



Fairchild Challenge January 2012 E-news

In This Issue

Important Information & Due Dates

Challenge Resources
Professional Development & Opportunities
At The Garden

Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)
[More About Us](#)

Teacher Spotlight

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

Dear Challenge6-8,



upcoming challenges.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DUE DATES

Challenge 5 - Art: Fabulous Flowers of Florida

Due: Wednesday, January 18, by 5:00 p.m.

Submit [Entry Form](#), [Table](#) and artwork, 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 6 - Science Experiments: Plant Biology, Botany and Agriculture

Due: Wednesday, February 15, by 5:00 p.m.

[Entry Form](#) and display boards are due, in person, to Fairchild. Please do not use the library drop-off sites for Science experiments, as the libraries

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 developing an appreciation and comfort within this natural world.

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

Student/Teacher Showcase

If you have any current or past student(s) that you would like to highlight, or know a teacher that is an environmental role model, please send us a picture of the student(s)/teacher (s) and a 250 word article to be featured here. Staff will select featured articles.

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are restricted in the size of entries that they can accept.

Please be advised, the Gate House offices are closed due to repairs. Submit entries to either the Visitor Center or to Amy Padolf's office in the Corbin building. If dropping off entries after visiting hours, please contact a coordinator to arrange a location.

CHALLENGE RESOURCES

Pine Rockland Workday with Fairchild's Scientists

Tropical Park, Saturday, January 21

Add to your Challenge 9 - [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.



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. Fill out our [Garden Consultation Request](#) form and Email us to schedule a consultation today: challenge6-8@fairchildgarden.org.

Gardens Sponsored by Fairchild

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 pick-up 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 for

registration. Space is still available!!



Raised Bed Garden Workshop

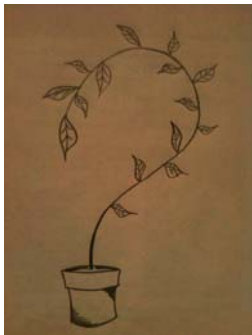
Saturday, January 14, 1:00-4:00pm

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 elementary challenge program at challengepk5@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

Question of the Month



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.



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! Come and get your box (1 per school) of 50 T-shirts for your most actively participating students, along with four-person family passes.

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

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Martinez and Juan Rivera, Jr.

Fairchild Challenge Middle School Coordinators
www.fairchildchallenge.org

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