

Everglades K-8 Center

Community & Collaboration

by Ms. Perez-Castro

Spring 2024



Art club students got colorful, crafty and collaborative this spring as they created mosaic tiles for the school garden. Many steps went into this artistic project and Mr. David guided the

students along the way.

Pictured here are art club members

Alejandra, Ariana P.

and Isabella

working on their

mosaic masterpieces. Stepping stones

will be displayed in the garden starting

next week. What abstract creatures will

you find?

Watch us making mosaics!
<https://youtu.be/HW0ReM47vpA?si=XuC9G5kiPpyjCMio>



Scraps to Soil

Have you ever seen your neighbor put food scraps in a green or black bin? Well it's simple, they're composting. Composting is when you put food scraps like banana peels, orange peels, egg shells, apple cores, and cobs of corn into bins to either get dried by the sun or eaten by worms and to then turn into nutrients.

Everglades is now having "Fertile Earth Fridays" to reduce the amount of food scraps that get thrown into landfills. Classes are separating compost and food waste. By weighing the amount of compost, we can determine how much food scraps are saved from landfills. After weighing the food scraps, we donate them to Fertile Earth Worm Farm, to then be converted into nutrients. Everglades has collected over 100 pounds so far!

Once Mrs. Perez-Castro met Dr. Lanette Sobel, the leader of the Fertile Earth Worm Farm, Dr. Sobel was so excited to hear about our project that she offered to give us soil to help our plants in the garden flourish.

by **Ariana (3rd) & Elyse (2nd) Martinez**



Pictured above is Dr. Sobel and her daughter sharing soil with Everglades K-8 Center

[Fertile Earth Worm Farm: Turning food ...](#)

Community & Collaboration

Everglades K-8 Center is joining forces with the local nonprofit Urban Paradise Guild (UPG). Last month, teachers assisted UPG in a stewardship project for Biscayne Bay on Picnic Island.



Mr. Escobar, Ms. Perez-Castro & Ms. Avila

Learn more about **Urban Paradise Guild** here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6OvsACHPuE>



The stewardship project continues on school grounds where students are planting seeds and propagules native to South Florida including the Florida Keys Blackbead and red mangroves. Habitat restoration in the Miami area is our main objective; by planting seeds and propagules, the students are making good use of the soil that was given to them by Fertile Earth Worm Farm!

Native Gardening

Our school garden has received a lot of care this season as students have been helping to plant and maintain Florida native plants. Fairchild's Native Plant Network donated 8 plants and Ms. Perez-Castro sponsored the rest.



A big thank you to all of this year's garden enthusiasts!



Ms. Carballo's students have also added color to the garden by repainting the faded river rocks and leaving messages of HOPE and LOVE for all to see.

