



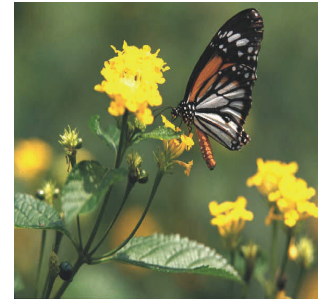
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 22

G. Harold Antrim Elementary School
Niblick Street, Pt. Pleasant Beach 08742 (732-899-3737)
Lead Teacher: Debra Ehrgood

Antrim Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden

The Antrim School in Point Pleasant Beach transformed the front of their school building into a butterfly and hummingbird garden.

The site chosen faces south/east and had installed water sprinklers. It was mostly in lawn before construction began. The site is very visible from the street and to all that enter the school building. The entire student body (pre-K through 8th grade) participated in the transformation of the entrance to the school.



The \$ Thing:
Antrim Elementary School received a \$500 grant from OCSCD in 1999.

Seeds Grown in Classrooms:

Bee balm, columbine, yarrow, morning glory, thyme, ageratum, petunia

Perennial Plants Purchased:

Coral bells, goldenrod, liatris, cardinal flower, and purple coneflower.

Vines:

Trumpet creeper and honeysuckle



Large, mature trees flanked the school's sidewalk along the front of the proposed garden site. Working around existing trees is an important consideration when planning an outdoor classroom project.

A Team Effort and a Calendar of Tasks:

The Environmental Science Club (grades four and five) initiated the garden project by measuring and preplanning. (February)

Students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades prepared the soil and outlined the garden's periphery (March through April)

The same students were involved in the more intense "physical" labor tasks including laying paving stones for walkways and erecting benches. (May)

The high school shop class provided identification markers for the plants and trees.

Students in the Pre-K through second grade classes planted seeds (March) in their classrooms for late spring planting (May/June).

Older students helped younger grades plant the seedlings that they grew.

The plants were cared for (watered, weeded and thinned) by the third, fourth and fifth graders.

Once the plants were established, a schedule for each grade level helped to ensure continued care of the garden.

Newsletter



- Butterfly gardening is a popular choice for beginning

outdoor classrooms. The study of butterflies, metamorphosis, and life cycles fits into many second grade curricula. In addition, young students have an intuitive interest in insects. Butterflies are easy to attract and easy to study. **Check out** www.monarchwatch.com

The entire school adopted the Butterfly & Hummingbird Project as part of their academic calendar for the year. This type of "whole school" approach surely helps integrate the project and allows for tasks to get accomplished much quicker with so many helpers.