



# Oakview Elementary School PTA

## THE ACORN



### Principal's Report

Dr. Phillip Reavis, Principal



#### Yet Another Palmetto Gold Award!

Congratulations to Oakview Elementary School for receiving its tenth consecutive *Palmetto Gold Award!*

This is quite an accomplishment! The *Palmetto Gold* and *Palmetto Silver* awards program was created by the *South Carolina General Assembly* to recognize schools that attained high levels of absolute performance, high rates of growth, and substantial progress in closing achievement gaps between groups of students. Schools receive awards for overall performance based on both their absolute and growth ratings found on school report cards. On Oakview's most recent SC School Report Card, an *Absolute Rating of Excellent* and a *Growth Rating of Excellent* were earned.

In addition to the *Palmetto Gold Award*, Oakview was once again recognized as a school which is *Closing the Achievement Gap*. This designation was based on academic gains made by our African American students and students participating in federal free or reduced price lunch program. It

validates what Oakview sets forth in our belief statements. All students can learn and succeed in school!

Again, congratulations to faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members for yet another *Palmetto Gold Award* and for being recognized as a school which is *Closing the Achievement Gap*.

#### A Ten Year Reflection

For each of my reports in *The Acorn* this year, I have been reflecting on various topics of interest related to Oakview during my ten years as principal. This month, and given my announcement of yet another *Palmetto Gold Award*, I'd like to review some of the more significant honors and awards the school has earned. They represent numerous contributions from the thousands of students, faculty, staff, parents, and community members at the school.

Please join me in celebrating this short list of just a few noteworthy awards and honors bestowed upon Oakview over the last ten years. It is indeed impressive!

- 2001 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
- 2006 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
- 2002 National PTA School of Excellence
- 2007 National PTA School of Excellence
- 2001-2011 Palmetto Gold Award
- 2001 S.C. Red Carpet School
- 2006-2010 Safe Kids School
- 2003-2008 S.C. Showcase School Award
- 2009-2011 Closing the Gap School
- 2004 State FLL Robotics Team Championship
- 2006 State FLL Robotics Team Championship
- 2005 S.C. Recycling School of the Year
- 2006 S.C. Recycling School of the Year
- 2009 Champions of the Environment
- 2004 Sea World/Busch Gardens/Fuji Film Environmental School of Excellence
- 2007-2010 Webmaster's Choice Gold Award for School Website
- 2001-2011 Council, District and State PTA Awards
- 2001-2011 Council, District and State PTA Reflections Awards

### President's Report

Renee Akey, PTA President



*Valentine's Day* is coming soon and so are the parties. This is such a special time for the children and a hopeful reminder that spring will be coming soon.

It's also Bingo season- we had our fourth and fifth grade *Family Bingo Night* in January. It was a fantastic night and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to our Bingo Co-chairs, **Katie Waldhausen**, **Tricia O'Quinn** and **Teresa Hansen**, the teachers, the volunteers and a special thank you to **Mrs. Terri Wheeler-Hawkins** and **Mr. Stephen Deyo** for all your help. The next *Family Bingo Night* is **Friday, February**

**25 at 5:30pm** for our second and third graders. Any family member can come and have a great Bingo family night.

It's time for another *Box Top Bonanza*; the deadline is **February 18**. So far this year, we have collected over \$1400 in *Box Tops*. Thank you to **Christi Yenser**, our coordinator for organizing, collecting and sending off our *Box Tops*.

Have you ever wondered how our fundraising money is spent? The major focus this year is technology upgrades. We are in the process of ordering the *ActivExpressions* - handheld devices that go with our Promethean Boards. The money is also being

used to buy the much needed supplies to maintain the technology we have, such as bulbs for Promethean Boards. Your contributions have enabled us to pay for copier expenses, Field Trip Scholarships, Teacher Reimbursements, and Artist in Residence. In December, we awarded thirteen mini-grants to staff members totaling a little over \$4,000. Thank you for supporting our school and teachers.

Our *Nominating Committee* is in full swing. If you're interested in being on the PTA board or committee please contact one of our *Nominating Committee* members and find out what's available, or join us at our next meeting, **Wednesday, March 2 at 9:00am**.

## Volunteers

Jennifer Cook and Nicole Westmoreland, Co-Chairs

Have you ever thought about getting more involved with your child's school? Maybe you are new to Oakview and don't know how to get started. The PTA needs you! Now is your opportunity to find your place among Oakview PTA's leadership. The *Nominating Committee* is beginning the process of filling slots for the *Oakview PTA Board of Officers and Committee Chairs* for the upcoming school year **2011-2012**.

### Who is the Nominating Committee?

The Nominating Committee consists of five members who represent different neighborhoods from the Oakview community. The members are:

**Nicole Westmoreland**

[nicolew1@charter.net](mailto:nicolew1@charter.net)

**Cyndi Jennings**

[cyndi.jennings@att.net](mailto:cyndi.jennings@att.net)

**Debra Guarino**

[debragarino\\_68@yahoo.com](mailto:debragarino_68@yahoo.com)

**Nancy Kelley**

[nancy.kelley@rocketmail.com](mailto:nancy.kelley@rocketmail.com)

**Maggie Taylor**

[wagtaylor@msn.com](mailto:wagtaylor@msn.com)

We thank those of you who have already expressed an interest or have agreed to stay in your current position for another year. There are several positions still available, including:

- Vice President/President Elect
- Business Partner
- Communications/Newsletter (need to be able to train before the end of this year)
- Ways and Means Co-Chair (1 position available)
- Membership (2 positions)
- Mink & Co. Fundraiser (2 positions available)
- Reflections/Cultural Arts (2 positions available)
- Internet Safety
- Donuts for Dads (2 positions available)
- Fundraising Committee/Bingo (3 positions available)
- Restaurant Nights



Please contact one of the committee members above if you need more information about the positions, think you might be interested in filling a position, or would like to nominate someone for a committee. Some committees require at-home work (great for parents who still have young children at home) while others require more time spent at school. We are always looking for new people to get involved, and would be happy to find the right place for you!

## Legislative Updates

Karen Akerhielm, Chair

Concerned about cuts in education funding? The following is contact information for your representatives at the federal, state and local levels.

### U.S. Senate

**Jim DeMint (R)**

340 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4002  
202-224-6121  
[demint.senate.gov](http://demint.senate.gov)

**Lindsey Graham (R)**

290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4001  
202-224-5972  
[Lgraham.senate.gov](http://Lgraham.senate.gov)

### U.S. House

**Trey Gowdy, Fourth District (R)**

1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4004  
202-225-6030

### South Carolina Executive Branch

**Nikki Haley, Governor (R)**

State House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 1773  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803-734-2100  
[Scgovernor.com](http://Scgovernor.com)

**Mick Zais, State Superintendent of Education (R)**

Rutledge Building  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803-734-8492  
[ed.sc.gov](http://ed.sc.gov)

**State Senate** (most but not all Oakview families)

**Phillip Shoopman, District No. 5 (R)**

P.O. Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202-0142, Room 504  
803-212-6032  
[PhillipShoopman@scsenate.gov](mailto:PhillipShoopman@scsenate.gov)

**State House of Representatives** (most but not all Oakview families)

**Phyllis Henderson, District No. 21 (R)**

P.O. Box 11867  
Columbia, SC 29211-1867, Room 530D  
803-212-6883



# Reflections

Brooke Clayton and Jana Circle, Coordinators



Judging for the *Southeast Council* level and *District 1* level is complete, and I am proud to announce the following winners from Oakview:

**Miranda Felt**  
Primary Dance Choreography  
First Place SE Council



**Megan Felt**  
Intermediate Dance Choreography  
Honorary Mention SE Council

**Manasvini Ranganathan**  
Intermediate Film Production  
First Place SE Council

**Pratamesh Ramasubramanian**  
Intermediate Musical Composition  
Third Place SE Council

**Charlie Hyman**  
Intermediate Visual Arts  
First Place SE Council



**Miranda Felt**  
Primary Dance Choreography  
First Place District 1

**Manasvini Ranganathan**  
Intermediate Film Production  
Second Place District

**Charlie Hyman**  
Intermediate Visual Arts  
Honorary Mention District 1



These entries, along with fifteen additional entries from the Oakview level competition, have been forwarded on to the State Competition. Congratulations! We wish them luck!

# Box Tops

Christi Yenser, Coordinator

The *Box Tops Bonanza* is here! It's time to gather up all your *Box Tops* and turn them into cash for Oakview. We earned close to \$1,180 with our fall submission – just by clipping a little piece of cardboard off a box or label. How easy is that? Help us turn your trash into cash! All *Box Tops* can be given to your teacher, or they can be dropped in the collection box in the lobby. Please be sure

to put your *Box Tops* in a sealed bag or envelope with your **teacher's name** as well as your **child's name** on the outside. The contest can get very close, so please make sure your child's class gets the credit they deserve. The classes with the most *Box Tops* will receive a special treat. All *Box Tops* need to be turned in by **Friday, February 18**.



# Book Fair

Denise Gruidl, Sherrie Rodriguez and Judy Parker, Co-chairs

Step right up! We've got your ticket to read!  
Come one, come all to the *Book Fair Carnival*. The fair will be open:

**Sunday, February 27 – Friday, March 4**

Sunday	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Monday	7:30am – 3:00pm
Tuesday	7:30am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	7:30am – 3:00pm
Thursday	7:30am – 3:00pm
Friday	7:30am – 12:00pm



Profits from the *Book Fair* benefit our Media Center, so please support this important event. Consider volunteering your time and sign up to work a shift at the *Book Fair*! Contact **Judy Parker**, [judykrae@hotmail.com](mailto:judykrae@hotmail.com)

## Recycling Containers

The new four-bin recycling container in the lunchroom is a hit and has improved the lunchroom appearance, while making it easier for students to recycle! Students are doing a good job with it. The new containers have four receptacles as follows: plastic bottles, plastic bottle lids, aluminum cans and juice pouches. With the exception of juice pouches, these containers are only for recyclable items generated in the lunch room or at school. Please recycle large quantities of aluminum cans in the outside large metal trailer (in the bus loop) and your plastic bottles at home.

Alkaline batteries can be placed directly in trash at home since they no longer contain mercury. This is a change from our previous process and your adaptability is appreciated. Please do not send these alkaline batteries to Oakview, as students and parent volunteers have to sort and then dispose of these at Oakview. All other batteries are still accepted.



## Metal Cans from the Cafeteria

**Lori Gibson** and her staff have eagerly embraced the opportunity to start recycling metal cans that they generate during the preparation of food. This will reduce Oakview's volume of trash and divert useful metals for a new purpose! Thank you Mrs. Gibson and all of your wonderful staff for your adaptability and willingness to make Oakview more green.

## Invention Convention

Calling all *inventors*! The Invention Convention is **March 2 - 3** at the Bi-Lo Center. If you have an idea for a new product or a way to make a product you already use better, this is the project for you! If you are interested in participating, please see **Mrs. Shuler, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Bradt, or Mr. Deyo** for more information. All registration forms are due to **Mrs. K. Miller** in the science lab by **12:00pm on Wednesday, February 16**.

## Science Fair Information

Do you like to do experiments? If so, you

might want to participate in *Oakview's Science Fair*. This is a great opportunity for all scientists in third through fifth grade! We will even give you a *free* Science Fair project board if you turn in your science fair question with a parent's signature. Bring your question to the *Science Lab* before or after school! Visit Oakview's website for additional information. Be sure to use metric units for all your measurements as you collect data! Bring your science fair project to the gym by **8:00am on Monday, March 14** for judging.

The Oakview community is invited to view the projects in the gym on **Tuesday, March 15** from **5:30-6:30pm**. We encourage all fifth grade students who participate in the science fair to stand by their projects at this time, so you can answer questions or explain your project. See you there!



## Calendar of Events

### February

- Feb 8 Formano's Restaurant Night
- Feb 14 SIC Meeting
- Feb 15 Chic-fil-A Night
- Feb 15 Interim Progress Report
- Feb 18 Spring Picture Day
- Feb 21 President's Day - NO SCHOOL
- Feb 22 Stevie B's Pizza Night
- Feb 24-25 SC Play - 3rd grade
- Feb 25 Spirit Day
- Feb 25 Bingo Night - 2nd & 3rd grades
- Feb 27- Book Fair
- Mar 4

### March

- Mar 1 Happy Pie Restaurant Night
- Mar 2 PTA Board Meeting
- Mar 8 Formano's Restaurant Night
- Mar 10 NY Butcher Shop Night
- Mar 14 SIC Meeting
- Mar 15 Chic-fil-A Night
- Mar 22 Stevie-B Pizza Night
- Mar 25 Spirit Day
- Mar 25 Bingo Night - K5 & 1st grade

### April

- Apr 5 Formano's Restaurant Night
- Apr 11 SIC Meeting
- Apr 18-22 Spring Break - NO SCHOOL



### Oakview Elementary School PTA

515 Godfrey Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681  
 (864) 355-7100 School main phone number  
 (864) 355-7118 PTA phone number

Find State PTA information at: [www.scpta.org](http://www.scpta.org)  
 Find National PTA information at: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

### Principal:

Dr. Phillip Reavis

### Assistant Principals:

Mr. Stephen Deyo  
 Mrs. Carrie Prochaska  
 Mrs. Terri Wheeler-Hawkins

### PTA President:

Renee Akey

### Newsletter Editor:

Robyn Kirkpatrick, [crogkirk@yahoo.com.au](mailto:crogkirk@yahoo.com.au)

### The Acorn can be found online at:

<http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/oakview/parents/pta/acorn.asp>

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## School Information

### Oakview's Mission

The mission of *Oakview Elementary School*, in cooperation with the home and the community, is to prepare students for responsible citizenship, lifelong learning, and productive employment by:

- Opening opportunities for all students,
- Accepting individual differences,
- Keeping a smile on our faces,
- Varying teaching techniques,
- Identifying and addressing strengths/weaknesses, and
- Engaging students in meaningful learning activities
- Working as a team.

School begins at **8:00am**. All students arriving after **8:00am** are considered tardy and must report to the Attendance Office. Students will not be admitted to class without a tardy pass.

