

GREEN SCHOOLS FOCUS

SECOND QUARTER 2006 SERT CHAMPION



Let's Give Ms. Gonzales a Big Thumbs Up!

The staff and students can give a big “Thumbs Up” to Ms. Gonzales, SERT Champion at Oakland Terrace ES. *Effective leadership, dedicated teamwork, and staff involvement*, describes the effort that has made Ms. Lillian Gonzalez a SERT Champion.

Through her enthusiastic leadership, Oakland Terrace ES is currently showing about a 30% reduction in electricity consumption. Ms. Gonzales has 45 fifth-grade students, in her “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down Club.” The club awards a Thumbs Up for good energy behavior and a Thumbs Down for classrooms that need improvement. To meet “Thumbs Up” criteria, all classroom lights must be off at the end of the day, blinds must be shut, computers and printers must be turned off, and recycling must be sorted into appropriate containers. This highly visual and creative method of monitoring energy use has motivated the students and staff of OTES. Students enjoy going to the other classrooms and letting them know how they are doing. “None of the classes want to get a Thumbs Down at the end of the day,” reports Ms. Gonzalez.

Along with the great reductions in energy consumption, Oakland Terrace maintains an outstanding recycling program. Ms. Gonzalez is committed to the goals of the SERT program, and consistently promotes reduced energy consumption and effective recycling practices. As Assistant Principal Mr. Boddy says, “Ms. Gonzalez is simply the best of the best”.

