



Oakview Elementary School PTA

THE ACORN



Principal's Report **Dr. Phillip Reavis, Principal**



Year in Review

I wish to extend a sincere thanks to faculty/staff members, parents, community members, and other district employees who have contributed so much to make the 2011-2012 school year a tremendous success! Oakview Elementary School continues to set itself apart as a leader in the district, state, and nation as we work together for the children we serve. The school received its 11th consecutive Palmetto Gold Award, met all requirements for AYP, and earned another "Excellent" rating on its SC School Report Card. Once again, the PTA received numerous honors from the SC PTA at its annual convention. The faculty, staff and PTA worked together to organize successful events such as Culture Fest and the Hootenanny, to name just two. PTA came alongside the school to support instruction through the purchase of a leveled reader book room! Oakview was recognized as a Safe Kids Schools for the 7th consecutive year. These accomplishments could only happen through the joint efforts of everyone at the school! Thank you ALL!

Oakview Teacher Selected for Summer History Institute in Boston

Congratulations to Emily Gerard, fourth grade teacher, who was selected to participate in *Landmarks of American History* for schoolteachers, a summer institute focused on early American history, in Boston, Massachusetts! The Massachusetts Historical Society, in partnership with Minute Man National Park, the Concord Museum, the Old Manse, and other sites in Concord, Lexington, and Boston, offer *Landmarks of American History* for schoolteachers, with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The institute, entitled ***At the Crossroads of Revolution: Lexington and Concord in 1775***, is designed to immerse participants in the eighteenth-century landscapes of those towns, as well as the port city of Boston. In addition, teachers will examine the decisions and dilemmas involved in the events of 1775 and the subsequent interpretations and uses of those events.

A record-number 400 teachers from across the United States applied to this program and we are proud to have Ms. Gerard be one of the 40 selected. Oakview students and teachers

will benefit from the experience and knowledge she will bring back to campus! Congratulations Ms. Gerard!

Teacher Assignments for 2012-2013

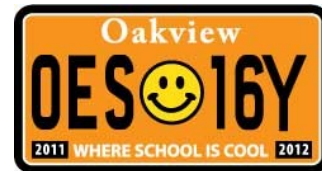
Letters requesting a certain teacher for next year are not accepted. We ask that parents allow the school staff to make professional judgments with respect to student placements. Letters containing the following information will immediately be discarded: 1) naming a teacher, 2) requesting an experienced teacher or a new teacher, and 3) requesting that certain students be in the same/different classes (with the exception of twins, triplets, etc.) Thank you for supporting the process of teacher assignments as we work with the many students here at Oakview Elementary School.

Summer Office Hours/Registration

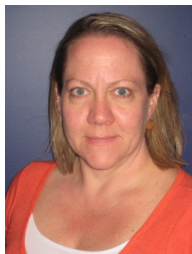
We will keep summer office hours from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We are closed on Fridays. If you or someone you know needs to register a student for next year, please come by ASAP!! Information regarding registration can be found on our web site.

*Thank you parents
for all that you do!*

President's Corner **Kelle Corvin, PTA President**



Let the May-heim Begin!



May-heim was the name given not so many years ago to the month of May by a good friend of mine. It's a time of year where all of the after school activities and year-end school activities tend to collide in a crescendo of activity. Often, during all of this activity, we forget to take just a minute to reflect on the school year just ending. I hope this has been a great year for all of you and that you have great vacation plans for the summer. I know that Oakview has had an amazing year with its May-heim in April this year!

I want to take just a minute to thank all of our parent volunteers from the paper cutters in Kindergarten and 1st grade, to our tutors, lunch bunch parents, and, especially our room coordinators and board members. It's been wonderful working with such talented people who are all dedicated to making Oakview a great school! The PTA has accomplished so much this year. The PTA raised funds for K-2 grade leveled readers and was able to provide additional supplemental instructional material with the funds from Boosterthon, we were able to help purchase the Fantastic Five Math program for grades 2-5 with Boosterthon coverage that will be implemented next Fall, we assisted the school in getting a new marquee sign that will enable

school officials to communicate to parents more quickly and effectively, we've assisted with numerous classroom upgrades, given over \$16,000 in teacher reimbursements, and over \$4,000 in teacher mini grants that enable them to try new techniques in the classroom.

As we look to next year, we hope that you will reflect on what your favorite volunteer activities were this year and where you might want to help next year. Remember, all PTA board meetings are open to all parents. We hope to continue our tremendous parent-teacher-administration partnership at Oakview. Thanks again for a great year and have a safe and relaxing summer!

Ways and Means Michelle Inzerillo, Chair

What a wonderful adventure this fundraising year has been. Mink & Co. and Mixed Bag did incredibly well! Entertainment books did even better than last year. And the Hootenanny – It was the best one yet! Our T-Shirts were a sell-out. Restaurant nights have done well all year, and we had quite a few new restaurants to try. The Elf Shelf was a hit with all the students – and us

parents too! Our School Store showcased some new pens, pencils, and erasers the kids just loved. And Box Tops – we made our goal in the first bonanza of the year! THANK YOU to all the Way & Means Sub-Committee Volunteers for taking on these projects and making them so successful!!!! I feel extremely privileged to have served with all of you.

THANK YOU to all the families that have signed up during the year and volunteered their time, and for sending in donations throughout the year. Without you, none of the successes we share could be possible.

We do this for our children, and we do this together! God Bless, and happy summer!

Legislative Updates Karen Akerhielm, Chair

Vote in Primary Election on June 12

Primary elections will be held on Tuesday, June 12. A state senator and a state house member represent you in the state legislature. Both of these positions as well as some county elected offices will be on the Republican and Democratic primary ballots. The primary election is often more important than the November election in determining your state legislators. This is because many state senate and house districts are heavily Republican or Democratic. In these districts the person who wins the majority-party primary will very likely win the November General Election.

You can vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary and you do not have to register as a Republican or a Democrat in order to vote. In a primary election if no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote (which can happen in races with three or more candidates), the two candidates with the most votes will compete in a run-off election two weeks later on June 26. You are eligible to vote in a run-off election as long as you did not vote in the other party's primary. Due to redistricting you may be in a new state senate and/or house district (as well as county council district). At www.scvotes.org you will be able to find your

senate and house districts for the upcoming election, the candidates for those districts and where to vote. It is expected that voter districts will be updated by May 1 and possibly sooner. Call the county election commission at (864) 467-7250 if you have questions.

If you are not registered to vote, you have until May 12 to do so. The registration form and instructions can be found at www.scvotes.org. If you need assistance, again call the county election commission.

Volunteers Nicole Westmoreland and Mindy Kupec, Co-Chairs

As the year begins to wind down, Mindy and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the MANY volunteers at Oakview! Together we have made a difference in our children's education. To the *veteran volunteers* who will not be here next year, we thank you for the many years you have spent in your child's classroom and at school events. You have left a legacy for Oakview parents and students alike. We appreciate and recognize all that you have done. Thank you to our *new volunteers* who may have just spent their first year at Oakview. We encourage you to stay involved as these are the special years where you

can be in your child's classroom, eat lunch with your child and they still want you to be there! You have made a difference and we know you will continue to make a difference in the years to come.

We would like to recognize our 2011-2012 Grade Level Coordinators and Related Arts Coordinator: **Jen Pestrak, Kimberly Masters, Jennifer Cook, Maggie Taylor, Cyndi Jennings, Kathy Reed and Tracy Passmore.** A special note of appreciation goes out to our tremendous team of Room Coordinators, who have worked so hard

this year and whose leadership and commitment has made a difference. We thank you for the countless hours you have contributed in and out of the classroom to our teachers and children. You should give yourself a pat on the back!

Thank you to our *teacher volunteers* who hosted a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in April. We thank our *Hospitality Committee, Room Coordinators* and parents for recognizing our faculty and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. It is the one week we get to recognize the wonderful achievements our teachers who put their heart and soul

Reflections Cherie Furr, Chair

We are very proud of the students for receiving a State Award for their reflections work.

Primary Visual Arts: Samantha Malinsky, Honorable Mention; Brooklynn Cutter, Honorable Mention.

Intermediate Dance Choreography: Faith Bloomstran, 2nd place;

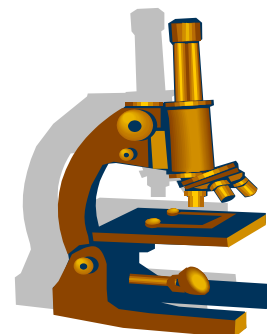
Manasvini Ranganathan, Theme Award. **Intermediate Film:** Manasvini Ranganathan, Honorable

Science Fair

And the winners are.... All of the students who participated!!! Each of the students who entered a science fair project used science, math, and language arts skills to create an experiment and to communicate the results. We are proud of all students who entered! Congratulations to the following students whose projects qualified for the Greenville County School District's Science Fair that was held on April 17th: Olivia Corvin, Jorja Pace, Shannon Murphy,

Anagha Tirumalai, Faith Bloomstran, Emma Baus, Caitlyn Furr, Preston Jennings, Rachel Yi ,Pratamesh

Ramasubramanian. Also, congratulations to the following teams who qualified to represent Oakview in the team portion of the District Science Fair: Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Reeves, Miss Bromfield, Mrs. Laye, Mrs. Gerard, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. White and Mrs. Bolt. Way to go, Oakview Scientists!



Boosterthon Trish Kolarik and LeeAnne Weeks, Co-Chairs

Boosterthon Fun Run a HUGE success!

The Boosterthon team came to visit in Oakview and ran an amazing program, teaching character lessons and involving our children in raising money for their education by getting pledges for laps run in a fun run. The race was run on April 19th and the children did an AMAZING job. Our per child lap average was over 34 laps (out of 35 possible) , which beats the typical school average of 32! We also became the highest performing school in South Carolina with over \$50,000 raised for the school. Your child's teacher received 10% of the Oakview

pledge money brought in by April 26th and they are happy to be able to meet some immediate classroom needs with the extra funds. In addition, the PTA was relieved to meet and even exceed our budgeted goal of \$32,000. The funds raised over that amount are being allocated in this

school year to educational needs, such as additional leveled readers in the lower grades and a new Fantastic Five math program for the upper grades.

We hope to run this event again in the fall of 2012, and eliminate other fundraisers as a result. Stay tuned for more details in the fall. Additionally, comments are being consolidated now to tweak the program for the fall, so please send suggestions and comments to Trish Kolarik at trish@kolarik.org or LeeAnne Weeks at lweeks@compoundgroup.com.



Calendar of Events

May

- May 1-4 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 8-11 PASS Testing
- May 14 SIC Meeting
- May 22 Chic-filA Night
- May 22-24 Fourth Grade trip to Charleston
- May 25 Spirit Day
- May 25 Fifth Grade Day / Yearbook Day
- May 28 Memorial Day—No School for Students
- May 30 5th Grade Awards Day
- May 30 Half Day - Field Day K5 & 1st Grades
- May 31 4th Grade Awards Day
- May 31 Half Day - Field Day 2nd & 3rd Grades

June

- June 1 3rd Grade Awards Day
- June 1 Half Day - Field Day 4th & 5th Grades
- June 1 Last Day of School for Students

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.scppta.org

Find National PTA information at: www.pta.org

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The Acorn can be found online at:

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

