

TrashMasters!™
Team **Up** to Clean **Up**



Elementary Division
Brooklyn Borough
Honorable Mention

PS 132
The Conselyea School

2013 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts to help make New York City shine.



City of New York
Department of Sanitation
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling
nyc.gov/wasteless



2013 Golden Apple Awards Contest Entry Judging Info

(This sheet prepared for judges' use by DSNY BWPRR)



ID Info: 13008
School: PS 132K The Conselyea School
Grade Division: LM
Borough: K

Golden Shovel Award contestant
(for borough Master School Composter)

2013 Project Entries received for:

School Population: total # 790

Core Group: **Total Participating:**

TrashMasters! Super Recyclers

Received:

TrashMasters! Reduce & Reuse Challenge

Received:

TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up

8

429

The Betty Smith Reading Garden

Received: 5/1/2013

For the past 5 years PS 132 has been partnering with our local public library branch (immortalized in Betty Smith's "ATree Grows In Brooklyn") to revitalize their backyard into a summer reading garden for the community. Using money raised from our annual Penny Harvest, PreK through 2nd grade students work on expanding and maintaining the garden every spring. This project is a culmination of a year-long program that combines Character Education with Service Learning. Lesson plans and art projects included history of the neighborhood, collographs, a mural, and culminated in a presentation ceremony attended by Betty Smith's daughter. The school collaborated with other local organizations and businesses.

Prior Year Entries:

13:TU-hon

Current Prizes

13:TU-hon

School Contact Information:

Phone: 718-599-7301
Address: 320 MANHATTAN AVENUE
BROOKLYN 11211

Contest Coordinator: Kimberly DeStefano

Block&Lot: 3027590001
DOE Location: K132
DOE Bldg: K132

Principal: BETH LUBECK

Sustainability Coord: Heather de Koning Foley

REQUIRED for Super Recyclers only:

Custodian: HOWARD HAMMOND

Info Confirmed:

Printed: 6/26/2013

Green Apple Award Application 2013

TrashMasters! Team Up to Clean Up

School Number: PS 132K

Official School Name: PS 132 The Conselyea School

Street Address, City, Zip: 320 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211

Phone #: 718-599-7301

Fax #: 718-599-7417

Principal Name: Beth Lubeck, blubeck@schools.nyc.gov

Contest Coordinator: Kimberly DeStefano, teacher service learning/character education, kknottd@schools.nyc.gov & Heather de Koning Foley Visual Art Teacher/Sustainability Coordinator, ps132art@gmail.com

School description: We are a PreK - 5 Title 1 Elementary School located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. We have a very diverse population of students culturally, economically and academically. We have a growing ELL population as well as a Gifted and Talented program. Our school has had a strong emphasis on service learning for many years and every student in our school participates in school-wide projects and learning throughout the year.

CONTEST ENTRY INFO

Borough: Brooklyn

Grade Division: Elementary

Contest Entry Title: The Betty Smith Reading Garden

Contest Entry Summary: For the past 5 years PS 132 has been partnering with our local public library branch to revitalize their backyard into a summer reading garden for the community. Using money raised from our annual Penny Harvest, PreK - 2nd grade students work on maintaining the garden every spring. This project is a culmination of a year-long program that combines Character Education with Service Learning. The last pillar of Character Education is Citizenship and we conclude with the students working together on a community project.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT:

Student Participation: Core Group # 8

Student Participation: Total # 429

School Population: Total # 788

CLEAN UP AND GARDENING PROJECTS

IMPLEMENTATION

Why this? We began this project 5 years ago with our first Penny Harvest. As part of the Penny Harvest curriculum, students had to research community organizations that they could donate their money to. A few parents at our school are members of the Friends of the Leonard Library group that helps out our local library. A parent presented their plan for a reading garden at the library to our student group. They toured the muddy, barren space to assess what needed to be done. Since this library is a place many of our students have been using since they were babies, they all enthusiastically voted to fund this project.

What did you do? We began small by making a butterfly garden in some existing planters. The students bought new soil and plants. Every year the students return to the garden to interview the librarian and see what the garden's needs are. In the past years we have made a path, installed mosaic stepping stones (made by PreK classes), made more planters and landscaped other areas of the garden and provided them with benches so that the librarian may hold classes outside. This year, we have already used funds to create wood planters painted by PreK classes and to buy a picnic table and a sign for the garden. The library has

installed a garden hose and they keep up with the watering throughout the year. Please see our photos to illustrate the progress from year to year.

Project Planning. We plan to continue this project indefinitely. Every year the garden needs maintenance and the students love coming from year to year to see how their work is paying off. In May, Ms. Destefano and Ms. DeKoning take their classes one by one over to the garden to take turns working on it for one class period. Parents are encouraged to come and help and we have a large turn out as many parents themselves use the library and are very enthusiastic about the project.

Student Involvement: We have a student leadership group of 8 students in grades 3 - 5 who meet with the librarian every year to assess the garden's needs. They meet once a week and plan out what to order for the community give back every year. At the end of the year, students in the whole school are studying Citizenship as a unit or pillar of Character Education. We teach Character Education/Service Learning as a cluster. Every student from PreK - 5 has this cluster once a week. To culminate the year, we involve the whole school in a community give back. PreK - 2 works on the garden. Every student comes to the garden with their class and takes turns planting, weeding or watering the garden until it is ready for the summer.

Promotion: We send a letter home to parents explaining the project and asking them for their help. We post pictures and details of the project on our blog and our school website.

Collaboration: We are partnered with the community service organization Generation ON and they have allowed us to apply for a grant this year to fund the picnic table, planter boxes and sign. Because of this partnership, in the past, we have also partnered with Goldman Sachs to have their volunteers work with our students on the garden for the day. As mentioned before, we also partner with the Friends of the Leonard Library and the Brooklyn Public Library itself.

Educational Components: (Include learning standards met, lesson plans and exemplary samples of student work)

PROJECT ANALYSIS

What worked? The garden has taken on a life of it's own. When we started this little butterfly garden project 5 years ago we never thought that it would keep growing and growing into a real outdoor space. The library has really taken to the garden, the maintenance guys installed the hose so they could keep up with the plants. On a summer day, families can now sit outside and read. Many students and parents have been very happy with the results of the project. We also love how seamlessly it works with the final pillar of Character Education. It's a hands on servicing learning opportunity for students to apply what they have been learning in the classroom. Also, it is a project that is driven by student involvement and student voice. It is the leadership group that assesses the project every year and makes the decisions and plans.

What didn't work? The hardest part about the garden is the harsh winter. We lose many plants every year. We are constantly learning how to improve the garden and our choice of plants to minimize the upkeep. We will be adding a fall mulching component this coming fall to help with plant protection and weeding in the spring.

Applicability to other schools. I think that any school can do this as long as the site is walking distance to the school. Our library is only two block away. It does take a lot of organization and support from the administration. You can also start small like we did with our leadership group. Then you can gradually grow it as you work out the planning.

Measuring success. Feedback has been our biggest measure of success. We have heard from parents, students, the library staff and the community about the wonderful garden we have created.

Future plans. This is an ongoing project that keeps evolving and is an integral part of our curriculum. We will use the funds to continue to add to this garden and our students' service learning experiences.

Lesson Plan
Character Education

Teacher: Ms. DeStefano

Unit: Citizenship

Grades: PreK - 2

Lesson: How to Be a Good Citizen

Standards: W.k.6
S.L. 1 a & b
L.2.5.a

- The definition of *citizenship* is discussed.
- “How To Be A Good Citizen” chart is constructed.
- Students are asked the questions: “What does it mean to be a good citizen?”, “In what ways are you already a good citizen?”, “What things could you do to be a better citizen?”
- Students then go to Google and type in “kids making a difference”. They will find many stories of children making their communities a better place.
- I discuss these stories to raise awareness of the power of kids.
- Last, we brainstorm different kinds of volunteer work that they may like to do in their community.

The Betty Smith Reading Garden

It started in 2008, our first Community Service Leadership group meets with members of the Friends of the Leonard Library.



The students surveyed the site for the garden and learned about the history of the library. They learned that this is the library and neighborhood portrayed in the book, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. They also looked at plans and ideas for the site. This group of students were from Kindergarten to 2nd grade.



Planting day 2008. The leadership group allocates our Penny Harvest funds to purchase plants to make a butterfly garden.



Students learned how to plant and create a beautiful start to the library garden.



Students create tree collographs to honor naming the Betty Smith Reading Garden. Betty Smith's daughter attends.



As part of the dedication, and the million trees initiative, students and local leaders plant a tree in the library yard.



2011, Goldman Sachs volunteers with our students who showed "Good Character" though out the year.



Murals were created, a new path was laid and new plants and planters were put in. Students were inspired to work with young professionals. And the Goldman Sachs employees were inspired by our students.

