



Oakview Elementary School PTA

THE ACORN



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



Welcome Back!

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Oakview Elementary School, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2012-2013 school year! In particular, I welcome our new families and trust you

will soon discover that Oakview is indeed a "Habitat for Learning!"

New Faculty & Staff Members

Please welcome the following new faculty and staff members to Oakview.

- Logan Greene – Kindergarten*
- Jeana Thompson-Pool – Kindergarten*
- Dori Flynn – 1st*
- MaryAnn Stephens – 1st*
- Ashley Waldrop – 1st*
- Cheryl Russell – 4th*
- Sarah Robertson - 4th Grade*
- Sarah McKamy – 5th*
- Denise Burnitz – Special Education*
- Kim Good – Music*
- Kelli Hollern - Art*

- Katie Skelton – Reading Intervention*
- Nellie Suber - Custodian*
- Howard Boyd - Custodian*

iPads Are Coming!

iPads are coming to Oakview! Teachers and students will soon have access to iPads in the classroom as we broaden the school's technology presence with these exciting mobile devices. We have been working with Greenville County Schools Education Technology Services to expand our existing wireless accessibility throughout the building. Once this phase of the project is complete, the integration of iPads into daily instruction can begin. As is our custom at Oakview, PTA will play an active part in moving this project forward. I will update everyone in the weeks ahead. All signs are pointing to success!

Virtual Learning Lab

Over the last year, Oakview students have taken field trips across North America without boarding a bus or packing a lunch! Students participated in "virtual" field trips here on campus and visited well known museums, special centers, and galleries. Students chatted live with

experts in the field on a variety of topics. To improve and expand our virtual field trip opportunities, Oakview has established a permanent Virtual Lab on campus. A 65" HD flat screen and video conferencing equipment have been purchased and installed to establish this state of the art learning lab. This will allow our teachers open access to field trips offered throughout the school year without the need to "compete" with other schools in Greenville County for use of the equipment. We are excited to be one of very few schools to offer a permanent distance learning lab to host virtual field trips! The walls have no boundaries!

The Lazy Days of Summer?

While you relaxed on the beach or by the pool, we were busy at school! Here's just a few of our summer activities.

- Counting and sorting thousands of new reading textbooks!
- Employees participated in dozens of workshops at the annual GCS "Summer Academy."

Continued on page 2

President's Report *Mindy Kupec, PTA President*



Oakview- Where All Signs Point to Success

Welcome back from Summer Break and to an exciting new year for Oakview. I am eager to begin the year at Oakview with our new theme, **Where All**

Signs Point to Success. Our theme carries many meanings, one of which is tying in our guidance department's recognition of the outstanding character traits in our children. Among the traits highlighted this year will be trustworthiness, courage and effort.

We have many exciting programs in the works this year. In keeping with the Healthy School Initiative, our Breakfast with Dads will be offering a hot breakfast- \$2 for adult/\$1 for a child. The first Breakfast with Dads will be for the Kindergarten on September 27 at 7:15am.

We are so grateful for all the parental involvement with Oakview, and there are so many

ways that volunteers can make a difference in our children's education. Please make sure that you take the opportunity to explore the many ways you can contribute, both within the classroom and school wide. You can check out our brand new PTA website for information and upcoming volunteer opportunities at www.Oakviewpta.com. Make sure you sign up to receive the last minute volunteer opportunities emails. It is a great way to contribute to our school. We also have a new Facebook page. "Like" Oakview PTA and we will keep you up to date!

Our first Volunteer Breakfast is on Friday, August 31. This is a wonderful way to find out more information about committees you may be interested in like SEEDS, Reading Tutor, Hootenanny and many more. There will be a New Family meeting immediately following in the Media Center. Our fall carnival, the Hootenanny, is scheduled for Friday, November 2. Don't miss the fun!

Our new fundraiser was wildly successful last year. We are excited to bring Boosterthon back in September-- this time as our main fundraiser. We wanted to get it on the fall schedule so that the money raised can be used at the beginning of the school year- maximizing the time that your children's efforts benefit the classrooms.

We have always maintained a 100% membership in PTA and hope to continue the tradition this year. To achieve 100% membership, we would have an adult registered for each child enrolled at Oakview. For example, if you have two children, there should be one membership for each child to reach our 100% goal.

While we encourage membership in PTA, we only keep a small portion of the \$5.00 dues locally. We set up the Friends of Oakview to allow parents and businesses to make a contribution to Oakview that directly benefits and stays at Oakview.

Continued on page 3

Volunteers *Kimberly Masters and Francine Morris, Co-Chairs*

We hope you all had a wonderful summer! We are both new in this position and are really looking forward to working with all of the amazing volunteers that make Oakview so special! If you are new to Oakview or to volunteering, this is a great way to learn more about Oakview, and meet other parents while supporting our school. We can benefit from any amount of your time, whether it is 15 minutes after morning carpool or a year-long commitment as a classroom *Room Coordinator*. Oakview has a volunteer opportunity for everyone!

How can you sign-up to be a volunteer at Oakview?

First, look for the bright pink **Volunteer Opportunities Form** that was included in the *Welcome Back* packet your child received at *Meet the Teacher*. It lists most of the ways you can get involved in and out of the classroom. Please

take the time to fill in all of the items that interest you and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

When you visit your child's classroom during Oakview's *Open House and Curriculum Night* on **Thursday, September 6**, you will find details on volunteering in your specific class. To learn more about volunteering at our school, please join us at the *Volunteer Breakfast* on **Friday, August 31 at 9:00am** in the cafetorium. This is a great morning to catch up with friends, meet new ones, and learn more about how you can get involved at Oakview.

If you are interested in being a *Room Coordinator*, you must do so on the pink *Volunteers Opportunity form* and turn it in no later than **Friday, September 7**.

Introducing our *Volunteer Committee*:

Kimberly Masters (Volunteer Co-Chair)
masterskf@bellsouth.net
Francine Morris (Volunteer Co-Chair)
jfmorris826@gmail.com
Jen Pestrak (Kindergarten GLC)
robertpestrak@bellsouth.net
Lauren Adams (1st Grade GLC)
lauren11@me.com
Heather Peck (2nd Grade GLC)
heatherpeck@gmail.com
Stephanie Schatteman (3rd Grade GLC)
sj.schatteman@gmail.com
Julie Wells (4th Grade GLC)
wellsfamily33@gmail.com
Cyndi Jennings (5th grade GLC)
cyndi.jennings@att.net
Maggie Taylor (Related Arts Coordinator)
wagtaylor@msn.com

We look forward to volunteering with you.

Thank you!

Thank you Volunteers!

Membership *Marianne Flythe and Leslie Ferrell, Co-Chairs*

Welcome back to an exciting new school year at Oakview. It is time again for our annual PTA and Friends of Oakview membership drives.

Last year we reached 100% membership and our goal is to once again achieve 100% participation by September 5. Please help us reaching our goal

this school year by purchasing at least one membership for each child in your household enrolled at Oakview. When you participate in the Friends of Oakview, 100% of the money stays at Oakview and is spent on specific need in the current school year.

Please join the Oakview PTA and make a donation to Friends of Oakview today so we can continue to make Oakview a great school for our children.



Principal *Continued from page 1*

- Eighteen rising first grade students attended "Footsteps to First Grade," a four week, invitation only, readiness program.
- The custodial services team waxed tile floors and cleaned carpet in the building totaling approximately 120,000 square feet.
- Greenville County Schools replaced the aging carpet in the front office and other spaces in the building.
- Additional security lighting was installed on portable classrooms.
- The new electronic marquee is up and running and the old one has been removed.
- Employee interviews to support instruction and programs for the expected 1,140 student enrollment.

It's All On Line!

Please access Oakview's web site to read the most current information related to school events. For your review, parents can find our school calendar, student handbook, GCS Student Behavior Code, forms for various programs, and updates on current events! The school calendar will be updated daily so check it frequently!



Money for Nothin'

This school year, Oakview will move into the digital age! Indeed, we will have our own PTA website and as such we are encouraging parents to look for the easy ways to raise money for Oakview Elementary. As co-chairs for Ways and Means, we will be encouraging parents to support Oakview actively and passively. What does that mean?

Active Fundraising - Boosterthon:

This will be our main fundraiser and only one this year! While Hootenanny is always a fun and important event and a huge bonus for PTA fundraising, PTA board members decided to change things up this year. There is more on this in the Boosterthon article of the Acorn.

Passive Fundraising - Supporting Oakview by Shopping:

Grocery Booster Programs: BiLo and Publix both offer booster programs that dedicate a percentage of your grocery store purchase to Oakview. Simply get a BiLo Booster card and a Publix Booster card from Oakview PTA and be sure to use it every time you shop! If you have a BiLo Bonus Card, go to www.bi-lo.com/community/boostersplus/. Have kids at more than one school? BiLo does offer the opportunity to split

the percentage to up to three schools. Each organization then sends a check once a year or quarterly for the funds our school has earned. Really, nothing could be easier than that! For Publix information, go to www.publix.com for additional information. Check out their community involvement page. Since Publix's inception, Oakview has received \$48,000 from this program! Truly amazing!

Target Red Cards: If you have one of these, be sure to tie it to Oakview and we will receive 1% of your purchases. The red card is either a debit or a credit card so it works no matter what your personal budgeting options are. For more information on tying your card to Oakview go to <https://www.secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe>

Amazon.com Partners: This year, we will be offering an additional opportunity to support our school. More information will be provided, but if you are like us, you do a lot of shopping on Amazon from Kindle purchases to holiday shopping! Why not have some of that come back to Oakview? Well now it can! Up to 5% depending on the purchase!

BoxTops for Education: Again, another easy way to have what you already do and the products you already purchase benefit Oakview.

Please see additional information on this in your back-to-school packet and on our PTA website. Get your neighborhood involved too! If you have neighbors that don't have school-age kids, ask them to save the pink box tops and make a plan to collect them each quarter. The students have a blast competing for the class that can collect the most! Their website www.boxtopsforeducation.com has more information and a list of vendors that you can shop from online or products to look for in stores. Donations vary by store and product. Restaurant nights are another great way to buy dinner for the family and support Oakview at the same time! All of the funds we raise go right back into classroom and school support at OES!



President

Continued from page 1

Through Friends of Oakview, the PTA is able to provide many of the mini teacher grants and other supplies for our school.

You may wonder where the money raised through fundraising is going this year. High on the list, the PTA would like to purchase iPads that would be available for children in all grades to use. We are also looking into making additions to our Leveled Readers program.

Early next year, we are bringing back Family Bingo Night. But even more exciting is that each night during Bingo, we will be holding a simultaneous Art Show where the children's artwork will be matted, framed and available for purchase. Stay tuned for more information.

It's going to be a fun and busy year that will fly by before you know it! I'm very excited to get

this year underway and look forward to working with each one of you. We have our first general PTA meeting on September 6th (the same evening as Curriculum Night) where we will discuss and vote on this year's budget. Save the date! Please don't hesitate to contact me or any other PTA Board member with any questions.

Restaurant Nights!

Restaurant Nights Are Back Better Than Ever! 2012-2013

This year we are excited to announce we have some new restaurants for our Restaurant Night fundraiser. **Twisted Cup and Your Pie** will be joining our team and back by popular demand is **Chick-fil-A**.

Twice a month, give yourself a break from cooking on those hectic school

nights and help raise money for our school at the same time. The restaurants will donate a percentage of our sales that night back to Oakview (be sure to let them know you are from Oakview). What a great and easy way to help our school while at the same time enjoying good food with friends and family. Be on the lookout for flyers or stickers coming home with your children with the restaurant night information.

Below are the restaurants participating:

- **Chick-fil-A on Woodruff Road only**
- **Sabrosos on Woodruff Road**
- **Twisted Cup on Woodruff Road**
- **Stevie B's on Woodruff Road**
- **Your Pie on Woodruff Road**



Mark your calendars for the biggest bash of the school year: Oakview's Hootenanny fall festival on Friday, Nov. 2. As usual, the festival will run from 4:30 p.m. - 9 p.m., and those of you who are new to the school will be blown away by the four and a half hours of fun.

Hootenanny 2012 will once again feature a carnival midway stuffed with rides and treats such as cotton candy. Other

highlights include Bingo, a fun zone with confetti eggs and silly string, the Angry Owls game, and a cake-decorating contest in conjunction with the cakewalk.

Plan to come early and stay for dinner on site, where you can choose

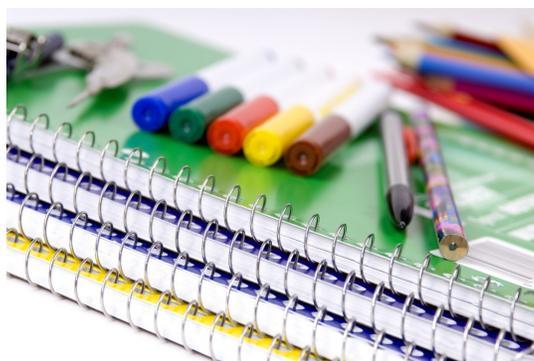
from several food vendors for a quick and tasty meal. And don't forget to buy one of the big, beautiful tissue-paper flowers that are a Hootenanny tradition.

This is a top fundraiser for the PTA, so we will be asking for your help to make it a success. As always we will need donations of items such as silly string for the fun zone. We will also need

booth workers for the night of the festival and volunteers to help with preparations such as making those gorgeous tissue-paper flowers.

Your Hootenanny committee is at work on modernizing our sign-up system for those donations and volunteer shifts. In past years, parents have signed up on sheets that were set out in each classroom for open house. This year we plan to do all sign-ups for the festival online through a site such as SignUpGenius.com. Look for details to follow.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Jean Scott at dianajescott@yahoo.com, and don't forget to save the date. See you at the Hoot!



Big News!!!

Oakview PTA now has a website!!!!

check it out at Oakviewpta.com

Also, please register on the website to receive every issue of the ACORN by email!

Legislative Updates *Melissa Pair, Chair*

Throughout the 2012-13 year, the Oakview PTA Legislative Committee will provide information to Oakview families, teachers and staff regarding local, state and federal educational issues that may impact Oakview Elementary School while keeping the Oak-

view community informed about budget and funding challenges facing our schools. This November we will have the opportunity to elect new representation at both the state and federal levels; the Legislative Committee will provide overviews of the education

policies of our elected officials in addition to hosting forums with our representatives.

If you would like to serve on the Committee, please contact me at mjpair@gmail.com

New Families *Amece Decan and Melanie Veness, Co-Chairs*



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new families to Oakview! If this is your family's first year at our wonderful school, we want to invite you to a special meeting with our Principal, Dr. Reavis. This will take place on **Friday, August 31**, immediately following the Volunteer Breakfast. This meeting gives you an opportunity to get answers to any questions you or your family may have. We hope you are having a good transition to Oakview and we want to make sure we can make it a GREAT school year!!

Boosterthon Fun Run *Trish Kolarik and LeeAnne Weeks, Co-chairs*



Welcome Back to School everyone! With the start of school we will also be getting ready for this year's MAIN fundraising event, the Boosterthon Fun Run!!

Our run last spring was a **tremendous** success, and SO much fun!!! As a result, the PTA has decided to drop most of our other product

based fundraisers and make the Fun Run our MAIN event of the year! By moving the event to the fall, we will be able to have a better handle on our PTA budget and utilize these funds properly in the year that they are raised.

This year's event has a new theme, Highway USA: On the Road to Good Choices. We hope this year's character education theme will build on what our students learned last year in developing leadership and character traits we want all of our kids to have.

Important dates:

Student Pep Rally: Monday September 17th
Fun Run: Wednesday September 26th
First Collection Date: Wednesday October 3rd
Second Collection Date: Wednesday October 10th

More information will follow after Labor Day, but please direct any questions to the Boosterthon Chairpersons, LeeAnne Weeks (lweeks@compoundgroup.com) or Trish Kolarik (trish@kolarik.org).

Spirit Wear *Aimee Lonergan and Kim Robertson, Co-Chairs*



Be prepared for Oakview's Spirit Days!!! This year's fabulous tees are a bold and beautiful orange! T-shirts will be \$12 and available for purchase at Meet the Teacher, August 20th. Orders can be placed for hoodie sweatshirts for \$22.

Contact Aimee Lonergan-
aimeemalia@gmail.com or
Kim Robertson-
kimrobertson@bellsouth.net with
any questions.



Open House and Curriculum Night

Please come join us for our annual
 Open House and Curriculum Night
 Thursday, September 6
 Open House 5:30p.m.-6:15p.m.
 PTA Meeting 6:30p.m.-7:00p.m.
 Open House 7:15p.m. -8:00 p.m.
 Teachers will have two Open House sessions.
 Parents are welcome to attend either session.

Calendar of Events

August

- August 22 First Day of School
- August 22 Twisted Cup (2:30-8)
- August 29 PTA Board Meeting -
9:00am
- August 31 Volunteer Breakfast -
9:00am

September

- Sept 3 No School - Labor Day
- Sept 6 Open House &
PTA General Meeting
5:30—8:00pm
- Sept 13 Room Coordinator
Breakfast - 9:00am
- Sept 17 Boosterthon Kick-off
- Sept 18 Chick-fil-A Night
- Sept 24 Progress Reports
- Sept 26 Boosterthon Fun Run
- Sept 27 Breakfast with Dads-
Kindergarten - 7:15am
- Sept 28 SEEDS Training
- Sept 28 Twisted Cup Night

October

- Oct 2 Stevie B's Night

School Information

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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The Acorn can be found online at:

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

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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.

