Mrs. Cardona's
Fifth Grade Class
Butterfly Garden

Royal Palm Elementary
4200 SW 112 Ct.
Miami, Florida 33165
2008 Florida School Garden Competition
ENTRY FORM

School: Royal Palm Elementary
Teacher(s) & Grade(s) involved in garden program: Mrs. Cardona grade 5th

Contact Person: Marcia Cardona
Email address: mcardona2@dadeschools.net
Time contact person can be reached: after 2pm
Phone: (786) 229-2772  Fax: (305) 257-1529
Address (please include city and zip code): 4200 SW 119th  Miami, Florida 33165

CATEGORY (Please mark only one)

☑ SINGLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by one class only)
  Number of students in class: 26

☑ MULTIPLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by more than one class or grade, but not by the entire school)
  Number of students involved in the garden:

☑ ENTIRE SCHOOL GARDEN (Garden that is used by all grade levels at the school)
  Number of students involved in the garden:

TYPE of school garden that you use with your students. (Please mark only one)

☑ Vegetable
☑ Flower
☑ Combination vegetable/flower
☑ Other, please specify: Butterfly Garden

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1. Please indicate the number of hours a week, on average, your students spend in the garden. __________

2. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in prior to gardening.

- [ ] Planning the garden
- [ ] Preparing the garden
- [x] Designing the garden
- [ ] Choosing plants
- [ ] Other, ____________________________

3. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in while in the garden.

- [x] Planting
- [x] Watering
- [ ] Weeding
- [ ] Harvesting
- [ ] Observing
- [ ] Recording
- [ ] Sitting
- [ ] Fertilizing
- [ ] Playing
- [ ] Experimenting
- [ ] Other, ____________________________

4. Please indicate the percentage of time, on average, that you used the garden as an instructional tool in your classroom. ____________

5. Please mark the subject area(s) into which you have incorporated school gardening. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Math
- [x] Science
- [ ] Social Studies
- [ ] History
- [ ] Health/Nutrition
- [ ] Language Arts
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Physical Ed.
- [ ] Environmental Ed.
- [ ] Ethics (responsibility and nurturing)
- [ ] Other, please specify ____________________________

6. Please indicate the number of years that a school garden has been part of your curriculum. __________

7. Please indicate the types of volunteers that have helped you and your students with the garden.

- [ ] Master Gardeners
- [ ] Senior citizens
- [x] Parents
- [ ] University students
- [ ] Garden club members
- [ ] 4-H members
- [ ] High school students
- [ ] FFA
- [ ] Older students at your school
- [ ] Other, please specify ____________________________
8. Please indicate the source(s) of information used to assist in the incorporation of school gardening into your school's curriculum. Check all that apply.

____ County Extension service  ____ 4-H education materials
____ Teacher in-service training  ____ Lifelab
____ Personal knowledge  ____ Master Gardener training
____ Educational journals/publications  ____ Friends/volunteers
____ National Gardening Association's Growlab/Growing ideas newsletter
____ Other, please specify________________________

9. Please indicate the types of educational material(s) used in the classroom to support the use of school gardening in the curriculum.

____ Library books  ____ Computer software
____ Internet  ____ Videos
____ Filmstrips  ____ Personal books
____ Textbooks  ____ Experiments
____ Trade books  ____ Gardening magazines and catalogs
____ Newspapers  ____ Other, please specify________________________

***Please read and sign below***

By submitting the same you acknowledge and agree that the University of Florida (and Walt Disney World Co.) may reproduce the same, and all materials may be displayed (in part or in whole) at the 2008 Epcot® International Flower and Garden Festival and for other promotional materials. Such presentation materials (and School Garden packets) will NOT be returned to you (they will become the property of the University of Florida and Walt Disney World Co.) Finally, you acknowledge and agree that should your school be selected as a winner under the competition, then to the extent any of the photographs or materials submitted contain the names of likeness of students, teachers and/or others, you will be required to have adult individuals sign (and the parents/guardians of such students) sign consent/release forms provided by us so that we can display those photographs or materials concerning your winning garden. Such requirement would be a condition of your accepting the award.

I have read and understand the above.

[Signature] [Date]
Educational Relevance

Florida Sunshine State Standards:

L.A.A.2.1.3: The student uses literature, pictures, artifacts, technology, and as a means of providing authentic experiences and new insights (background knowledge).
L.A.C.3.1.1: The student practices oral reading of text at independent level while noting speed and accuracy.
L.A.B.1.2.1: The student writes daily for a variety of modes.
G.1.2.2: The student knows that living things compete in a climatic region with other living things and that structural adaptations make them fit for an environment.
G.1.2.3: The student knows that green plants use carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight energy to turn minerals and nutrients into food for growth, maintenance, and reproduction.
MA.B.1.2.2: The student will solve real-world problems involving perimeter, area, capacity, and volume using concrete, graphic, or pictorial models.

Prior to beginning our garden my students were asked to research on butterflies and host plants. I also invited a butterfly garden specialist from A. D. Barnes Park to come out and give a presentation. Through this presentation the children learned about butterflies their habitats and the
different host plants needed to begin our garden. After the presentation
the presenter provided the students with a packet of the different native
plants and butterflies found in our area. Our classroom library holds a
variety of books on butterflies and they have also used the internet to
acquire information. While planning the garden the students had to ask
themselves "What type of butterfly do we wish to attract?" based on this
we then chose plants.
With this information and the presenters help we began to plan and design
our garden. We incorporated our math skills to figure the area available for
gardening and how much space would be allocated for the different plants.
This project has given the students a hands-on experience of the life cycle
of the butterfly, as well as the life of a plant, its needs, and required care.
As the student plant and care for both the plants and caterpillars, they are
keeping a journal this has helped to develop their science vocabulary as well
as their writing skills. We have incorporated reading into our garden through
books read about the subject and by using this as a special area for the
children to share a book with a little buddy. As the children work on their
garden they are also developing their social skills, and are learning to work
with others as a team. One-third of my class consists of SPED students; the
hands-on activity has brought science to a new light.
One of the most important lessons learned through our garden project has
been responsibility, caring for other things, and a developing a sense of
ownership. Each day as the children come in a different child is responsible
to water the garden; others check on the caterpillars, others keep the area
clean. As they find a plant has bloomed, a new caterpillar has arrived or note
any change in the garden they are anxious to share with the class. One of
the greatest experience I have had as a teacher was the day we were out
planting and one of my "tough" SPED students made a comment. And said,
"Ms. You know what makes this garden special?" When I asked what, he said,
"It's been made with lots of love." I was able to see a side of my students I
had not seen before and I have the privilege to see them also bloom.

Level of Involvement

The garden promotes leadership within the classroom in many ways. One way
has been that the students have assumed the responsibility of caring for
the garden and within themselves they decide who will do each job. I oversee
the process and serve as a facilitator if necessary. We have had involvement
from a local fence company who also makes benches, trellises, and other
garden ornaments. This company donated a combination bench and trellis, as
well as a beautiful butterfly table to be used for observation of leaves and
caterpillars. As our garden grows the curiosity of our school also grows.
Other teachers will be participating in activities such as getting caterpillars
for the first grade class and when they are butterflies they will be set free
in our garden. We also have teachers bringing their class to our garden and
using this area for a mini science lesson. This garden has awoken a sense of
being "Green" among the children as well as the staff. As our garden will
continue to grow we hope to involve others in this extraordinary project.
One of the greatest supports I have received has been from a classroom
parents. Not only did they donate to help with the garden, but most
importantly they came out to help the children actually plant. It was a wonderful experience for the parents, the students, and me. We received a donation from A.D. Barnes Park of mulch as well as their expertise guidance as we began to work on our garden (one of our dads works at the park).

**Garden Quality**

The garden was designed with the aide of the butterfly specialist from the park. Taking onto consideration what types of butterflies we wanted to attract and the area available for planting. What makes this garden unique is that it was created by children, all the work was done by the children with help from the parents. I cam up with an idea, I shared with my class and allowed them to develop it. As they worked on it all I did was serve as a facilitator. I was also the mediator between the students, the PTA, the administration, the park, and the parents.

The garden is cared for and maintained solely by the students. They understand that this is there garden and therefore they are responsible for its care. Each plant was selected based on the butterflies we wished to attract and likely frequent our area. We chose plants that would create an alluring site that nurtures and nourishes the desired butterflies. We chose host plants as well as nectar plants that are native to the area. As the children began working on the butterfly garden project they did not have an environmental focus. But as the garden develops they have become aware of their environment and the importance of caring for it.
As our children develop today they are exposed less and less to the wonders of nature and are not aware of the environment, its importance, and how to care for it. Through this project an opportunity has been given to these children to help and preserve our environment. I hope that as they leave my classroom they leave with a sense of accomplishment, and pride because they have contributed to the beautification of their school as well as their environment.
February 25, 2008

Dear Parents,

Our class has begun working on a special project, a Butterfly Garden. We have chosen this special project because gardens are a wonderful and exciting way to make subjects more interesting and meaningful. This also provides an opportunity for students, teachers, and parents to interact.

I have taken the time to apply for a small grant to help us start our garden. We have also received a generous donation of mulch from A.D. Barnes, through a dad, who works at the park. But we can’t do it without your help.

We will begin working on our garden on Sat. March 1st at 9:00 a.m., please come with your child and help us create our masterpiece. We are also asking for a donation of $5.00 per child to buy plants and other gardening supplies.

Our children have had a wonderful learning experience at Royal Palm and have many fond memories that they take with them. As a class we decided to leave something to be remembered by. What better way than a Butterfly Garden that will not only beautify the school, but will enhance the learning environment. Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday!

Thank You,
Mrs. Cardona

Estimados Padres,

Nuestra clase está comenzando un proyecto especial, un Jardín de Mariposas. Hemos escogido este proyecto, porque es una oportunidad de trabajar juntos los estudiantes, maestra, y padres.

Aplicamos y recibimos una pequeña ayuda para comenzar nuestro jardín, y a través de un papa, el parque A.D. Barnes nos donará el mulch.

Estaremos trabajando en nuestro jardín este sábado, 1ro de marzo, a las 9 a.m., por favor asista con su hijo/hija y ayudenos a crear nuestra obra de arte. Estamos pidiendo una donación de $5.00 por niño, para comprar plantas.

Nuestros niños han tenido una experiencia inolvidable en Royal Palm Elementary y decidimos como una clase hacer algo especial para nuestra escuela. Esperamos verlos este sábado.

Gracias,
Sra. Cardona
Pentas
Scarlet Milkweeds
Fire Bush
Grant Milkweed
Fire Spike
Cassia
Trials
Passion Vine
Red Shrimp
Pink Potterweed
Blue Potterweed