



# Oakview Elementary School PTA

## THE ACORN



### Principal's Report

Dr. Phillip Reavis, Principal



**More Than**

**"Adequate Yearly Progress"**

In last month's Principal's Report, I wrote about the numerous events, programs, and facility offerings at Oakview Elementary School. I received many positive responses from parents, grandparents, and teachers and everyone's message was the same. Oakview is an amazing place for students to learn and grow! Thank you ALL for your contributions of time, talent, and resources in making the school what it is today.

Turning to academics, we can see a similar trend of amazing accomplishment at Oakview. As part of the *No Child Left Behind Act*, federal measures of student test scores have affirmed the tremendous success of Oakview over the years. Since NCLB's enactment in 2001, Oakview has achieved *Adequate Yearly Progress* EVERY YEAR! This accomplishment is extraor-

dinary given the size and diversity of the school. For example, Oakview currently enrolls students from 13 different countries of origin and who speak 18 different languages in their homes. Forty-seven percent of the student population qualifies for gifted education, 8% for special education, and 14% are on free and reduced meals. This diversity results in 24 objectives on which the school is measured as part of AYP, with student attendance rates being the 25<sup>th</sup>. Here's the bottom line on AYP. Even with the challenge of meeting 25 objectives this past year, Oakview's students met or exceeded test score requirements and attendance rates! Unbelievable!

So how do we do it? How does a school of over 1,250 students from diverse backgrounds continue to perform at such high levels for so many years? The answer can be found in the school's Mission Statement.

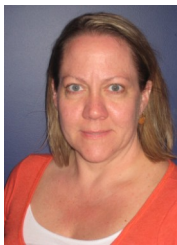
*The mission of Oakview Elementary School, in cooperation with the home and the community, is to prepare students for responsible citizenship, lifelong learning, and productive employment by:*

- O**pening opportunities for all students,
- A**ccepting individual differences,
- K**eeping a smile on our faces,
- V**arying teaching techniques,
- I**dentifying and addressing strengths/weaknesses, and
- E**ngaging students in meaningful learning activities while
- W**orking as a team.

I don't know a better way to explain the accomplishments of Oakview Elementary School. The Mission Statement clearly describes the commitment and actions of all stakeholders at the school. Please join me in celebrating the school's continued success as we partner in serving the children of the Oakview community!

### President's Report

Kelle Corvin, PTA President



This is a PTA presidential salute to all of the wonderful volunteers at Oakview. It's not just the countless hours that you put in at home and behind the scenes at school, but it's

the personal sacrifices that all of you make to make Oakview what it is. Below is a poem that I thought was appropriate that encapsulates my feelings toward all of the wonderful moms, dads, grandparents, teachers, administrators, and former students that make Oakview the amazing community it is.

You all know that all of our fall fundraising goals have been surpassed. Hootenanny was one of its greatest years ever. Thanks to Brianna and her committee for a great family night! Because of our successes, we have already assisted in the purchase of

leveled readers for grades K-3 which should be arriving this month! This will greatly assist our teachers in giving age-appropriate reading material for their accelerated readers! We look forward to working with administration to make our classrooms even greater "habitats for learning"! Thanks again and enjoy this wonderful holiday season!



**Where would we be without volunteers  
Who quickly respond when a need appears?**

**This is the way you have chosen to serve-  
What appreciation you deserve!**

**There are very many things to do  
And YOUR time can only be given by YOU!**

**So without complaint and without demands  
You offer the labor of your hands.**

**The world is a better place to live  
When people like you are so willing to give.**

**With this attitude of love and of care  
You will find a welcome anywhere.**

**You may not always know when someone  
Is especially blessed by a kindness you've done:**

**As you freely share your hours and days,  
May you also be blessed in many ways.**

## Volunteers

Nicole Westmoreland and Mindy Kupec, Co-Chairs



Thank you for volunteering at Oakview during the first few months of school. We appreciate everyone's willingness to step in and help during the busy fall season. Our volunteers have logged many hours in the last month alone. You have helped by bringing a treat for your classroom, assisted with fundraiser processing and delivery, volunteered for Red Ribbon Week, helped early in the morning with Breakfast for Dads, and volunteered during America Recycles Week and American Education Week. We appreciate all that you have contributed to our students and school!

We want to extend a big thank you to our Hootenanny Fall Festival Committee led by **Brianna Shaw, Jean Scott** and **Tisha Oates**. A special

thanks to **Nancy Kelley** for coordinating our fantastic middle school students and **Lynn Beam and family** for coordinating the booth sheets and setting up booth stations. We appreciate all of their hard work. It was a fun-filled night that brought our students, their families and Oakview alum's together for family-fun. The night was successful because of your generous contributions, donated supplies and willingness to work your classroom booths. We also want to thank the *Room Coordinators* for the many hours spent organizing classroom support. We couldn't have done it without all of your help!

We encourage you to stay involved in our students' education this winter. Please contact your Room Coordinators about opportunities in your

classroom including Lunch Bunch, SEEDS, and your classroom's Winter Party. Please contact Nicole Westmoreland at [Nicolew1@charter.net](mailto:Nicolew1@charter.net) or Mindy Kupec at [Mindykupec@gmail.com](mailto:Mindykupec@gmail.com) for more information on how you can get involved. There is an opportunity for everyone!

Please remember to continue to log your at-home volunteer hours. There are forms in the front lobby you can use or you can e-mail the date, description and number of hours to Mindy Kupec at [Mindykupec@gmail.com](mailto:Mindykupec@gmail.com). We know there are lots of you who work behind the scenes, so get those hours submitted!

### WE NEED YOU!!

Oakview PTA Board Position Available  
PTA President 2012-2013  
(President Elect starting in January 2012)  
No experience necessary!

Please contact Nicole Westmoreland, Volunteer Co-Chair at [Nicolew1@charter.net](mailto:Nicolew1@charter.net) if you are interested or for more information on this position.

## Box Tops

Christi Yenser and Danielle Colby, Co-Chairs

The results from the Box Tops Blitz are in.

Congratulations to the following classes who collected the most Box Tops:

1. Mrs. Bolt – 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 1087
2. Mrs. Perecko – 4<sup>th</sup> grade - 990
3. Mrs. Shelton – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - 928
4. Mrs. Ables – Kindergarten – 875
5. Mrs. Reeves – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 657  
Miss Meyers – 4<sup>th</sup> grade - 657

These classes will celebrate with a special treat

in the next few weeks.

The Box Tops Blitz brought in over 19,000 Box Tops (a new collection record!) – that's \$1,900 for our school. Way to go Oakview! We would like to say a special thank you to those who spent time helping count and bag all those Box Tops. They are: Celeste Blinston, Jodi Cloer, Patti Funderburk, Bridget Helmer, Andy Yenser, and Ruth Ziegler.

Also, as you do your holiday shopping, please remember to help us earn eBoxTops by shopping through the Box Tops website. There are over 150 merchants available. You can even

earn eBoxTops by purchasing gift cards. Go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/marketplace/Default.aspx> to get started.

Thanks so much for your support of Oakview through this wonderful program!





"Thanks for Your Help with the HOOT!"

### Oh, What a Night...

Once again, the Hootenanny Fall Festival was a **HUGE SUCCESS** thanks to the many volunteers who enthusiastically gave of their time and energy! Oakview families and friends enjoyed great weather and a fun-filled evening of rides, games, food, Cake walk, and Bingo! The new additions to the Hootenanny like the Rolling Video Game truck, Hair Feathers, and ANGRY BIRDS were a hit! Thank you to all of the parents who patiently waited in line to let their children play Angry Birds! Many thanks go out to all of our Oakview families, administration, staff, and teachers, as well as to our business and community partners!

Thank you to our **Volunteer Coordinators, Nicole Westmoreland and Mindy Kupec, Room Coordinators, Grade Level Coordinators, Lynn Beam and Nancy Kelley** who all graciously coordinated the volunteers and donations for the Hootenanny booths. Thank you also to our many **parent volunteers** who helped on Volunteer Work Days, donated items, and worked booths!

We would like to extend our appreciation to the **Hootenanny Committee Members** who gave so much of their personal time and energy to the festival! **Jean Scott** who coordinated a terrific Cake Contest with almost 200 entries, Oakview's own **TEACHERS** who delivered an incredible Cake Walk, and **Bethann Graham** for coordinating and hosting work days to make over 350 paper flowers!

Did I hear B-I-N-G-O? The new and improved Bingo at the Hootenanny was enjoyed by all! The prizes were incredible and a superb job was done by Stephanie Sobke, Denise Gruidl, and Lorian Norris. I believe everyone also enjoyed TCBY ice cream while playing Bingo!

In addition, **Carmen Pitman's** Brownie Troop 2418 cleaned the grounds on Saturday after the Hoot. A special thank you to John and Isaac Beam who set-up our fantastic kid zone for Marshmallow Shooters, Confetti Eggs and Silly String. A special thank you to **Michelle Inzerillo, Melissa Pair, and Jennifer Miller** who gave many hours of "behind-the-scenes" assistance, we couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you also to **Sean Malia**, Oakview's Plant Engineer, and his staff for their invaluable help. Oakview's incredible **teachers, staff, and administration** cannot be thanked enough for assisting with Ticket sales, Bingo, Cake Walk, and their overall enthusiastic support! Thank you to **Emily Gerard** for a fantastic job coordinating the Teacher volunteers. We also thank our new Corporate sponsors and many local businesses that donated goods and services to our Fall Festival!



THANK YOU Hootenanny Business and Community Donors!

### Golden Oak Sponsor:

**Fogle Orthodontics**

### Silver Leaf Sponsors:

**Carolina Coffee Roasters**

**Chick fil A**

**Crockett Pediatric Dentistry**

**Harrison Orthodontics**

**Palmetto Family Orthodontics**

**Summers Orthodontics**

### Bronze Acorn Sponsor:

**TCBY**

**Bi-Lo**

**Country Boys**

**Earth Fare**

**Gretchen's ABS Cakes**

**Greenville Scale Company**

**Pammy the Cake Lady**

**Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company**

**Pelham-Batesville Fire Department**

**Publix**

**Sabrett's**

**Salsarita's – Pelham Rd. Location**

**Shutterbooth**

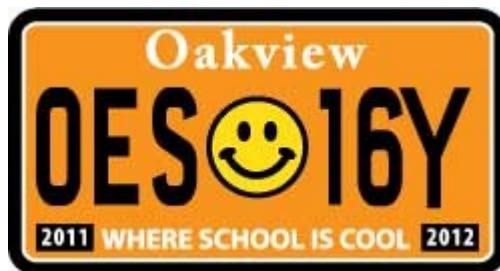
**Snip Its**

**Brownie Troop 2481**

**Langston Charter Middle School**

**Beck Middle School Beta Club**

**Mauldin High School Beta Club**





## Legislative Updates Karen Akerhielm, Chair

### November 14 Event at Oakview

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Craig Stine of Public Education Partners visited Oakview and talked with about 20 parents on how to be effective advocates for our children. This event was sponsored by Oakview's School Improvement Council (SIC) and the PTA Legislative Committee. To review the information that was discussed at the meeting, you can go to the Public Education Partners website at [www.pepgc.org](http://www.pepgc.org), click on "Public Policy", and then click on "Priority Issues". The two documents that were reviewed at the meeting are "Facts and Figures about our Schools" and "The Why and How of Advocacy." Those wishing to be more involved with state and local policy matters as they relate to public schools, can go to the [www.pepgc.org](http://www.pepgc.org) website and click on "Public Policy", and then "NEWS-ACTION e-newsletters" to sign up to receive updates on what is happening on these issues.

### Decisions by our State Legislature have a Large Impact on our Public Schools

60% of the funding to operate our public schools comes from the state. Every year our state legislators pass budgets and laws that directly impact our children's education. Our state legisla-

ture meets every year from the second week in January through the first week in June. In the coming legislative session it is expected that bills concerning charter schools, how public schools are funded, tuition tax credits/ school vouchers and state tax reform will be debated. This is in addition to the state budget in which the legislature will determine how much to fund public education for the coming school year.

Do you know who your state legislators are? If not, take the time to find out. These are the people you will want to contact to express your opinion about state issues affecting your child's education.

To find your state senator and house member, go to [www.pepgc.org](http://www.pepgc.org), click on "Public Policy," then click on "Contact your Representatives." Use the first link to find your state house and senate district numbers. Use the "Greenville County State Legislators," links to find the names of your state senator and house member as well as their contact information.

### Did you Know?

It costs twice as much to keep someone in jail at

the Greenville County Detention Center or in state prison than it costs to educate a child in our public school system. (Sources: In\$ite, SC Dept. of Education; Greenville County Dept. of Safety; SC Dept. of Corrections.)

### How is South Carolina doing compared to other states?

There is only one testing program that can be used to compare academic achievement among the 50 states. It is called the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). In every state a random sample of students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades take reading and math tests every two years. For 2011 South Carolina's state rankings are as follows: 4<sup>th</sup>-grade reading: 39<sup>th</sup>; 8<sup>th</sup>-grade reading: 38<sup>th</sup>; 4<sup>th</sup>-grade math: 37<sup>th</sup>; and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade math: 34<sup>th</sup>. (Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Education.)

Please note that these rankings reflect the state as a whole, and is not a way to compare the success of Oakview Elementary or the Greenville County school district.

## Elf Shelf Amy Barresi, Jill Murphy, and Lisa Frazier, Co-chairs

Fa la la la...The elves are busy in their workshop! All classes are invited to visit *Elf Shelf* and shop for mom and dad. Each student may buy one gift for mom and one gift for dad. Prices will range from \$1 to \$5 each, cash only.





## Reflections

Cherie Furr, Coordinator

### Intermediate Music

1<sup>st</sup>: Shashank Comandur, Diversity in Music-East Meets West

2<sup>nd</sup>: Manasvini Ranganathan, Diversity is All Around You

3<sup>rd</sup>: Pratamesh Ramasubramanian, Embracing Our Differences Through Music

Honorable Mention (1<sup>st</sup>):Jieying Tong, Diversity

Honorable Mention (2<sup>nd</sup>):Jiayong Tong, Sleepy Hollow

### Primary Literature

1<sup>st</sup>: Nandita Bhat, The World Without Diversity

2<sup>nd</sup>: Roopa Mahadevan, Diversity Means Flowers

3<sup>rd</sup>: Yashasvini Ranganathan, Diversity Means... Everything

### Intermediate Literature

1<sup>st</sup>: Madhav Bhat, Beauty of Diversity

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sahasvath Ramanandan, Diversity

3<sup>rd</sup>: Pratamesh Ramasubramanian, Diversity-Different Yet Together

Honorable Mention (1<sup>st</sup>) Manasvini Rangana-

than, Diversity is Everywhere

Honorable Mention (2<sup>nd</sup>) Arvind Mahadevan, Diversity Means the Whole Wide World

### Primary Photography

1<sup>st</sup>: Clayton Bloomstran, All Countries+Side by Side+Peace= Diversity

2<sup>nd</sup>: Yashasvini Ranganathan, Colorful Crayons, Markers and Pens

### Intermediate Photography

1<sup>st</sup>: Miranda Felt, Diversity Means...Sad Times

2<sup>nd</sup>: Manasvini Ranganathan, Leaf Tree: Unity in Diversity

### Primary Visual Arts

1<sup>st</sup>: Samantha Malinsky, Diversity is Uniting Our Differences

2<sup>nd</sup>: Brooklynn Cutter, The Changing Ocean

3<sup>rd</sup>: Bobby Stewart, We Are All in a Fishbowl

Honorable Mention(1<sup>st</sup>) Celeste Bohn, Diversity in the City

Honorable Mention (2<sup>nd</sup>)Debabrata Chatteojee, Unity in Diversity

### Intermediate Visual Arts

1<sup>st</sup>: Lawson Greene, Birds of a Feather

2<sup>nd</sup>: Danielle Malinsky, Diversity Means to Stand out From the Crowd

3<sup>rd</sup>: Arvind Mahadevan, Diversity Means Kids on the Soccer Field

Honorable Mention (1<sup>st</sup>)Sean Bradigan, Diversity Reflects Love

Honorable Mention (2<sup>nd</sup>)Ashley Spikings  
Crazy Cats of Color

### Intermediate Dance Choreography

1<sup>st</sup> Faith Bloomstran, My Dance to the World

2<sup>nd</sup> Miranda Felt, My Three Dances Are Diverse

3<sup>rd</sup> Manasvini Ranganathan, Diversity in "Cool Moves

Honorable Mention (1<sup>st</sup>) Danielle Malinsky, Diversity=Acceptance

### Intermediate Film

1<sup>st</sup>: Manasvini Ranganathan, Turning Around With Diversity

## Hootenanny Cake-Decorating

The first-ever Hootenanny Cake-Decorating Contest drew dozens of gorgeous cakes that were later given away as prizes in the festival's cakewalk. The Hootenanny Committee created the contest to recognize the achievements of our talented volunteer cake bakers and to encourage more people to turn in cakes for the cakewalk, which is a vital part of the fundraising that allows the PTA to pay for improvements at Oakview.

Assistant principals Carrie Prochaska and Terri Wheeler-Hawkins and guidance counselor Allyson Blackwell, known as "Miss Bee," served as judges. All cakes donated for the cakewalk were considered in the judging. The contest had both a youth division for cakes decorated by students and an adult division for those that were the handiwork of parents.

The winners were announced by Dr. Reavis at the end of the school day on the day of the festival, and gifts were sent home with winning students and students whose parents placed in the

contest. Cakes that won in the decorating contest were marked at the cakewalk so that some lucky cakewalk winners would appreciate that they were taking home prize-winning creations.

The Hootenanny Committee is especially grateful to **Publix** and to **Gretchen's ABS Cakes in Mauldin** for supplying gift cards used as prizes, **Pammy the Cake Lady of Simpsonville** for donating cupcakes given to the two first-place winners, and to Oakview PTA member **Trish Kolarik of Stampin' Up!** for creating a beautiful handmade ribbon for each of the contest's winners.

### The winners for the Youth Division are:

--1<sup>st</sup> place overall: **Keyes Thrasher (Haarsgaard-5)**

--2<sup>nd</sup> place overall: **Walt Wilber (Gilbert-2)**

--3<sup>rd</sup> place overall: **Lauren Erno (Gray-3)**

--Best Oakview "Where School is Cool" cake: **Ella Westmoreland (Shelton-2) and Carson Westmoreland (Shaw-K)**

--Best Owl: **Marissa Mulea (Emmons-3)**

--Most Creative: **Kayleigh Howard (Hand-4)**

--Best Character: **Ashleigh Martin (Bell-4)**

### The winners for the Adult Division are:

--1<sup>st</sup> place overall: **Shannon Makosiej**

--2<sup>nd</sup> place overall: **Karrisa Page**

--3<sup>rd</sup> place overall: **Kim Rushing**

--Best Oakview "Where School is Cool" cake: **Lauren Adams**

--Best Owl: **Lyn Edmonds**

--Most Creative: **Michelle Stoudemire**

--Most Beautiful: **Desiree Spikings**

# Parents –

## Keep Your Contact Information Updated at Your Child's School



It is important that parents keep their contact information current at their child's school.

- Home and Mailing Addresses
- Home and Cell Phone Numbers
- Email Address

Parents should also note their primary language so that recorded messages are sent using either English or Spanish.

Parent contact information is used by principals and the District to notify parents about:

- Your Child's Attendance
- School Lunch Balance
- School Closures/Early Dismissals Due to Inclement Weather
- Share School Information



### Calendar of Events

### School Information

**December**

- Dec 6 Formano's
- Dec 7 PTA Meeting 9am; Hospitality Soup & Salad Luncheon
- Dec 7-9 Jingle Bell Toy Drop
- Dec 8 Geography Bee
- Dec 12 SIC Meeting
- Dec 14-16 Elf Shelf
- Dec 16 Holiday Party, Concert, Spirit Day
- Dec 20 Chick-Fil-A Night
- Dec 19-30 Winter Break—NO SCHOOL

**January**

- Jan 3 ACORN Articles Due
- Jan 4 PTA Meeting 9:00am
- Jan 9 Author Visit, Media Center
- Jan 9 General PTA Meeting, 6:30pm (Health and Fitness Awareness)
- Jan 10 ACORN Distributed
- Jan 11 Sticky Fingers Night
- Jan 13-16 No School  
Teacher In-Service and MLK Holiday
- Jan 20 Class Pictures
- Jan 24 Chick-Fil-A Night
- Jan 27 Spirit Day

**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:**

- Mrs. Carrie Prochaska
- Mrs. Terri Wheeler-Hawkins

**PTA President:**

Kelle Corvin

**Newsletter Editor:**

Tate Nicolini, [tatenicolini@yahoo.com](mailto:tatenicolini@yahoo.com)

**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: **January 11, 2010**

**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.

