



Slater-Marietta Elementary School Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 3

We are all "Diving into Learning" at SMES!

November 2011

864-355-2000

100 Baker Circle, Marietta, SC 29661

www.greenville.k12.sc.us/slatterma

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

Good communication between our school and your home is very important to us. Many of you have been to school for your parent-teacher conference this year. If you have not met with your child's teacher for the first quarter conference, please call to set up a time to meet and discuss your child's progress.

Our school-wide parent meetings are an excellent way for you to learn more about our school. These meetings give you opportunities to ask questions and get answers about our teaching methods, our financial status, our testing programs, etc. Parent meetings are held at school about every two weeks.

Along the lines of communication, please call me or your child's teacher any time you have questions or concerns.

Your principal,
Lindsey Cole



Important dates and events:

November:

- 1 Parent Meeting: Love, Logic, and Academics Part 1 @ 8:30 a.m.
- 2 & 3 CogAT testing: 2nd grade
- 3 Holiday pictures made
- 8 & 9 ITBS testing: 2nd grade
- 11 Veteran's Day Program @ 1:15
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 29 Lunch & Learn: Diving into Homework @ 12:30 p.m.

December:

- 6 Lunch & Learn: Dive into Writing @ 12:30
- 12 PTA & School Christmas Performance @ 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Parenting meeting: Helping at home @ 8:30
- 19-30 Christmas Holidays

From Your Title I Facilitator:

The Schoolwide Title I program at SMES provides many additional resources for teachers, students, and parents. As part of our parent resources, we have many books, videos, and other materials located in the Parent Resource Room in the Media Center. There are resources on topics such as ADHD, learning disabilities, early literacy, homework assistance, and many more. Please feel free to check out these materials on your next visit to school. All of our resources are available to assist parents in helping their children reach academic success. If you have suggestions for additional topics and/or materials, please let us know. We are here for you!



Learning is "hands-on" at Slater-Marietta Elementary! From 5K to 5th grade our students are active and engaged!

The Salvation Army of Greenville County will be accepting applications for Christmas assistance, including toys, children's clothing, and food from Tuesday, November 1 through Friday, November 4. Applications will be accepted at the T.D. Convention Center from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and again from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on those dates. You should call 864-235-4803 for complete information on what is required to submit an application.

November is "National Parent Involvement" month. Parent involvement in school is the number one indicator of a child's long-term academic success. Parent involvement can come in many forms from attending your parent-teacher conference, to attending a parent training workshop, to working at home on teacher requested projects! Make an extra effort this month to become more involved by participating in one or more of the following activities: have lunch with your child, attend a parent meeting, spend extra time reading to your child, or attend the family literacy program with your child to learn about programs they use at school.

Important notice from the office of Gifted & Talented Programs:

If you have questions regarding the procedures for screening, referral, and/or service to students through the gifted and talented program, please contact Challenge teacher, Jane Snyder, at 355-4821.

From your Administrative Assistant:

November has arrived and that means cooler weather and family gatherings! It also means testing time for our second graders. Please note that ITBS/CogAT testing will take place on November 2-4 and 8-9th. Be sure your second grader arrives at school on time and has plenty of rest the night before!



We have had a fabulous first nine weeks and I look forward to more success in those to come!

Thank You, Laura Simmons

A few safety reminders:

As parents, we are role models for our children. Through our actions and words, parents influence a child's response to the expectations for safety precautions and school rules. Modeling safe practices and supporting our expectations for appropriate behavior supports our goal to educate your child.

As a reminder, when within the school grounds, please do the following:

- ◆ Once entering the parking lot, drive 10 miles per hour or slower. Children are exiting cars in the parking lot and are not always easily seen. Remaining cautious and constantly aware will help the students remain safe.
- ◆ Refrain from talking on a cell phone. This is a distraction that could lead to an accident.
- ◆ Avoid passing other cars. There should only be one line of cars moving in the circle and then only when the area is clear of students.

The best way to avoid an accident is to prevent it from happening. For the safety of all students, please be cautious when driving through and around the school zone.

Homework is an important part of school. Homework is meant to reinforce skills learned in the classroom. Homework is also a great opportunity for parents to stay involved and know what is being taught. If you have questions about homework, call your child's teacher for more information. You may also attend the after-school Family Literacy Program for additional assistance. We have grade specific resources to assist parents with terms and phrases with which you may not be familiar. Plan to attend the **Lunch & Learn: Diving into Homework on November 29th at 12:30.**

Important Information on the GCS D Parent Portal:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

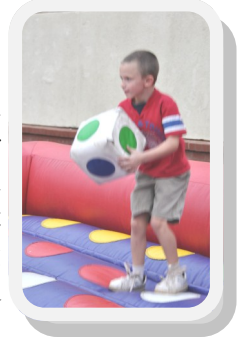
- The Greenville County School District is excited to unveil two new tools to help you track information about your child. These new tools will help you be better informed about your child's academic performance and meal account balance.
- The first new tool is the Parent Portal. In order to take advantage of this new system, you must initially obtain an access ID and password. With this access ID and password, you can set up your own personal username and password to monitor your child's academics, attendance and much more. Because this information is sensitive, you must pick up the access ID and password in person at your child's school and show proper identification as requested. The school will not email, mail or provide the information over the phone.
- The second new tool is the e-Funds Program which allows parents/guardians to view and make online payments from your checking account or credit card into your child's meal account. Parents/guardians with multiple children attending Greenville County Schools can make a payment designating certain amounts per child. The system also has the ability to make recurring payments on a regular basis. To get started, you need your child's student identification number, which is provided on your child's report card.
- Access to the Parent Portal (student grades, etc.) and e-Funds Program (online meal payment) is provided on the Greenville County Schools website at <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us>. You will also find additional information about both helpful tools for parents/guardians on the district's website under the Parent menu - select either Meal or Portal.
- We hope you will take advantage of these great tools to help keep track of your child's progress in school.

November Healthy Habit: Limit Sugary Drinks! Low-fat white milk provides rich calcium for strong bones, water keeps bodies hydrated, and 100% Fruit Juice provides vitamin C to fight winter illnesses.

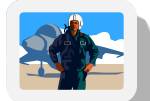


From PTA:

A huge thank you to all parents, grandparents, staff and others who made this year's SMES Fall Festival a big success! It was a beautiful fall evening filled with fun and great memories for our families. The rain held off most of the evening and everyone had a great time. While this was a PTA fundraiser, the most important goal of the evening was that our families enjoyed a great evening of fun, food, and fellowship. The PTA budget increased by about \$1400 from this event and this will be used for the benefit of students and staff at SMES. We appreciate your support!



Veteran's Day Invitation: Slater-Marietta Elementary staff and students would like to extend a special invitation to all Veterans in our community to attend a Veteran's Day recognition program and reception at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, November 11th. No prior registration is necessary. We invite you to attend in or out of uniform and allow us to express our sincere gratitude for your service to our community and our country. We will gather in the school gym for the program. For more details you may contact Sue Bennett at 355-2018.



Music Notes from Ms. Lee:

The Greenwave Chorus gave another splendid performance during the recent Fall Festival. The next performance will be during the November 11th Veterans Day program. Upcoming chorus rehearsal dates are November 7, 14, 21, 28, and December 5. We have volunteers to monitor brothers and sisters of chorus members on Mondays in the cafeteria from 2:30-3:45 p.m. Students will only be allowed to stay with permission notes from parents. These notes were sent home with each chorus member on Monday, October 17. Students may work on their homework, but volunteers will not be responsible for checking homework nor will students be allowed to go back to their classrooms for any forgotten items.

The PTA Winter holiday program will be Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. Students may wear Christmas colors. Our theme this year is "**Christmas Around the World!**" Remember to support our Box Tops for Education program!

SCIENCE CLUB:

This year we will have twelve (12) returning members to the Science Club and have received about fifteen (15) applications for new members. Since the application deadline has passed, we are reviewing the applications and will announce the new members. We will have our first full meeting on Tuesday, November 1st from 2:30-3:30. We are very excited that we have been awarded the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) project again this year and will get our new batch of eggs in December to raise here at school and release in a trout stream later in the spring. We have also applied for and have been accepted to participate in the SC Greensteps program where we will work to become a Greensteps certified school by developing and implementing "green" projects like the "Trout in the Classroom" program here at Slater-Marietta. We will be making marshmallow shooters very soon to sell as a fundraiser for our projects and field trips. Place your order with any of our faculty sponsors (Coach Childs, Mrs. Tilley, Mrs. Janosky and Ms. Rawson).

Media Center News: The media center would like to thank all the families who supported the book fair. We had a great turn out! A special thanks to Mrs. Parton for helping us out. Our next book fair will be February 13th-17th.

Students in grades three through five are researching explorers and other famous people. Students in Kindergarten through second grade are learning about internet safety and ethics. Come visit our Media Center on any Tuesday or Thursday afternoon from 2:45-4:00 p.m. and let your child share what they are learning.

We have now completed our first nine-weeks of AR and are so proud of all the students who met their goals! Students with the highest AR points in each grade will get to use the Nook e-reader at school.

Mrs. Mobley and Mrs. Smith

More from the Media Center:

November is “Parent Involvement Month and Family Stories Month.” As a way to celebrate this, the Media Center is asking students and their families to participate in the Family Literacy Program. We want you to share a family story about food or a favorite family recipe. We will provide the resources to create your own family story book or family cookbook. Also, stories and recipes shared will be placed in a book for others to enjoy in the library. Come by the Media Center on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in November, and we will supply you with the materials you need to help create your book. We hope to see you soon but in the meantime, here are some things to talk about at home. Every family has stories. Begin sharing and celebrating your family! Thanksgiving memories, Christmas traditions, holiday recipes, funny stories, sad stories, the ideas are endless! Come let us help you put your ideas on paper!

- **Get those idea wheels rolling!**
- My favorite food that my (Mom, Dad, Grand mom, whomever) cooks is _____.
- At my house we always have _____ for breakfast on Sunday morning.
- At Thanksgiving we have lots of great food, but my favorite is _____.
- Our families top ten favorite recipes!

Start with an idea and then create a story complete with beginning, middle, and end. Once written, you can then become an illustrator and illustrate your book. We hope to share some of these during our Schoolwide Title I “**Diving into Writing**” parent workshop on December 6th. We will provide the materials and you provide the story! You might also want to create a little recipe book to celebrate your favorite family dishes!

Talk as a family about food and what traditions your family has around food. We always encourage children to write about what they know, and with food and family being the main focus, this should be a breeze!

One great tip to use when brainstorming is to use sticky notes to help organize ideas and important words or thoughts you want to include. When doing your planning, don’t worry so much about spelling and other details of writing, just focus on the ideas. The mechanics will come later.

Brainstorm ideas for your book and then come in and let us help you create something special for you and your family. All materials will be provided including books, glue, glitter, stickers, crayons, colored pencils, pens, and other items as requested or needed.

Our Title I program is here to serve our parents, students, and staff. As Title I Facilitator, I need to hear from all those involved to ensure that we are meeting your needs. If there are topics you would like explored during workshops or trainings, please let me know. If you have questions about how we measure student progress and academic achievement, you may contact the classroom teacher or me. If you do not understand any part of our curriculum or grade level standards, we encourage you to come by and meet with Robyn Smith, our instructional coach. It is our goal not only to educate your child but to also provide parents with the information they need to best assist students outside the classroom. You may reach Paulette Megee at 355-2011 or by email at pmegee@greenville.k12.sc.us

