



Oakview Elementary School PTA

THE ACORN



Principal's Report

Dr. Phillip Reavis, Principal



Thank You!

Thank you so much to the students and parents for the thoughtfulness and generosity you showed to me during this past holiday

season. My desk overflowed with gifts, cards, and well wishes! I continue to be amazed at the Oakview community and the support you provide the faculty and staff at the school. Thank you again.

Ten Year Reflection

In reflecting on my ten years as principal at Oakview during previous articles in *The Acorn*, I have focused on the importance of personal relationships within our school community. This month, I'd like to draw attention to the changes undergone in the design and usage of our facility.

In the past decade, the school, with support from *Greenville County Schools*, *Oakview PTA*, and numerous business and community partners, undertook the task of maintaining a facility built in 1995, while at the same time, improving it to meet the needs of the future. Here are just a few of the

changes/improvements that have been accomplished.

- additional data ports to all classrooms
- new playground, fitness, and recreation equipment where portables once stood
- a resurfaced track
- Promethean Boards in *all* classrooms and instructional spaces
- additional computers and other technology devices for student and teacher use
- upgraded kindergarten playground
 - new play structure
 - tricycle path and artificial turf
 - childproof security gates
- expanded outdoor habitats such as an apple orchard, pecan grove, and SC garden
- the construction of four new kindergarten classrooms
- replacement of worn carpet
- new fresh air handling system, including ductwork, serving all classrooms
- enhanced front door and kindergarten entrances with new concrete, benches, and fencing
- improved school safety with the addition of
 - 16 digital surveillance cameras throughout the campus

- keypad door locks on all exterior doors
- a secure office entrance door with automatic handicap activation
- numerous trees planted on campus
- lengthened/widened sidewalks to handle daily loading and unloading of car and bus riders
- installation of an outdoor classroom and amphitheater in the nature trail
- new nature trail entrance signs and points of interest markers
- additional wall murals in the media center and other locations in the building
- a new ceiling mounted sound system in the cafeteria.

While this list is not exhaustive, it reflects a school community which prides itself on creating the very best learning environment for its children. These facility improvements, however, do not guarantee a quality education. They do offer evidence, though, of a school committed to excellence in all that it does. I commend those who have taken a special interest in our school's facility and its offerings. You have established a place where the roots of learning run deep, just like the oak tree for which we are named.

President's Report

Renee Akey, PTA President



Happy New Year! Hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season and winter break. We have a lot of great activities coming up. I would like to thank all the

volunteers who donated their time and efforts during the busy holiday season to help with our PTA programs. Thank you to: **Tami Patrick** for volunteering and collecting the books for our *Preschool Book Drive*; **Carolyn Hamilton** and her early morning elves that helped with the *Jingle Bell Toy Drop* enabling us to collect toys for children in the Upstate; our *Elf Shelf* coordinators, **Amy Barresi** and **Chantele McDermott** for do-

ing a terrific job at buying gifts and organizing the gift shop events.; all the volunteers who came in and assisted at the gift shop; and, all the volunteers and *Room Coordinators* for making the holiday parties fun for the students.

We are in the process of getting our *PTA Nominating Committee* together to fill the *PTA Roster* for the next school year 2011-2012. It takes a very large team of volunteers to make the PTA run smoothly each year. If you are interested in a position with the PTA please check out our PTA Board and Committee roster and contact one of our *Nominating Committee* members:

Nicole Westmoreland, Nancy Kelley, Deb Guarino, Cyndi Jennings, and Maggie Taylor.

Our first *Bingo Night* is on **January 28** at **5:30pm** for fourth and fifth grade. **Tricia O'Quinn, Katie Waldthausen, and Teresa Hansen** are planning fun evenings for you and your families, so come eat dinner, play Bingo and win some great prizes. On **February 25**, we invite our second and third graders with their families, and on **March 25** our kindergarten and first graders can come and enjoy *Bingo Night* with their families. Make sure to bundle up and enjoy the winter season.

Volunteers

Jennifer Cook and Nicole Westmoreland, Co-Chairs

There are many reasons why Oakview continues to be recognized as an outstanding place of learning. One of the biggest contributing factors to Oakview's success is the partnership of our students, teachers and parents. Parents are a necessary part of this equation for success.

There are many ways to get involved in the school, PTA and the classroom. A lot of our committee volunteers are new parents, while others are veteran volunteers who can offer training and support. The PTA Volun-

teer Committee can help you get started!

Soon the nominating committee will notify parents of volunteer opportunities for the 2011-2012 school year. You will be amazed at the number of volunteers who work for the benefit of our children. Please take a moment to review the opportunities. You may surprise yourself and find a committee that could benefit from your involvement. Please feel free to contact **Jennifer Cook** at billjennifer@bellsouth.net or **Nicole Westmoreland** at nicolew1@charter.net if you

have any questions regarding volunteer opportunities.



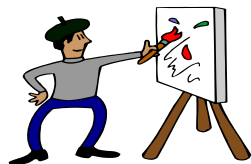
Reflections

Brooke Clayton and Jana Circle, Coordinators



Thank you to all students who participated in the *PTA Reflections Program* this year. We had seventy wonderful entries representing each of the six categories.

We are proud to announce the 2010-2011 Oakview Elementary level winners listed below. Pictures of these winning entries for the visual arts and photography categories can be seen on the school web site. The first place entries have already been forwarded on to compete in the South Carolina PTA council and district level competitions. The first and second place entries will be forwarded on to the state level competition later this month. We wish them luck!



Primary Visual Arts

- First Place **Samantha Malinsky**
- Second Place **Ashlyn Harmon**
- Third Place **Yashasvini Ranganathan**
- First HM **Apoorva Mahendranath**
- Second HM **Kimsey Fiddie**

Primary Photography

- First Place **Yashasvini Ranganathan**
- Second Place **Miranda Felt**
- Third Place **Apoorva Mahendranth**

Primary Literature

- First Place **Apoorva Mahendranath**
- Second Place **Nandita Bhat**
- Third Place **Marissa Mulea**
- First HM **Erica Wood**
- Second HM **Roopa Mahadevan**

Primary Film Production

- First Place **Aproova Mahendranath**

Primary Dance Choreography

- First Place **Miranda Felt**

Intermediate Visual Arts

- First Place **Charlie Hyman**
- Second Place **Sanjana Kondapalli**
- Third Place **Natalie Circle**
- First HM **Logan Acker**
- Second HM **Danielle Malinsky**

Intermediate Photography

- First Place **Caroline Ko**
- Second Place **Manasvini Ranganathan**
- Third Place **Natalie Circle**
- First HM **Cameron Saunders**
- Second HM **Abby Diggins**



Intermediate Music

- First Place **Pratamesh Ramasubramanian**
- Second Place **Jiaying Tong**
- Third Place **Jieying Tong**
- First HM **Manasvini Ranganathan**

Intermediate Literature

- First Place **Madhav Bhat**
- Second Place **Abby Diggins**
- Third Place **Manasvini Ranganathan**
- First HM **Bryonna Howard**
- Second HM **Meghan Malone**

Intermediate Film Production

- First Place **Manasvini Ranganathan**
- Second Place **Lawson Greene**

Intermediate Dance Choreography

- First Place **Megan Felt**



Frequently Asked Questions About Student Finance in South Carolina and in Greenville County:

How much are we actually spending per pupil?

The most recent independent, CPA audited state data shows that South Carolina spent an average of \$9,162 per pupil in 2007-08.

The figure for Greenville County Schools was \$8,114. Per pupil spending is based on all operational expenditures including those funded by state and federal governments as well as those funded by local school districts.

How does South Carolina's per pupil spending compare to other states?

According to the 2010 national *Quality Counts* report, South Carolina ranks thirty-fourth highest in the country. Thirty-three states spend more, and sixteen spend less.

Why don't they cut money for state and school district administration and put it in the classroom?

About two percent of state and federal K-12 funding is used to operate the South Carolina Department of Education. Of *Greenville County Schools* operating funds, less than

two percent is used for central administration. Most state public education funding is spent on instruction. Independent, CPA audited data shows that across South Carolina seventy-one cents of each public school district dollar directly supports classroom instruction. Over the past two years, state funding for the South Carolina Department of Education has been cut by forty-five percent. During the same period, local school districts have had their state funding cut by about twenty-two percent.

Why do I keep hearing that per pupil spending in South Carolina is more than \$13,000 per student?

Some organizations put out figures in an attempt to create negative public opinion about public education in our state. Their figures are not based on standard accounting practices. For example:

They count transfers of funds between categories *within* a school district as additional expenditures. Transfers are not expenditures. Including *within-district transfers* artificially inflates state public education annual expenditures by \$760 million. They use an incorrect student count. The \$13,000 per pupil figure does not include all the students

that are funded. It does not include the nearly twenty-two thousand four-year olds who attend public schools, nor students at schools operated by the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice. It is wrong to include expenditures for these students but not divide that number by all the students funded.

They include capital projects and debt service in day-to-day operating costs. Based on independent CPA audits, long-term investments for property acquisition and school construction should not be included in computing day-to-day operating costs.

The \$13,000 per pupil figure not only includes construction costs but double counts them. School districts sell bonds to pay for the construction of schools and then pay off the bonds over a period of many years. The \$13,000 figure includes both the amount paid to the architect and contractors to build the school and the amount spend to pay off the school's construction bonds. This is *double counting* construction expenses.

Source: Public Education Partners.

www.publicedpartnersgc.org

Box Tops

Christi Yenser, Coordinator

The *Box Tops Bonanza* is just around the corner in **February**, but please send your *Box Tops* in now. Any *Box Tops* you submit now will be counted towards your child's classroom totals for the big bonanza. 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. I have received several open bags (which result in loose *Box Tops* mixed in with all the others) and many bags with no teacher



listed. The contest gets very close – every *Box Top* counts. So, please make sure your child's class gets the credit they deserve. More details about the *Box Tops Bonanza* will be sent home in February. Until then, keep on clipping! Encourage grandparents, other family members, and friends to get involved, too. If they have the product in their house, they usually don't mind cutting out the *Box Top* if it helps the school.

Preschool Books

Tami Patrick, Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who donated books for the Preschool Book Donation drive. We were able to collect seventeen hundred seventy-four books! Both *Ready 4 Reading* and the *Frazee Dream Center* have expressed

their thanks for the tremendous amount of books they each received. Without your generous support, the book drive would not have been a success.



Oakview is proud to participate in the South Carolina DHEC's B2 Program.



What is B2?

The B2 (*Breathe Better*) program is an anti-idling/clean air campaign. The goal of B2 is to help protect the health and safety of children by reducing harmful vehicle emissions around school campuses.

How Can You Support Oakview's B2 Program?

You can turn off your engine when you expect to idle thirty seconds or longer.

Cars, trucks, and school buses are major contributors to air pollution in South Carolina. When you idle in the car line at arrival or dismissal time, you waste about a half mile worth of fuel every minute and release many harmful pollutants (*idling* means that a vehicle's engine is turned on but the vehicle is not in motion). Our safety patrols and students breathe the harmful gases from your vehicles. So, please turn off your engine if you are waiting in line and will be idling for thirty seconds or longer. If you are parked in line and it's cold outside, please come inside to keep warm rather than leaving your engine & heater running.

2011 Invention Convention

Bi-Lo is sponsoring the 2011 Invention Convention on **March 2 and 3** at the *Bi-Lo Center*. Fourth and fifth grade students who wish to enter may download registration forms and information at www.icupstate.com. They can also get information and forms from **Mrs. Shuler** or **Mrs. K. Miller** in the science lab. Students work on their inventions at home and take them along with their *Re-*

search and Development forms to the *Bi-Lo Center* on **March 2**. If you have questions, please contact **Mrs. Shuler** or **Mrs. K. Miller**. Good luck to all Oakview's creative inventors!

Roper Mountain Science Center

February 12, 2011

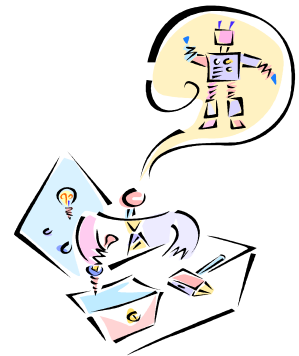
Engineer-It!

9:00am - 1:00pm

Oakview Science Fair

March 2011

Watch for information on Oakview's website.



Calendar of Events

January

- Jan 11 NY Butcher Shop Restaurant Night
- Jan 12-13 Pre-Registration K-5
- Jan 14 Teacher Work Day - NO SCHOOL
- Jan 15 MLK Day - NO SCHOOL
- Jan 18-21 Give-A-Hoot Food Drive
- Jan 18 Chic-fil-A Night
- Jan 21 Class Picture Day
- Jan 24 Artist In Residence - 3rd & 5th grades
- Jan 25 Stevie B's Pizza Night
- Jan 28 Spirit Day
- Jan 28 Bingo Night - 4th & 5th grades

February

- Feb 1 Barrier Island Chaperone Meeting
- Feb 2 PTA Board Meeting
- Feb 4 Author Visit - 4th & 5th grades
- 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 grade



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
 Find National PTA information at: www.pta.org

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Dr. Phillip Reavis

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

PTA President:

Renee Akey

Newsletter Editor:

Robyn Kirkpatrick, 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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Next issue publication: **February 8, 2011**

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.

