

Wilton Manors Elementary – P3 Eco-Challenge 2015-16 Overall School Winner

Category 1. School Grounds Enhancement

The courtyard area at Wilton Manors Elementary is an ongoing learning lab. This area is used for individual or whole-group learning activities. Our research demonstrates the tranquil atmosphere increases reading stamina for students. Math computations appear in chalk on the patio areas. Geometry scavenger hunts provide the opportunity for students to recognize curriculum expectations beyond the textbook. Science experiments find their way into the many nooks of the courtyard and art classes sketch real-life landscapes there. The courtyard is used daily by all content teachers and students.

Opportunities for learning are never limited to the classroom. Throughout the year students study various life cycles. Life cycles align with school curriculum in the primary grades, but students in all grades find interest in the gardens before and after school, carefully lifting leaves in search of the different phases of life.

Vegetable, herb and flower gardens are maintained by all students. We have applied for the ECO- School's Sustainable Food Pathway. Every grade level does a planting in a 4'x4' garden box. Students assist other grade levels by watering or weeding their boxes to ensure success throughout the growing season. Teachers bring their class to the boxes and measure growth of the plants or size of the vegetables in the gardens. Discussions that require students to predict an outcome take place during the discovery process. Vegetables are harvested and shared by the students and teachers. For some students, this is the first time they are exposed to fresh garden grown vegetables.

Every year, Wilton Manors partners with various groups and facilities to replenish annual plants and garden supplies. This year we planted two trees in the courtyard, both of which are drought-resistant and attract butterflies. The trees were acquired on Water Matters Day. By planting natives, we expand our landscaping improvements, increase our knowledge about local flora and fauna and decrease water usage because the plants conform to this climate. This only begins to touch upon what the school community can achieve in the future. The garden area has been deemed a Certified Schoolyard Habitat Site since 2004 by the National Wildlife Federation. We proudly display the NWF plaque.

We have created a Peace Garden in our courtyard. This section contains benches, flowers, plants, a tree with international symbols of peace, a peace pole inscribed in four languages and a mosaic dedicated to the creator of the Passport to Peace, which is our character education program at Wilton Manors. This area is used for reading, reflecting and small group meetings and is maintained by students.

Habitat Restoration/Improvement

One improvement at the school is the mosaic project. The project covers twelve seven-foot tall pillars in the courtyard. Students and teachers created ceramic symbols and letters that represent our character education curriculum. It is directly aligned with the attitudes and learner profile attributes of the International Baccalaureate program. The entire school body; teachers, students, custodial and cafeteria staff, paraprofessionals, parents, volunteers and members of the community have participated in this venture.

The mosaic project is an environmental bonus. Walls covered with mosaic will never require painting. With the reduction of chemicals on campus, we decrease toxins in the soil where our gardens are planted. This teaches students to think about ground water toxins and chemicals that can defeat efforts to grow foods naturally and healthy for human consumption.

As a local community tie, Home Depot and Lowes donated garden supplies and native and drought resistant plants to help in our effort with land and habitat conservation. Lowes volunteered by working alongside students and staff during the planning and planting phases of the gardens. Each year we expand our efforts to increase student knowledge and experience with ecosystems.

Students learn through the curriculum about the biodiversity of nature in Florida and the history of the Everglades. Students learned about invasive species such as the Melaleuca and Brazilian Holly which negatively impacts the environment. After they experience the Everglades, they are inspired to be advocates for local and global environments. The trip became a necessary element that rounds off their education.

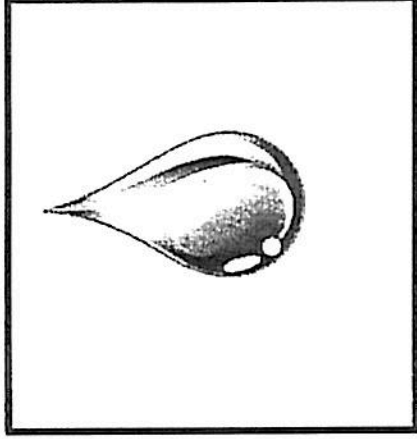
The International Baccalaureate curriculum requires an exhibition project for fifth grade students. Small groups are formed and a global issue is chosen. Sustainable Food Pathways has evolved after a Flying Classroom lesson. Groups contact agencies, research articles and present their findings through power point presentations, videos and charted information to increase awareness and show their advocacy.



I. School Grounds Enhancement: Our gardens are a certified Schoolyard Habitat. Students maintain garden areas. Our mosaic project promotes enhancement and sustainability because we will no longer need to paint our walls.

Ways to help:

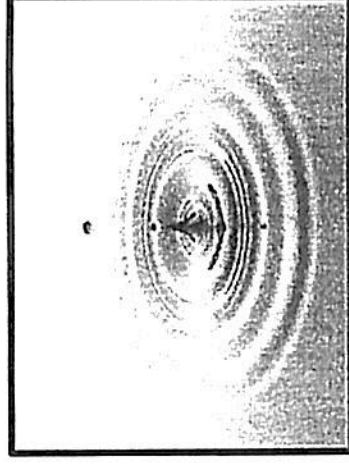
- We can use highway signs that say “please help save the water in the world”
- We can send emails to friends, families & politicians.
- We can raise money and donate it to the water companies.
- We can use less water so more people have access to it.
- We can teach people how to make a well.
- We can use pure water pills to sanitize the water people drink.



Interesting Facts:

- 80% of the Earth's surface is water
- 1% of the water is clean
- More than 3.4 million people die each year from water related illness.
- Every 21 seconds, a child dies from lack of clean water.
- On average, women in Africa and Asia walk nearly 4 miles to collect clean drinking water.
- Nearly 1 billion people live without clean water.

Clean Water Group



Written & Researched by...

Mcaella

Janel

Jaysen

Written & Researched by:

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How can clean water change lives?

- With clean water people will not die.
- People don't have to worry about sanitizing the water.
- Water can make you think better and make you healthy.
- Girls can get better education and do stuff they wanted to do when they find clean water.



How do people view clean water?

- Clean water is a big issue that can be solved with education and research.
- Water is a world wide problem that is able to be solved.
- People view clean water as water that we drink and we shouldn't drink any dirty water.
- Water is an important resource around the world. Everyone needs it to survive.
- Some countries don't have clean water.



What are the reasons people do not have clean water?

- Some places and people do not have clean water because factories dump waste into the water and it becomes unsafe.
- There is animal waste that always falls into the open rivers and oceans.
- People do not have access to proper medicine or tablet to clean the dirty water they drink.

Passport to Peace



Name: _____

Home
Site Map

Palms

Small Palms
Large Palms

Trees

Sm. Flowering Trees
Lg. Flowering Trees
Shade Trees
Accent Trees

Shrubs

Small Shrubs
4-6' Shrubs
Large Shrubs

Spreading Plants

Vines
Groundcovers

Accent Plants

Ornamental Grasses
Dracaenas-Lilies-Etc.

Cassia Trees

Cassia spp.

Cassia trees are known for their display of delightfully showy, bright yellow flowers.



Desert cassia, *Cassia surattensis* ("Scrambled Egg Tree"), and *Cassia fistula* ("Golden Shower Tree") are incredibly beautiful in full bloom, and they make perfect small-space trees.

Desert cassia

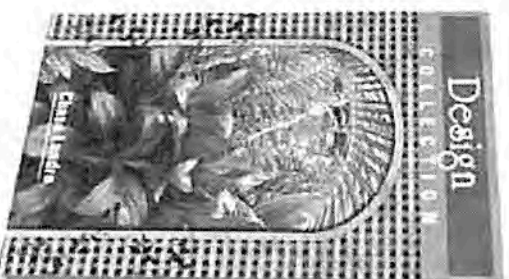
Desert cassia (*Senna polyphylla*) is the "baby bear" of the three -

THESE ARE THE
 2 TREES I PICKED.
 THEY ARE BY THE
 GAZEBO.

TRUCK

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 Florida gardening!

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by Chase Landre, author of

*Picramnia pentandra*

Size: 10-15'

Bloom: Inconspicuous clusters in summer, males and females separate

Fruit: Red, ½" berries turn black when ripe

Foliage: Alternate, compound leaf with 2-4" dark green leaflets

Bark: Smooth yellow-brown

Native range: South Florida, Caribbean

Habitat: Sandy, well drained soil

Notes: A good choice for small spaces; blossoms make good honey

Location: Gulf Pines Island near Eriksson's

**Blackbead***Pithecellobium guadalupense*

Size: 20'

Bloom: Fuzzy rounded 1" flowers are either pink or white

Fruit: Reddish brown, 2-4" pods expose glossy black seeds

Foliage: Compound with 1-3" rounded leaflets, pinkish new growth

Bark: Rough, brown

Native range: South Florida, Caribbean

Habitat: Hammocks, dunes, fields with sandy dry soil

Notes: Useful where little else will grow, it's an attractive, small no maintenance, evergreen. It attracts butterflies

Location: Snowberry Lane

**Blolly, Longleaf Blolly***Guapira discolor, G. longifolia*

Size: 30'

Bloom: Inconspicuous yellow/green in spring

Fruit: Decorative red ½" berries

Foliage: Oblong opposite, pale green leaves, 1-2" long, half as wide

Bark: Pale reddish brown

Native range: South Florida, Caribbean

Habitat: Hardwood hammocks

Notes: An attractive small tree with rounded canopy, Birds like the decorative fruits

Location: Beach path

Cinnecord*Acacia**choriophylla*

Size: 15-20'

Bloom: Bright yellow, ½" powder puffs

Fruit: Flat 2" green, then brown pods

Foliage: Compound leaves, 1-3 times divided, with dark green ¼" leaflets

Bark: Smooth, dark brown