Sand Lake Elementary School

STINGRAY SANCTUARY

A Place for Growing!

2009 Florida School Garden Competition
2009 Florida School Garden Competition
ENTRY FORM

School: Sand Lake Elementary School

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

- K - butterfly garden
- 1st veggie bed
- 2nd weather station
- 3rd pathway
- 4th composting
- 5th solar power

Contact Person: Amy Winslow

Time contact person can be reached: Anytime

Phone: (407) 740-6668
Fax: (407) 248-0283

Address (please include city and zip code):

3301 Buesa Vista Woods Blvd.
Orlando, Florida 32836

Email address: amy<winslow@CFl.rr.com>

CATEGORY (Please mark only one):

- SINGLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by one class only)
- MULTIPLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by more than one class or grade, but not by the entire school)
- ENTIRE SCHOOL GARDEN (Garden that is used by all grade levels at the school)

Number of students involved in the garden and grades:

Number of students involved in the garden and grade:

TYPE of school garden that you use with your students. (Please mark only one)
Vegetable
Flower
Combination vegetable/flower
Other, please specify: butterfly, veggies, solar, bird sanctuary, maze, weather station

Please indicate the number of hours a week, on average, your students spend in the garden. 10 hrs.
Across K-5

1. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in prior to gardening.
   - [ ] Planning the garden
   - [ ] Preparing the garden
   - [ ] Designing the garden
   - [ ] Choosing plants
   - Other, gifted classes chose the site, plotted the 3000 sq ft. area, researched native plants, created grade-level science projects for school

2. 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, weather, journaling, music lessons, story time, composting, solar power testing

3. Please indicate the percentage of time, on average, that you used the garden as an instructional tool in your classroom. 520

4. Please mark the subject area(s) into which you have incorporated school gardening. Check all that apply.
   - [ ] Math
   - [ ] History
   - [ ] Music
   - [ ] Ethics (responsibility and nurturing)
   - [ ] Science
   - [ ] Health/Nutrition
   - [ ] Physical Ed.
   - Other, please specify: made salsa, fried eggplant, lettuce rolls, pizza bagels, turkey slice
   - [ ] Social Studies
   - [ ] Language Arts
   - [ ] Environmental Ed.
   - Other, please specify: journaling, Earth Day

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

6. Please indicate the types of volunteers that have helped you and your students with the garden.
   - [ ] Master Gardeners
   - [ ] University students
   - [ ] High school students
   - [ ] Older students at your school
   - Other, please specify: brownie troops, eagle scout, boy scouts, homeowner's associations
   - Senior citizens
   - Parents
   - Garden club members
   - 4-H members
   - FFA
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

8. 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

***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 2010 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.

\[Signature\]  \[3/18/09\]

Date
Sand Lake Elementary School's

STINGRAY SANCTUARY
A Place for Growing

Our school garden was built 2 years ago and was a wonderful cooperation of principal, teachers, PTA, parents, students, scouting troops, our school graduates, OCPS grant services, OCPS grounds department, homeowner's associations, and community businesses. The garden was created to enhance the science curriculum with the addition of FCAT science testing. It has become a place to learn, grow, relax, draw, journal and so much more for the 500 students at Sand Lake Elementary.

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

The garden is used for interdisciplinary learning in many ways. The music classes bring their recorders out and sit in the gazebo for an outdoor lesson. The art teacher has the students draw flowers, leaves and butterflies as they study their Eric Carle unit. Our second graders conduct weather experiments using rain gauges and provide a weather report from the Stingray Sanctuary on the WRAY news each morning. The fifth grade team has studied solar power as it powers the pond pump and gazebo ceiling fan. The media specialist brings classes outside for story time; and the gazebo is a perfect place to put on a play or to celebrate an achievement. I have also seen students with clipboards sitting in the garden journaling.

The garden is managed by a parent who completed Master Gardener classes with the Orange County Extension office. She has worked with the 4H department to bring in Junior Master Gardener programming, Bonnie Cabbage Contest for the 3rd graders, and Pizza Gardening. Sand Lake has dedicated a classroom where there is a gardening library, posters showing spider and snakes, and provides garden curriculum by grade level. Guest speakers have also helped out from SeaWorld, Universal Studies, Orange County Energy Administration, and Orange County Recycling.

The garden work addresses the following Florida Sunshine State Standards:
Sand Lake Garden Project

Grade Level Benchmarks:

- MAA411,421 The student uses estimation in problem solving and computation.
- MAB111,112,121,122 The student measures quantities in the real world and uses the measures to solve problems.
- MAB211,212,22,222 The student compares, contrasts, and converts within systems of measurement.
- MAB311,321 The student estimates measurements in real-world problem situations.
- MAB411412,421,422 The student selects and uses appropriate units and instruments for measurement to achieve the degree of precision and accuracy required in real-world situations.
- MAE111,113,121,123 The student understands and uses the tools of data analysis for managing information.
- MAE311,312,321,322 The student uses statistical methods to make inferences and valid arguments about real-world situations.
- SCD113,123 The student recognizes that processes in the lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere interact to shape the Earth.
- SCD211,221 The student understands the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth.
- SCG111,112,113,114,116,117,121,122,123,124,126,127 The student understands the competitive, interdependent, cyclic nature of living things in the environment.
- SCH111,112,113,114,115,121,122,123,124,125 The student uses the scientific processes and habits of mind to solve problems.
- SCH313,323 The student understands that science, technology, and society are interwoven and interdependent.

Gifted Standards:

Standard 1: Use of information, concepts and ideas.
Standard 2: Communication of information, concepts, and ideas.
Standard 3: Use of numeric procedures, concepts, and information.
Standard 4: Use of creative thinking skills
Standard 5: Use of appropriate and effective personal qualities.
Standard 6: Allocating resources effectively.
Standard 7: Use of information systems.
Standard 8: Use of cooperative learning and teaching.
Standard 9: Demonstrate leadership.
Standard 10: Use of a multicultural perspective.
Objectives:

- To apply math, science, reading, research and technology skills in a real-life situation.
- To develop sample overall plans for the school garden.

Materials:

- Large measuring tapes, science journals, pencils
- Graph paper, construction paper, scissors, glue
- Computers with Internet access, books & research materials about plants
- pH test kits, small containers to hold soil, trowels
- Paint, crayons, large white paper
- Pictures of art work by Monet and Van Gogh
- Books by Eric Carle, A Tiny Seed

Procedure:

- Students will measure the outline of the proposed garden and recording the results.
- Students will create an outline of the proposed garden on large graph paper.
- Students will "rough out" the areas to be included in the garden.
- Students will test the pH of the soil in the garden area and record results.
- Students will research and create a list of:
  - Native Florida plants
  - Drought resistant plants
  - Plants which thrive in Florida's climate & in existing soil conditions
- Students will write a proposal for the planning team summarizing their findings.

Assessment:

Class participation
The degree proposed plan is based on research and scientific data.
LEVEL OF IN INVOLVEMENT

The 4th and 5th grade Gifted students were involved with site selection, garden design, and Florida friendly plant research. They worked with a volunteer from a local landscape architecture firm, Canin and Associates, and they learned how to start a huge project from the ground up. The students conducted a schoolwide garden naming contest and voted on: Stingray Sanctuary, A Place for Growing. We also have a student-run garden club that meets monthly. It was initiated and is run by a 4th grade student!

There are many partnerships with our garden. Businesses such as Rainforest Café, Law Firm of Alan Schwerer, Premier Deck and Dock and Superior Solar helped us get started. Homeowner's Associations from Turtle Creek, Sand Lake Point, and Sand Lake Cove helped with funding. OC Extension donated trees and offers assistance through 4H and the Master Gardener training program. Scouting has been a huge resource! A 6th grade troop of Sand Lake graduates funded, designed and installed our Butterfly garden and earned their Bronze Award. An Eagle Scout designed, funded and built our ADA compliant ramp for the gazebo. A boy scout troop of our 3rd grade students raised funds and planted our Amazing Maze! Our garden contributors also include Canin Associates and Orlando Outdoor.

Sand Lake Elementary teachers held an auction and took students on outings to the movies, to lunch, to Disney parks, or just came over to make crafts and raised over $6,000 to build our gazebo. Our principal, Mary Hool, helped get us started with picnic tables and funding to build our perimeter fence. Fourth grade teacher, Beryl Phillips, sponsors our garden club and helps get word out to our teachers. Our front office staff coordinates scheduling time in the garden for our classes to come out to use the facility.

Earth Day has been a great garden program with support from parents and other community members. Our PTA donated $500 and together with their Recycling and Campus Beautification committee plan air, water and earth experiments and service projects in our garden. They plan to make a web of tape in the gazebo where the students can test air quality. They will do water studies and recycle rainwater to be used in the garden. They will use the PTA funds to plant vegetables in our planting beds. We also get great support from our parents with after hours pruning, mulching, mowing and ladybug releases. There is a high school student who earns his community service hours by mowing the garden for us.
GARDEN QUALITY

The garden was designed by the 4th and 5th grade Gift students. Their teacher, Lynn Grimes, invited a landscape architect from Canin and Associates to teach them how to build a plan. They then walked and staked the site; completed drawings on graph paper; researched native plants; and their work was used to make the final design. (see garden rendering, document E at the end of the presentation).

The garden is unique as each area supports a different science benchmark and is care for by each grade level. Kindergarten has a butterfly garden. First grade has vegetable planting beds. Second grade has a weather station. Third grade manages the maze. Fourth grade has plans in the works for a composting station. Fifth grade has the solar powered pond and solar powered, gazebo ceiling fan.

The garden is cared for and maintained by the student-run garden club. Parents come in monthly to do heavy weeding and mulching. A high school student mows the grass. OCPS ground department keeps the irrigation system in working order.

The plants were selected by the students with recommendations and oversight by our parent Master Gardener. Orlando Outdoor has provided the plants at their cost. The OC Extension office donated 13 trees. The first grade team planted tomatoes and made pizza bagels; eggplant and ate it fried; peppers and made salsa; carrots and radishes they brought home; and finally, lettuce and made turkey wraps. They also planted a sunflower garden and brought a bouquet to our principal. The remainder of the plants includes flowers which have provided food for butterflies and birds which helped to earn us recognition as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

The environmental focus is to do all that we can to be organic. Used coffee grounds are donated by Starbuck and used to fertilize the plants. Mulch was donated by the city when they trimmed the neighborhood trees. Benches bought by the Buena Vista Woods HOA were made of recycled milk containers. All power is generated by solar panels donated by Superior Solar. Plans are in the works to recycle cafeteria waste into compost.
Premier Deck and Dock designs gazebo and charges us their cost.

Sand Lake Dad's building team!

Construction, summer 2006

First garden club meeting.
Miss Harris' 2nd graders made volcano's in the mulch.

Miss Lane's 2nd graders plant basil seeds that travel on the space shuttle.

Mrs. Freiberger's 4th graders plant nectar plants for the butterflies.

Miss Paolozzi's 3rd graders weed the pumpkin bed.
Dad's tackle the major weeds!

Getting the garden ready for school opening 2008.

Parents weeding the sundial.

Earth Day story time with Mrs. Mendoza's 1st grade class.
The Stingray Sanctuary is a wonderful science learning environment right on our Sand Lake Elementary School campus. Our outdoor science lab includes a teaching gazebo where the children journal, draw, perform plays, read and have outdoor lessons from their teachers. Current projects include:

- **The Kindergarten Butterfly Garden** (Newly Open!)
- **The First Grade Planting Gardens** (come see our sunflowers, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, radishes, carrots and eggplant)
- **The Second Grade Weather Station** (monitoring rainfall, temperature, UV index, barometric pressure &more)
- **The Third Grade Amazing Maze and Bird Sanctuary** (sure to grow to over 5-feet tall in 2 years!)
- **The Fourth Grade Composting Station** (under construction)
- **The Fifth Grade Solar Powered Pond** (studying the voltage of our sun charged batteries while charting the weather conditions)
- **The Gifted Classes Medieval Herb Garden**
- **Florida Lake Animal Hunt** (roam the grounds to find over 35 Florida lake animals!)

---

**Thanks to all of our Sponsors!**

**Our Roots!** (donations of $100 to $249)

- The Law Office of Alan Schwerer (first grade planting bench and tools)
- SJT Enterprises (wooden signs and animals)
- The Winslow/Jacobson Family
- The Body Shop at Home (fundraising)
- Kelli Poster

**Our Sprouts!** (donations of $250 to $499)

- Boy Scout Pack 84 (our amazing maze!)
- The Giles Family
- Sand Lake Cove Homeowners Association
- Bradley Pace and Family, Pace Capital Management

http://www.sandlake.ocps.net/garden/index.html
Sand Lake Stingray Sanctuary Garden

- Junior Girl Scout Troop 829

**Our Blossoms!** (donations of $500 and more)

- All City Painting (finishing work on the gazebo)
- Buena Vista Woods Homeowners Association
- Border Magic (concrete work)
- Fence Outlet
- OCPS Grounds Department (irrigation)
- Orange County Cooperative Extension (our trees)
- Orlando Outdoor (all plants)
- Premier Deck and Dock (gazebo design and labor)
- Rainforest Café (our pond environment)
- Sand Lake Elementary School Teachers, Administration and PTA
- Sand Lake Point Homeowners Association
- Welbro (construction screen)
- Canin Associates (landscape architects)
- Casey Sincic, Eagle Scout Project (ADA ramp)
- Universal Studios Florida

---

![Buy a Garden Brick!](image)

Bricks engraved with your family or child’s name are available for sale!

For your tax deductible $50 donation, you can purchase a garden brick which will be the main pathway through the garden. Each brick is engraved with 3 lines of type with 13 characters per line.

Checks can be made payable to Sand Lake Elementary School.

To support our garden and buy a brick, contact Amy Winslow at (407) 248-0283 or stop by the main office for a form. All of the proceeds of the fundraiser go directly to the Stingray Sanctuary Garden fund.

---

![Our Wish List!](image)

- Small Watering Cans (used preferred!)
- Butterfly plants
- Mulch
- Outdoor enamel paint
- 2 large metal trash cans with lid
- Rotary composter
- Worms!
- Organic pest treatments
- Flowering plants
- Bahia grass seed
- Scarecrow
- Plant markers
- Bird seed
- Solar powered security lights
- Windmill
- Garden animals (Florida animals please)
- Small garden gloves

---

![Join Our Garden Club!](image)

If interested, contact the front office

http://www.sandlake.ocps.net/garden/index.html

3/15/2005
Sand Lake Elementary School, with the support of parents and the community, created the Stingray Sanctuary — A Place for Growing. Not only have the students reaped a beautiful garden of herbs and flowers, the garden is a wonderful science learning environment. The outdoor science lab includes a teaching gazebo where the children can journal, draw, perform plays, read and have outdoor lessons. Each grade is responsible for a specific area of the garden, which could not have been completed without the help of several generous co-sponsors, including Boy Scout Troop 84; the Giles, Winslow and Jacobson families; Sand Lake Cove Homeowners Association; The Body Shop at Home; the law office of Alan M. Schwerer; and SJT Enterprises.

1. First-graders in Ashlea Pollard's (back, far right) class sit at the entrance to the Stingray Sanctuary. All of the first-graders planted sunflowers and vegetables.

2. First-graders in Lissette Lopez' (back, far right) class present Principal Mary Hool (seated) with sunflowers grown in the garden. Pictured are (front, l. to r.) Nathan, Nicole, Won, Kate, Leah, Kalesa, Rae-Lyn, Akrame, Mitchell, Jessica, Noel, (back, l. to r.) William, Frank, Daphne, Joshua and Elena.

3. Sand Lake Elementary School moms help with the dirty work in the garden. Pictured are (front) Amy Winslow, (l. to r.) Jeanne Simon, Hope Sherman, Grace Kahn, Kim Oskam, Barbara Giles and Amy Hudgins.

4. David Winslow (center, in sunglasses), senior director of engineering and sustainability at Universal Orlando Resort, teaches Maria Blackmore's fifth-graders about solar power.

5. The second-graders conducted weather experiments by monitoring rainfall, temperature, UV index, barometric pressure and more. The tools and gauges are stored in the weather station.

6. Several Sand Lake Elementary School dads help with the carpentry work in the garden, including the gazebo. Pictured are (l. to r.) Robin Lopez, Bill Poulin, Barry Kahn, Doug Klug, Dave Winslow and Eric Roach.
Community businesses and organizations that contributed more than $500 to Sand Lake Elementary School’s Stingray Sanctuary include All City Painting; Buena Vista Woods Homeowners Association; Border Magic; Canin Associates; Fence Outlet; OCPS Grounds Department, Orange County Cooperative Extension; Orlando Outdoor; Premier Dock and Dock; Rainforest Café; Sand Lake Elementary School teachers, administration and PTA members; Sand Lake Pointe Homeowners Association; and Wellbro.


10. The garden pond fountain is powered by the sun through the solar panel.

11. First-graders in gifted-resource teacher Lynne Grimes' class are proud of their medieval herb garden. When the children harvested the herbs, they cooked a stew that would have been made in medieval times. Pictured are (front, l. to r.) Tina, Phyllicia, Adam, William, (back, l. to r.) Kate, Michiah, Sarah, Lina, David and Laura.

12. Lina (left) and Sarah, first-graders in Sand Lake Elementary School’s gifted class, plant herbs in the medieval herb garden.

13. Sand Lake Elementary School parent Doug Klug helps build the gazebo.

14. Sand Lake Elementary School second-graders (front, l. to r.) Meg, Nadine, Madison, Graham, Ana, Rino, Melissa, (back, l. to r.) Shawn, Cola, Marcus, Joshua, Jeffrey, Daira, Hannah, Kelli and Brian, and teacher Stephanie Close conduct weather experiments.
October Two Thousand and Seven

BUENA VISTA WOODS LIVING

The Magazine of News and Notices for Diamond Cove and Emerald Forest

Stingray Sanctuary
A Place for Growing

THE STINGRAY GARDEN IS READY FOR THE STUDENTS

“Your Community... Get To Know It”
Sand Lake Elementary School's New “Stingray Garden” Comes Alive

The new learning garden at Sand Lake Elementary School has been opened for classes. Already each grade has begun to install their projects, planted seeds, flowers and taken temperature readings. A recent planting of sunflower seeds already is showing green sprouts that may turn into a blooming forest of smiling sunflowers. There is a gazebo, a hedge maze, solar powered fountain, weather station, sun dial, bird feeders, flower gardens, mulch pen and more to come.

The all volunteer garden, gazebo and learning experience was designed and led by Amy Winslow, who has devoted herself to completing this project with only donations from businesses, individuals and HOA's. The Buena Vista Woods HOA donated the two park benches and that has inspired other HOA's to do the same. Our kids thank us for the generosity of all who gave time, material and money.

There is still need for paving the grounds and name engraved bricks are for sale for $50 each and the proceeds will help to finish walkways, the butterfly garden, hedges, sod, lighting and several other ground cover projects. You may obtain brick registration forms at the school office or contact Amy Winslow at 407-248-0283.

Mrs. Pollard's first grade class enjoys the new garden.

Dog Waste is a Public Health Issue

There have are several dog waste stations placed along Buena Vista Woods Boulevard and inside of Diamond Cove. They are placed there and cleaned as community service by the Diamond Cove HOA. Please use mature thinking, and use the waste stations as they are intended. Do not place any other waste inside the bin like garbage or junk mail. And leaving the dog waste on the ground is not an option. And sightings of such violations that are reported to the County, even anonymously, are dealt with harshly because it is a public
If you have seen the Sand Lake Elementary School Garden then you know there is no disputing the fact that Amy Winslow’s *The Body Shop at Home* should be the hands down favorite to win The Partners in Education (Small Business) award for the year. Amy has done a fantastic job in securing a remarkable $13,950 in donations from area businesses, The Boy Scouts, Orange County Government, parents and multiple Homeowners Associations.

The Garden she created has brought Science to life for our students who by the way are now tested on the science curriculum for F-CAT. Learning Science, in a hands-on environment, is invaluable as it enables students to see the entire progression of vegetative life. Because of Amy, our first graders had the opportunity to eat fresh fruits and vegetables all of which they themselves grew in our garden. Fifth graders are now running a fountain in our pond by harnessing Florida’s sunshine as solar panels charge a battery to power the fountain’s pump.

At the Teach-in 2007, Amy presented a lesson on creating natural body products from harvesting all natural fruits and vegetables. She also brought in an aloe plant for the kids to break open and see how the plants natural curative abilities works in the form of a lotion or healing sunburn gel. The children were so appreciative they presented a hand made thank you card to her.

In addition to supporting education, Amy’s business, which was recognized several times in SLE weekly newsletter “The Sting” and in SLE PTA newsletter, provided, discounted shopping to our teachers for the holidays. She also raised proceeds for the Guardian Angel’s Fund for the PTA by donating 100% of the profits from the parent holiday shopping spree.

Amy works in the garden daily, watering trees and assisting/teaching classes in their science projects including composting for the fourth grade classes; weather conditions for the second graders and a butterfly garden for our kindergarteners.

Last year she implemented a recycling program which, in addition to properly disposing of cans and bottles, saves 600 sheets a paper every month (20% of all paper products) by requiring all the teachers and students to participate.
Solar power
My goal is to bring solar energy to the school. Through the SolarWise for Schools program, I managed to convince our power company to install a 2-kilowatt array of photovoltaic power onto the school grounds. This was accomplished by attending many meetings of the Florida Energy Commission and speaking with our utility company many, many times. Through the PTA and possibly grants from a commercial donor, we are looking to install a solar thermal system onto the kitchen water heater.

Kathleen Conner
Watson Elementary PTA
Orlando, Florida

Going “paperless”
My son’s elementary school “goes green” by saving paper and, in turn, saving trees. Our school has created a Web site. A huge portion of our patrons are technology savvy and prefer this method of notification. This Web site posts all events occurring at our school.

Lisa Anderson
Rocky Mountain Elementary PTA
Lindon, Utah

Maximum recycling
Our school recycles a wide variety of paper, plastic bottles, household batteries, cell phones, and printer cartridges. The PTA has created a committee called the Green Team. Working with our principal, this group of parents is currently working to become a designated “Green School” through a State of Michigan program by completing 10 of 20 required actions. Our PTA newsletter editor prints local recycling updates: energy-saving tips; ways to reduce, reuse and recycle; and other information. In upcoming newsletters, we’ll include information on endangered animals as we approach our campaign to adopt an endangered animal.

Kathy Guest
Oak Ridge PTA
Royal Oak, Michigan

Organic food fundraiser
Our school chose a new fundraiser this year—the Equal Exchange catalogue fundraiser with shade-grown organic coffee, chocolate, teas, and snacks. We even had a cocoa farmer come to the school to speak to students about how the cocoa is grown without pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. We doubled sales and got more children thinking about where their food comes from and how to benefit the environment simply by learning more about how the food is grown.

Virginia Berman
Phi Beta Elementary School
Boston, Massachusetts

Rainforest walk
Last year our school participated in its first annual Earthwalk to raise awareness about the significant deforestation of the rainforests. The entire school walked for one mile holding banners and signs with messages about saving the rainforests. Students asked for pledges and raised thousands of dollars. That money was used to preserve rainforest acreage in South America. In addition, we planted trees on school property. This year’s Earthwalk is scheduled for April 22 to coincide with Earth Day.

In addition, our cultural arts program hosted “Recycle Amy,” a program that discussed how we can reduce, reuse, and recycle. Beginning in April, we began recycling cans and bottles, using the money raised to add to our rainforest pledges. We also started collecting batteries for proper disposal and ink cartridges for recycling.

Linda Hillman
Connetquot Elementary School PTSA
Islip Terrace, New York

Grow and learn
Sand Lake Elementary School Garden has brought science to life for our students by establishing a hands-on garden. Our garden enables students to see every step of the planting process from seed to plant, and from vegetable to food. Our first graders ate fried eggplant, sliced tomato pizza, carrots, and salsa made from plants they grew in our garden mostly from seed. Fifth graders are running a fountain in our pond by harnessing the Florida sun with our solar panel to charge a battery that powers the pump.

Sharessa Face
Sand Lake Elementary PTA
Orlando, Florida
Sand Lake Elementary School: Stingray Garden

orlando, florida

January 30, 2007