

The Bamboo Shoot

Volume 15 Issue 4 December 2011

Plain Elementary
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Debbie Mihalic, Principal
Kelly Hellams, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Dow, PTA President
Jennifer Rose, Editor
"Positively Committed to Excellence"

Principal's Corner...

Dear Parents,

During this holiday season we wish you many special moments with family and friends. This is truly a season to be thankful for the gifts we have in our lives. Thank you for sharing your most precious gift with us each day – your child. We are truly blessed to work with such a supportive and caring school community.

Seasons greetings!

Mrs. Mihalic & Mrs. Hellams

Eat Out Nights—

Please save the dates for the following eat out nights! These restaurants generously give a percentage of the nights sales back to our school.

December

Thursday 8 Chick Fil A*

Thursday 15 Sonic

Wednesday 28 Chuck E Cheese

*Chick Fil A- from 5-8 only and customers MUST tell the cashier when ordering they are with Plain for it to count!

A special thank you to our custodians for keeping our school super clean and providing a healthy environment for our students.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOU ALL!!!

Office Reminders:

If your child is out due to sickness, please send in a doctor's note or a parent note.

All medical and parent notes must be received by the attendance office within 2 days of the student's absence.

A dental or medical appointment that is only for a short portion of the day (such as a check up or dental cleaning) does not excuse the student for the entire day. If the dental appointment is for a procedure that requires the student to be out all day, please have the dentist note this on the excuse.

Please put your student's first and last name as well as the date the student was absent on all attendance notes.

After a student has accumulated ten absences, he/she must have a medical excuse for any further absences. After a student has 10 absences, he/she will be referred to the truancy officer for absences without a medical note.

Please send a note to the teacher if your student is going to have an early dismissal. The note should specify the time you wish to pick up your student. We will make every effort to have him/her in the office at this time.

Students who are tardy interrupt the learning process of the other students in his/her class. In addition, the tardy student misses important instruction. Please make every effort to have your child at school so that he/she can be in the classroom and ready to work before 8 am. Students who are not in the building when the 8 o'clock bell rings will be marked tardy.

Please do not bring money to the office to pay for field trips. Teachers must write receipts for all money they receive and this is done at the beginning of the day. We cannot keep money overnight in the office and we cannot interrupt the class to have teachers write receipts. All money sent to school should be in an envelope labeled with the student's name, teacher's name, amount and what the money is for.

A Letter from our PTA President...

Dear Plain Families,

It is hard to believe it is already December and we are entering the holiday season! The PTA was very excited to hear that the State Department of Education awarded Plain with an absolute rating of **EXCELLENT** and a growth rating of **EXCELLENT**. We all know how "Excellent," Plain Elementary is, but it is wonderful that it is now official! Our teachers and administration have worked extremely hard with our children in order to achieve this rating. **THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO OUR CHILDREN!!** Thank you also to all of our families for supporting the teachers in their efforts by working with your children at home. It takes everyone working together to make us "Excellent!"

We hope everyone will join us on December 12 at 6:30 PM for our general meeting and Holiday Concert. In conjunction with the concert we will have a Holiday Boutique this year for our families to shop for Christmas gifts. The boutique will be open beginning at 4:00 PM.

The Santa Shop is scheduled for December 5th-9th. This is a special store that is set up at Plain during the school day, for the children to shop for holiday gifts. We do need volunteers to help the children shop and run the store, so please email Lisa Hockaday at: lisahockaday@charter.net, to help.

Winter parties will take place before the break, so please watch for information from your teachers and room parents on how you can help with these.

Please do not hesitate to contact any board member with any comments, suggestions or concerns. We appreciate input from involved parents to guide us in our decision making. The PTA Executive Board will meet, Wed., December 14 at 9:15 AM at Plain, and all parents who have joined the PTA are invited to attend. Happy Holiday's to everyone!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dow, President

j.j.dow@charter.net

Jeana Coker, Vice President

jeanahcoker@gmail.com

Tami Perez-Cubas, Treasurer

tamipe112@hotmail.com

Allison Walsh, Secretary

writeupyourali@gmail.com

SIC NEWS

We had a guest speaker at our October SIC meeting; Craig Stine from Public Education Partners (www.PublicEdPartnersGC.org). They are a non-profit local education organization dedicated to improving student achievement in Greenville County Schools. Check out all the details at their website.

Mrs. Mihalic reported during the October meeting that Plain Elementary achieved an EXCELLENT rating in both Absolute and Student Growth from the State Department of Education!! This is fantastic news, an achievement everyone involved should be proud of. Full details and the State Department issued report card for Plain can be found on the Plain website (<http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/plaine/index.asp>).

We had our annual clean up day at Plain on November 19th, Hands On Plain Elementary (HOPE). This was the biggest turnout in the 3 years we have been doing the event with well over SIXTY people volunteering. You will no doubt see the changes; it was great to witness so many people lend a helping hand. Some of the activities included tree planting, mulching, bulb and flower planting, fence and picnic table staining, bush trimming, wood chip spreading and general clean up of the Panda Path. The grounds look great!

Special thanks go to the following:

1. All the volunteers for their labor, food donations, beverage donations, etc
2. Brookwood Church (<http://www.brookwoodchurch.org/>) for their strong attendance and donation of supplies.
3. Tree of Life Landscape and Maintenance (220-0870) for the mulch donation.
3. Entenmann's Bakery Outlet (1560 Wade Hampton Blvd) for their donation of bagels.
4. Trees Greenville (<http://www.treesgreenville.org/>) for their donation of cherry trees for the front bus circle.
5. Brownie Troop 2817 for their volunteer efforts.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 15th at 8:15am at Plain. We will be discussing our next project, the supporting of Literacy Night scheduled for early 2012. I hope to see you there.

Regards,

Bill Miller

REMINDER—please continue to send in your box tops and Campbell's soup can labels to help raise money for our school. We are also continuing the collection of can tabs to help support the Ronald McDonald House. Don't forget to put your student's name on the items you send in. We will hold a drawing once a month and 5 lucky winners will receive a goody bag. Thank you for your support!



Jennifer Rose

Box Top Chairperson

willjenn03@yahoo.com



Plain Elementary Holiday Fair We are looking for vendors!!

December 12, 2011 4:00-6:15

This is immediately before the Select Chorus Performance and PTA meeting.

Plain Elementary Cafeteria

NO SALES during the meeting!

Set Up can begin at 3:00

Please contact Jeana Coker at jeanahcoker@gmail.com if you would like to set up a table for a \$25 fee.

Space is limited and we will not allow duplicate vendors.

(example- only one Mary Kay representative will be allowed)

A BIG THANK YOU to Dr. Wenderoth for generously donating a Plain Elementary t-shirt for each student!! Meet Dr. Wenderoth... I am originally from Johnstown, PA, and currently reside in Simpsonville with my amazing family. I am happily married to my wife, Tiffanie, and we have a wonderful daughter, Ava, who brings us more joy than we ever imagined. In my spare time I enjoy reading and spending time with my family. I am in an office full of people who love what they do and am honored to be a part of this team. Each person genuinely strives to provide the best service and care to our patients and to each other, and it comes across in everything we do. From the first phone call patients make to our office, they can sense the upbeat and fun, relaxed atmosphere here. Everyone on this team loves their job and enjoys working with one another. Working in Orthodontics continues to have such a wonderful impact on my life. It allows me to meet and work with all types of people and presents me with unique challenges every day. It gives me the opportunity to make a positive difference for people that will affect the rest of their lives. While I enjoy working with patients of all ages, I find great joy in watching children's self-esteem and ability to smile grow as treatment progresses, knowing that new confidence may change many other things in their life. This can start as early as age 7; occasionally problems can be corrected then before causing bigger problems later on. This is why the American Association of Orthodontists recommends children be screened by an orthodontist around age 7. Treatment isn't often needed at this age, but problems detected early can make a big difference later.

I am fortunate to be in such a very rewarding profession and am grateful for the opportunity to serve each and every one of my patients. They can rest assured that they will be cared for by a team who has their best interests at heart every day.

Chris Wenderoth, D.M.D., L.L.C.

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**AUTHOR'S TEA
REPRESENTATIVES –**
Congratulations to the
November winners!

MacKenzie Patterson	Mrs. Shipman
Quinn Croissant	Mrs. Register
Graham Vanderford	Mrs. Ferrell
Ellis Jones	Mrs. Dillard
Ayden Wilson	Mrs. Chapman
Lydia Owens	Mrs. Seeley
Abriana Patterson	Ms Waldrop
Mikayla Hubbard	Mrs. Malone
Lindsey Grace	Mrs. McCurley
Jade Pichierre	Dr. Mahaffey
Caitte Wilkinson	Mrs. Cole
Emily Carson and Karson Glasow	Ms. Clemmer
Alex Lee	Mrs. Anderson
Brianna Arroyave	Ms. O'Connell
Heather Meece	Mrs. Webb
Carson McCoy	Mrs. DeLaney
Ellie Oliver	Mrs. Chambers
Timothy Shaw	Mrs. Johnson
Thomas Smallwood	Mrs. Haynes
Luke Dearybury	Mrs. Adams
Mary Jensen	Ms. Derrick
Clark Moore	Mrs. Rice
Lacey Clark	Mrs. Arnold
Ethan Beamish	Mrs. Neideigh
Jacob Lopez	Mrs. Kern
Nicholas Howe	Mrs. Major
Kayda Page	Mrs. Rewis
Ashtyn Hammond	Mrs. Cleghorn
Torre Mayfield	Mrs. Oliver
Bayley Robinson	Mrs. Clemmons
Taylor Lee	Mrs. Jones
Emma Long	Mrs. Nolan
Leah Kreutzinger	Mrs. Lindsey
Kylee Jones	Mrs. Taylor
Jaymee Gunter	Mrs. Kovaleski
Georgia Caroline Kay	Mr. Luzadder
Lindsey McCurley	Mrs. Howell/ Mrs. Loach
Lucas Conti	Mrs. Thomas
Grayson Armstrong	Ms. Kuzminsky
Hunter Key	Mrs. Meece