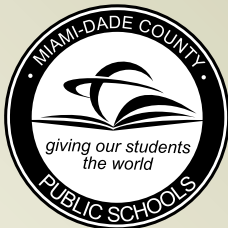


Florida

GREEN SCHOOL

Guide:

MIAMI-DADE



FLORIDA
GREEN SCHOOL NETWORK



FPL®



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Superintendent of Schools
Alberto M. Carvalho

Miami-Dade County School Board

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Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Carlos L. Curbelo
Renier Diaz de la Portilla
Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway
Dr. Martin Karp
Dr. Marta Pérez
Raquel A. Regalado

April 22, 2012

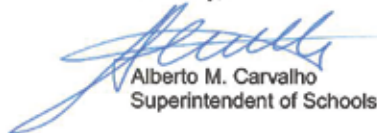
Dear Students:

It is with a great sense of pride that I address this letter to you, the environmental stewards of today and gatekeepers of tomorrow. Our state is known for its many natural resources, from our miles of coastlines, wetlands, rivers, and other natural habitats. Their preservation for our collective enjoyment and the enjoyment of future generations should be of paramount importance to all of us. It is in recognition of our deep commitment to environmental sustainability that Miami-Dade County Public Schools was selected by the Florida Green School Network to be exclusively featured in the 2012 Florida Green School Guide.

Over the last three years, our District has fully embraced the tenets of sustainability, making enormous strides toward becoming a more resource-conscious and efficient organization and decreasing our carbon footprint. As a whole, the District achieved substantial reductions in energy consumption, intensified recycling efforts, commemorated Earth Day with Districtwide tree plantings and environmental education activities under a partnership with local artist Xavier Cortada, the Miami Science Museum, and the Deering Estate at Cutler, and collaborated with other local partners such as Dream in Green in the implementation of the Green Schools Challenge at over 150 schools. We have also rolled out exciting new projects and initiatives such as the use of green, environmentally-friendly cleaning products in our schools, selection of drought-tolerant landscaping in new projects to reduce long-term water dependency and consumption, and a pilot to recycle polystyrene foam lunch trays. Through these efforts we have increased our efficiency and reduced our waste. Perhaps more importantly, we have greatly elevated the collective awareness of how our actions can positively impact the quality of life in the community in which we live, learn, and play.

Now, and in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Education, Florida's Foundation, Sustainable Florida, the Florida Department of Health and Newspapers in Education at The Miami Herald, we are proud to provide you with the 2012 Florida Green School Guide. This hands-on guide showcases best practices in sustainability at a few of our schools and provides you with a road map to sustainability, one which will allow you to learn and explore how conservation today can produce a better tomorrow for all of us.

Sincerely,


Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

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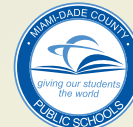
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The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

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Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho

Student Advisor
Ms. Hope Wilcox





Green Schools are Like Good Homes

As parents, we expect our children to learn family values at home and most of everything else at school. Schools are where our children spend most of their time when they aren't at home. Our expectations for a safe and healthy home are essentially the same expectations we would hope for in a school. Similarly, just as we manage our home to use resources efficiently and keep costs down, we would expect the same to hold for a school. In the end, a green school is not much different than a healthy home: both should provide a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment.

So next time you send your child off to school, think about the similarities between green schools and healthy homes and learn about opportunities to make both healthy and productive learning environments.

Las Escuelas “verdes” son como los buenos hogares

Como padres, esperamos que nuestros hijos aprendan los valores familiares en el hogar y la mayoría de todo lo demás en la escuela. Las escuelas son donde nuestros hijos pasan la mayor parte de su tiempo cuando no están en casa. Nuestras expectativas para un hogar seguro y saludable son esencialmente las mismas que esperamos en una escuela. Así mismo, al igual que nosotros administramos nuestra casa utilizando los recursos de manera eficiente y manteniendo los costos bajos, podríamos esperar lo mismo de una escuela. En conclusión, una escuela “verde” no es muy diferente a un buen hogar: ambos deben proporcionar un ambiente de aprendizaje sano, seguro y productivo.

La próxima vez que envíe a sus hijos a la escuela, piense en las similitudes entre las escuelas verdes y los hogares sanos y aprenda acerca de las oportunidades para hacer de ambos, un ambiente de aprendizaje saludable y eficiente.

Environmental Citizenship

Citizenship comes with rights and responsibilities. Students from Coconut Palm K-8 School exercise their rights and responsibilities related to the environment in a constructive manner through programs such as the Fairchild Challenge.

COCONUT PALM K-8 ACADEMY, 1st YEAR GSC

Coconut Palm K-8 Academy's goal is to make students aware of how humans impact the environment by employing both the Fairchild and Green Schools Challenge programs to empower students to make a difference in environmental protection. While the Fairchild Challenge gives students the opportunity to learn about nature, biodiversity and conservation, the Green Schools Challenge commits students to environmentally sustainable behavior on a school-wide level. The first school Green Team was created through the GSC with 15 students, teachers, school staff and the custodian. As part of their energy reduction efforts, students patrol the school leaving citations in rooms where monitors, promethean boards or lights were left on, reminding teachers and students not to waste energy. Students also decorated and distributed paper-recycling boxes to the classrooms. The Green Team picks up the boxes once or twice a week and deposits the paper in the school's recycling dumpsters with the custodian monitoring for proper disposal. The Green Team also recycled some materials to create useful art, such as picture frames, pencil holders and a wallet made from Dorito chip bags. The art projects are on display in the Fine Arts hallway.

The Green Team also organized a very successful No-Idling campaign, displaying posters with the messages such as "Please don't make us cough, turn it off," in the bus and parent pick-up areas, created posters with water conservation tips and tends the school gardens using organic pesticides and beneficial insects. They have started composting old plant and organic materials collected from the school cafeteria to enrich the gardens' soil and rain barrels were installed as a water conservation initiative.



 Students: http://www.miamisci.org/www/reclamation_project.php
Parents: http://www.reclamationproject.net/?SoFI_about_proj

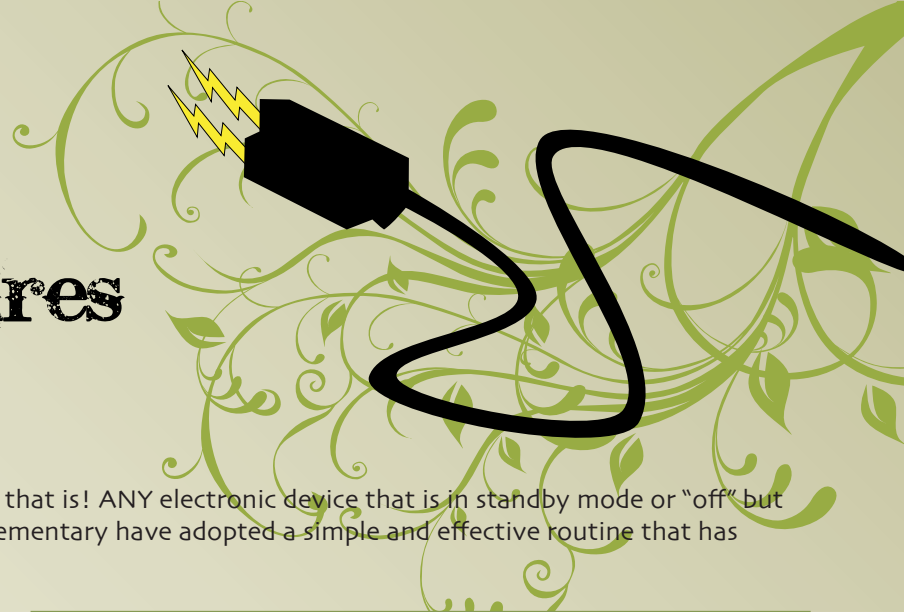
La ciudadanía viene con derechos y responsabilidades. Los estudiantes de la Escuela Coconut Palm K-8 ejercen sus derechos y responsabilidades relacionadas con el medio ambiente de manera constructiva a través de programas tales como el Fairchild Challenge.

Academia Coconut Palm K-8, (1er Año GSC)

El objetivo de la academia Coconut Palm K-8, es hacer que sus estudiantes tomen conciencia de cómo los humanos afectan al medio ambiente. Para ello utilizan los programas Fairchild y Green Schools Challenge. Ambos programas capacitan a los estudiantes a hacer una diferencia en la protección del medio ambiente. Mientras que el Fairchild Challenge ofrece a los estudiantes la oportunidad de aprender acerca de la naturaleza, la biodiversidad y la conservación; el Green Schools Challenge compromete a los estudiantes a adoptar un comportamiento ambientalmente sostenible a nivel escolar. El primer Equipo Verde de la escuela se creó a través de GSC, con 15 estudiantes, maestros, personal de la escuela y el custodio. Como parte de sus esfuerzos de reducción de energía, los estudiantes patrullan las salas y multan a quienes dejan los monitores, pantallas interactivas o luces encendidas, recordándoles a maestros y estudiantes a no desperdiciar energía. El Equipo Verde también decoró y distribuyó cajas de reciclaje de papel en las aulas, las cuales recogen una o dos veces por semana. Los estudiantes también reciclan otros materiales, creando arte útil que exhiben en el vestíbulo de Bellas Artes.

El Equipo Verde organizó una exitosa campaña de "No Lo Deje En Marcha," exhibiendo mensajes tales como "Por favor, no nos haga toser, apáguelo" en el autobús y en las áreas donde los padres recogen a los estudiantes. También crearon carteles con consejos para conservación de agua y atienden los jardines de la escuela usando pesticidas orgánicos e insectos beneficiosos. Han empezado una composta con materiales orgánicos recogidos de la cafetería de la escuela para enriquecer el suelo de los jardines e instalaron barriles de lluvia como una iniciativa de conservación del agua.

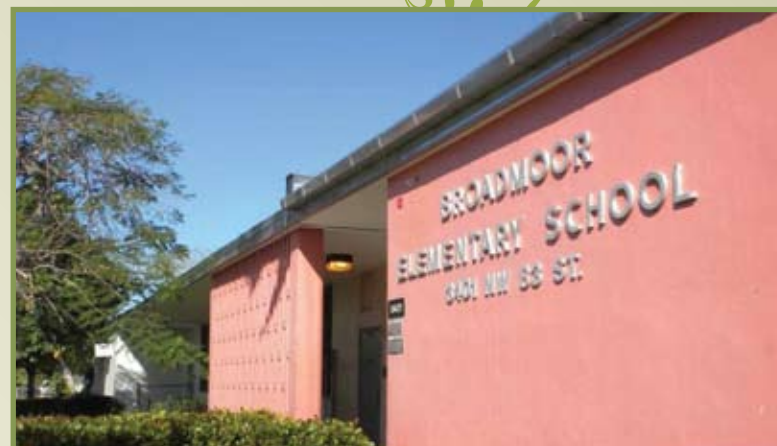
Charge-Up: But Don't Feed The Vampires



Did you know you can find at least a few vampires in your home?...Energy Vampires, that is! ANY electronic device that is in standby mode or “off” but still plugged into the outlet is still consuming energy. The Busy Bees at Broadmoor Elementary have adopted a simple and effective routine that has reduced their electricity costs significantly.

BROADMOOR ELEMENTARY

According to Principal Linda Klein, Broadmoor Elementary, Home of the Busy Bees, is having a very ‘green year’. And she’s absolutely right. Broadmoor’s focus on reducing energy has resulted in savings of over 265,000 kilowatt hours in the last two years; which translates to over 400,000 lbs. of CO₂ avoided and a more environmentally-friendly carbon footprint for the school. This has been accomplished through a collective and concentrated effort, which has involved the custodial staff, the students and the faculty. To keep on track, the school has adopted a simple yet very effective routine of keeping classroom doors closed to ensure room temperature remains stable, turning off lights when the rooms are not in use and turning off the A/C after the cleaning is done for the day. Students are also very involved in recycling initiatives, including most recently, efforts to recycle printer cartridges and toners.



Additionally, under a grant from the Ed Fund, and as part of the ‘Plant a Thousand Gardens’ initiative, two raised planting beds have been installed, where delicious herbs and vegetables are being grown; once harvested, both the vegetables and the herbs will make their way into the kitchen for incorporation into some tasty and healthy dishes and salads. For the last two years, Broadmoor has also been an active participant in the annual Earth Day activities, including planting of a tree sapling on campus as a way to help rebuild the school’s tree canopy and contribute to the overall goal of community reforestation.



Students: <http://www.miamisci.org/www/energytracker.html>

Parents: http://www.fpl.com/residential/energy_saving/resources_tips/top_tips.shtml

¿Sabías que puedes encontrar algunos vampiros en tu casa? ... Vampiros de Energía! TODOS los dispositivos electrónicos que se encuentran en modo de espera, o en “off”, pero aún conectados a la toma siguen consumiendo energía. Las Abejas de la Primaria Broadmoor, han adoptado una rutina simple y eficaz que ha reducido sus costos de electricidad de manera significativa.

PRIMARIA BROADMOOR

Según la directora Linda Klein, la primaria Broadmoor, hogar de las “Busy Bees,” está teniendo un gran ‘año verde’. Y tiene toda la razón. La escuela se ha enfocado en la reducción de energía y ha ahorrado más de 265.000 kilovatios-hora en los últimos dos años. Resultando en un equivalente de más de 400.000 libras de CO₂ evitadas y una huella de carbono más pequeña para la escuela. Esto se ha logrado a través de un esfuerzo colectivo, que ha involucrado al personal de mantenimiento, los estudiantes y la administración. La escuela ha adoptado una rutina simple pero muy efectiva: mantienen las puertas cerradas en las aulas -conservando así una temperatura estable- apagan las luces cuando las habitaciones no están en uso y apagan el A/C al finalizar a limpieza del día. Los estudiantes también están muy involucrados en iniciativas de reciclaje. Su última iniciativa? Reciclar cartuchos de impresoras.

Además, gracias a una subvención del Ed Fund, y como parte de la iniciativa “Planta Mil Jardines”, han instalado dos camas elevadas de siembra, donde deliciosas hierbas y verduras están siendo cultivadas. Una vez cosechadas, incorporaran las verduras y las hierbas en algunos de los platos sabrosos y saludables que preparan en la escuela. En los últimos dos años, Broadmoor también ha participado en las actividades anuales del Día de la Tierra, incluyendo la plantación de un árbol en la escuela como forma de ayudar a reconstruir la cubierta de árboles y contribuir con la meta de reforestación de la comunidad.



Water Just Sent You a Friend Request

If you don't think water is one of your best friends, just wait 'till you run out of it. Students at Braddock Senior High are harvesting rainwater and using solar power to recirculate it in their outdoor classroom.

G. HOLMES BRADDOCK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Braddock Senior, Home of the Bulldogs, is a large school with a small community feeling. Student and faculty involvement in environmental stewardship and sustainability are undeniable and the school has stepped up its game, from energy conservation, to green building retrofits, recycling and other special projects. Over the last two years, Braddock has cut its electrical consumption by over 1.8 million kilowatt hours, which equates to a reduction in CO₂ emissions of approximately 2.8 million lbs. and is akin to eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from 252 vehicles for a whole year; an impact of epic proportions on the school's carbon footprint. That has been achieved through behavior modification and an entirely new attitude toward being green that favors long-term sustainability over short-term gratification. In addition to its focus on reducing energy, Braddock Senior has targeted other areas, such as water conservation, through installation of automatic flush valves in the restroom facilities and a paper reduction initiative that is directly connected to going wireless school-wide.



Braddock is deeply committed to recycling with science honor students at the helm of that effort. This group of students has assumed responsibility for the program and ensures that recyclables, from paper to plastic and aluminum, are collected on a consistent basis. Additionally, as part of the Fairchild Challenge, Braddock students recently built an outdoor demonstration classroom that harvests rainwater, has a dedicated area for composting and uses solar technology to power water recirculation in the outdoor classroom's pond. As part of the Challenge, Braddock students also researched and developed the theme Rainstorming: Landscaping for Hurricanes. Through their work, students identified the types of desirable native trees that are best suited for the South Florida environment, the how and where of tree planting in the context of hurricanes, and desirable tree trimming practices as a means of safeguarding the community's tree canopy.



Students: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/kids/index.html>

Parents: <http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/levelthree/Water%20Conservation>

Si no crees que el agua es uno de tus mejores amigos, sólo espera hasta que te quedes sin ella. Los estudiantes de Braddock cosechan el agua de lluvia y usan la energía solar para recircularla en su salón de clase al aire libre.

El agua acaba de enviarte una solicitud de amigo

Braddock es una escuela grande, con un sentimiento de comunidad pequeña. La participación de los estudiantes y profesores en el cuidado del medio ambiente y la sustentabilidad es innegable - desde la conservación de energía, a la modernización "verde" de sus edificios, reciclaje y otros proyectos especiales. En los últimos dos años, Braddock adoptó una actitud totalmente nueva que favorece la sustentabilidad a largo plazo y ofrece satisfacción a corto plazo. La escuela fue capaz de reducir su consumo eléctrico en más de 1,8 millones de kWh, lo que reduce las emisiones de CO₂ alrededor de 2,8 millones de libras - semejantes a la eliminación de las emisiones de gas de 252 vehículos por todo un año - un impacto de proporciones épicas en la huella de carbono de la escuela. La escuela también atacó la conservación de agua mediante la instalación de válvulas de descarga automática en los baños y una iniciativa de reducción de papel que está directamente conectado a la digitalización (paperless) de toda la escuela.

Los estudiantes de honor de ciencias, son responsables del programa de reciclaje y se aseguran que los materiales reciclables sean recogidos consistentemente. Además, como parte del Fairchild Challenge, los estudiantes construyeron un aula al aire libre que cosecha agua de lluvia, tiene un área designada para compostaje y utiliza la energía solar para la recirculación del agua en el estanque. Como parte del desafío, los estudiantes investigaron y desarrollaron el tema Rainstorming: Paisaje para Huracanes, identificando que tipos de árboles nativos son los más adecuados para el sur de Florida y cómo y dónde plantarlos para salvaguardar la comunidad de árboles.

TRASH TALK PAPER OR PLASTIC? NEITHER

Nothing says you're the best better than success. The Green Jaguars from Hialeah Gardens Middle School received one of the highest energy rebates from the district. And if that isn't enough, they established a program to recycle Foam lunch trays and other products.

HIALEAH GARDENS MIDDLE SCHOOL, 1st YEAR GSC

The enthusiastic Green Jaguars from Hialeah Gardens Middle School have discovered they can make a big difference in their school's energy use. The green team focuses on conserving energy by posting signs throughout the school to raise awareness and patrol the school to ensure that lights, computers and other electrical equipment are turned off. Students also write articles for the school newspaper about the long-term effects of energy wastefulness and climate change. As a result, Hialeah Gardens Middle School received the second highest energy rebate from the school district (\$43,247). The Jaguars also helped strengthen the school's recycling program by helping teachers organize a recycling box-decorating contest among all the homerooms. The school participated in the district's foam recycling pilot program where lunch trays used during breakfast and lunch were recycled; the pilot was a tremendous success. The Green Jaguars encourage their classmates to bring small electronic devices and printer cartridges from home to recycle at school and urge classmates to educate their parents about recycling. Students can also bring their recyclable materials to school if home recycling is not an option.



Hialeah Gardens Middle School works closely as a team to incorporate environmental conservation into classroom instruction, as well as the school's entire operation. The school's administration continues with Project Green – a schoolwide project that beautifies the school's exterior landscape. Teachers from different disciplines spearhead mini-environmental projects and students work together to plant trees and plants throughout the campus.



Students: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/AR/2011/ar11.htm>

Parents: <http://green.miamidade.gov/recycling.htm>

Nada dice que eres el mejor, mejor que el éxito. Los Jaguares Verde de Hialeah Gardens Middle School ecibieron uno de los descuentos más altos de energía del distrito. Y si eso no es suficiente, establecieron un programa para el reciclado de bandejas de comida de espuma de polietileno y otros productos.

Hialeah Gardens Middle School, (1er Año GSC)

Los entusiastas "Jaguares Verde" de Hialeah Gardens Middle School han descubierto que pueden hacer una gran diferencia en el uso de la energía de su escuela. El Equipo Verde se centra en la conservación de energía publicando señales en toda la escuela para aumentar la conciencia y patrullando la escuela para asegurarse de que las luces, computadoras y otros equipos eléctricos se apaguen. Como resultado, Hialeah Gardens Middle School recibió \$ 43.247 del distrito escolar por ahorros energéticos.

Los Jaguares también fortalecieron el programa de reciclaje de la escuela ayudando a los profesores a organizar un concurso de decoración de cajas de reciclaje entre todos los salones. La escuela participó en el programa piloto del distrito para el reciclado de las bandejas de espuma de polietileno que se utilizan durante el desayuno y el almuerzo, el programa fue un éxito total. Los Jaguares Verde alientan a sus compañeros a traer pequeños dispositivos electrónicos y cartuchos de impresora de sus casas para reciclar en la escuela. También instruyen a los estudiantes a educar a sus padres sobre el reciclaje y a traer materiales reciclables de sus casas a la escuela, si el reciclaje en su hogar no es una opción. La escuela colabora en equipo para incorporar la conservación del medio ambiente en la enseñanza, así como también en las operaciones escolares. La administración de la escuela continúa con el Proyecto Verde, un proyecto que embellece el paisaje exterior de la escuela, donde profesores y estudiantes trabajan juntos para plantar árboles y plantas en toda la escuela.

ALIENS vs NATIVES: TAKE BACK YOUR TURF

Exotic and invasive species of plants may seem like unstoppable aliens, but native plants are making a comeback. With the help of the Mako Sharks from the MAST Academy, exotics are getting pulled and natives are getting planted.

MARITIME & SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY (MAST)

MAST Academy is a nationally recognized, innovative school of choice for grades 9-12 with a marine theme. Its mascot is the Mako shark and environmental stewardship is part of its DNA. Students' activities, the faculty and the curriculum reflect the school's commitment to preserve Florida's ecosystems.

MAST students are consistently at the forefront of conservation. Over the last two years, the school achieved a reduction of more than 870,000-kilowatt hours in its energy consumption, which equates to a reduction of 1,335,158 pounds of CO₂ emissions – the equivalent of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from 119 vehicles for a year.

As a special project in 2010, a group of students took on the task of acquiring and analyzing the school's energy data for the prior year. They used the data to recommend and implement specific initiatives to reduce consumption, such as using more efficient light bulbs and monitoring and controlling classroom temperatures.

In addition to their stellar efforts in the area of energy conservation, 30 dedicated students from Advanced Placement Environmental Science classes, parents and community organizations actively participated in the restoration of natural habitats on Virginia Key and Key Biscayne. The project included a massive planting of 200 various native trees, palms and shrubs and the removal of acres of exotics plants from Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. The last two years, students further demonstrated their environmental commitment, participating in commemorative Earth Day tree plantings at the school, hosting presentations by environmental authors and developing a comprehensive schoolwide recycling program.



Students: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/naturescience/upload/2008%20Florida%20Invaders%20For%20Web.pdf>
Parents: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/naturescience/floridainvaders.htm>

Las plantas exóticas e invasivas pueden parecer imparables, pero las plantas nativas están volviendo. Con la ayuda de los tiburones Mako de la Academia MAST, las especies exóticas están siendo extraídas y las nativas plantadas.

ACADEMIA DE TECNOLOGÍA MARÍTIMA Y DE CIENCIAS (MAST)

La Academia MAST es reconocida a nivel nacional. Escuela innovadora de elección para los grados 9-12 con un enfoque marino, su mascota es el tiburón Mako y el cuidado del medio ambiente es parte del ADN de esta escuela. Las actividades de los estudiantes, el profesorado y el plan de estudio reflejan el compromiso de la escuela a preservar los ecosistemas de Florida. Los estudiantes están consistentemente a la vanguardia de la conservación. En solo dos años, la escuela logró una reducción de más de 870.000 hWk en su consumo de energía, lo que equivale a una reducción de emisiones de CO₂ de 1.335.158 libras– o a la eliminación de emisiones de gas de 119 vehículos por un año. Un grupo de estudiantes analizó el consumo energético escolar y ayudó a implementar iniciativas concretas de reducción.

Además de sus esfuerzos estelares en el ámbito de la conservación energética, 30 alumnos de las clases avanzadas de Ciencias Ambientales junto a padres y organizaciones comunitarias, participaron activamente en la restauración de hábitats naturales en Virginia Key y Key Biscayne. El proyecto incluyó una plantación masiva de 200 plantas nativas y la eliminación de hectáreas de plantas exóticas del parque estatal Bill Baggs Cape Florida. En los dos últimos años, los estudiantes han demostrado su compromiso con el medio ambiente, participando en plantaciones de árboles conmemorativos del Día de la Tierra en la escuela, organizando presentaciones de autores del medio ambiente y desarrollando un programa de reciclaje escolar integral.



FPL is a proud sponsor of the
Florida Green School Network

and is dedicated to a clean
energy future for our community.



www.FPL.com

RACE TO THE TOP

Who says exercise has to be boring. Students from David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center have explored a number of alternative energy sources including their own muscles.

DAVID LAWRENCE JR. K-8 CENTER, 3rd YEAR GSC

At David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center, being green is serious business. Science teacher Laurie Futterman has been instrumental in helping the school go green by identifying educational materials and bringing real world experience and knowledge into the classroom. With help from the We Do Care foundation and a Florida Power and Light National Education Energy Development grant, the school obtained funds and organized students to design and build a solar-powered waterfall. This year, Verizon provided funds to build a wind turbine to power the school's radio station, which will play loops of green messages to help communicate important school information to parents waiting to pick up their kids. The students also recently completed an LED solar-powered safety crosswalk.



After joining the Green School Challenge program, David Lawrence took first place in 2009 with an energy savings of \$76,000. They have continued to save energy and this year, received an energy rebate check from the district for \$10,962. David Lawrence's program encourages and promotes energy reduction, recycling, alternative transportation and the use of foam free products. This year, the Green Team also organized their 3rd Annual Bike-to-School Day. Students gather at various points along a pre-designated route then ride together to school. The Green Team spread the word about their initiative by word-of-mouth and email. Last year, in support of the bike-to-school initiative, bike team members received punch cards and those who achieved a fully punched card (at least 20 rides) received bike-ready stainless steel water bottles.



Students: <http://igen.eetimes.com/2011-led-entry-david-lawrence-jr-k8-center.html>
Parents: <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>



¿Quién dice que el ejercicio tiene que ser aburrido? Los estudiantes del Centro David Lawrence Jr. K-8 han explorado una serie de fuentes de energía alternativas, incluyendo sus propios músculos.

CENTRO DAVID LAWRENCE JR. K-8, (3er Año GSC)

En el Centro David Lawrence Jr. K-8, ser "verde" es un asunto serio. La presencia y ayuda de Laurie Futterman, profesora de ciencias de este Centro, ha sido fundamental en la transición de la escuela en volverse verde. Con ayuda de la Fundación "We Do Care" y la subvención de FPL, la escuela utilizó los fondos obtenidos para organizar a los estudiantes y así diseñar y construir una cascada de agua que funciona con energía solar. Este año, Verizon proporcionó fondos para construir una turbina que utilizara el viento para hacer funcionar la estación de radio de la escuela. Los estudiantes también han realizado recientemente un cruce de peatones de seguridad LED alimentado por energía solar.

Después de unirse al programa "Green School Challenge," David Lawrence ganó el primer lugar en 2009 con un ahorro energético de 76.000 dólares! El Centro continúa ahorrando energía y este año, recibió un cheque de reembolso de energía del distrito escolar por \$ 10.962. El programa de David Lawrence, fomenta y promueve la reducción de energía, el reciclaje, el transporte alternativo y el uso de de productos libres de espuma de polietileno. Este año el Equipo Verde también organizó su tercer evento anual: "En Bicicleta a la Escuela." Los estudiantes se reunieron en varios puntos a lo largo de una ruta pre-elegida y se dirigieron todos juntos, en bicicletas a la escuela.

Green Futures: Let The Sunshine In

Natural lighting and Florida grown fruits and vegetables are creating bright futures for students. The Skyhawks from Skyway Elementary have turned to the sky to illuminate their cafeteria with the same natural sunlight that helped grow fruits and vegetables that students received from a Department of Agriculture program.

SKYWAY ELEMENTARY

Skyway Elementary, a Pre-K through 5th grade school in the city of Miami Gardens and the proud home of the Skyhawks, is known for its open space classrooms. Students are challenged with materials and learning opportunities that nurture their intellectual, emotional, social and physical development. In keeping with their core values, Skyway Elementary has embarked on a number of green initiatives with significant environmental benefits. Since its initial participation in the District's rebate program two years ago, Skyway has reduced its electrical consumption by more than 680,000-kilowatt hours – which translates into more than 1 million pounds of CO₂ avoided and a more environmentally-friendly carbon footprint. As Skyway principal Adrena Williams stated, "All computers and lights are shut down by 4 p.m. and where possible, the school makes good use of natural light," as in the cafeteria, where plentiful windows allow students to eat without artificial lighting. Just as important, with the monetary rebate it received from all the energy savings, Skyway added new classroom technology to facilitate student learning.



In addition to Skyway's great strides in reducing energy use, this year a group of 50 fifth graders participated in the University of South Florida's Science and Engineering Fair, where they learned about math and science, as well as conservation and the environment. Additionally, under a grant from the Florida Department of Agriculture, three times a week students and faculty receive a different type of fruit and vegetable which has enabled students to expand their knowledge while tasting a variety of healthy foods.



Students: http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/hmshandout_student.pdf

Parents: http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/hmshandout_parent.pdf

La utilización de la luz natural y el consumo de frutas y verduras cultivadas en Florida, están creando un futuro brillante para los estudiantes. Los Skyhawks de la Primaria Skyway utilizan el cielo para iluminar su cafetería, esa misma luz solar que ayudó a cultivar las frutas y verduras que los estudiantes reciben gracias a un programa del Departamento de Agricultura.

ELEMENTARIA SKYWAY

La elementaría Skyway, escuela de Pre-Kinder a 5to grado en la ciudad de Miami Gardens y el orgulloso hogar de los Skyhawks, es conocida por sus aulas de espacios abiertos. De acuerdo con sus valores fundamentales, la escuela se ha embarcado en una serie de iniciativas verdes, con importantes beneficios ambientales. Desde el 2010, Skyway ha participado en el programa de reembolso del Distrito, reduciendo su consumo eléctrico en más de 680.000 hWk – equivalentes a más de 1 millón de libras de CO₂ evitadas. La directora de Skyway, Adrena Williams, declaró: "Todos los equipos y las luces se apagan a las 4 pm y la escuela hace un buen uso de la luz natural," como en la cafetería, donde las ventanas son abundantes y permiten almuerzos sin iluminación artificial. Con el descuento monetario que recibimos por los ahorros de energía, añadimos tecnología nueva para facilitar el aprendizaje de los estudiantes.

Además de los grandes avances en la reducción de consumo de energía, este año un grupo de 50 alumnos de quinto grado participó en la Feria de Ciencia e Ingeniería de la Universidad del Sur de Florida, donde aprendieron acerca de las matemáticas y la ciencia, así como la conservación y el medio ambiente. Adicionalmente, gracias a una subvención del Departamento de Agricultura de Florida, tres veces a la semana los estudiantes y profesores reciben distintos tipos de frutas y verduras, los cuales ayudan a los estudiantes a ampliar sus conocimientos mientras degustan una variedad de alimentos saludables.

CALL^{OF} DUTY: JOIN THE GREEN TEAM

We are what we do! Service learning truly makes a difference in your life, the life of others and our planet's future. The Paul Bell Middle School Green Team discovered they have the power to educate their school, families, and community about making conservation a habit.

PAUL W. BELL MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2nd YEAR GSC

The Paul W. Bell Middle School Green Team is the heart of the school's green efforts. Faculty and staff breakfast meetings focus on the Green Schools Challenge and how to integrate it into the curriculum. The morning PA announcements include environmental "Did you know ..." facts, recycling bins were placed in each classroom and students collected paper, aluminum, cardboard and plastic. The team created colorful posters with environmental themes and posted signs in common areas to encourage energy conservation and recycling. Energy reducing behaviors, such as turning off computer monitors and reminders posted on light switches were promoted schoolwide and the school was recognized for its efforts. As part of the superintendent's Eco-Sustainability Initiative, for every dollar a school saves on its energy bill, it receives 75 cents; Paul W. Bell Middle School received more than \$20,000 in savings during the 2010-11 school year.

The Green Team extended its efforts beyond the boundaries of the school by informing parents and community members about the green initiatives by adding a Green Schools Challenge link to the school's website and posting 'Go Green' signs at the school entrance. Miami Dade County's Home Energy Savings Workshop was heavily promoted and a 'Top 10 Things You Can Do to Save Energy' handout was created and sent home to parents. The school has successfully integrated the Green Schools Challenge concepts while proving that students everywhere have the power to stimulate their schools, families and communities to incorporate efficient energy use into daily habits



Students: http://thevolunteerfamily.volunteermatch.org/results/opp_detail.jsp?oppid=316887

Parents: http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/environment/sea_grant_volunteers.shtml

Somos lo que hacemos! El Servicio de Aprendizaje realmente hace una diferencia en tu vida, la vida de los demás y el futuro de nuestro planeta. Los estudiantes del Equipo Verde de Paul Bell Middle School, descubrieron que tienen el poder de educar a su escuela, sus familias y su comunidad enseñándoles a conservar habitualmente.

Paul W. Bell Middle School (2^o Año GSC)

El Equipo Verde, es el centro de los esfuerzos sostenibles de esta escuela. La administración y el profesorado, se enfocan en cómo integrar el Green School Challenge en el plan de estudio. Los anuncios escolares de la mañana incluyen mensajes sobre el medio ambiente. Los contenedores de reciclaje se colocaron en cada aula y los estudiantes recogen papel, aluminio, cartón y plástico. El equipo creó carteles de colores que fueron ubicados en los espacios comunes para fomentar la conservación de energía y reciclaje. Como parte de la iniciativa Eco-Sustentabilidad del superintendente, por cada dólar que una escuela ahorra en su factura de energía, recibe \$0.75. Paul W. Bell Middle School recibió más de \$ 20.000 en ahorros durante el año escolar 2010-2011!

El equipo verde amplió sus esfuerzos más allá de los límites de la escuela informando a los padres y miembros de la comunidad acerca de las iniciativas verdes mediante un enlace al Green School Challenge en la página web de la escuela y publicando señales 'Go Green' en la entrada de la escuela. El taller de 'Ahorro de Energía en el Hogar' ofrecido por el Condado de Miami-Dade, fue fuertemente promocionado y un folleto con "Las 10 Cosas que Puedes Hacer Para Ahorrar Energía" fue enviado a los padres. La escuela ha integrado exitosamente los conceptos del Green School Challenge, mientras que le demuestra a los estudiantes que tienen el poder de estimular a sus escuelas, familias y comunidades para incorporar el uso eficiente de la energía en sus hábitos diarios.



: Fresh is Best

World class energy and environmental solutions don't have to be imported. Students from the TERRA Environmental Research Institute are conserving energy, natural resources and promoting local alternatives including locally grown food.

TERRA ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, 3RD YEAR GSC

TERRA Environmental Research Institute has achieved a milestone for Miami Dade County as the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold level certified school. Since opening in 2009, TERRA has fostered an atmosphere of academic excellence and environmental stewardship, evidenced by the success of the Green Team in carrying out Green Schools Challenge activities. Inside and outside the school, students scientifically analyzed energy usage and composition of trash and recycling bins. Students reported their findings to the school administration and created public service announcements that aired in the school's lobby. The students questioning, introspection and reflection exercises have empowered them to apply the same practices at home, educating their families and decreasing their daily use of natural resources.



The Environmental Research and Field Studies students worked throughout the year using hands-on environmental education initiatives in their home, school and community. Working with the Miami-Dade parks and the Natural Areas Management Department, students identified and removed exotic invasive species from a neighboring hardwood hammock. Also, with the help of web2.0 tools, students created visual interactive posters to educate young learners about the value and beauty of the Everglades. At the local TERRA-organized farmers' markets, students explained the value of buying locally. They also grew plants for the school's butterfly garden and secured outside funding sources for a pine rockland wildlife habitat and have used organic practices for an extensive garden of herbs, which they provide to the school cafeteria staff to add fresh flavors to the school menu.



Students: <http://www.slowfoodmiami.com/school-gardens/learn-and-grow.htm>

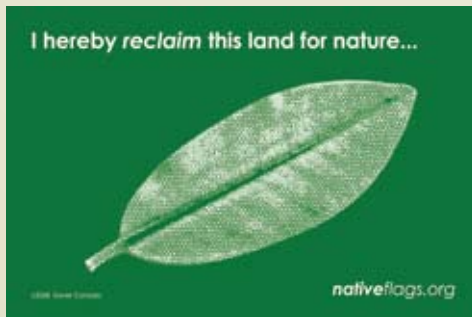
Parents: http://www.florida-agriculture.com/consumers/farmers_markets.htm

Las soluciones de energía y medio ambiente de clase mundial no tienen que ser importadas. Los estudiantes del Instituto TERRA conservan energía, recursos naturales y promueven alternativas locales, tales como los alimentos cultivados localmente.

TERRA Instituto de Investigación Ambiental (3º Año GSC)

El Instituto de Investigación Ambiental TERRA, ha logrado un hito para el Condado de Miami Dade como la primera escuela certificada de oro en Energía y Diseño Ambiental. Desde su apertura en 2009, TERRA ha fomentado un ambiente de excelencia académica y cuidado ambiental, tal como lo demuestra su exitoso Equipo Verde al realizar las actividades del Green School Challenge. Los estudiantes analizaron científicamente el uso de energía de la escuela y el contenido de los contenedores de basura y reciclaje. Luego informaron sus hallazgos a la administración y crearon anuncios de servicio público transmitidos en la escuela. El cuestionamiento, la introspección y los ejercicios de reflexión de los estudiantes, les han dado el poder de aplicar las mismas prácticas en el hogar y educar a sus familiares sobre la disminución del uso diario de los recursos naturales.

Los estudiantes de la Investigación Ambiental y Estudios de Campo, trabajaron durante todo el año con las iniciativas de educación ambiental en su casa, en la escuela y en la comunidad. Colaborando con los parques de Miami-Dade y el Departamento de Espacios Naturales, los estudiantes identificaron y eliminaron plantas exóticas e invasivas en un área natural vecina. Además, con la ayuda de herramientas de Web 2.0, los estudiantes crearon carteles interactivos visuales para educar a los jóvenes estudiantes sobre el valor y la belleza de los Everglades. TERRA organizó mercados locales de vegetales y frutas, donde los estudiantes explicaron el valor de comprar a nivel local. También cultivaron plantas para un jardín de mariposas en la escuela y consiguieron fondos económicos para un hábitat de pino y vida silvestre. También han utilizado prácticas ecológicas en su jardín de hierbas, las cuales cosechan y entregan al personal de la cafetería para agregar sabores frescos al menú de la escuela.



Native Flags



Miami artist Xavier Cortada created this urban reforestation eco-art project to help restore native habitats for plants and animals in urban areas. This year marks the third year in a row that Cortada has collaborated with Miami-Dade County Public Schools as part of Earth Day celebrations to plant a small tree at every school in the district; when planting the tree, students are also encouraged to post Cortada's green flag and proclaim:

"I hereby reclaim this land for nature."

Other partners in the Earth Day project have included the Miami Science Museum, FIU College of Architecture + The Arts Office of Engaged Creativity, the Deering Estate at Cutler, the National Association of Counties, the local chapters of the American Planning Association and American Institute of Architects, and the U.S. Green Building Council.

The project's conspicuous green flags are meant to serve as a catalyst for conversations with friends and neighbors, and to encourage all to join the effort and help rebuild the native tree canopy one yard at a time. Ideally, as they watch each tree grow, their interest in the environment will also grow. Remember that reforestation reduces the greenhouse gases that cause global climate change.

In addition to his many eco-projects and standing collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Cortada is known world-wide for his effort to raise environmental awareness. On June 29th, 2008, he arrived at the North Pole and planted a green flag to "reclaim it for nature." In his words, "As the Arctic sea ice melts, nations clamor to raise their flags over newly open waters to claim the natural resources that lie beneath them...". Cortada created this project to engage people globally to help slow the polar thaw.

Banderas Nativas

El artista Xavier Cortada creó un proyecto Eco-arte de reforestación urbana para ayudar a restaurar los hábitats nativos de plantas y animales en las zonas urbanas. Este año se cumple el tercer año consecutivo en el que Cortada ha colaborado con las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Miami-Dade, celebrando del Día de la Tierra al plantar un árbol pequeño en todas las escuelas del distrito. Al momento de plantar el árbol, se les anima a los estudiantes a clavar la bandera verde de Cortada y proclamar:

"Reclamo esta tierra para la naturaleza."

Otros socios en el proyecto Día de la Tierra han incluido: el Museo de las Ciencias de Miami, la Facultad de Arquitectura + Las Artes | Oficina Comprometida a la Creatividad de FIU, el Deering Estate en Cutler, la Asociación Nacional de Condados, las divisiones locales de la Asociación Americana de Planificación y el Instituto Americano de Arquitectos y el U.S. Green Building Council.

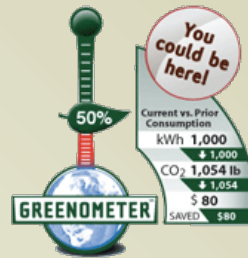
Las banderas verdes del proyecto sirven como modo para iniciar conversaciones con amigos y vecinos y para animar a todos a unirse al esfuerzo de reconstruir la comunidad de árboles nativos, un jardín a la vez. Lo ideal sería que, al ver a cada árbol crecer, su interés por el medio ambiente también crezca. Recuerde que la reforestación reduce los gases de efecto invernadero que causan el cambio climático global.

Además de sus muchos eco-proyectos y de la colaboración con las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Miami-Dade, Cortada se conoce mundialmente por su esfuerzo para realzar la conciencia ambiental. El 29 de Junio del 2008, llegó al Polo Norte y plantó una bandera verde "reclamándola para la naturaleza." En sus propias palabras, "A medida que el hielo del mar Ártico se derrite, naciones claman a levantar sus banderas sobre las recientes aguas abiertas y así reclamar los recursos naturales que se encuentran debajo de ellas ...". Cortada creó este proyecto para involucrar a las personas a nivel mundial y ayudar a retardar el deshielo polar.

MAKE A DATE: GREEN SCHOOL CALENDAR

2012-2013

Month	Activities/Events
April	Florida Water Conservation Month 14th/Mangrove Seedling replanting at Virginia Key 15th-21st / Environmental Education Week 21st / Baynanza: Cleanup of Biscayne Bay 22nd / EARTH DAY
May	Clean Air Month Florida State Parks Month 8th / National Teacher Day
June	Florida Rivers Month Clean Beaches Week 2nd / National Trails Day 5th / World Environment Day
July	Smart Irrigation Month Lakes Appreciation Month Park and Recreation Month
August	12th / International Youth Day 26th / World Kitchen Garden Day
September	15th / International Coastal Cleanup Day 16th-22nd / Pollution Prevention Week 24th-29th / Take a Child Outside week
October	Energy Awareness Month Greenways and Trails Month 27th / Make a Difference Day
November	15th / America Recycles Day 12th-16th / Sustainability Education Week
December	5th / International Volunteer Day
January	18th / Florida's Arbor Day
February	Florida Hiking Trails Month 2nd / World Wetlands Day
March	10th-16th / National Groundwater Awareness Week 22nd / World Water Day



The Green Schools Challenge

Since 2006, the Green Schools Challenge program, Dream in Green, has fostered long-term sustainability behavior in K-12 students through whole-system, STEM-based environmental education. The program engages students in hands-on learning to save energy in schools while also teaching the importance of sustainability of natural resources in the community.

Goals:

- Educate students about conserving natural resources and the impacts of waste generation and climate change
- Reduce energy, water and waste generation in schools and homes
- Make resource-efficient behaviors intrinsic to daily routines of building users

Core Principles:

- The Green Schools Challenge is long-term and comprehensive, achieving savings from no-cost behavioral and operational changes
- Teams of students and all school staff work together to implement the program to build consensus and common purpose
- Using a planning model, teams at each school develop an implementation plan to support their school's individual needs, opportunities and priorities

Program Benefits:

- Strengthens student learning, critical thinking, environmental citizenship and leadership capabilities
- Improves school staff relations, school morale and school functioning
- Builds long-term community sustainability through resource-efficient behaviors
- Exposes students to careers in energy conservation and the green workforce

Dream in Green believes that a rapid transition to natural resource conservation and efficiency can help protect and preserve human and animal life, combat global warming, create new jobs and ensure a secure, affordable energy and water future. Our schools play a strategic and critical role in transitioning towards a more "green" and environmentally sustainable society. Children and teenagers learn quickly and are empirically proven to be highly receptive to conservation and environmental stewardship, and when they embrace the concepts of the Green Schools Challenge, serve as powerful messengers to their families and society.



Florida Green School Network

The Florida Green School Network acts as a central clearinghouse for the green school movement in the state of Florida. It was designed to recognize and support green school initiatives at the school and school district level and to aid them in adopting practices that will conserve natural resources, encourage healthy schools environments, promote sustainability and reduce operating costs.

The Network was established in 2011 with support from Florida Power and Light and it is a partnership between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Education, Florida's Foundation, Sustainable Florida and the Florida Department of Health.

For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.floridagreenschoolnetwork.org/>

Florida Green School Awards

In 2010-2011 alone, more than 42,000 students, teachers and administrators participated in green school initiatives in both private and public schools alike. Many projects included recycling programs, green service learning projects, environmental education, teacher professional development projects and efforts to make school buildings and facilities more sustainable.

Many times, these projects go unnoticed; so to recognize such environmental stewardship, DEP's Office of Environmental Education began the Florida Green School Awards program. This program has recognized exemplary green school initiatives by students, classes, teachers, and school/district administrators since the 2008-2009 school year. In the 2010-2011 school year, award applicants generated over \$10.8 million in gross cost savings. Every green initiative, small though it may seem, adds up. We invite you to participate!



U.S. DOE Green Ribbon School Program

This year the Florida Green School Network assisted in Florida's adoption of the new U.S. Department of Education national Green Ribbon Schools Program. The state has nominated three schools that have demonstrated significant progress in achieving success in the program's three pillars: 1) environmental impact and energy efficiency, 2) healthy school environments, and 3) environmental and sustainability education.

National winners will be announced on April 23, 2012, and recognized on June 4, 2012 during the first national U.S. ED Green Ribbon Schools ceremony in Washington, D.C.