Whispering Pines Elementary

Friendship and Tolerance Garden
2007-08
2008 Florida School Garden Competition
ENTRY FORM

School  Whispering Pines Elementary

Teacher(s) & Grade(s) involved in garden program
Entire School K-5th grade

Contact Person  B.J. Saul
Email address  bjfsaul@aol.com
Time contact person can be reached  8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Phone  (561) 672-2700  Fax  (561) 672-2751
Address (please include city and zip code)  9090 Spanish Isles Blvd.
                                Boca Raton, Fl.  33496

CATEGORY (Please mark only one)

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

_____ 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

1
1. Please indicate the number of hours a week, on average, your students spend in the garden.  **6 hours/week**

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

   - Planning the garden
   - Designing the garden
   - Preparing the garden
   - Choosing plants
   - Other, The students learn the importance of caring for the environment and maintaining plants as well as the importance of plants in the ecosystem (Butterfly Sanctuary)

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

   - Planting
   - Watering
   - Weeding
   - Observing
   - Recording
   - Harvesting
   - Playing
   - Sitting
   - Fertilizing
   - 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
   - Science
   - Social Studies
   - History
   - Health/Nutrition
   - Language Arts
   - Music
   - Physical Ed.
   - Environmental Ed.
   - Ethics (responsibility and nurturing)
   - Other, please specify ____________

   Service, teach functional life skills (autistic students)

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

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

   - Master Gardeners
   - University students
   - High school students
   - Senior citizens
   - Garden club members
   - Parents
   - 4-H members
   - FFA
   - Older students at your school
   - Other, please specify ____________ members of the Boca Raton Garden Club, Geronimo Farms nursery, Jaguar Design Garden
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
- Teacher in-service training
- Personal knowledge
- Educational journals/publications
- National Gardening Association's Growlab/Growing ideas newsletter
- Other, please specify: Master gardener from the Boca Raton Garden Club, internet, landscaper from Jaguar Design Nursery

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
- Internet
- Filmstrips
- Textbooks
- Trade books
- Newspapers
- Other, please specify

- Computer software
- Videos
- Personal books
- Experiments
- Gardening magazines and catalogs

***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.

\[\text{Signature}\]
\[3/10/08\]
Whispering Pines Elementary
Friendship and Tolerance Garden

Educational relevance

Whispering Pines Elementary created the Friendship and Tolerance Garden as a memorial to remember those who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attack on 9-11-01 and to those Americans who have lost their lives in the fight for freedom. It is one of three gardens registered in Florida with the US Forestry Department as a 9-11 Living Memorial Project. The garden is our symbol for the elimination of prejudice and intolerance. The garden is a site which requires working together to build a ‘micro-universe’ in which students, parents and community serve as an allegory for world cooperation.

The Friendship and Tolerance Garden is utilized for many purposes and in 2004 expanded to include an official Butterfly Sanctuary, recognized by The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and 2005 a vegetable and herb garden to feed the needy. This area teaches the students the importance of eating healthy which is part of our School Improvement Plan. In addition, as part of the Garden Writers Association we participate in Plant a Row for the Hungry program. Food items are donated to a local agency that feeds the needy. The garden provides an educational location for teachers to enhance their science, social studies, math, and character education programs. It also teaches students how to work cooperatively by caring and maintaining the garden. The students in the Garden Club and classes that visit the garden are excited and surprised to see how broccoli, tomatoes, lettuce, chili peppers and other vegetables and herbs grow.

Teachers utilized the garden for a 9-11 memorial program. Fourth grade teachers, Ms. Albert, Ms. Cooper, Miss Pellish and Miss Ryan took their reading groups out to the friendship garden where a page was read from a book about 911. The students then reflected on what they heard and what they knew. They asked questions and also made statements. A moment of silence was observed at 8:46 am. The children went back to their reading groups and discussed it further. Some students in some of the classes wrote letters to thank the HEROES of 911.

Teachers at all grade levels took the opportunity to use the garden to teach their students about the life cycle of butterflies by raising caterpillars either found in the Butterfly Sanctuary or donated from home of a student to be raised at school and then released in the garden. The teachers took their students to the garden to learn about the different plants in the butterfly sanctuary. They then found the appropriate plants to feed their particular caterpillar. Finally, they released their butterfly in the garden. Teachers read books in the garden and watched videos to enhance student learning. One 5th grade teacher Cathy Matthews reported; “My 5th grade class utilized the garden in learning about butterflies. The students obtained leaves with caterpillar eggs from the garden. They watched the eggs hatch and then used the garden to obtain food to feed the caterpillars as they grew. The students had to learn which plants the caterpillar would eat. When it came time to release our butterflies it seemed only appropriate that they should be released where they originally came from - the Friendship Garden. The students had become quite attached to the butterflies after watching them grow and morph and even the garden’s name seemed appropriate because they felt as they were releasing a friend into the world.” They also enjoyed researching on the web to identify our caterpillar.

Mrs. Matthews students also became very interested and concerned when the garden was overgrown with weeds and we spent several days identifying and pulling weeds.
Subsequently several students chose to spend their recess working in the garden instead of playing on the playground.

Debille Krebs a 3rd grade teacher stated “I need to tell you how much my students enjoy going out to the Friendship Garden. Earlier this year, they went there to find caterpillars. Then, from our classroom, they watched as the caterpillars metamorphized. The real experience came when they could go back to the garden to release the newly hatched butterflies.”

Mrs. Rosenzweig a 2nd grade teacher reported “I asked my class to tell me about their experience with our caterpillars. Lex: First we saw a caterpillar, then it was a cocoon, and then it turned into a butterfly. Michael: The caterpillar’s crystallize. Shane: Bugs went in the cage. Joshua: We had to wait for 2 weeks. Bernice: We drew what they looked like.

Niyesha: We let the butterflies out.

They addressed the Sunshine State Standards:

1. SC.G. 1.2.5: Knows that animals eat plants to acquire the energy they need for survival.
2. SC.F 1.1.1: Describes how organisms change as they grow and mature.
3. SC.G. 1.1.1: Knows that environments have living and non-living parts
4. SC.G. 1.1.2: Knows that plants and animals are dependent upon each other for survival.
5. SC.G. 1.1.4: Knows that animals and plants can be associated with their environment by an examination of their structural characteristics.

Mrs. Rosenzweig, a 2nd grade teacher also used the garden to teach the Sunshine State Standard for science about what plants need to grow (sun, light, water), she stated; “Our class has been learning about plants and talking about what plants need to grow. Mrs. Saul gave us two plants for us to compare. My class was learning about how plants get energy. We compared two plants and drew what they looked like. We then covered the leaves of one plant with foil. We put them on the sunny windowsill. We removed the foil after one week and drew what the plants looked like. We concluded that plants need sunlight to grow and that the plant with foil on its leaves did not get sunlight. We then watered both plants and kept them in a sunny place. On Wednesday, January 23, 2008, my second grade class and I went out to the Friendship and Tolerance Garden, and with Mrs. Saul's guidance, the children planted the flowers in the garden. Each child had a turn to plant and water them. We discussed that plants need water and sun to live. The end result; plants, children and teachers are happy!”

Mrs. Matthew, Mrs. Winfield, Mr. Rusciano, fifth grade teachers utilize the garden when teaching their students about tolerance and prejudice. Their classes participate in the “Growing Friendships Program”, a program that meets weekly to discuss various topics of prejudice and how to change the perception of stereotyping of others through the mentoring of the Olympic Heights High School Key Club students. The students learned the qualities of a good citizen, to understand that citizens are responsible for taking care of their community, to understand that behaviors can positively and negatively affect others, and to know the sources of responsibility. The group had its first meeting in the garden to discuss these issues. They perform their final show in April for their parents, administration and guests from the community.
Mrs. Woodall utilized the garden on Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday to teach her 1st grade students about equality and friendship. Mrs. Woodall read her students a book about MLK’s life and discussed his dream.  
1. SS.C.1.1.1: Know the qualities of a good citizen  
2. SS.C.2.1.1: understand that citizens are responsible for taking care of their community.  
3. SS.C.2.1.2.1: understand that behaviors can positively and negatively affect others.  
4. SS.C.2.1.3: know the sources of responsibility  

Mrs. Marquez, a teacher of kindergarten and 1st grade students with Autism and Related Disabilities took her students to the garden to teach them the skills necessary for caring for plants such as watering the flowers as well as academics for learning colors and shapes. She also used the garden as a “quiet” place for her students to relax and take a “break”. Her students using an Alternative Communication Devise would request to go into the garden.  

Mrs. Golden’s state “My second grade class had a SENSATIONAL time in the Whispering Pines Memorial Garden. Our student teacher, Ms. Gardoski, escorted us to our wonderful garden for a special science activity. As a culmination to our natural resource unit, each student chose a plant, tree, flower or bush to examine and explore. We had to use our senses to describe the plant we “adopted.” The students first sketched a picture, then used their senses of smell and touch to complete their descriptions. After, the class shared and discussed what they had discovered. A TREMENDOUS time was had by all!!  

The Grade Level Expectations were:  
1. Students know ways that human activity affects the environment  
2. knows the main parts of plants  
3. knows that plants and animals are adapted to different ranges of temperature  
4. and moisture  
5. knows selected resources used by people for water, food, and shelter are  
6. limited and necessary for their survival.  

On Earth Day classes will be provided with a plant to place in the garden. The classroom teacher will discuss the importance of plants and caring for our Earth.  

The students in the Whispering Pines Garden Club are responsible for the care and maintenance of the garden. Through the leadership of our mentor from the Boca Raton Garden Club, the students learned about native Florida plants and plant new plants in the garden. The students also, planted vegetable and herbs in the garden to be donated to Boca Helping Hands an agency that feeds the needy in our community. The students learned not only how to care for vegetables and herbs using organic materials but that vegetables are not grown in grocery stores. They were excited to see how tomatoes, broccoli, lettuce, strawberries and other vegetables grew. The garden club students also learned how plants propagate. Each student was provided with a clipping from a coleus plant from the garden to pot and told how the roots will develop and the plant will grow. They were then instructed on the care of the plant. Their plant was then displayed at the Whispering Pines Garden Club Flower Show and at the Boca Raton Garden Club Jr. Club Flower Show.  

Level of Involvement  

The Friendship and Tolerance Garden promotes student, school and community involvement. Students, parents and the community join to help our garden grow. During
our first school spirit rally all the students were asked to make a financial donation for plants for the garden or to bring in a plant. In addition, letters were also sent home to the parents. Soon students were bringing donations and plants to be placed in the garden. Students planted the flowers that they brought. Students who made a financial contribution or brought plants were presented with a certificate and acknowledged during our morning announcements on the in-house TV station.

The Whispering Pines Garden Club maintains the garden. Approximately 50 students participate in the club. Students elected a captain and co-captain who are responsible for taking attendance, handing out and collecting tools and dividing students into groups to work in various areas in the garden. The students weed, assist an adult in trimming vegetation, laying mulch etc. The captain and co-captain positions change with each marking period to provide various students with the opportunity to be leaders. Parents volunteer to assist the Garden Club students in weeding and planting in the garden. The students donated the vegetables and herbs that they placed in the garden and cared for. The students elected to donate their harvest to Boca Helping Hands and agency that feeds the needy in our community so those in need could eat healthy.

The Boca Raton Garden Club sponsors the Whispering Pines Garden Club as a “Junior Garden Club of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.” Our advisor came to our garden regularly, and provided information about the new plants and their care. She then donated plants to our butterfly sanctuary.

The community supports our garden. The local newspaper provides us coverage for any events or activities that are being conducted at the garden. Local businesses Geronimo Farms Nursery and Jaguar Garden Design provided plants and assistance for maintenance.

Parent volunteers are an important feature of our garden. One parent donated a gift card from Wal-Mart to help purchase needed plants and supplies. A parent who is a landscaper volunteers to mow our lawn and do any large maintenance necessary. Finally, another parent who is employed at a local community college in the botanical garden department regularly donates butterfly appropriate plants and acts as a resource for teaching us how to care for the Butterfly Sanctuary.

Students love the garden and bring flowers all year long to be planted. They come and relax in the garden before school, at recess, and after school. They feel a sense of pride and ownership in their garden.

Garden Quality

A Master Gardener graciously volunteered to design our original garden following 9-11. Evelyn Somerville, Master Gardener from the Boca Raton Garden Club designed the Butterfly Sanctuary and Jo Anne Guise, Master Gardener from the Boca Raton Garden Club helped design the new Friendship and Tolerance Garden. The vegetable and herb garden was the idea of Whispering Pines school nurse and garden coordinator, Mrs. Saul. This was to teach students the importance of eating healthier.

The Whispering Pines philosophy of friendship and tolerance makes this garden meaningful to our students and faculty. Everyday when the students pass the garden, they are reminded of human relationships, the need to be unique as an individual but to blend together to make a community as well as the importance of caring for their community. The students choose to write about the garden during FCAT writing practice. They are proud of the garden and show their parents and friends their handprints or their donated plants. Students feel this is a place of their own and were devastated at its destruction in 2006. They are thrilled to have their garden back again. There are two plaques reflecting our feelings about our garden, one within the garden itself and one in
the school office. Both of these plaques clearly state that this is a garden dedicated to 9/11.

The garden is primarily cared for and maintained by the 50 students in the Whispering Pines Garden Club under the guidance of Jo Anne Guise from the Boca Raton Garden Club. Parent volunteers also assist in the care of the garden.

Plants in the Butterfly Sanctuary meet the needs of various species of butterflies. Other plants in the garden are native to Florida illustrating a natural ecosystem.

The students learned an important lesson of how to gather together and find the strength to rebuild when the garden was blown away by a hurricane. Currently, the Friendship and Tolerance Garden is one of only a few school gardens recognized as a 9-11 memorial site and Butterfly Sanctuary. Students are excited and keep looking for caterpillars and butterflies in the garden. The students are learning about the ecosystem and the inter-relationship of insects, animals and plants. They also are learning the importance to care for each other and to protect their environment.

The plants selected for the Friendship and Tolerance Garden are native to Florida and require low maintenance.

Whispering Pines Garden Club
With Boca Raton Garden Club Sponsor (left, back row)
Teacher volunteer (center, back row) and
Parent volunteer (right back row)
Mrs. Golden's student sketch of a bush he adopted for their natural resource Science unit.
Students learn to eat healthy. The garden’s first strawberry on display in the cafeteria.

An Organic Strawberry from our very own Whispering Pines garden!

Thank you Mrs. Saul and your club members

Vegetables are donated to Boca Helping Hands
Mrs. Saul, Garden Club Sponsor with Linda Gove, Director of Boca Helping Hands
Little gardeners make a big difference

Little gardeners at Whispering Pines Elementary School are making a big difference in the community.

Students from the Whispering Pines Elementary Garden Club picked crops of tomato, lettuce, cucumbers and yellow squash and donated them to Boca Helping Hands, a local charitable organization that serves hot meals and provides sandwiches to the working poor and homeless.

In October 2007, under the guidance of Joanne Guise of the Boca Raton Garden Club and Whispering Pines Garden Club Sponsor BJ Saul, students purchased vegetable and herb plants that were placed in the ground of the Whispering Pines 9-11 Memorial Friendship and Tolerance Garden.

For the past few months the students watched with wonder as the plants grew larger each day.

"When the Whispering Pines Garden Club students planted the vegetables and herbs in the fall they were excited to help those in need at Boca Helping Hands," Saul said. "However, the plants were so small that they had no idea how they were going to grow and produce food."

"At each club meeting they would watch them grow. They were so excited to see tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and other vegetables actually growing on the plants."

BHH Executive Director Linda Gove said she was thrilled to share in the happiness each child experienced through hard work and dedication. "We feel so blessed and proud of these children for their act of compassion toward those less fortunate," Gove said.

"These gardens are educating the children to become caring and responsible leaders and teaching them how important it is to give back to their community."

This is the third year the Garden Club has donated its crop to Boca Helping Hands. Last year the children donated more than 15 different types of fruits and vegetables in such abundance that it filled the entire back of a volunteer's car.

(Special to the News)

1 - Students at Whispering Pines Elementary School plant gardens.

2 - A bountiful harvest is reason for kids at Whispering Pines School to celebrate.
Dear BJ,

Please forgive me for this long waiting time but finally I have a choice of groundcover plants for your school garden project together.

Please don’t hesitate you call me for any questions.

Helianthus debilis, Beach sunflower,
Generally 12-18” high, yellow flowers nearly year round, likes full sun sandy soil. No maintenance other than trimming of older, declining stems.

Muhlenbergia capillaries, Muhly grass,
Bunchgrass with thin threadlike leaves, 1-4 ft high and wide. Full sun to light shade. Abundant small flowers create a spectacular pink haze effect. Extremely drought tolerant.

Mimosa strigillosa, Sunshine mimosa,
Creeping perennial with “sensitive” leaves that close when you touch them. 2-9” high with pink flower stems. Full sun to light shade, dry to most sandy soils. Tolerates light foot traffic.

Stylosanthes biflora, Pencilflower,
Perennial wildflower, 12-15” high and wide, little yellow flowers nearly year round. Extremely drought tolerant, likes dry to moist soils and full sun to light shade. Tolerates light foot traffic. Host plant for barred sulphur butterfly.

Phyla nodiflora, Creeping Charlie,
Small wildflower that mixes well with other ground cover and tolerates light foot traffic. Flower stems 6” high, foliage 1-3”. Likes full sun, moist soils. Host plant for buckeye, white peacock and phaon crescent butterfly, also a nectar plant.

Ruellia caroliniensis, Native wild Petunia,
Pale violet colored flowers, full sun, extremely drought tolerant. Host plant for Malachite and common buckeye butterfly.

All ground cover plants above are native and should work in your little “desert” garden. Please don’t hesitate to call me at any time, if you need my expertise. I am more than happy to help you and the children of Whispering Pines Elementary School to develop a beautiful learning garden. Please accept my offer to donate some plants for the school garden.

Have a beautiful day,
Wolfgang Paul
Friendship & Tolerance Garden Plan

Butterfly sanctuary

Plants

Handprint stepping stones

Teacher area
Bricks/stepping stones

Tree

Plants

Handprint stepping-stones

Plants

Handprint stepping-stones

Plumbago

Plumbago

Plumbago

Plumbago

Vegetable And Herb garden

Bushes: cocoplum

Handprint stepping-stones

Bushes: cocoplum

Bushes: cocoplum