



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 25

Cedar Grove Elementary School K-6
179 Cedar Grove Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
732-505-5830

A small Butterfly Garden marks the entrance to the “Tree Walk” where each grade level has a tree.



TREE WALK & BUTTERFLY GARDEN



Younger students made plant identification labels—and planted flowers—the older students made butterfly houses and bird feeders, as well as planted trees and placed benches throughout the garden.

Newsletter Spotlight

Trees were chosen and planted based on each grade level curriculum. For example, the fourth grade planted a Red oak, the New Jersey State tree because fourth graders study New Jersey. This is a unique approach to choosing plants and will likely allow for ease in the continuation of this project for years to come.

The \$ Thing The OCSCD awarded a \$500 grant in 1999. The Cedar Grove PTO contributed \$1066 toward the project. The school district donated labor for some of heavy work, students collected cans and recycled them and earned \$65, a local business donated \$150 worth of shrubs.



Students working under sixth grade tree.



The area shown above is to be planted with a winding and meandering path that bends at each “grade-level” tree. This idea takes the “Adopt-A-Tree” concept one step further and actually creates a special place and tree for each grade level. The long term goal and planning of this school yard transformation is commendable. The teachers were being realistic with their expectations regarding stages of development for the outdoor classroom.

