



# The Bell Ringer

Bell's Crossing Elementary PTA Volume 3, Issue 9 May 2, 2005

## OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD GOES TO BELL'S!

### Principal's Report - Dear Bell's Crossing Family

I cannot believe we are closing the third year in our new school. We have come so far in establishing ourselves in the school district. This year, our school received our accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for the first time. This is an exciting benchmark for us.

We know we have the Most Outstanding PTA Unit in the state, but the PTA convention just affirmed what we have known all along! Congratulations on receiving the state's highest honor for BCES PTA. We thank you for all you have done to support the school through volunteering and helping us meet our goals. The rolling laptop lab is in demand all of the time. Our "Fountain of Character" is a reality and will be the anchor for our outdoor classroom initiative. We thank you for providing classroom materials and always being there when needed for supporting your child's education.

The school staff and community are planning a big year for next year. We will have a full-time teacher in our science lab for the first time. Students in grades 3-5 will go to the lab once each week and other grades will go on a rotating basis. This will result in larger classes in the fourth grade, but a functional science lab has been a goal for the school since we opened. In addition, we will offer weekly math enrichment at each grade next year as another initiative to extend the curriculum. We will continue our journey toward an Exemplary Writing program.

Please call me if you are willing to serve on the School Improvement Council. This is an excellent way to be involved with the school. If not the SIC, there is a place for everyone to be involved.

Let us know if you will have to leave us next year so that we may update our records. We wish you well and stay in touch. There are still many fun opportunities left to enjoy this month, so don't miss a one!

I want to take this opportunity to give my highest salute to a dedicated faculty and staff. They have given their best to your children this year. I am very proud to work with this group. As this year comes to a close, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve this community in leadership.

A safe and happy summer to each of you,

*Mrs. Barbara A. Barlow, Principal*

### President's Report

Welcome to the last issue of *The Bellringer* for this school year. Hard to believe it's that time already! Our carnival was a huge success again, despite the stormy weather! Thank you to everyone for braving the elements and joining us. While the carnival does make money for the school, it also serves to bring the community and school together in a way that is not usually possible. That is perhaps the most valuable reward we can receive from such a huge production. Thank you to the volunteers, staff, visitors and community members that contributed to or attended the carnival.

On April 23, some of our PTA members attended the South Carolina PTA Convention here in Greenville. We won several awards and I am so proud that the contributions of our volunteers have been recognized! First of all, we were given Certificates of

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### Important Dates



- 9 - PTA & Chorus Concert - 6:30 p.m.
- 26 - Fifth Grade Awards - 8:30 a.m.
- 27 - First Grade Awards - 8:30 a.m.
- 27 - Second Grade Awards - 9:30 a.m.
- 31 - Third Grade Awards - 8:30 a.m.
- 31 - Fourth Grade Awards - 9:30 a.m.
- June 1 - Kindergarten Awards - 8:30 a.m.

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### President's Report Continued

Recognition for having *100% Membership, 100% Faculty Membership, and a 10% Increase over last year, as well as a plaque for being one of the First 15 Units in the State to Reach 100%*. On Saturday afternoon, we were awarded plaques for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Program (written on the Wee Care Kindergarten Program), 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for our Schoolwide Volunteer Program, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Parent Involvement Award for our Character Education Program (in collaboration with the Guidance Department). Finally, on Saturday night, we were given the **Award for Outstanding Unit in the State!** That means we were recognized as the best PTA in the state of South Carolina. I have believed that for three years now and it is something that wouldn't have been possible without our fantastic volunteers and members as well as the support of the school's administration and staff. This award shows that, despite minor glitches or conflicts that inevitably arise, we are truly a team that works for the enhancement of all our children's education. Thank you to everyone for making these awards possible.

I have used this space to thank various people and organizations that have contributed to our school and PTA throughout the year, but there is one group who has worked diligently and without special recognition to make Bell's Crossing the wonderful school it is. They are the leaders of your PTA, who have stepped up to the plate and worked continuously to make the educational experience a better one for **everyone's** children. They are our PTA Board of Directors, without whom none of our accomplishments would have been possible. Please remember to thank them – they don't hear it enough.

Look for the next edition of *The Bell Ringer* in your mailbox in August. Have a safe and happy summer!

Tracy Moore

### What Your PTA Funds Have Purchased This Year

- \$2400 to individual teachers to enhance education in individual classrooms, grade levels, or schoolwide
- Enhanced arts curriculum by bringing the Children's Theater of Charlotte to every child in the school.
- Paid for students who otherwise would be unable to participate in field trips.
- Beautification of your school grounds as well as benches and trash cans for the playground
- Curriculum and social education programs such as SEEDs, Sunshine Math, Red Ribbon Week, Reflections, and School Productions
- \$1200 worth of dictionaries
- \$12,000 worth of laptop computers
- 3 cases of paper (or equivalent supplies) for every teacher
- \$50-\$175 per teacher to start the year right



### What Your Time Has Been Worth This Year EVERYTHING

Whether it was once a year, once a month, once a week, once a day or even more, ***your participation in Bell's Crossing PTA has made the difference in the life of a child!***

Keep it up!

Tracy Moore

### Important Notes from the Nurses

1. No lunchtime medication will be administered on the last 3 half days of school; 5/27, 5/31, and 6/1.

2. If your child has medication in the health room, it needs to be picked up by 12 Noon on 6/1/05. Medication that is not picked up by then will be discarded, except for epi-pens and inhalers.

Thanks!!

PJ Lawrence, RN



### Bell's Freedom Festival 2005 Raises Over \$10,000!

Our Spring Carnival was a huge success, despite the weather! The support from the Bell's Crossing family and community is always amazing! We can't say enough thank yous to all the people who helped to make this carnival happen! Thanks so much to all of you who worked overtime planning for the carnival, setting up (in the rain), working booths (some of you all night), and cleaning up! And thank you to our BCES Maintenance crew for all their hard work. We couldn't do it without you! Many, many thanks to everyone for coming out and 'playing in the mud' with Bell's Crossing!

We would like to send out a special thank you to Upstate Karate for our carnival t-shirts, dunk tank, cotton candy and Karate demo. Also, a big thank you to PlayNation for donating a play structure to the silent auction.

We are so thankful to all the other businesses and individuals who donated to the carnival! Thanks go out to: All the parents, teachers, and staff for your donations of time and/or items, Bi-Lo at Five Forks, Simpsonville Tire, The Golf Store, Hillcrest Middle School, Mauldin Middle School, Carolina Triathlon, Innisbrook Wraps-Bonnie Papajohn, Pump It Up, Arbonne-Debbie Murphy, Chrysalis Esthetics, Harley Davidson, Pampered Chef-Raina Kant, Mary Kay-Marti McDowell, Bead It!, Tastefully Simple-Amy Bullard, Twigs, Mauldin First Baptist Church, Great Harvest Bread Co., Alluring Looks, Great Clips, Greenville Car Wash, Carolina Gourmet of Simpsonville, American Girl, Juice Plus!-Sherri Schwartz, CW Wings & Things, New York Butcher Shoppe, Starbucks, Cold Stone Creamery, McDonald's at Maxwell Pointe, Soby's, Beauticontrol-Julia Palmer, Beauticontrol-Rhonda Murrow, Maternal Instincts, Tea Koon, Applebee's, Gymboree, FootLoose, Steamatic, The Glazing Pot, Dog Spa, Country Boys, On the Go Errand Service, Frankie's Fun Park, Palmetto Home & Garden, Petland, Sportsclub, Master Kim's TaeKwonDo, Batteries Plus, Payless Plumbing, The Frey Connection, Cookie Lee Jewelry-Cindy Nelson, Eagle Zone, 3M, Bausch & Lomb, Belk, New Balance, inSIDEout at Home, Auto Express Car Wash, Whimzie, Greenville Bombers, The Art Haven, The Spice Diner, Chick-Fil-A, Kim Hix-personal training, Elvis Assemanian-personal training, Sterilite, Stampin' Up-Renee Street, Curves and Kelly Wood, Body Shop at Home-Robin Fallon, Riverside High School Honor Society, McFeely Amusements, Uptown Entertainment, Officer Barrows, Officer Jumper, Bucky's BBQ, Domino's Pizza at Five Forks, Joey and Jan's Fireworks.

Tonya Shuba



### Blood Drive Collects 34 Pints of Blood

Bell's Crossing's Second Annual Blood Drive was held on April 11. We were able to donate 34 units of blood to The Blood Connection. Mrs. Balentine's and Mrs. Freeman's classes won a pizza party for having the most donor participation. Congratulations to those classes! And thanks for giving!

### It Is Time To Order School Supplies!

Once again, as a service to our parents and teachers, we are selling pre-packaged school packs and assignment pads for next year. You will be receiving order forms from your teacher the week of May 9th. All orders must be returned no later than May 23rd.

### Reflections Contest 2005!

The Reflections deadline comes up pretty quickly in November, so why not start working on your entries during the summer? This year's theme is "I wonder why..." Everyone who turns in an entry will have their name put in a drawing for cool prizes. Reflections is an art contest sponsored by the National PTA. There are four categories: literature, visual art, music composition and photography. If you have any questions, contact Amy Karmilovich [amygbk@charter.net](mailto:amygbk@charter.net) or 967-7282.

### Kindergartners Are Heading To A Strawberry Patch

In May, the kindergarten students will continue to study plants and seeds as we prepare for our trip to the strawberry patch! All of the classes will visit the strawberry patch during the first week of May. Many of the classes have planted seeds and are busy watching the sprouts grow. The children are also busy watching caterpillars change into butterflies. We have many other fun things planned for the last month, including Mother's Day surprises and Field Day! We are expecting a fun last month of school!

Nancy Murphy

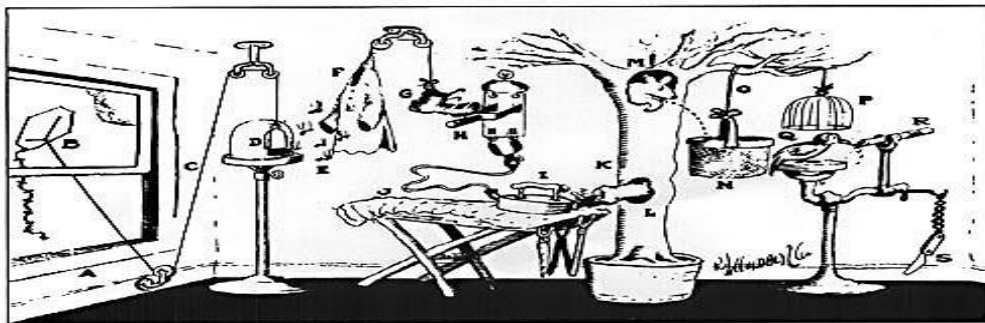
### Mrs. Basanda's Class' Earth Day Grocery Project

Bell's Crossing students decorated over 1000 grocery bags in honor of Earth Day. Bag decorations included pictures of the earth and reminders to recycle. We did this project to show how our school cares about the environment, and we want to spread the message. On April 22, our bags were used by the customers at Publix at 5 Forks.

### Challenge News

3<sup>rd</sup> grade Challenge students are discovering the answer to the question: "How does good literature stand the test of time?" By studying the life and works of William Shakespeare in our unit "Shakin' Up Shakespeare," students are discovering that Shakespeare is as relative today as he ever was. As part of this unit, we are reading Midsummer Night's Dream and Hamlet.

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Challenge students are busy working on the Independent Study Project's and "Rube Goldberg" units. Teams of students are building a "Rube Goldberg-style" contraption to accomplish one of the following tasks: extinguish a candle, ring a bell, or drop a ball into a can. It's been fun watching these contraptions come together! (See an actual Rube Goldberg contraption below as depicted in one of his many cartoons.)



Pencil Sharpener RUBE GOLDBERG (tm) RGI 038

Rube Goldberg gets his think-tank working and evolves the simplified pencil-sharpener. Open window (A) and fly kite (B). String (C) lifts small door (D) allowing moths (E) to escape and eat red flannel shirt (F). As weight of shirt becomes less, shoe (G) steps on switch (H) which heats electric iron (I) and burns hole in pants (J). Smoke (K) enters hole in tree (L), smoking out opossum (M) which jumps into basket (N), pulling rope (O) and lifting cage (P), allowing woodpecker (Q) to chew wood from pencil (R), exposing lead. Emergency knife (S) is always handy in case opossum or the woodpecker gets sick and can't work.

5<sup>th</sup> grade Challenge field trip is Monday, May 23. We will travel to Bryson City, North Carolina to ride the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad Train for a 44-mile round trip to Nantahala Gorge. On our train trip, we will pass over many bridges, including a 791-foot trestle on piers 179 feet high over Fontana Lake. This will be a wonderful conclusion to our "Bridges Across America" unit.

Sandy Young



### News From The Music Room - Mrs. Stevenson

Kindergarten, first, and second grade students are beginning a unit entitled, "Linking Literature and Music: A Natural Connection." We will use stories such as "I Went Walking," "Possum Come A Knockin," and "Giraffes Can't Dance" as we explore the natural connection between music and literature. Students will create movement and Orff accompaniments as sound carpets for these fun stories. These activities will incorporate all of the musical skills that we have mastered this school year.

Third, fourth, and fifth grade students that have Mrs. Cox are continuing their unit on drumming while Mrs. Stevenson's students are ringing the choirchimes.

Congratulations to those students who earned their Black Belts in Recorder Karate. This is quite an accomplishment and they are to be commended for their hard work.

### Chorus News

The chorus will be performing at National Health Care in Mauldin on Thursday, May 5. Chorus members should wear their khaki pants, chorus polo shirts, and tennis shoes to school on that day.

Our Spring Concert is on Monday evening, May 9. Chorus members should report to the music room at 6:15 that evening. We will be wearing our dress outfits for that performance.

On Friday, May 26, the chorus will be performing at 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Day. Fourth grade students should wear their khaki pants, chorus polo shirt, and tennis shoes. Fifth grade students are to follow the dress guidelines given to them by their homeroom teachers.

Parents of rising fourth graders, be watching you child's Monday folder for information on auditions for the 2005 - 2006 Bell's Crossing Chorus.



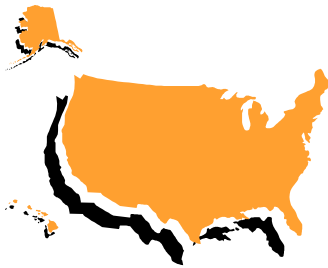
### Ms. Hillard's Art News - Pattern, Texture, Repetition

Kindergarten and First grade: We read the story "Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears" by Verna Aardems. In reading this African Folktale we learned that, in telling an untruth, your actions affect the feelings of everyone. The students then created a paper weaving. They drew animals and assembled them onto their weavings.

Second and Third grade: These students viewed a video on "Mask of Many Cultures". They were encouraged to create an original mask. Students cut construction paper into one inch tiles to create a Mosaic effect on their mask. They also used various found objects to enhance their original design.

Fourth grade: Fiber Art. These students weaved a 4" - 5" mat with yarn. We continued with the technique of weaving "Over - Under and Under - Over." It was keeping up with the pattern that proved most difficult, but when we got the hang of it, we were off to a running start.

Fifth grade: Coiled Baskets: The Art of Basketry. We looked at the art of basketry from Botswana, Africa as well as baskets created in the low country and other cultures. The students personalized their coiling technique by creating a round basket, cylinder basket, or a mat that maintained a structure of 4" - 5" in height or depth. In creating their baskets much like the weaving technique, students focused on the pattern of wrap eight, loop, loop.



### Fifty States Field Day

The theme for this year's field day is *The Fifty States*. Field day events will be organized by stations or states. Each station's activity will reflect some characteristic of that state, such as an historical event, an agricultural product, or a famous person or place. Field day participants will enjoy fun field day activities while at the same time learning something about one of the fifty United States.

State/stations will include Maine, California, Nevada, Washington, Georgia, Ohio, Idaho, Florida, Delaware, and Illinois. Participants will travel from state to state and enjoy clamming in Maine, panning for gold in California and squeezing oranges in Florida.

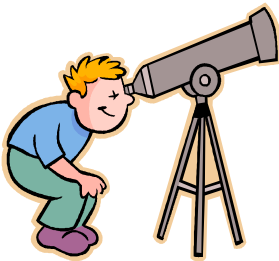
Grade level field days are scheduled for the following dates:

May 19 – Second grade  
May 20 – Third grade

May 23 – First grade  
May 24 – Fourth Grade

May 25 – Kindergarten  
May 27 – Fifth Grade

Everyone is invited to join us for a day of fun. Anyone interested in helping with a grade level field day may contact Lori Williams, [lhwillia@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:lhwillia@greenville.k12.sc.us) or 355-3877, or Stephen Dyar [sdyar@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:sdyar@greenville.k12.sc.us)



### View Art On-Line

The Art Department would like to encourage our Bell's Crossing family's to view selected student work on our web site. Go to <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bells/students/index.asp> and then click on one of two art slideshows.

**The Art Department would like to give a special thanks to Doug and Lorri Morris for donating the aprons to create class profiles which were auctioned at the school's carnival.**

### Spring Poems From Mrs. Basanda's Class

Spring is awesome  
All the flowers blossom  
You can hear a bird sing  
Or swing on a swing  
Play in the park  
Or listen to dogs bark  
Swim in the sea  
Run away from a bee  
You can have lots of fun in the spring!

Laura



Flowers are blooming  
Showers are to be assuming  
The hours have changed  
And there's rain, rain, and rain  
It's pool time again and games to win  
And WOW! It's Spring and birds begin to sing.

Jessica Jackson

The signs of Spring are almost everything,  
There's sun, and many bright colors, too  
Like the grass will be green,  
And the flowers will bloom.  
Here are many signs that Spring can bring to you.

Amanda Martin



### Thank you Home Depot!

We would like to give a "Big" thanks to "Team Depot" for coming to our school and helping us with bushes, flowers, and mulch around our fountain in the school's courtyard. They donated all the material as well as the labor. Please stop by our school's courtyard and see the beautiful work they did. Thanks to Home Depot off Woodruff Road for making a difference at Bell's Crossing!!!

### Volunteers of the Month – Tonya Shuba and Gaye Page!

Our Volunteers of the Month for May are Tonya Shuba and Gaye Page. Tonya was responsible for coordinating our wonderful carnival this year, a TON of work! She also organized the blood drive in April and is active in her daughter's class. Thank you, Tonya, for all your hard work! Gaye Page has run the school store for three years now, a most popular morning destination for many of our students! She is also a kindergarten room mom. Thanks to you, also, Gaye, for your hard work!

### Volunteers of the Year Awards - 2004- 2005

Every year, two very special volunteers are named Volunteers of the Year. For 2004-05, they are Emily Young and Laurie Sinkele. Emily has two grand children at Bell's Crossing and is active in the classrooms. She maintains the beautiful flowers in the courtyards and by the front doors and has copied the Bylines every week for months! You can also find her in the cafeteria! You name the task and Emily has probably done it!

Laurie Sinkele is a fourth grade room mother and coordinator of the copy center. She spends hours each week copying for the fourth grade teachers and is always willing to help out wherever asked. She is also involved in many of the ongoing programs at Bell's Crossing. Where there's work to be done, you can usually find Laurie jumping right in. Thanks to both of you for your dedication and support!

One volunteer was selected for submission to the SC PTA for Volunteer of the Year in the state. This year, the Board chose Amy Karmilovich for that nomination. She has worked tirelessly since the school opened in many different areas. This year, she served as Legislative Representative on the Board of Directors, was room parent in two classes, and organized (and did most of the shopping for) the popular Holiday Shop. She is always ready to help whenever possible and also serves as a guardian ad litem for Greenville County. Please be sure to thank Amy when you see her.

There are so many great volunteers at Bell's Crossing, it's difficult to choose every month and every year. We hope you all know that you are appreciated for every minute you volunteer! Volunteers Make a World of Difference!

PTA Board of Directors

Go to [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for these articles and many others.

### **Water Safety Tips From the National PTA & The Coast Guard**

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, drowning remains second only to motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1 to 14.

As part of National Safe Kids Week, April 30 to May 7, the National Safe Kids Campaign and the U.S. Coast Guard remind parents that their children should always wear a life jacket while boating.

Often, when children are not wearing life jackets, it's because adults believe themselves capable of diving into the water to rescue a child who falls overboard. This is a dangerous misconception since adults may not notice a child falling overboard right away, and children who fall in may not surface immediately.

Life jackets could prevent approximately two-thirds of all boating-related drownings of children ages 14 and under. That's why, in most states, children under 13 are required to wear life jackets.

The U.S. Coast Guard offers a boatload of boating safety tips at [www.uscg.mil/news/Downloads/coloring\\_books/cptnclen/cptncvr.html](http://www.uscg.mil/news/Downloads/coloring_books/cptnclen/cptncvr.html) - 4k -

### **Bell's Crossing PTA Executive Board 2005-06**

President	Tracy Moore
1 <sup>st</sup> VP-President Elect	Debbie Murphy
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP-Programs	Adrienne Shaw & Amy Karmilovich
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP-Volunteers	Beth Chaisson & Cindy Bagheri
4 <sup>th</sup> VP-Ways & Means	Paula Ozmint & Dana Christopher
Treasurer	Lesa Leach
Communications	Denise Sneed
Membership	Lorri Morris & Laurie Sinkele
Recording Sec.	Marcy Alford
Corresponding Sec.	Sandy Aycock

### **Bell's Crossing Elementary PTA**

This newsletter can be found online in the parent section of the school website.

Bell's Crossing Elementary School  
<http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bells/>

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