what its energy

can be used for. \* Along with one other student, she set up a booth at Driftwood's annual magnet open house to inform and educate others about the school's Green Team and conservation efforts. \*She represented Driftwood Middle School as the mascot Chill the Polar Bear to help spread awareness about global warming on our planet, Earth. \*She presented Heart Math representing Driftwood Middle School to other schools at a conference panel. Along with educating others, she was educated on other career paths as being an educator and much more. \*She manages Earth Week activities for the school and the local Earth week event at Hollywood Young Circle for FUN Friday \*She never hesitates to volunteer for an environmental event for Driftwood or community.

## **Khushi Desai - Crystal Lake Middle**



Khushi is a remarkable 8th grade student at Crystal Lake Middle School. She is small in stature, but big in heart. Being the smallest and youngest among her peers doesn't stop her from being a leader and reaching her goals. Even though she is involved in many activities around her school and community, she still finds time to lend a helping hand to others. She has maintained straight A's while taking high school courses (including HS Environmental Science and Geometry). She is the captain of the math club and the golf team. This school year she was recognized as a Top 300 Broadcom MASTERS middle school student in a National STEM Competition. She is on the debate team and is the Environmental Club treasurer. Khushi is a very driven and dedicated individual who is very passionate about correcting

environmental issues. She won first place at Broward County's science fair two consecutive years with her environmental projects. This year's project was on Eco-Friendly Water Purification with Miracle moringa which dealt with natural water filtration methods. She was awarded a 2nd Place special award at Florida State Science Fair in recognition of Excellence in the field of Environmental Science. Her project also received a Gold Medallion Award at Broward County Student Council convention. She leads the school's Green Team missions in recycling, gardening, and promoting eco-friendly activities. In her limited spare time, she learns Indian, classical dance. She is always searching to find ways to improve herself and her environment while having fun doing it. Khushi led our P3 challenges and environmental missions. She helped organize classroom recycling pick up areas around the school. After each weekly pick up of school-wide recycling, Khushi helped students weigh their bins in order to tally our overall recycling weight for the week. She also introduced Indian spices and herbs to our Green Team which were planted in our herbal garden. She edited the PSA water conservation video which is shown on the school's morning announcements to promote water conservation. Khushi is well liked by all students and staff members. She has a way of making others aware of a need in our society and getting them to act. Her peers volunteer to pick up trash around the school when they may not have done so without her positive influence. She has started to train underclassmen to help sustain our eco-friendly actions at Crystal Lake Middle.

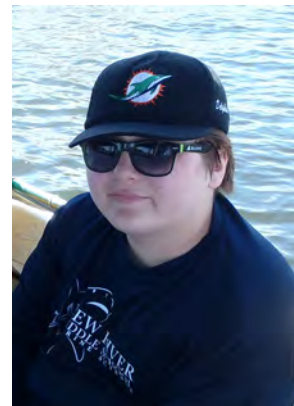
## **Aniya Emanuel - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8**

My name is Aniya Emanuel. I am 12 years old and in 7th grade at Annabel C. Perry PreK-8. I have been at this school since kindergarten. My favorite subject is reading. I am not very sociable but I like to make new friends and interact with others. I love animals. When I grow up I want to be a vet. Aniya is involved in environmental issues. She is part of a student group who researched environmental topics that affects us both locally and globally. Her project focused on shark finning. She talked to other students by making them aware of the important role that sharks play in the ocean ecosystem. She is part of the morning show where we air different views and advocate for our beliefs. In her project she devised a possible solution to convince others to save sharks. Aniya is also involved in recycling. She wants to rid our landfills of plastic so she is involved in an up-cycling project of creating beautiful works of art with bottle caps.



## **Keefer Hershewe - New River Middle**

Keefer is a phenomenal young man. He has a passion for the environment way beyond his years. At New River Middle Keefer is an important member of the Marine Science Club where he is a friend and mentor to the 6th and 7th grade members. He is always ready to volunteer his time for whatever projects that are underway at New River. He has attended every beach and waterway cleanup for all three years of middle school, but his commitment started in elementary school. Keefer spends his summers building his knowledge about the environment participating in programs throughout the county and beyond. During his summers and vacations, he also volunteers his time and energy. He was a member of our team that attended the Youth Climate Summit this year and is actively working on our plan to reduce the amount of plastics in our environment.



## **Jacob Melendez - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8**



Hi, my name is Jacob Melendez and I'm 13 years old. I am in the 7th grade at Annabel C. Perry PreK-8. I am captain of safety patrol, and I try to be the best leader I can be. I feel like helping is very important. My goal is to make a difference in my school, community, and South Florida. I would like to be a police officer when I grow up so I can help the people that need it. Service Learning Project: Jacob and other students took part in community partnership by bringing awareness to amputee children around the world who are not able to go to school because they cannot afford to purchase legs. A group of students formed a committee and partnered with the "We Help Two" foundation. This foundation is about forming partnerships with schools, individuals and organizations to make differences in the lives of others. "The We Help Two" foundation hosts different events to raise money for a cause while also providing

opportunities for students in schools to give back to their local community. Funds are raised to provide amputees with prosthetic legs, to provide water sanitation and health projects and sock for club feet repair.

## **High School Students**

### **Derod Deal - South Broward High School**

I am extremely interested in starting several impactful projects in South Florida that can get numerous people more aware of the importance of scientific study in our society. Some of those projects include building Arduino powered sensors to measure coastal oceanic activity in a variety of levels and forging a network of radio telescopes for students and the community to analyze scientific data about the stars. I believe that using science to solve local environmental problems can inspire a new generation of young scientists in Broward County. At South Broward High, I have implemented a program for students in Mr. Herrera's Physics Honors classes in which students will design and construct their hydroelectric generators to explore renewable energy sources. Additionally, at the Physics Club in South Broward, we are in the mists of



creating a weather station that can be used to develop our own school-wide forecasts. I have built this curriculum from scratch that allows students to develop skills in computer science, engineering, meteorology, and environmental stewardship through scientific means. My ultimate goal in Broward County is to leave an impact in our future young scientists and demonstrate the importance of keeping our environment pristine.

## **Adrian Hienz - South Plantation High**



Adrian Hienz is a senior in the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet Program at South Plantation High School. He has always had a passion for plants and animals from when he was very young from being inspired by people who he considers as heroes such as Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, Jeff Corwin, and Steve Irwin. He is an charismatic and very involved young man who has been an active member of the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet program, the Everglades Restoration (ER) Ambassadors Club, and school chorus group. In his junior year, he joined the ER Ambassadors Club and by the middle of the year, he was placed as the Treasurer of the club. In his senior year, he was appointed as President of the ER Ambassadors Club after completing one full year of being in the club

which is a very impressive accomplishment that no one has ever done before. He accomplished so many things in the club in order to create long lasting effects for the club such as making the club become the first ever high school club to ever attend the first annual Oceanfest event at the Anne Kolb Nature Center and creating three modules that cover topics such as water conservation, recycling/up-cycling, and animals for the club as his service learning project. Through these and many other endeavors, Adrian has demonstrated that he is determined to be successful, and make sure others can be, and should be, like him. Adrian is an intelligent, well-rounded young leader who is dedicated to the environment and our future.

## **Fred Waring - Whispering Pines School**

Fred is a dedicated student who participates in the Community Based Instruction Program (HIGH SCHOOL/FAPE) at Whispering Pines School. Fred has significant experience in the horticulture program at our school and can independently engage in the horticulture lab at the school. Fred can identify a wide variety of species that are native to Florida. He has skills in planting and maintaining gardens. Throughout his time at Whispering Pines School, Fred has started gardens and completed all aspects of work from planning to planting to maintenance. Fred has assisted with tree removal and relocation. Fred prides himself on enhancing campus beautification through the increased use of ornamental plants. Fred also has significant experience with gardening fruits and vegetables. At school Fred has been responsible for the recycling program. He has also worked to develop his own garden with fruits and vegetables. This year, Fred has branched out into the community and is volunteering at a local nursery through the Community Based Instruction Program.



At this job site, Fred has been able to work as if he was an employee to maintain the green spaces. Fred is well regarded within the community and is able to maintain the health and vitality of plants within the garden. In addition to his garden work, Fred is an animal lover. Throughout the last summer, Fred worked/volunteered at a horse camp. Throughout his time there, he shared his love of horses and animals in general with young children. He is adept at caring for horses including feeding and cleaning them. Fred was also responsible to maintaining the cleanliness of their stables. Fred



helps out within his family garden, as well. He is eager to share of the work he does alongside his grandfather and mother to create prestigious green spaces in his yard. Fred is an active member within his church community.

## **Jack Wu - McFatter Technical College**

Jack Wu is currently a senior at McFatter Technical Highschool. He

- Helped put together McFatter's 2018 P3 submission, in which the school won \$500.
- Participated in the FAITC contest
- Educates Environmental club about relevant environmental topics during meetings
- Environmental Club President
- Currently running a research project with Dr. Brian Bencoter (FAU Biological Sciences Division), testing the effects salinity has on cattails.
- Helped facilitate an NWF coin drive
- Discusses the issues with current agricultural practices with Environmental Club members

## **EDUCATOR NOMINEES**

### **Elementary School Educators**

#### **Emily Conrad - Forest Hills Elementary**

I am currently the S.T.E.M teacher at Forest Hills Elementary School in Coral Springs, Florida. This school year I have been the coordinator for Planeteers. Planeteers is an environmental club that promotes composting, gardening, and provides students the opportunity to get their hands dirty in real-world experiences for students in second, third, fourth, and fifth grade. In addition, to using the garden for the club I've also integrated the garden into the classroom experience so that those who are not in Planeteers are able to enjoy its educational benefits as well. In first grade, students have had the opportunity to go outside and work on their Nature of Science Benchmarks as they identify living and non-living things as well as use magnifiers to see small organisms up close and personal. In addition, kindergarten has had the opportunity to go outside and observe physical changes as well as life cycles. In fifth grade students have been afforded the opportunity to go out to the garden to observe pollination taking place among the sunflowers. I truly believe that Planeteers has been a great educational experience academically but, it has also allowed students to practice social emotional learning as it's afforded students the opportunity to make positive relationships, express empathy, and make responsible decisions through goal setting.

#### **Kelly DeVarona - Davie Elementary**

As the leader of the Davie Green Recycling Team for the past three years, Mrs De Varona and her students have reduced the amount of paper and plastics sent to landfills. The Green Team After School Club and Mrs. De Varona's third grade class have increased the number of butterflies that call the Davie campus home by maintaining a butterfly garden. In her classroom and through the Davie Green Mrs. De Varona fosters the love of the environment in students by teaching them about the negative impact of waste and how everyone has the power to create change. Through their dedicated work Davie Green Team members are role models for all students. The butterfly garden serves as a nursery for Monarch butterflies allowing the students to



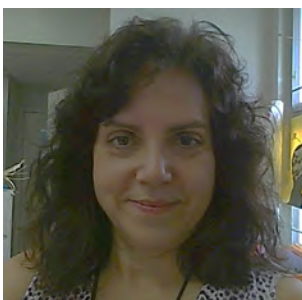
study them and see the benefits of the garden they have helped build. Mrs. De Varona has taught the life cycle of the Monarch and uses a butterfly tent so students may observe the stages of the caterpillar's metamorphosis. Once a butterfly emerges from its' chrysalis the students release the butterflies back into the garden, reinforcing the importance of environment sustainability. This year the Davie Green Team After School Club expanded the butterfly garden, adding another garden a few yards from the existing one. The two butterfly gardens allow students to interact with nature as they learn the importance of plants to humans, birds and insects. While students maintain and care for the garden, they learn to appreciate how their hard work can positively impact the environment. The butterfly garden is a peaceful area on campus where all students, staff and parents can come to appreciate nature.

### **Joanne Ewart - Sheridan Hills Elementary**

Joanne Ewart is a Specialized Preschool Teacher that has developed a gardening program serving the preschool population of children since 2016. This gardening program has held great interest and been a symbol of pride among all the children in the school and has led to the start of a garden club for a group of 16 enthusiastic 2nd graders called "SHE's Groovy Gardeners" for the 2018-2019 school year. From the beginning, club members were given opportunities to participate in grant funded program activities and competitions with the following organizations: Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Recipe contest, Florida Wildflower Foundations Seedlings for Schools; Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens. Mrs. Ewart entered the club into The Fairchild Challenge with the purpose of planning, planting and maintaining a representative cultural garden that would serve to cultivate the study of ethnobotany. Surveys were sent home to club families asking about their home country of origin, foods that are important to them, and if they would share recipes. Club members learned that plants are used and valued in cultures and societies based on their medicinal purposes and their use in traditional holidays and celebrations. The children have also learned of the value of gathering cultural information and its benefits for planning a garden that is sustainable based on what will sell at a harvest sale. Through a grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation club members prepared, planted and maintained a wildflower garden that won the NatureScape Emerald Award for 2019. Mrs. Ewart utilizes curriculum from Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, the Florida Wildflower Foundation and lessons and activities presented in the materials received from workshops at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens. Mrs. Ewart stresses the importance of getting club members into the garden each meeting whether it is to look at plants to determine if pests are a problem, weeding, scavenger hunts for predetermined items/categories, monitoring plant growth and determining if propagation is an option, and/or monitoring water needs. Currently the school's Head Custodian, Speech Language Pathologist, School Psychologist, a Second grade teacher and a First grade teacher work alongside Mrs. Ewart during various lessons and activities.



### **Georgia Hocke - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8**



Georgia Hocke – Teaching for 27 years, grades Kindergarten to third grade – Presently working as a third grade gifted and talented, high achiever's teacher at A.C. Perry PK-8 and loving it. In 2011 started an edible garden. The purpose of the garden was to educate young children on where food comes from and provide the opportunity for children to taste a variety of healthy foods. Students planted seeds, replaced soil, weeded gardens, harvested vegetables, and then were able to taste the vegetables they harvested. I am involved in gardening activities, innovation with robotics, project based learning and environmental topics/issues that surrounds curriculum integration with interdisciplinary approaches.

## **Michele London - Driftwood Elementary**

I am a science specials teacher and in the past has been both a science specials teacher as well as a science magnet teacher for secondary schools. I have been teaching with Broward county for 22 years and in addition to teaching with the county I have also been the coordinator of a Climate change education program with the Broward county libraries. In the past I had been the Jason Project coordinator for years and had led an environmental group called the Earth Rangers who worked both at school and within the community. I had been nominated Environmental teacher of the year 3 times in the past. I am currently involved with creating an art installation for Ocean Week. This is a follow-up to a coral reef education program that has been utilized to bring awareness to the uniqueness of our coral reef system and how it's decline must be addressed. I have also been involved in the increase in educating the school as to alternative energy implementation through a student led group that entered a solar oven challenge. All the students at the school have been involved in the creation and continued support of our meditation garden. The garden has both a butterfly bed and a herb and seasonal vegetable bed. The students use the garden for multiple purposes such as learning about life cycles as well as mathematical usage for geometry and fractions as well as development of language arts. The garden is to be used for ongoing and progressive use where the school can examine up close how the environment works and to see the benefit of creating a space the is educational and healing at the same time. I have held school-wide contests to find ways to use plastic containers in a way for reuse. I have encouraged students to become aware of their environment bringing in community leaders to assist in the effort as well assisting in the relocation of urban wildlife to a more stable area. As a side note, my home is also a certified wildlife habitat and I have made a lifelong commitment to the environment.

## **Averil Mark - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8**



I am a currently providing speech and language therapy to students at Annabel C. Perry PK-8. I joined the gardening club to provide students with real-life, hands-on experiences. I am excited about teaching and have taught young people for many years. This school year I have developed a new love for teaching students and learning about plants. My husband and I have a small garden at home where I get many opportunities to experiment with planting. As the speech pathologist at Annabel C. Perry Prek-8, my objective is to educate students on where food originates and provide them with opportunities where they can practice their skills learned during the therapy sessions. They improve their receptive and expressive language skills by learning the names of the plants and their functions, the category each falls in, and why these plants/trees will thrive in this region. Students also practice their articulation by looking for plants containing their targeted sounds. They have practiced their writing skills by providing a solution to a problem taking place in a fictitious garden in which they are asked to provide instructions on how to grow a garden. Students are encouraged to observe, touch, and smell the plants. They are also encouraged to compare and contrast the plants and relate them to the human body. Students have been given the opportunity to express themselves through art by painting decorative label for the plants. The upper grades have had the experience of transplanting the plants from pots to beds and observing their growth. Students are excited to contribute to and take ownership of planting and caring for our school garden.



## **Gloria Mejia - Orange Brook Elementary**

My name is Gloria Mejia. I have been teaching for over 14 years. Currently, I teach at Orange Brook elementary in Hollywood, Florida. I have been involved in developing my school's garden. My class and I helped to construct, plant and maintain the school garden and a container garden. I am certified by Broward to be a nature steward. With this, I extend my stewardship within my school by being the steward for the owl habitat. I was contacted by the Wildlife rangers and told that the barrier around the owl burrow was destroyed. I sat down with my principal and we discussed replacing it. We went to the local gardening store and purchased fencing and got it replaced. I then placed sign that tells people not to disturb the owl habit because it is a natural reserve area. Another project I am involved in is visting parks and counting butterfly species. We do this to tract the number of native species and to tract the number of other species that are now part of the environment. At my school, my students and I participated in a voting/demonstration to protect two trees that were about to be cut down to construct a new school marquis. My students created oxygen tanks to demonstrate to effects of not having clean air. Last year, I helped Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 to start their school's garden. I volunteered on Saturdays to build garden beds, plant seeds and transplant seedlings. During the year, I continue volunteering to maintain the garden by pulling weed from the garden beds. I also donated milkweed plants to attract butterflies and flowers to attract pollinators.



## **Maritza Morel - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8**



My name is Maritza Morel. I was nominated teacher of the year for the 2017-2018 school year. The love of education and helping children has allowed me to be a teacher for fifteen years. There is not a day that I stop believing in growing the minds of the children that enter my classroom. I enjoy gardening and help foster the growth of something new and natural to the children when I teach them the principles of planting and healthy living. I am experienced in many aspects of gardening and I have done many professional development training in related fields. I am involved in community gardening and have a small garden of my own. I love animals, especially cats. I take in many that are strays. I even take them to the pet shelters to be vaccinated, spayed and/or neutered. I believe that taking care of all living things is everyone's responsibility.

## **Betsy Norrell - Griffin Elementary**

Betsy Norrell is our Physical Education teacher. She has been at Griffin Elementary for almost 20 years. A few years back our school received a BlueSky grant from Johnson Controls to build garden beds in our environmental area. We had a community day and with the help of staff, students, parents, and volunteers from Johnson Controls we built four raised garden beds with concrete block. After an initial year of unsuccessfully trying to integrate the garden into our classrooms, using the classroom teacher, Betsy decided to work with all students (K-5) during her Science Fridays on growing vegetables in our garden. She started by taking a two-day course over the summer on School Gardens, hosted by Ag in the Classroom. The two-day workshop was held in North Miami at



Johnson and Wales University. During the workshop she learned how to integrate garden concepts into the curriculum and how to prepare our garden bounty to introduce students to fresh vegetables, which they grew themselves. Students planted seeds, replaced soil, weeded gardens, harvested vegetables, and then were able to taste the vegetables they harvested.

### **Heather Rowe - Nob Hill Elementary**

Heather Rowe is a First Grade teacher at Nob Hill Elementary. She feels it is very important to teach our students to clean up and care for our environment. My first grade students like to call themselves the Trash Ninjas. Everyday as we walk through the school courtyard, I give them a signal and then silently they scatter and pick up what ever they can find. After 10 seconds we reconvene and dispose of any trash they found (we also return lunch boxes and jackets to the lost and found). This small, quick gesture has a big impact. Our courtyard is cleaner, the students have pride in themselves and ownership of their school and there is a general feeling of goodwill all around. (Plus the kids love the idea that they are helping make life easier for the custodians!). This year our school took this environmental stewardship to the next level as we hosted a beach clean up at Mizell Johnson State Park in Dania. Before the event, students made posters advertising the clean up and explaining the benefits to the creatures on the beach. We had students and their families come out and help pick up plastics and other trash on the beach. Then we enhanced the experience by offering hands on demonstrations that illustrated the longevity of the trash they were picking up and the dangers it posed to sea animals. Our students have made a real connection to the success of a species and how well we are taking care of their environment. In first grade we teach several interdisciplinary units that have brought these ideas to life for the students. We have studied about sea turtles and butterflies and the environmental dangers that both groups face. These iUnits have made the concept of picking up trash and taking care of the environment real and important for our students.

### **Victor Yuen - Sheridan Park Elementary**



I have been an elementary educator in the Broward County Public Schools system for 16 years, all at the same school, Sheridan Park Elementary School. As a self-contained gifted/high achiever teacher for 5th grade, I have the opportunity to provide STEM/STEAM enrichment to my remarkable class. My students have been involved in starting/maintaining our school gardens, programming in robotics (FIRST LEGO League and VEX), designing and producing models through our 3D printers with Tinkercad, coding through Hour of Code/Tynker/Scratch, building paper rollercoasters, driving/flying app-controlled robots/remote-controlled drones, and developing workable solutions/models with littleBits. I know that working with this particular population comes with its challenges, specifically with student engagement. Making connections to real-world problems, solutions, careers, and events to the standard curriculum with activities that highlight critical thinking and thinking

outside the box is critical in producing a generation of young learners willing to tackle tomorrow's issues. One of my own personal passions is home gardening, so in the spirit of the P3 Eco-Challenge, I wanted to share that passion with my students. The project I am submitting deals with creating an aquaponics system in class that introduces students not only to the processes of plant growth, nutritional needs, recycling, and how the environment is all interconnected, but more importantly, to help them understand that sustainability is a critical part of preserving our planet.

## Middle School Educators

### Renee Bond - Plantation Middle

Renee Bond is an energetic and dedicated educator who purposefully strides to incorporate environmental concepts and activities in and out of her class. Through these enriching educational experiences, students move into the application analysis phases and learn what it means to be an environmental steward in the community. Working in tandem with the applied learning department she has cultivated a curriculum that showcases urban gardening and the need to promote citizens who are environmentally conscious. Additionally, Ms. Bond works with several Science clubs to promote STEM careers in robotics and engineering as they pertain to improving our environmental impact. Overall, Ms. Bond continually volunteers her time to promote and develop students who are well rounded and have multiple opportunities to engage with real world problems.



### Katharine Cook - Crystal Lake Middle



Katharine cook has been a science teacher at Crystal Lake Middle School for 17 years. During her time a Crystal Lake Middle School Ms. Cook has infused herself into Environmental issues and supported all environmental causes the students at the school have initiated. Examples from throughout the years range from assisting in large scale Earth Day events that consisted of administration, students and community stakeholders which drew in hundreds of participants. Ms. Cook has been involved in park cleanups and whole school involvement walks celebrating Earth Day with proceeds being donated to environmental organizations. As one of a handful of Global Scholar teachers within Broward County Ms. Cook has been actively teaching her students about eco-friendly behaviors. Ms. Cook and her students set school-wide goals to reduce our water footprint. They created PSA's and installed low-flow water faucets in the boy's and girl's bathrooms. With their help CLMS reduced our water consumption by 87%, which is 220,000 gallons from last year. Her students are excited about learning because she has a unique way of making rigor, FUN. Ms. Cook is a true team player. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and share ideas, especially when it comes to environmental concerns.

### Jacqueline Foster - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8

I am the International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet Coordinator for the International Baccalaureate program at Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 in the city of Miramar, Florida. I have been working at this school for the past 8 years and have taught grades 1, 2, and 5 and currently teaches 7th and 8th graders. I am certified as a gifted and Talented teacher, I am reading endorsed and I hold a National Board certificate in early and middle childhood Language Arts. As the IB coordinator, I seeks ways to encourage students to become inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people. To encourage students to become active lifelong learners, I oversees the Florida Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program at the school and last year I worked with teachers, student, parents, administrators and the community to start a school garden. The garden allow students to see where their foods come from and it





encourages healthy food habits. I am involved in robotics curriculum, coding, project based learning, International Baccalaureate (IB) theme studies, environmental issues and inter-disciplinary studies.

## **Barbara Humphreys – New River Middle**



Barbara Humphreys has been a teacher at New River Middle for 14 years. During this time she has brought NatureScape to her school, worked to increase the size and diversity of trees and gardens on New River's campus. She is a habitat steward and passes her knowledge and enthusiasm to her students and staff as well. With her Marine Science and the Environmental clubs she has planted pollinator and vegetable gardens. She takes her students out in the field to show them how "real" science works. Her students become citizen scientists monitoring air quality and cataloging the wildlife on campus and on our riverbank. Her classroom is a wonderful place where students learn how to love and care for our environment. Barbara Humphreys is an educator that keeps environmental issues at the forefront of her daily educational purpose. Through her teaching at New River Ms. Humphreys has been an inspiration and a role model for her students. In her classroom she inspires her

students to be environmental stewards. She takes her students out into the field and around campus to give them the opportunity to experience what a "real" scientist does. They have explored coral reefs and kayaked through the mangroves so they could see up close what we need to preserve. She and her students participate in the International Beach Cleanup, the Waterway Cleanup and other community events that have an effect on our environment. Through her mentorship of the Marine Science Club she has inspired her students to look at our campus community and find issues that need attention. During their club time they become Citizen Scientists using apps on their phones to track wildlife and record the weather. The students researched and brainstormed and decided started creating designs to renovate our seawall on the New River into a natural shoreline. The Marine Science students completed a project-based learning activity where they researched the causes of hurricanes. They were challenged to come up with a way to get information to their peers in a way they would understand. They then wrote and produced PSA's on hurricane preparedness that were shown to the whole school on the morning announcements during hurricane season. Barbara has been instrumental in increasing environmental awareness of the staff and students at New River. She is the leader of the Eco team and through her efforts New River was recognized as a Green School in 2018.

## **Daniel Jones - Whispering Pines**

Daniel Jones, ESE Teacher: Mr. Jones has been teaching Community Based Instruction courses at WPS for two years. He is a veteran teacher who is also a certified mechanic. He has a significant history of working in the private sector, making him the perfect instructor to be the driving force behind Spinning Wheels Bicycle Repair Shop. Mr. Jones is dedicated to developing an understanding of sustainable living practices and works in collaboration with the school horticulture program to develop environmentally mindful learning experiences for all the students. Mr. Jones is dedicated to helping students, who are at-risk due to significant mental illness and underlying factors, achieve academic and social gains through targeted instruction and therapeutic/behavioral supports. In order to develop the impact of the project, Mr. Jones aligned the guiding principles of the program with framework established by the Bicycle Inter Community Art and Salvage (BICAS). Mr. Jones adjusted the curriculum to specifically address



the needs of our student population and align with our mission to address post school adult living skills. The general nature and impact of the project is as follow: 1. To provide a vehicle whereby students who are less likely to benefit from material advantage due to social, educational and/or economic constraints, may gain access to vocational and technical skills. 2. To develop self-confidence, a positive self-image, and a degree of self-sufficiency in youths, and conversely reduce the likelihood of students engaging in negative behaviors. 3. To educate students (and the local community) about the benefits of human powered transportation and, more specifically, leaving a "Green Footprint". This year, Mr. Jones began donating the bicycles to students, their siblings, and students who are identified as "low income" from schools within the Miramar/Hollywood area. Mr. Jones has also taught many students how to ride a bicycle. As the year progressed and additional grant funding was awarded, Mr. Jones introduced drones to the career focused curriculum in an effort to teach students to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to complete environmental surveys. As this aspect of the program develops the goal is to work towards student certification. Mr. Jones is dedicated to providing ESE students with career and post school independent living experiences while teaching students to be aware of the environment around them. He is steadfast in his dedication reusing and recycling is exemplary.

### **Lenecia McCrary - Crystal Lake Middle**



Lenecia McCrary teaches Physical Science and High School Environmental Science to 8th grade students at Crystal Lake Middle School. She is the sponsor of the Environmental Club and has taken our school's Eco-Friendly initiatives to new heights. Her students and Environmental Club members are actively involved in all components of Earth-saving efforts in and out of the classroom. Ms. McCrary is dedicated to helping others become aware of our environmental issues and practices. She encouraged all stakeholders at CLMS to commit to performing eco-friendly actions which led to improving our school's campus and community environments. Members from every stakeholder group signed a pledge committing to eco-friendly behaviors. Because of the increased environmental awareness and commitment to protecting our school and other environments, Crystal Lake Middle decreased its water consumption by 87% (220,000 gallons) from last year and its energy consumption, recycled over 3,000 pounds of paper, and enhanced school-based gardens. Ms. McCrary

has led the way for these school accomplishments. The environmental activities have had a positive impact on our school. Her students visited classrooms to promote the importance of recycling and keeping the campus litter-free. At the end of each month she provides the amount of recycled materials collected. The Green Team delivers incentives to teachers whose classrooms have the most recycled paper which include a gift card, student-made thank you card and a plant from the school's garden. Her students created water conservation and eco-friendly PSA's to promote ecological awareness. The PSA's are seen by all on the morning announcements and it encourages students and staff to act when it comes to environmental concerns. Her students are true advocates for bettering our planet. In addition, Ms. McCrary invited a guest speaker from a local water company to speak to 150 students about global water concerns. Students, staff members and parents visited horticulture parks to learn more about symbiotic planting relationships and aquaponics and hydroponics water systems. The methods learned were brought back to the school to be implemented. To actively involve others in their environmental efforts and increase sustainability she and her students train other students in the school to continue with eco-friendly actions. Mrs. McCrary enjoys what she does, and it shows through her students and staff participation.

## Carolyn Sant Angelo - Parkway Middle

Carolyn Sant Angelo is a NBCT teacher with over 25 years of experience working with students on environmental and science topics. She works with Title One students to overcome "flora-phobia." Her passion for the environment and life long learning is evident with her career choices and her life outside of the classroom. Some of her adventures include a sabbatical journey visiting Nepal, India and 40 US National Parks. Environmentalism, outdoor learning, mindfulness and Social Emotional Learning are large components of her lessons and activities.



This year she created a STEM Magnet program called Holistic Horticulture: Growing Inside and Out. She focused on students love of the outdoors. Students worked to design, build and maintain different horticulture labs and gardens on the 26 acre campus of Parkway. Parkway Positivity projects were some of the gifts she provided, such as the school beautification and grants as well as naming of buildings and walk ways with inspirational themes. Ms. Sant Angelo revamped the Pollinator Garden was redesigned and planted with help from 4-H and UF/IFAS. The students' work gained Parkway certification from Monarch Watch. Students also received recognition and awards from 4-H for their experiments testing different horticultural practices in a real world setting. The George Washington Carver Courtyard Garden redo included areas of edible plants that were grown, harvested, cooked and tasted! (the string beans and eggplant were especially delicious!) Students were fascinated with how pineapples and cabbages grow. Ms. Sant Angelo created a Farmers' Market business model working with volunteers developing career readiness lessons. The Global Garden now has different international gardens that highlighted edible plants from different cultures & geographical locations. For example, the African Zone had sweet potatoes and sugar cane. The Salsa Section had tomatoes, green onions and cilantro. The Global Garden also contained a compost zone and a mini worm farm. Ms. Sant Angelo organized different classes to build a Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Memorial Garden called, "Parkway Stay Strong and Safe." This garden was centered around a maple tree (one of many plants donated from NatureScape) and was flanked by a Twin Sister plant that represented how Parkway stands beside Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. Other areas of the school were beautified with native plants, landscaping rocks and other natural plants to bring color and pride to Parkway M.S.





## High School Educators

### Dr. Jody Berman - South Plantation High



Dr. Jody Berman is a lead teacher in the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet Program. She is the sole instructor at her school for Advanced Placement (AP) Biology and is a selected reader for the AP Biology exam. She has developed a two-tiered, project-based learning course for Juniors and Seniors that incorporates the implementation of environmental solutions through research, service learning, and eco-action. Her passion and intelligence inspire students to understand how all things in the environment affect each other which then motivates them to learn and practice a sustainable lifestyle. Dr. Berman encourages her students to take what they learn and apply their knowledge outside of the classroom. You can often find Dr. Berman with her students on campus identifying vegetation, planting in the edible garden, recycling, or on field trips restoring habitats in various parks and

beaches. Jody continues to nurture relationships with community business partners in the field to support and enhance environmental initiatives she brings to her classroom. Together, they who worked on the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Eco-Schools USA Biodiversity and LEAF Pathways, earning the Bronze level award. Dr. Berman continues to stay current in her field with the completion of the NWF Habitat Steward and Florida Master Naturalist trainings, along with Gardening for Nutrition and the Cambridge (AICE) Environmental Management Professional Development. She is one of 36 nationwide accepted into the Class of 2019 National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Planet Stewards program for her project designed to develop a sustainable green space on campus that will serve to reduce our carbon footprint, while increasing critical habitat for wildlife.

### Eric Bonny - Sheridan Technical College

Eric Bonny is a Miami native who has seen first-hand how the infrastructure of South Florida and Broward County has developed over the years. Eric has been employed by Broward County Public Schools since 2006 and at Sheridan Technical College since 2010. Eric is Sheridan's Electricity Instructor, and Architecture, Construction and Energy Department Chair. He also oversees special projects on Sheridan's Main campus in Hollywood, West campus in Pembroke Pines, and Sheridan's High School campus in Fort Lauderdale. Prior to joining Broward Schools, Eric ran a successful electrical contractor business and was employed as a State residential and commercial electrical inspector.



## **Monique Mitchell - Dillard 6-12**



Monique is a Biology educator and Habitat Steward at Dillard 6-12. She comes with several years of experience building raised bed organic vegetable gardens, creating pollinator gardens and wildlife habitats, and teaching students the efficiency of growing herbs and vegetables using table top hydroponic systems, complete with solar panels. Over the years she has been a Green Thumb Coordinator and her school, teaching students the process of recycling, composting and the importance of maintaining a clean space and healthy body. With her initiative and dedication, her school received grants from Whole Kids Foundation, the ASU Sustainability Award, the DART foundation and Florida Agriculture in the Classroom grants. This school year Monique, 30 students from Dillard along with over 100 volunteers from Broward County Public Schools, National Wildlife Federation, Carollo Engineers, E-Sciences and Wells Fargo participated in the Sistrunk Bioswale Project. A bioswale is a landscape element that is designed to redirect

stormwater runoff for plant use and filtration. This project consisted of clearing the swale and replacing underperforming plants with native drought tolerant species, planting 23 shrubs and over 1000 herbaceous and aquatic plants. Monique and her students also installed iiButton data logges for temperature readings and a HOBO data logger to measure water pressure and velocity within the swale. Through this project, students were introduced to a sustainability curriculum where they learned about green infrastructure that enhances the aesthetics of the community, while improving water quality thus making a positive impact on society. Under Monique's guidance students from Dillard were exposed to and participated in a unique experience that connected parts of the Biology curriculum to actual life experience, creating for the students a real world connection where they were able to interact and collaborate with professionals in the fields of Engineering and Environmental Science while they incorporated the scientific method to solve a real world problem while positively impacting their community.

## **CUSTODIAL STAFF NOMINEES**

### **Jeffrey Dove - Crystal Lake Middle School**

Mr. Dove is the head custodian at Crystal Lake Middle School. He is the first person staff sees when entering the gates to the school. Mr. Dove is a huge advocate for our school's eco-friendly practices and is always maintaining, repairing, and/or beautifying any and everything in the school where needed. Mr. Dove can be seen on his golf-cart driving around the school opening gates, picking up trash, cleaning the cafeteria, placing recycled items in their proper bins and more. He is quite busy but finds time to assist the Green Team with recycling efforts and other eco-friendly initiatives. Crystal Lake Middle has increased its number of recycled items this year, so much that Mr. Dove requested that the city empty the recycling bin twice a week, instead of once. He has called in work orders for toilets that flushed for long periods and broken water sprinklers in the school's gardens. These efforts helped our school win the How Low Can You Go Challenge for water reduction. Mr. Dove is ready to lend a helping hand when needed whether it's providing an extra rake, handing over the key to the water spicket when the sprinklers are broken or hauling weeds and fallen palm leaves from our gardens to the trash. He is a great example for his custodial crew. He motivates others to use eco-friendly actions and his workers follow his lead of continuing to support our school's eco-friendly actions. They turn off lights in rooms that are not in use after teachers and staff have left for the day. They helped the science department break-down cardboard boxes used to deliver supplies and placed the cardboard into the recycling bin. It's the eco-friendly, team-oriented mindset that Mr. Dove brings to the table that helps CLMS maintain a sustainable environment.

## **Verol Frith - Sheridan Hills Elementary School**

Mr. Verol “Tony” Frith, Head Facilities Serviceperson has been a part of the Sheridan Hills Elementary (SHE) family since 1999. His positive influence is evident wherever he goes. Our students and faculty love their “Mr. Tony,” because he always goes the extra mile for staff and always stops to spend time with students when they call his name. He is an important mentor to our students, whose leadership and impact on campus make him a wonderful role model, particularly to those students with special needs. Sheridan Hills’ faculty have shown that Mr. Tony is a vital part of the school community as he was voted our 2018-2019 school-related employee of the year. He has provided key support in getting SHE’s recycling program off the ground and providing support to keep it going each week, which is making a big effort to reducing the school’s environmental impact. He has also given his support and time to maintaining the SHE Garden and Groovy Gardeners’ Club. His leadership is key to having a conducive environment for our children to learn and his support of environmental efforts at Sheridan Hills Elementary School are an inspiration for our community.



## **Claudia O'Connor - Broward Estates Elementary School**



Claudia O'Connor is the head custodian at Broward Estates for 15 years. She is actively involved in encouraging students to be aware of the natural environment by reminding them that this is their school and they should take pride in it. Growing up as a child in Jamaica it was always a pleasure to make sure that our homes and schools were beautified naturally with flowers. In Jamaica, it doesn't take much for the flowers to bloom all year round. Since she has been here, she has participated in a variety of projects to assist the school in achieving sustainability as the Florida environment requires drought tolerant landscaping versus the lush Jamaican environment. Some of the projects include: selecting and receiving seven native trees that were planted on her campus as part of the Sistrunk Bioswale Project, over fifteen native shrubs(that she personally planted), and a rain garden that was done in conjunction with Broward Estates students and Parkway Middle School students in the front of the school as part of a mentoring project that they hope to

continue as they share a property line.

## **Jose Pena - Riverside Elementary School**

Mr. Pena is the head of facilities at Riverside Elementary School who works hard to be environmentally conscientious in all aspects of his job. He makes an extra effort after special events are held on the campus to make sure that the campus looks nice. He always reminds the students each day to pick up after themselves and not to throw trash around the campus, and that it is their responsibility to keep the Earth clean. He has made an extra commitment this year to highlight water conservation practices on the school grounds. Mr. Pena reminds the students that water is precious, for example, the students sometimes try and use the water fountains for play, splashing and wasting it; not only does he stop it, but he explains the importance of





water. He also made students aware that leaving faucets on is so wasteful and it is their responsibility to make sure faucets are turned off. In addition, he has made efforts with teachers and his custodial staff, to make sure that people report leaks when they see them so he can do a work order in a timely fashion so the leak can be repaired. He has also asked his custodial staff to reuse water when possible in terms of feasibility and safety. Mr. Pena called the water Conservation specialist for Broward County to come out and evaluate the campus irrigation; immediately after, he turned in work orders for the needed repairs, and has continued to be aware of any issues regarding irrigation system. Just recently, he was able to quickly identify two large broken pipes on campus, saving hundreds of thousands of gallons of water if it was not reported. He maintains a good relationship with the PTO, ensuring that he has the needed tools to be able to do his job. He works with two teachers on campus to collect and sort the recycle (papers and bottles).

## NON-INSTRUCTIONAL NOMINEES

### **Laura Castelli - Hollywood Hills**

#### **Elementary**

Ms. Laura Castelli is a Paraprofessional and has been an After Care counselor for over six years. She initially started a small garden in the back of the school with a few students, as a fun activity to be outside, as well as demonstrate the importance of patience, growth, and independence. That garden, has flourished all over the school that includes many trees, vegetables, herbs and flowers, planted in raised garden beds, planters or throughout the school grounds, as a new effort towards beautification. Ms. Castelli has taken over Horticulture for the After Care program, teaching all students in the entire program, from grades Kindergarten through Fifth grade, three to five days a week. Her curriculum is an even balance of hard work, paired with fun activities and science projects, to keep the students entertained, interested, and



dedicated to caring for the garden and all life. You can even see her outside during her breaks, caring for the garden, or coming up with a plan of action for after school, or encouraging students as they walk by to 'stop and smell the Rosemary'. Ms. Castelli has sparked excitement all over the school, with harvested herbs going to parents, students and even teachers, who cannot resist the temptation as they walk by the gorgeous garden! Some teachers, including our Science teacher, has used many materials from her garden, as well as teachers taking their classes out there during the day. Ms. Castelli encourages everyone to explore the garden; to see, smell, taste and observe the flowers, vegetables and fruit at any time. She loves to see how excited the parents are when they come to pick up their children and she has a bag of Fresh Mint for all. Guests and visitors have all complimented the hard work put into the garden, as well as changing the school atmosphere in to a lively, positive place. With benches for sitting, and newly harvested goodies in the teachers' lounge, some teachers get to enjoy the garden daily! Her efforts have been appreciated, acknowledged and praised, as the garden has flourished this year, and has nothing but a positive impact.

## Julia Chia - Hollywood Hills Elementary



Ms. Julia Chia works at Hollywood Hills Elementary as a School Age Child Care Supervisor. This is Ms. Chia's third year. In her first year as an intern teacher, Ms. Chia had taught her students about the dangers of global warming and the effects that it may have on everyone's daily life. As she continued working at the school, she created the school yard clean up team to teach the students about the negative impact that plastics and trash had on our planet. In her second year of teaching, she was able to create the school's very first garden with the help of parents and volunteers from the local high school. Through her lessons she taught students to explore the web of interaction among living and nonliving things that sustain daily life. While creating the garden, she taught the students to become responsible caretakers and how land will have an impact on cultivation. With her lesson plans, students gained knowledge on how the environment could alter the growth of plants and students worked together as a team to understand the time and patience required for living things to grow. Even though her position has changed, she continues teaching students the importance of establishing a connection with nature by working with other staff members and teachers in extending the school garden. Not only does she still teach students about the importance of responsibility and the impact a garden may have in our environment, she also encourages and help other elementary schools in starting and creating their own school gardens.

## Melanie Cutler - Sheridan Hills Elementary

Melanie Cutler has been the Microcomputer Technology Specialist at Sheridan Hills Elementary School since 2016 and since then, she has been a champion for green practices in her job responsibilities and throughout the school. She has a talent for initiating ecological projects that benefit the students of Sheridan Hills and also finds a way to involve the staff and the wider community in these environmental efforts. In the three years since she has been at Sheridan Hills Elementary, she has spearheaded important green school projects such as; re-establishing student involvement with the Project Perch Burrowing Owl program on site, initiated and coordinated a school-wide recycling program, initiated school-wide energy and water conservation programs, coordinated a school Green Team, created and maintains a school Green Board to highlight environmental efforts and programs, and the weekly "Eco Moment" on WSHE, Sheridan Hills' morning news program. In addition to these programs, Ms. Cutler is a role model to our students by representing STEM and STEAM concepts in sponsoring Coding and Robotics Clubs for students and especially to our female students as a woman with a STEM career. She assists with our garden and gardening club and continues to seek out ways that Sheridan Hills can make a positive impact in our local environment. For example, she has worked to provide the opportunity for Sheridan Hills to participate in the Everglades Literacy program during the 2019-2020 school year, allowing instructional staff from all grade levels to receive training and resources to provide to students. Melanie Cutler is truly an environmental dynamo and she looks forward to teaching our students to become responsible environmental citizens for years to come.



## **Brenda Hall - Annabel C. Perry Pre-K – 8**

I have been working at A C Perry Elementary (PK-8) for the past eleven (11) years. I work in the PreK ESE department. I enjoy working with the Special Needs children. One of my major hobbies is garden. I enjoy working in the garden which gives me great relaxation and joy. It gives me great joy when I see my flowers bloom and my plants produce fruits. I have introduced students to plants such as bananas, papaya, cherries and guavas. Growing up, I was always curious about plants and as an adult I continued this passion at home and extended this love in the school's garden. In 2015 I started a garden with my Head-start Pre-K student. The children enjoying sowing seeds and watching them shoot out their little head and leaves. They also had the pleasure of making a compost bin. Oh! did they enjoy seeing the worms as they munched up the peels. I enjoy teaching students how their leftovers are broken down into soil. Teaching students the important role that worms play in the growth of plants is satisfying. Most of all I must say, I like having fun with these little ones as we water the plants. It is a great pleasure for me to get out in the yard and plant and eat from my own garden. I volunteered my time on weekends during the development of the school's garden and I also spend time after school hours to help maintain it. I like teaching students how to take out weed and fertilize the soil with organic fertilizer that we make from our compost heap. To me, gardening is exhilarating!



## **Tiffany Mosca - Pioneer Middle**



Mrs. Tiffany Mosca is an extremely dedicated and devoted environmentalist. After learning about the county's pilot Food Rescue Program at Beachside Village Montessori School, she worked relentlessly to establish the program at Pioneer. She visited Beachside to learn firsthand how the program was implemented, and then registered and prepared the other required documentation, procured the required equipment, prepared an online volunteer scheduling program, recruited and trained adult and student volunteers, prepared PSAs for school announcements, attended city board meetings, and arranged delivery of leftover food to a local food bank. Since the start of the program in January 2,872 items have been recovered resulting in a reduction of 359 pounds of greenhouse

gas production. She has worked tirelessly to establish this incredible program which has been enthusiastically and successfully received by students, parents, school workers, administration and the community.

## **Chandler Thompkins - Griffin Elementary**

Chandler Thompkins has been caring for our exceptional student education students for years, specifically in our special needs program. With a smile and thoughtful guidance, he is available to all those in need. We are fortunate that he also has a passion for the environment and civic engagement. He was a co-sponsor for our Eco Patrol club for several years, before moving onto sponsoring Student Council. He is always there to help with any wildlife emergencies that arise on our school campus. Just this year he assisted Paul from the South Florida Audubon Society with installing an artificial burrow for a wayward owl. He comes to the aid of snakes and birds. He is on our schools CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). He worked with his special needs students this year to promote healthy habits through the planting





and nurturing of a classroom garden. They planted corn, watermelon, snap peas, and tomatoes. Chandler promotes learning in all areas including academic and global citizenship.

### **Marc Zelin - Food & Nutrition Service**



Mr. Zelin, HR Processor from Food & Nutrition Services, has worked with the school board for over 15 years. He is friendly and never hesitates to lend a hand when asked. He helps to maintain and organize the office printed stationery and posters. Mr. Zelin is very passionate about recycling. He reminds his co-workers every day about the importance of recycling. He is ever vigilant. When he sees someone with a recyclable item he ensures they put it in the right re-cycle bin. He will even remove a plastic bottle from the trash bin, rinse it and put it in the correct bin. He helps to de-clutter the office of old printed materials. He also encourages his co-workers to go paperless with their pay stubs to help the environment.



# SCHOOL NOMINEES

## Apollo Middle School - Category 4



The Global Scholars Elective Curriculum taught by Apollo Middle School's Sandra Brown takes students "around the world" in a safe and secure online e-classroom where they share perspectives and exchange ideas with peers in international cities and across the United States; just as importantly, it helps Apollo's students learn about their local school and home communities through its focus on having them critically examine and analyze important, large themes/issues with which the world and our local communities are all dealing. Apollo was one of only four schools to adopt this program four years ago and its instructor, Ms. Sandra Brown, literally grabbed it and ran with it. Since its

inception, she's helped Apollo's students examine issues that include Digital Literacy and Culture, How the World Feeds Itself and its Cities, and World of Water (the 2018-2019 curriculum theme) where students are exploring and investigating how water shapes everyday life, how cities manage water, the impact of human behavior on water security, and solutions to the challenges faced by their local communities and the world. Another example of how Apollo is on its way to becoming a P3School is that it has also had a sustainable garden. At this juncture, work is being conducted to reinvigorate this terrific resource in the recognition that the produce harvested from the space in the past was of tremendous benefit to both the school and families in the community. In addition to focusing on the global issues that also impact our school community, Apollo's Global Scholars instructor and her students have engaged the rest of the school in conversations and preliminary plans to create both a Recycling Program and a Food Waste Program. They have seen the need for implementation of both these initiatives in order to help their school move itself steps closer to becoming a greener space. To this end Ms. Brown and her class, along with partners across campus have made phone calls to experts, conducted surveys, and held conversations on site to determine the rooms or offices needing recycling bins; they have also spoken with others in the district, with farms in the community, held conversations with, as well as invited the cafeteria manager at school to give talks to their class, created posters for PSAs about wasting food, and even begun the soliciting to try and secure a refrigerator, storage table, and other equipment needed to implement a program to stem food waste.



## Beachside Montessori Village - Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6



Beachside Montessori Village has been recognized through the NWF's Green Flag Award and US DOE Green Ribbon Award as an outstanding example of a school community engaged in preserving the planet for posterity. From community involvement to school sustainability, it is our intention to create an environment that inspires our children to take ownership of their surroundings and action for change towards a more peaceful and sustainable world. Reducing our environmental impact, integrating sustainability education and promoting community involvement accomplish this. Our facilities staff, teachers and students collaborate to

reduce environmental impact and costs. Creating an environment mindful of our carbon footprint is evident from the wide variety of programs and activities. Our latest initiative, Food Rescue, not only decreases waste and methane gas but also feeds the hungry. To reduce energy, we participate in the Miami Heat's How Low Can You Go Energy Efficiency Challenge. Recycle Rangers take ownership of schools recycling program, while the Montessori curriculum utilizes reusable manipulative lessons, student notebooks, and key experiences, reducing the need for single-use materials. Green Car Pool and a No-idling program reduce CO2 further reduce emissions on campus. Our outdoor environment reflects the same feel. We are a NWF certified wildlife habitat. Through our classroom gardens and weekly gardening club, students learn about planting, maintaining and harvesting organic edibles. The garden clubs' vision of creating an outdoor classroom for our school has become a reality through grants and fundraisers. Montessori cosmic education, partnerships and extracurricular activities support our environmental and sustainability literacy. The Montessori curriculum teaches "cosmic education" to help students understand the connections between the world's biodiversity and themselves. Interconnectedness of all things provides a way for children to be able to study math, science, nature and the universe. The Sustainability elective is one way students have an opportunity to study and practice environmental wellness. Students have opportunities for off campus, field-based environmental studies at Everglades National Park, Pigeon Key and Costa Rica. Groups like the Shell Yeahs and the MMUN work to solve global environmental issues. The Montessori philosophy coupled with strong partnerships and a passionate school community create a unique environment that inspires our children to become protectors and guard.



## Crystal Lake Middle School - Category 1



Crystal Lake Middle is an Environmental Science Magnet School where the program's mission is to produce environmentally conscious and responsible students who are dedicated to solving and reducing global issues in a safe and creative environment. CLMS has involved all stakeholders in our eco-friendly initiatives. They have signed a pledge committing to improving their Earth-saving practices and increasing awareness about environmental issues. Because of the increased environmental awareness, students and staff at Crystal Lake Middle have revitalized fruit and vegetable gardens and added new butterfly gardens to our

campus. Students, teachers, and staff participated in our recycling challenge. Recycling bins are in most classrooms and offices and our staff has recycled over 3,000 pounds of paper since December 2018. CLMS also has reduced its energy and water consumption from last year. Students created PSA's on the importance of energy and water conservation. Low-flow covers were installed on faucets in boy's and girl's bathrooms. These behaviors helped to decrease our water usage by 87% from last year, totaling 220,000 gallons of water saved. Our students and staff are committed to making a difference in our school, community and in the world. The administrators support the eco-friendly initiatives and students enjoy learning ways to solve real-world





problems, today. It only takes one to make a difference, but we know that more can be done as a team. Our teachers and staff encourage students to take the responsibility of saving our planet from pollution and actions that damage our environment. We, at Crystal Lake Middle have already made a huge impact in our school in reducing our carbon and water footprints and will continue to spread awareness throughout our communities to eventually make a difference world-wide.

## Cypress Elementary School - Categories 1, 3



All Hands on Deck! We create the magic...What's next? Cypress Elementary is on its way to making great strides in science. Besides STEM Club, Marine Biology Club, SECME, and SECME Jr., our school has a flourishing Garden Club. Research shows that gardening positively influences students' environmental attitudes, nutritional attitudes, self-esteem, test scores, school attitudes, interpersonal skills, social concerns and behaviors (National Gardening Association, 2002). For the past 2 years, the garden club at Cypress Elementary has

made some 4th and 5th grade members aware of the benefits and purpose of gardening. Nevertheless, only a few students were reaping the benefits of the club due to the limited number of members. We wanted to extend the opportunity to every child at the school because we believe that it is possible for every student in the school to become aware of the benefits and purpose of gardening. We believe that children should know where food comes from and the life cycle of plants and their importance to our environment. As a result, we saw a need to sustain the club at our school. To do this, Gardening As We Know It (GAWK It) came about toward the end of the 2017-2018 school year. A grant was written through the Community Foundation of Broward to help fund the project. The grant was approved, and implementation began this current school year. GAWK It is a school-wide gardening project to improve academic achievement, healthy lifestyles, environmental stewardship and social development of students at Cypress Elementary. Students learn about the benefits of gardening by planting and harvesting fruits/vegetables and herbs on campus. Students teach others about what they learn through demonstrations or as class guest speakers. During demonstration/presentation sessions or garden field trips, all students who participate are helping to build gardens, whether it is herbs in a windowsill, a butterfly garden in containers along hallways and walkways, or beds of fruits/vegetables and sensory plants on school grounds. Through this project we believe that every grade level can discover components of gardening that correlate with the curriculum, from planting and observing plants grown from seeds, to measuring their growth to designing experiments, to cooking and eating what they grow—students will eat things they never would have otherwise, and that can really build their enthusiasm. Therefore, it is possible to connect activities in the garden to the curriculum in almost every subject in all grades.



## Dania Elementary School - Categories 3, 4, 5



Dania Elementary is on a GREEN roll! School grounds at Dania Elementary are used as dynamic living-learning environments. Several locations on school grounds are used for on-going learning activities; from the playground to the pollinators and vegetables garden to Yoga at the Peace Pavilion. Our students learn about gardening and science through the outdoor Certified NWF Schoolyard Habitat and vegetable garden. Our schoolyard habitats host many science projects, such as solar-ovens to make 'smores, newly built kites, or planting trees for Earth Day. Dania Elementary participates every year in energy and green conservation initiatives and behaviors, such as How Low Can You Go, Carton2Garden, One Less Straw, Trash on Your Back, Save the Bees, Harvest of the Month, and Food Rescue Program to help raise awareness of environmental topic and issues in the school community and in

extension with parents and community organizations. Teachers have partnered with various

organizations to compliment STEM curricula and hands-on activities trunks from the Wild Series, Project Learning Tree, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carpenter House, Safari International Foundation, Shark4Kids, SEED, Keez Beez, Museum of Science and Discovery, Everglades National Park, Everglades Foundation, John D. MacArthur State Park, and Florida Department of Agriculture. Dania Elementary is proud to sponsor student-led clubs; Global Patrol, Garden Gurus, Lil Yogis, and Safety Patrol. These in-house student leadership clubs serve a greater purpose as they run the recycling programs, take care of the school pollinator and vegetable garden, assist with Food Rescue Program, and help keep the student body safe through compassion, understanding, self-awareness, and awareness of our environment. Through hard work and dedication, Dania Elementary continues to work toward a path to become a Title I



I Public Green School through the Florida Green Ribbon Designation, National Wildlife Federation Green Ambassadors, Everglades Champion Schools, and Globe Program.

## Driftwood Middle School – All Categories; Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6



Driftwood Middle School started the Green Team in Nov.2008.The team consisted of three teachers and three students. Today's DMS Faculty and Student Green Team are a major part of the school's culture and success. Driftwood has many different traditions in place that are earth friendly. A few of these traditions are energy conservation, environmental activism, water conservation, clean air initiative, organic gardening, and wildlife preservation. The only change at DMS is we keep expanding our environmental program. Most of our faculty realize the honor of receiving the 1st Broward International NWF Green Flag Award, National USDOE Green Ribbon, and state Florida Green Apple school Awards. Many of our initiatives are grounded in being environmentally friendly. Our mission is to create an environment where reducing our carbon footprint is integrated throughout our

curriculum and activities. Every year DMS continues to reduce our energy/water and we participate in the initiative called "How Low Can We Go Challenge?" The intention of this project is to raise



awareness and reduce energy/ water consumption. Driftwood had its best year in energy reduction in 2018. The total drop in Green Gas emission has been 31% since June 2008. Driftwood won the How Low Can You Go Challenge in 2018 for reducing the school's water reduction. Driftwood Middle continues to strive to reduce our environmental impact on the earth. Driftwood Middle's energy reduction is almost as low as we can go using the older electrical infrastructure. Our latest challenge is to continue to look at newer ways to conserve and raise awareness. The Green Team created a How Low Can You Go App. that allows the students to audit every classroom and assign a point assessment. And if you are lucky when you visit our campus you just might run into Chill the Polar Bear as he walks around campus making sure everyone is being mindful to not waste energy, water or any precious resource. DMS Green Team is like an outdoor classroom where you will see a solar station, hydroponics system, certified Butterfly Garden and 30 garden beds. As you walk through campus you will find several classes working on soil studies, weathering/erosion or maybe walking on our own botany trail. The Gardening class could be harvesting vegetables or our SVE could be planting seeds in their garden bed. A science class could be in our butterfly garden collecting data on the endangered Atala butterfly. Most important is that our students are inspired and empowered to make a difference in the world.



## **Griffin Elementary School – All Categories; Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Striving for a more sustainable campus is an organic and constantly changing challenge. We are always reviewing and tweaking our procedures; yet our campus culture remains the same: reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink. We are a proud P3 school and have applied every single year, but one. Griffin has an environmental club called Eco Patrol. Our club is the nucleus of our student-led sustainability initiatives. This year we have implemented many new initiatives while our previous initiatives have paid some big dividends over the years. Through our Captain Planet grant, we were able to build artificial burrows for, not only our community parks, but also for our school campus. Some of the new initiatives we adopted over the past few years, include our participation in the School Flag Program sponsored by Broward Air Quality and GLOBE, which partners with NWF Eco Schools USA. Each year we participate in the district's "How Low Can You Go?" energy challenge. A few years ago, we were awarded a grant to restore our environmental area, build concrete raised beds, and make it more of an outdoor classroom. Our PE teacher utilizes the garden area with each student planting a seed and harvesting veggies. In order to make our environmental area more interactive, we created our own QR codes for each tree in the environmental



area. We applied to participate in the NWF Eco Schools Taiwan project for three years in a row and we are working to obtain the "biodiversity" pathway. In addition, for the 5th year in a row, our students ran a booth at Water Matters Day, to educate the community on the importance of reducing plastic pollution in our streets and waterways. Our school purchased reusable plates, cups, glasses, silverware and tablecloths, which are used every month for our team leader meetings and other school-based meetings, thus reducing our waste dramatically. Last year we started our "Waste Free Wednesday" campaign, which encourages students and staff to try and pack a waste free lunch that



day. In addition, this year our school decided to capture the uneaten food in our cafeteria and donate it Craig's Pantry to provide food to those in need. We started our project by implementing a food waste audit. Lastly, this year, we applied for the Recyclebank Green Schools Program and our hydration station project was picked. We were the only school in Florida, for a total of 20 schools nationwide.



### McFatter Technical College - Category 3

**Biodiversity Action Plan**

| What is the issue?                                                        | What action will we take?                             | Who will do it?                                            | When will it be done?              | How will we monitor progress?                                       | How will we know if we succeeded?                                                     | What will it cost?   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Many species are invasive plants                                          | Replace non-native plants with native plants          | Gardening Club, Environmental Club, School grounds keepers | 2019-2020 (maybe more)             | Keep track of how many new native species added & invasives removed | All non-native plants along main walkways are replaced with native plants             | \$200-\$1000         |
| Students at McFatter are unaware of the value of biodiversity at McFatter | Educate students about the importance of Biodiversity | Environmental Club, Dr. Spackhurst (Environmental teacher) | Starting 2019 indefinitely         | Have students attend and participate in Biodiversity Seminars.      | Students are able to answer questions about biology and Florida's natural environment | \$0, time and effort |
| There are very few types of birds around campus                           | Attract new birds to the campus using feeders         | Environmental Club                                         | 2019-2020 maintenance indefinitely | Survey new birds seen and remove to promote bird surveys            | We see the addition of 5 new bird species regularly at McFatter                       | \$100                |

McFatter Technical High School prides itself on its ability to maintain green practices amongst the busy happenings going between the high school, college, and its dozens of vocational programs. Located in the historic town of Davie, Florida, it stands as one of the 3 main educational centers in the area. McFatter makes sure that it is able to stand out amongst the other buildings in the area as actively working to reduce its ecological footprint. McFatter's landscape is one that embraces the natural beauty of the area rather than overwrite it. On its North side, 2 connected lakes border the school and Nova Drive. Both bodies of water are fenced and remain relatively unbothered so as not to

disturb the environment. McFatter main campus is decorated with a variety of trees, shrubs, and other plants. Along every major building, some form of green space lines the entrances. Even in the middle of the main hallway, standalone plants are displayed for people to see. Finally, we have an entire garden right in the middle of the main campus growing food for our culinary program. The enclosure hosts an array of vegetables and flowering fruits that are meant to turn heads as people pass by. McFatter's green spaces are strategically placed in places with plenty of traffic in order for students and faculty to enjoy. This exposure to the beauty of nature hopes to build within people a deeper appreciation for our natural world. McFatter also has much going on inside its classrooms to prove the school's efforts towards the environment. Interesting and applicable projects are demonstrated to students as a way to teach material. The fun "Cookie Mining Lab" requires students to "mine" out the chocolate chips out of a cookie, simulating what a real-life mining operation would be like. Kids usually walk away slightly frustrated from the project as it is a lot harder and inefficient than it seems, which is the exact takeaway that was hoped for. Other learning opportunities include presentations given by the school's Environmental Club, which highlight specific human-made problems and their solutions. Education of the world's pressing environmental concerns is paramount to raising the next generation of environmentally-conscious children. Other projects we've been working on in class include the purchase of new lab materials for a plant ecology project and the start of our APES study groups. McFatter hopes to set itself an example to all schools in the nation as truly sustainable in every way possible.

## Park Springs Elementary School - Category 1



At Park Springs Elementary, we provide a safe environment where ALL learners are empowered to reach their fullest potential. Our Environmental Club members are not exception to this statement. The club is comprised of 18 third through fifth graders who are all passionate about the environment. Students within the club are given the opportunity to come up with ideas for projects



and causes they want to work on throughout the year. Our students are eager to learn and grow through each project to positively impact their peers, campus and community. This year the club focused on several projects some of which include, establishing a school wide recycling program and building our very own Tower Garden and outside classroom.

## Sea Castle Elementary School - Category 1

Sea Castle Elementary is an outstanding example of a school community engaged in preserving our planet. From community involvement to school sustainability, it is our intention to create an environment that inspires our children to take ownership of their surroundings and action for change towards a more peaceful and sustainable world. On April 18, 2019 our school is kicking off its first environmental club meeting. Our mission is to create a more sustainable campus, while educating our peers, parents, and community on the importance of promoting and living as good environmental stewards. In an effort to improve school grounds and create a wildlife habitat our school just completed phase 1 of our butterfly garden.



Our garden became recognized as an official National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat site. Through our garden our students and making efforts to keep our school grounds litter free. Sea Castle Elementary is on its way to a greener school. All the green efforts that have been happening on our



campus has allowed many of the students and staff to see that improvements are possible. Our environmental club will also be promoting more recycling by placing more recycle bins throughout our school, cafeteria and classrooms. We also participate in the district's "How Low Can You Go?" energy challenge. Our school has also already planned next school year we will initiate once a month a "no waste food day." We will encourage students to only take the food they will eat and not waste or throw food away during their lunch time. The goals of Sea Castle Elementary are to increase awareness of environmental issues among faculty, staff, administration and students;

assist faculty, staff, administration and students to become better stewards of the environment and make Sea Castle a model school for environmental education and environmentally sustainable practices.



## Silver Shores Elementary School - Category 1



Silver Shores Elementary is extremely proactive when it comes to environmental education. Throughout the past 5 years, we have developed and continued a successful ECO program. We have a butterfly garden which features various native plant species, that is a thriving grounds for various insects such as caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and more. We have an area where students can interact with plant and animal life. We are an NWF certified wildlife habitat. We also have an organic garden area where students interact with hands-on gardening skills. We use this area for education in cross curricular subjects school-wide. Students are able to learn all about Florida's natural habitats. Students are informed about native plants and the elimination of exotic invasive species. Silver Shores Elementary prides itself on maintaining its grounds by enforcing a school-wide recycling program. In prior years, we have been granted awards through the

P3 Eco-Challenge in almost all six categories. We have maintained a high level of environmental awareness. This year, we have started an Eco-Art program to add to our continuing commitment to school ground enhancements. Our school had participated yearly on Earth Day activities where all grade levels are included. At Silver Shores Elementary, we make sure that we treat everyday like Earth Day due to our various wildlife that enjoys visiting our grounds. We are fortunate enough to see a wide variety of bird species that migrate through the area, as well as those who call this their home. Most recently, we have adapted an air quality monitoring program where we inform school and community members of the air quality in our zone. As you can see, Silver Shores is committed to maintaining and improving our sustainable school grounds for all the generations to come.



## South Plantation High School - Categories 1, 4

South Plantation High School (SPHS) has made strides in both School Grounds Enhancement and Community Involvement this year. School Grounds Enhancement · Teachers went to trainings and



worked with students to continue the growth of our organic garden. We grew a variety of vegetables and herbs, sharing them with students and staff. · Students and faculty were trained in how to identify and properly remove weeds and now work together to regularly remove weeds from campus. · Students learned about how landscaping choices can both protect biodiversity and help promote sustainability; they applied those principles by assessing their yards at home. · SPHS was certified as a Monarch Waystation, joined the SHARE pollinator network, and completed the NWF EcoSchools Biodiversity pathway. We enhanced existing pollinator gardens, completed several planting projects from last year,

and started new ones. · Students participated in a service learning trip to a State Park. They identified and removed invasive plants, replacing them with native species that benefit wildlife. Community Partnerships · Magnet students and teachers manage our school's recycling program. We educated staff and students about the dos and don'ts of recycling, collecting and processing recycling weekly. ·



Seniors and the Everglades Restoration Ambassadors club visited study halls at SPHS and local elementary schools to teach younger students about existing environmental problems and provide participants with actions that they could take to help to become part of the solution.

· SPHS students and staff participated in community outreach events like Water Matters Day, Sunrise EarthFest, and Broward's Youth Climate Change Summit. They also participated in community action events like the Waterway Cleanup, monthly Eco-action days, and dune restoration with Project ROC. · Florida

Marine Aquarium Society members helped students set up aquariums on campus which are maintained by the Aquarium Club. Aquariums are on display for campus visitors and are used as teaching tools in Magnet science courses. · Service learning was incorporated into the senior course curriculum. They maintained landscaping areas by removing trash, weeding, and mulching. Seniors designed and implemented environmentally themed projects. Taken together these activities demonstrate our efforts to help preserve our planet for posterity by taking actions both on our campus and in our community.



## 2018-19 P3 Eco-Challenge Prizes\*

### SCHOOLS

| Category                       | RANK | PRIZES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Overall Category               | 1    | First Place Winner Plaque, \$2,000 check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Overall Category               | 2    | Runner-Up Certificate, \$1,000 check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| I-School Grounds Enhancement   | 1    | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book                                                                       |
| I-School Grounds Enhancement   | 2    | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, Diamond Del's Gem Mining Adventure, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book                                       |
| II-School Sustainability       | 1    | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book                                                                       |
| II-School Sustainability       | 2    | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, Science Night with FIU, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets                                                                               |
| III-Curriculum Integration     | 1    | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book                                                                       |
| III-Curriculum Integration     | 2    | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, STEAM Museum and Family Night – STEAM City Kids, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book                          |
| IV-Community Involvement       | 1    | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book                                                                       |
| IV-Community Involvement       | 2    | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, Native Plant Pollinator Paradise with Alexander Landscaping & Plant Farm, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book |
| V-Administrative Support       | 1    | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book                                                                       |
| V-Administrative Support       | 2    | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, Gizmo T+ School Account, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets                                                                              |
| VI-Innovation/Special Projects | 1    | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book,                                                                                                                                    |
| VI-Innovation/Special Projects | 2    | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, Nature's Natives Program – Weather, Climate, and You, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book,                                                           |

**Non-Winner school will receive either one:**

\$100 check, National Science Teachers Association Picture Perfect Science Kits, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book

\$100 check, Tower Garden, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, FL Ag in the Classroom STEM & Gardening Book, South Florida Audubon Field Guide Set, IMAX Discount Tickets, Betrock's Hardy Palms Book

**STEWARDSHIP**

| Category | Level      | RANK        | PRIZES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Educator | Elementary | 1           | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, Science Eye Program, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set                                                |
| Educator | Elementary | 2           | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, Hobby Quest Aviation Workshop, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set                                          |
| Educator | Elementary | Non-winners | \$100 check, 2 Frost Science Museum Guest Passes, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set                                                           |
| Educator | High       | 1           | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, Youth Environmental Alliance Program, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set        |
| Educator | High       | 2           | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, 2 Nights and 3 Days at the Desoto Oceanview Inn, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set |
| Educator | High       | Non-winner  | \$100 check, 2 Frost Science Museum Guest Passes, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set                                    |
| Educator | Middle     | 1           | First Place Winner Plaque, \$500 check, Sawgrass Nature Center Program, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set              |
| Educator | Middle     | 2           | Runner-Up Certificate, \$200 check, 2 Nights and 3 Days at the Desoto Oceanview Inn, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set |
| Educator | Middle     | Non-winners | \$100 check, 2 Frost Science Museum Guest Passes, FL Ag in the Classroom Gardening for Nutrition Book, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set                                    |



|                   |            |             |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Student           | Elementary | 1           | First Place Winner Plaque, \$200 check, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag                                                          |
| Student           | Elementary | 2           | Runner-Up Certificate, \$100 check, 2 MODS Museum tickets, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag                                       |
| Student           | Elementary | Non-winners | 4 Tickets to Flamingo Gardens, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag                                                                   |
| Student           | High       | 1           | First Place Winner Plaque, \$200 check, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set             |
| Student           | High       | 2           | Runner-Up Certificate, \$100 check, 2 MODS Museum tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set                 |
| Student           | High       | Non-winners | 4 Tickets to Flamingo Gardens, 2 MODS IMAX tickets, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set |
| Student           | Middle     | 1           | First Place Winner Plaque, \$200 check, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set             |
| Student           | Middle     | 2           | Runner-Up Certificate, 2 MODS Museum tickets, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set       |
| Student           | Middle     | Non-winners | 4 Tickets to Flamingo Gardens, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag, Fresh from Florida Ag-trivia flash card set                      |
| Custodial         |            | 1           | First Place Winner Plaque, \$250 check, K-Rain Goody Bags, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses                                                           |
| Custodial         |            | 2           | Runner-Up Certificate, \$150 check, K-Rain Goody Bags, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses                                                               |
| Custodial         |            | Non-winners | \$50 check, K-Rain Goody Bags, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses                                                                                       |
| Non-Instructional |            | 1           | First Place Winner Plaque, \$250 check, Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag                                                               |
| Non-Instructional |            | 2           | Runner-Up Certificate, \$150 check, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag                                                              |
| Non-Instructional |            | Non-winners | \$50 check, IMAX Discount Tickets, Reusable Sandwich Bag, Bamboo Sunglasses, Reusable Lunch Bag                                                                                      |

\*Some in-kind prizes may change, depending on our sponsorship