# OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 17

**Ridgeway Elementary School (Grades K-5)**
**2861 Ridgeway Road**
**Manchester Township, NJ 08759**
**732-323-0800**

*After undergoing a building expansion, the Ridgeway School had a garden designed in the courtyard of their school. It had been left unattended and was in need of renovation and maintenance. The school community wanted to develop an area that can be utilized as a learning area for all students in grades 1-5.*

*Ms. Margaret (Peg) Viola took the lead on this project.*

**Phase1**
**"Growing in Knowledge"**

**&**

**Phase 2**
**"Life in a Fishpond"**

## The $ Thing

**The school received two separate grants from OCSCD:**

- **#1 -$500 was awarded in 2001 to Create the Outdoor Classroom**
- **#2 -$500 was awarded in 2002 to add the Fishpond**

Grade 1—Grow an Herb Garden. They learn about plants & plant parts. Native plants will be planted around the fish pond.

Grade 2—Hatch Butterflies & Release near plants that they planted for them. Aquatic insects and journal keeping focus.

Grade 3—Maintain a compost pile with earthworms—they study interdependency in natural systems. Observe animal behaviors in action.

Grade 4—Maintain a wildflower area & water testing in the pond

Grade 5—Research, plant & maintain an area to attract birds.

## Newsletter Spotlight

### CROSS GRADE-LEVEL PROJECT

The artistically talented students made illustrations of the plants and animals in the Outdoor Classroom. Other students conducted research and write about the plants and animals. All this information was compiled into a booklet that is added to each year as new animals move into the area.

**Ridgeway Elementary School**
Manchester, NJ

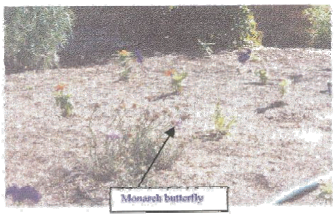
"Outdoor Classroom"

This is how our garden looked before.

Our first graders planted their seedlings.

Our fourth grade rose garden.

The fifth grade "hummingbird" area.




Second graders planted butterfly bushes and flowers. We actually spotted several Monarch butterflies.

Third graders have started composting bins.

Lessons on how to plant.

"Inquiry Minds" Students were looking at the plant's root system.