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2013 Florida School Garden Competition
ENTRY FORM

School Seabreeze Elementary

Teacher(s) & Grade(s) involved in garden program

all grade levels all teachers K-5

Contact Person Victor Melone

Email address vmelone@comcast.net

Phone (904)247 5900 Fax ( )

Time contact person can be reached anytime

Street address 1400 Seabreeze Ave

City Jacksonville Beach State FL Zip 32250

CATEGORY (Please mark only one)

_____ SINGLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by one class only)
Number of students in class and grade _____

_____ 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 and grades _____

X ENTIRE SCHOOL GARDEN (Garden that is used by all grade levels at the school)
Number of students involved in the garden and grades 600+

Number of classes involved 30+

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

x Vegetable

x Flower

_____ Combination vegetable/flower

_____ Other, please specify _____

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

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

_____Planning the garden _____Preparing the garden
_____Designing the garden x Choosing plants
_____Other: _____
_____
_____

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

x Planting _____Watering _____Weeding
x Observing _____Recording _____Harvesting
_____Playing x Sitting _____Fertilizing
x Experimenting
_____Other: _____
_____

3. Please indicate the percentage of time, on average, that you used the garden as an instructional tool in your classroom. 1 hour a week

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

x Math x Science x Social Studies
x History x Health/Nutrition _____Language Arts
_____Music _____Physical Ed. x Environmental Ed.
x Ethics (responsibility and nurturing)
_____Other, please specify_____
_____

5. Please indicate the number of years that a school garden has been part of your curriculum. 2

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

x Master Gardener volunteers _____ County Extension Office _____Parents
_____University students _____Garden club members _____4-H members
_____High school students _____FFA
_____Older students at your school _____Senior citizens
_____Other, please specify_____

_____

7. 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
_____Teacher in-service training
_____Personal knowledge
_____Educational journals/publications
_____National Gardening Association's Growlab/Growing ideas newsletter
_____4-H education materials
_____Lifelab
x_____Master Gardener training
_____Friends/volunteers
x_____Other, please specify master gardeners and partnership with Rockaway Gardens

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

x_____Library books
_____Internet
_____Filmstrips
x_____Textbooks
_____Trade books
_____Newspapers
x_____Computer software
x_____Videos
_____Personal books
x_____Experiments
_____Gardening magazines and catalogs
_____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 Epcot® International Flower & 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.

Christie Lindee Cole
Signature

3/22/13
Date

2013 Florida School Garden Completion

SEABREEZE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1400 Seabreeze Ave, Jacksonville Beach FL 32250

Duval County

Background:

Seabreeze Elementary School has had a very unique asset for several years now, a commercial greenhouse. It is a large facility and not something you would expect to see on a school campus, especially an elementary school. Thanks in large part to one of our teachers it was placed several years ago. Unfortunately, it also would sit vacant for 11 months out of the year and become an unsightly collection point for debris and such that our students walked by every day.

As part of the Grounds Beautification efforts it was important to transform the dormant space in to what it was built for. In seeking a partner there were three clear criteria that had to be met:

- Our partner needed to assume responsibility for keeping the space clean
- Our partner needed to provide an educational experience for our students
- Our partner needed to contribute back to the PTA

Our partner, Rockaway Garden Center, met all three criteria and has taken things to the next level. What was once a dirty empty space is now a vibrant and beautiful working greenhouse. It is filled with herbs, vegetables, flowers and more.

As far as the educational piece, the folks from RGC have started welcoming classes to sign up and learn about how the facility operates, how plants grow and even built raised beds where there was once nothing but weeds, to help the kids plant their own vegetable gardens.

The on-going project includes planting a variety of species throughout the campus so that students can basically go on a nature field trip without leaving school. We are also working on totally transforming our second courtyard in to a welcoming and beautiful place for teaching and learning that will be filled with plants the students grew.

This is a long term project and partnership. Teachers and Parents are all very excited about what we are doing, but the best part is seeing the pride in the students faces.

Mission Statement: Provide the students and staff of Seabreeze Elementary School a beautiful campus that inspires everyday learning and an education about the environment that we live in while building strong partnerships in our local business community.

Renovated courtyard fall 2012: Planted with all edible and Florida Friendly Plants, Irrigated w/ drip irrigation

Students being taught in the greenhouse

Take home project

Educational relevance:

Our Lessons are focused on getting children to:

Have a better awareness to how plants are grown & where food comes from

Ecological implications of plants and the environment

Benefits of healthy lifestyle and growing your own food

Appreciation for their environment

Foster excitement in learning

Teaches personal responsibility

Resources used to facilitate garden learning:

Seabreeze is blessed to have a commercial grade green house on property. It sat empty for years and is now managed by our business partner, Rockaway Garden Center, and is a key learning tool for all students.

Victor Melone(PTA President) and Greg Burghardt (Co-owner Rockaway Garden Center) smile for the camera as the first partnership check is exchanged spring of 2012

The BEACHES LEADER

March 21, 2012

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Private partnership with JB school proving to be a blooming success

by CHUCK ADAMS
STAFF WRITER

Rockaway Garden Center of Jacksonville Beach has partnered with Seabreeze Elementary in an association that has been termed a "win-win" for both.

The partnership will turn the school's first, third and fifth grade students into knowledgeable young gardeners. The Burghardts, father Greg and sons Greg Jr. and Brian, all of Rockaway, are helping.

"It's really exciting that our kids get to have some hands-on experience with doing things we probably can't provide in the classroom," said Lisa Andrew as she and her first-grade class, co-taught with Sofie Kruske, visited the school's plant-filled greenhouse March 15.

Students created their own planters by dipping small plastic cups into potting soil, to which seeds were added, after which Brian Burghardt watered the pots. Outside the greenhouse are six plots, two for

See PLANTS, 3 ►

Photos by CHUCK ADAMS

Students from Seabreeze Elementary School talk with Brian Burghardt, above, about planting flowers. A greenhouse at the school is being used as part of a public-private partnership that has flowers blooming, right, at the school.

each grade level, built earlier in the week by Rockaway.

"They'll get to be in a garden outside the greenhouse when we get back from spring break," said Andrew. "They'll get to take home what they grow, and they'll get to eat it. They are really excited—and so are we."

PTA president Victor Melone said the greenhouse is a great asset, but it sat dormant most of the year. Originally created by school staff member Joe Andrew, teacher Lisa's brother in law, the greenhouse was recently repaired by the crew from Rockaway

"One of the things I wanted to do was improve the landscaping around the entire school, including the greenhouse," Melone said.

After a long search, Melone connected with Rockaway Garden Center, which agreed to use the greenhouse and provide an educational experience back to students. A five-year agreement was drafted.

The process started several months ago, when Rockaway did minor repairs on the greenhouse and cleaned it completely. They also filled it with herbs, vegetables, flowers and other plants.

"From an ownership standpoint, they've been great," said Malone. "On the educational side, they put together four-week lesson plans for [three grades]. Throughout Seabreeze, [they will] plant edible plants, fruit trees and things of that nature. At some point, we'll be able to have field trips right here."

The classes will visit the plots every Thursday, which was a free resource day.

"We essentially made the greenhouse our new resource, like music or physical education," said Melone. "[Rockaway] is going to help them plant their gardens, teach them about agriculture and what they're doing with it."

The monetary support for the school that's part of the partnership comes from Rockaway Garden Center contributing about 10 percent of all their sales for herbs and vegetables, said Melone.

"Everything they sell, whether it's at the garden center, the Jarboe Park farmers market or other places, 10 percent will come back to Seabreeze on a monthly basis, which will enable our PTA to do things for our school that we hadn't been able to in the past."

This is Rockaway Garden's pilot partnership with a school. The Burghardt brothers took over the garden center from Secondhand Rose a couple of years ago.

"We're trying to get the kids interested in plants and nurseries and growing [things]," said Greg Sr. "And you can see they're quite interested. We started the beginning of February, and

this is what we've got since then," he said of the in-full-bloom, in-the-greenhouse plants. "It's coming around quite good."

Melone was pleased by what has taken shape.

"What a great partner Rockaway Garden Center has been," he said. "They couldn't have been more excited when I approached them. They couldn't have been more professional in the information and detail they put together. They've been very excited to be a part of this private/public partnership. It's been amazing, absolutely amazing

Educational Standards:

The standards and methodologies built around the lesson plans are derived through Master gardeners, supported by parents, teachers and the community and modified to accommodate elementary school students. There is an emphasis on linking the lessons back to Florida Sunshine Standards as well. Students are also encouraged to begin their own gardens and are provided with seeds and plants to do so.

Lesson Plan Overview:

1. What's New at the Greenhouses
2. How do we get more plants?
3. Where does our Food Come From?
4. The Wonderful World of Herbs
5. What's So Great about Spring Anyway?
6. Let's Plant the Spring Garden
7. Get Out of Here, Weeds!
8. How Much Water Do Plants Really Need?
9. Sunflowers Grow Big & Beautiful

10. Strawberry Patch Adventure
11. Why is an Apple like a Suitcase?
12. Scavenger Hunt

Class on where our food comes from

Greenhouse full of baby organically grown herbs

Lesson 1 - (Feb.14)

What's New at the Greenhouses

Objective: Teach children what we are doing in the greenhouse, what's new and exciting. Overview of what plants need to grow & where food comes from.

Open questions: Ask children what do they see that is new at the greenhouse? What do plants need to grow? Where does food come from? Explain different parts of the plants. Show different parts with examples from stock.

Activity: Give a tour & show them all of the new plants! Let them ask questions.

Lesson 2 - (Feb.21)

How Do We Get More Plants

Objective: Introduction on plant propagation as well as plant reproduction. Explain different types of propagation and why its so important. Explain the different methods different plants use to reproduce.

Activity: Seeds will be started for the Spring Garden.

Lesson 3 - (Feb. 28)

Where Does Our Food Come From?

Objective: Teach children where food comes from. Discuss all the different types of vegetables we can plant during the spring & summer. Students will learn that foods they are natural resources or come from natural resources. Explain that Natural resources are found in nature.

Open Questions: What are some examples of natural resources? Water, sun, wind, plants, rocks, animals, land How are natural resources used? Solar energy, wind energy, water energy, food for plants and animals, rocks make soil, wood for furniture and homes. A plant is a living natural resource that uses other natural resources like the sun, water, and soil to live. How do we get food? We grow food. Farmers grow plant foods (fruits, vegetables) that they sell to and we can buy from grocery stores, or that they take to farmers' markets and food stands to sell to us.

Lesson 4 - (Mar 7th)

The Wonderful World of Herbs

Objective: Examine all the different herbs growing in the greenhouse. Explain that an herb is a plant that is used as a food flavoring, medicine, or scent. Go over several types of herbs & explain how they can be used. What are some familiar herbs that students can name?

Activity: Using clear plastic cups, students will plant their very own herb seeds! This will allow the children to see the root system develop & monitor progress. Cups will be sent home with the kids to watch grown in the classroom or at home.

Lesson 5- (Mar. 14)

Let's Plant the Spring Garden

Objective: Introduce students to Spring gardening. Explain why Spring is the prime time for planting tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, okra, etc.

Activity: Like the lesson says - Let's Plant the Spring Garden! Kids will work as a team to plant wonderful spring crops.

Lesson 6 - (Mar. 21)

What's So Great About Spring Anyway?

Objective: Kids will learn & observe the seasonal changes that occur in nature during early spring. Explore that organisms, including people, have basic needs which include air, water, food, living space, and shelter. Recognize that seasonal changes can influence the health, survival, or activities of organisms. Investigate that animals eat plants and/or other animals for food and may also use plants or other animals for shelter and nesting. Explain that students will record observations about two habitats in the garden.

Opening Questions: What is a habitat? A habitat is the place where an organism lives and finds food, water, living space, and shelter. Students will make observations about the ground habitat and the plant habitat above the ground so comparisons can be made.

Activity: Explore the different plants all throughout the greenhouse and walk through the courtyard. Have the students keep an eye out for any animals or insects to discuss.

Lesson 7 - (Mar. 21)

Get Out Of Here, Weeds!

Objective: To teach kids the reality & hard work of a garden! Explain the difference between weeds & plants. Teach the kids the importance of why weeds should be removed from the garden.

Activity: Weed the raised beds & courtyard! Classes will have assigned sections to pull weeds in. The kids will be getting their hands dirty!

********** **March 28th - SCHOOL CLOSED** **********

Lesson 8 - (Apr. 4)

How Much Water Do Plants Really Need?

Objective: In this lesson about capacity, students will learn that different sized plants and different qualities of soil (dry, moist, muddy or sandy) require different amounts of water. All plants do not need tons of water in order to survive. Students will also learn about overwatering and absorption.

Absorb: *To soak up*

Overwater: *To give a plant too much water*

Amount: *How much*

Activity: Show students the difference in soil types. Pour water in a pot of each to show how quick or slow draining the water is in each one. Show students how to tell if a plant needs water or not, and have a section of plants for the kids to inspect and make the decision of which ones need water and which ones do not.

Lesson 9 - (Apr. 11)

Sunflowers Grow Big & Beautiful

Objective: Discuss & explain why sunflowers are an important resource.

Open Questions: How are sunflowers important to the environment? The flowers have nectar, which is food for many insects. Birds eat the seeds, deer eat the leaves, and groundhogs eat the roots. Humans have found many uses for sunflowers.

Activity: Plant an entire raised bed full of sunflower seeds! Kids will work in teams to weed, dig, and plant the seeds.

Lesson 10 - (Apr. 18)

Strawberry Patch Adventure

Objective: Teach the basics of strawberry production and it's important in Florida. Discuss how they are a good source of vitamins & minerals.

Activity: Plant the strawberry patch! Students will also be given their own strawberry plant to take home!

Lesson 11 - (Apr. 25)

Why is an Apple like a Suitcase?

Objective: To develop an understanding that all fruit contain seeds, that a fruit's function is to distribute seeds, and that these seeds are important to plant reproduction. Explain that a suitcase is used to carry around clothes & other items. Fruit is just like a suitcase, but inside it carries seeds.

Opening Questions: What does a strawberry have in common with a suitcase? Does it carry seeds around?

Activity: Students will have an opportunity to examine a variety of fruit to discover that each has seeds. Even cotton and some "vegetables" are considered the fruit of the plant because they contain seeds.

Through experimentation, students will understand the important role that fruit and seeds play in a plant's life cycle. Kids will get to take home their very own seeds!

Lesson 12 - (May 2)

Scavenger Hunt

Objective: For students to explore and learn more about plants.

Activity: Items will range from random objects placed into the greenhouse, as well certain types of plants. Clues will be given such as color, shape, and height. Students will learn plant names this way, as well get some exercise!

Level of Involvement:

Student Leadership

Individual classes are able to plan, plant and maintain their own gardens. Students are given maximum control over what and how they plant. The Seabreeze Student Council also took on a project to clean up the landscape of one of our neighbors who had suffered personal hardships and were unable to do it themselves. Seabreeze Students Give Back to the Community!

Partnerships with garden-related organizations:

Our business partner, Rockaway Garden Center, leads and facilitates the operation of the green house and gardens. They are an amazing resource and love working with the students and teachers.

Partnership Summary:

Seabreeze allows exclusive use of our green houses to Rockaway Garden Center. In return, RGC will: Be fully responsible for the day to day operations of the greenhouse, provide a educational experience for classes which choose to participate and support the PTA with 10% of the sales of Herbs and Vegetables from their nursery. This is the foundation of our partnership and it may change as agreed by both parties. This is the beginning of a long term partnership with our school and a member of the business community.

1. Maintain a well working and clean greenhouse
2. Provide an educational experience for Seabreeze students
3. provide a 10% donation to the Seabreeze PTA from the sale of herbs and vegetables from their nursery.
4. work with the school and PTA to modify this agreement as agreed to by both parties.

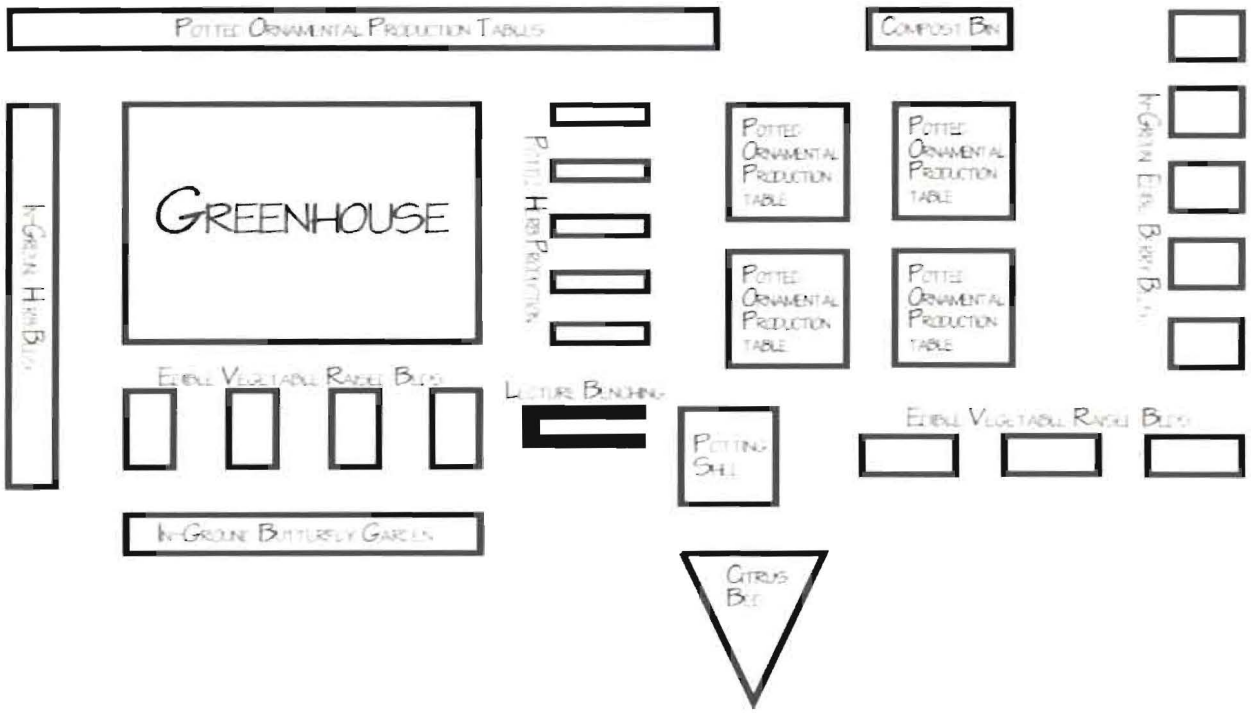
Community Support for Seabreeze Gardens:

In a very short time, Seabreeze Gardens has inspired many. Our students have taken ownership of their school garden and the grounds in general. Parents have been inspired to build and grow their own gardens and have volunteered their time to help with grounds beautification at the school. The same is true for teachers. We also have a planned donation to a local food bank to give fresh vegetables. Our efforts were also recognized by the Mayor of Jacksonville and we won the school award for "Keep Jacksonville Beautiful" in 2012.

As booth at the science fair enjoyed by the local student body, parents and local community alike.

Garden Design:

The design was a combined effort of our business partner, PTA, students and teachers.



Qualities that make our garden unique:

There are several aspects that make our gardens unique.

1. The commercial green house is at the core of our garden. It makes a perfect back drop to the gardens and gives the students a unique learning experience to see how a green house functions.

2. The gardens themselves are planted by the students. Everything from herbs to vegetables are planted in both the fall season and again in the spring. This spring the students are also planting a garden to be used for the community and the vegetables harvested will be used at a local food shelter.

3.Apart from the "gardens" through the effort of our business partner and PTA we have also redesigned several areas of the campus with Florida friendly plantings utilizing drip irrigation. In doing so, students are taken on campus field trips and educated on how and why they are good for the ecology of our area.

The gardens cared for and maintained:

The students play a role in maintaining the gardens but the garden center folks are on site daily to oversee the operations of the green house and ensure the gardens are thriving.

Two cleanup and maintenance days were held already during the 2012-2013 school year. August 12, 2012 and February 17, 2013. Many teachers, students and parents as well as the staff from Rockaway gardens attended both.

Plants are selected and used:

Plants are selected based on feedback from students, the season and what fits in to the educational goals of the school year and school theme. They are also native to our area.

In Summary:

The Seabreeze Elementary and Rockaway Gardens partnership offers a unique way of bringing the garden to the classroom…in fact our garden is a classroom. The program gives the students, teachers and members of our community the opportunity to reconnect with the natural world and the true source of our food. It teaches them valuable gardening and agriculture concepts and skills that integrate with several subjects, such as math, science, art, health, physical education, social studies and several educational goals; including personal and social responsibility. It improves the student's comprehension of where our food comes from how our plants grow, how the weather effect's our plants and how insects play a key role in agriculture.

Our partnership has been beneficial on many levels. Efforts put forth by cleaning up the campus grounds above and beyond the greenhouse and surrounding gardens. Rockaway gives back to Seabreeze PTA by donating a portion of their proceeds of their herb and plant sales. Rockaway's level of involvement has increased over the last year and with that we have built this strong partnership which will continue to grow our program and teach our students for many years to come.

The Seabreeze Gardens represents not just a world class venue for learning about plants and the environment but it is also a great example of how a public elementary school can build a real partnership in the local business community. Together we have transformed what was once an ugly, dirty and weed infested corner of our school into a beautiful environment in which our students are educated and inspired about the world in which we live in. We hope our story can inspire other schools and communities about what is possible.

Victor Melone
PTA President 2011-2013
Seabreeze Elementary School
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