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## Fairchild Challenge January 2012 E-news

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### Teacher Showcase

**Christine Cook** is the leader of the 4H club known as The Panthers at Redland Middle School. Last year, she worked with students ranging from ages 5 through 16, along with parent volunteers. Two of the adolescent members placed 1st in the talks at both the County Youth Fair and the District level contest. Four of the youth volunteers went to Tallahassee in the summer to participate in a mock legislative session at the Capital. This is a 5 day program which encourages youth leadership, community involvement and activism in the political process.

Christine has taught Exceptional and General Education Students the importance of taking care of the school's garden and the environment. She is consistently keeping students aware of the responsibility as citizens of the world. Mrs. Cook stands out because she recognizes the importance of protecting our natural resources by encouraging youth to discover and interact with their surroundings. Children are often insulated and protected from perceived dangers in the environment. Educators can provide the means for

Dear Sara,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We hope you had a peaceful winter break and that the new year brings happiness, curiosity and health to you and your students!

As we gear up for a busy few months here at the Fairchild Challenge, we thank you for your continued participation and look forward to all the upcoming events!



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DUE DATES

### FIU-USDA Agroecology and Biofuels Summer Internship

**Due: EXTENDED DEADLINE! Wednesday, January 11, by 5:00 p.m.**

Don't miss the chance for your students to interact with FIU professors, FIU graduate students and USDA scientists in this paid internship! Nominate two of your outstanding Fairchild Challenge students who have (or will) actively participate in The Fairchild Challenge this school year and have a passion for agroecology and biofuels! [Applications for nomination](#) are available on our [website!](#)



### Challenge 6 - Environmental Debates: Water for Life

**Due: Wednesday, January 18**

[Entry forms](#) for the [Environmental Debates](#) are due! Mark your calendar for the Tenth Annual Environmental Debates on Saturday, January 28th. [Topics](#) are available on our [Challenges in depth](#) page.

### Challenge 7 - [Art: Florida Flower Modifications](#)

**Due: Wednesday, February 1, by 5:00 p.m.**

developing an appreciation and comfort within this natural world.

Ms. Cook's discovered the impact of experiential learning through her experience in the Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Parks educational camping program.

Ms. Cook organized these educational trips for her students. These programs provide a direct link between the science curriculum and the natural environment. Students were given the opportunity to actively engage in discovery learning while exploring their own South Florida environments.

*We have added an additional section that features an outstanding Fairchild Challenge student or teacher! If you have any students or teachers that you would like to highlight, please send us a representative picture and a 250 word article to be featured here. Staff will select featured articles.*

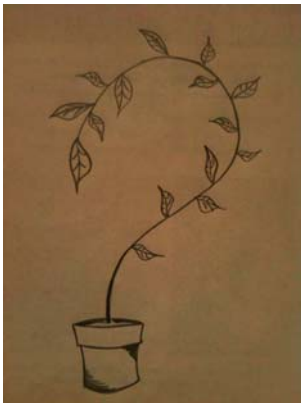
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### Question of the Month



### 2011-2012 T-SHIRTS!

**Q:** When are the T-shirts available and how can I pick them up for my school?

**A:** T-shirts will be available Tuesday, January 24 to all participating schools! We recommend collecting your box (1 per school) of 50 T-shirts

[Entry forms](#), [tables](#) and artwork are due, in person, to Fairchild! Please do not use the library drop-off sites for artwork, as the libraries are restricted in the size of entries that they can accept.

### Challenge 2 - Spring Environmental Immersion Day

**Due: Wednesday, February 1, by 5:00 p.m.**

Meet experts in the field, explore environmental careers and participate in hands-on activities at our partner sites throughout South Florida.

[Environmental Immersion Day \(EID\)](#) is quickly approaching so complete and turn-in the "entry submission" by February 1, for the spring EID to be held on March 6th. For more information [click here](#) and [click here](#) to register. Limited need-based assistance will be available for transportation associated with participation in this challenge. Under-resourced schools may submit a [transportation request application](#) for approval.

## CHALLENGE RESOURCES

### Pine Rockland Workday with Fairchild's Scientists Tropical Park, Saturday, January 21, 2012

Add to your Challenge 10 - Environmental Action submission by joining Fairchild's scientists and helping your community restore pine rockland habitat! Schools interested in participating must RSVP with Devon Powell at [dpowell@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:dpowell@fairchildgarden.org).



### FREE School Garden Consultations

Planning to participate in the school garden/habitat restoration challenge? Need help getting started? Fairchild will provide school garden consultations for schools in need of assistance. Email us to schedule a consultation today: [challenge9-12@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:challenge9-12@fairchildgarden.org).

### Fairchild Sponsored Gardens

Schools that received a school garden grant this year, please come and pick up our special garden signs and show off your growing gardens and/or habitat restorations. Call to schedule a pickup as soon as possible!

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & OPPORTUNITIES

### School Garden Workshop

**Saturday, January 7**

Working on your school's garden? Learn about planning and implementing a garden at your school! Join us for this workshop from 8:30-4:00pm. Register through the M-DCPS portal. Private schools can contact Kiki Mutis at [kmutis@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:kmutis@fairchildgarden.org) for registration. Space is still available.



### Raised Bed Garden Workshop

**Saturday, January 14, 1:00-4:00pm**

Interested in starting or improving your school's raised bed garden? There are still spaces available for this informative workshop! To register, please email the

and passes for your most actively participating students at the Tenth Annual Environmental Debates on Saturday, January 28.

If you would like to pick them up on another day, please contact us to schedule a pickup. We have temporarily relocated our office out of the garden due to construction in our building. Therefore, scheduling a pickup is essential.

elementary challenge program at [challengepk-5@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:challengepk-5@fairchildgarden.org).

**For more classes offered to teachers in Miami-Dade county by the Education Department at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden please visit our [Teacher Professional Development Courses](#) page.**

## AT THE GARDEN

### **6th Annual International [Chocolate Festival](#) Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 20-22**

Indulge in chocolate delicacies and sip coffee and tea during the season's most delicious event! Enjoy fine chocolate samples from artisan chocolatiers. Take our Chocowalk to learn about the life cycle of a cacao plant, with stops in our Rainforest and more. Watch master chocolatiers and chefs demonstrating recipes with chocolate. Attend lectures on the chocolate making, chocolate history, science and more. Sip coffee, tea and hot chocolate surrounded by the beauty of Fairchild.

**For more information on events happening throughout the month of January, please visit Fairchild's [Events website](#).**

Sincerely,

Thad Foote and Sarah Vatland  
Fairchild Challenge High School Coordinators  
[www.fairchildchallenge.org](http://www.fairchildchallenge.org)

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