



Oakview Elementary School PTA

THE ACORN



Principal's Report

Dr. Phillip Reavis, Principal



Technology – Where Will It Take Us?

Since its opening in 1995, Oakview has been a leader in technology integration. In its early years, a PC computer lab represented “state of the art” equipment at the school. In 2013, Oakview added iPads, ActiveTables, and a permanent Distance Learning Lab to host virtual field trips. Recently, a fifth grade class journeyed to London as part of their research on World War II!

So where will technology take us next? In answering this question, we remind ourselves that hardware is continually replaced by new and more powerful devices. In addition to hardware, however, we must understand what will be required of our children as they enter their careers in 10-15 years. Technology will saturate their world, requiring new skills that no generation has experienced thus far.

Over the coming months, the faculty and School Improvement Council will begin a “conversation” about the future of technology on campus. From 1:1 initiatives (each child assigned a tablet or iPad) to a “BYOT” policy (Bring Your Own Technology),

Oakview will consider our next step in technology integration. As parents and teachers, this can be exciting as we think about the possibilities for student learning, while at the same time, nerve-racking as we embrace change.

Today’s students are “digital natives.” They speak the language of technology and it comes naturally to them. Parents and teachers, however, are “digital immigrants.” We did not grow up with much of the technology that exists today. We hesitate when exposed to a new device and struggle at times with integrating it into our daily lives. As we navigate the technology landscape ahead, know that the faculty will maintain a focus on student learning, while keeping an eye on the future. OUR future depends on it. More to come!

Lego Robotics Team Places at State!

Congratulations to Oakview Elementary School’s Lego Robotics Team for their 2nd Place Strategy & Innovation Award as part of the South Carolina FLL robotics tournament! Our team competes in a division with 4th-8th grade students so the field is rigorous. We are very proud of the following members of Oakview’s team:

Lego Robotics Team Members

- Shashank Commandur
- Angelo Villamizar
- Toma Sucin
- Will Mosher
- Jocelyn Yuan
- Madhav Bhat
- Brendan McBride
- Efe Dostal
- Nikolas Szymczyk
- Chris Szymczyk – Coach
- Val Mosher – Coach

National Geography Bee State Competition

Congratulations to Justin Chamberlin, fifth grade student, who has advanced to the South Carolina National Geography Bee! After winning at the school level, Justin submitted a 100 item multiple choice test and earned a spot in the state geography bee, competing against 4th-8th grade students from across the state. Good luck Justin! We are proud of you!

President's Report

Mindy Kupec, PTA President



I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks. ~William Shakespeare

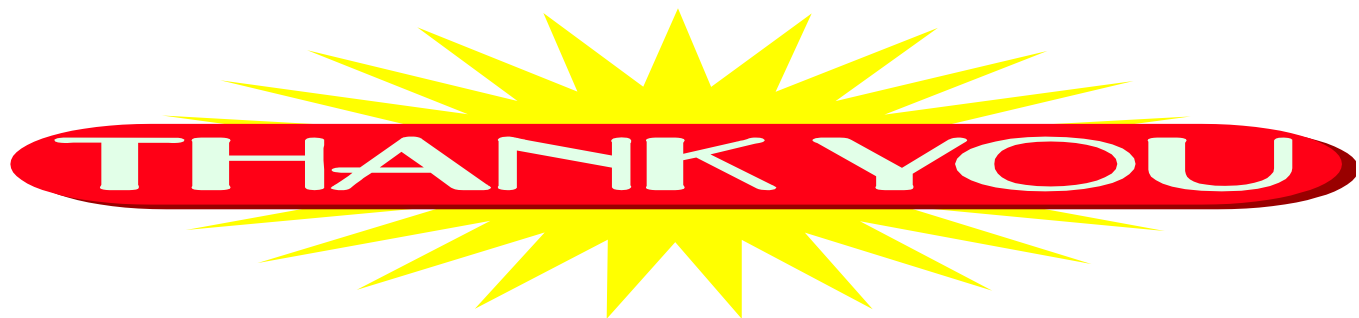
As I sat down to write this month’s article, I couldn’t think of anything more pressing than saying thank you to those who have helped to make this year successful. The support I have received over the past year has been incredible. You might be asking why I’m writing like it’s the end of the year now. It’s only March. For me, this year seems to be flying by faster than usual.

I am taking this month to say a HUGE thank you to my entire board, committee chairs and each and every parent, grandparent, community member and business partner that has donated their time, goods and support. Oakview would not be the incredible school today without you. I need to take a minute and thank Christi Yenser, PTA Treasurer. This year has gone smoothly because of you!

Just to catch up on a few things... We have had five fantastic Breakfast with Dads so far. Our last one for the 5th graders will be on Thursday, March 21. We have had two fun and successful Art Show and Bingo nights. Our next one is Friday, March 22 for the Kindergartners

and First Graders. The volunteer appreciation breakfast is April 24 where this year’s award winners will be announced. Fifth graders will be celebrating their final days at Oakview on Friday, May 31. And last, but not least, Field Days!! What a great way to end the year.

As always, our board meetings are open to all who wish to attend. We meet the first Wednesday of every month (except for April will be the second Wednesday due to Spring Break). Our next General PTA meeting will be held in May. Our 2013-2014 officers will be elected at that meeting. Hope to see you all there.



You have all been very hard at work in supporting Oakview this year! Thank you so much for your recent efforts with Math, Science, Technology night, Science Fair, Bingo nights, Valentine's parties and of course the ongoing support of lunch bunch, reading tutor, SEEDS, and field trip chaperones, just to name a few!

The weather is finally turning and spring is in the air! As 4th quarter approaches, we are so grateful for your continued support of our teachers and our school as we wind the year down. Please know that it is not too late to volunteer, even if you have not done so before! Please contact your room coordinators to see how the

schedule may have changed over the year and where they may have some new opportunities to get in on the schedule. Together we can end the year on a supportive note!

Please mark your calendar for Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Wednesday, April 24! We also invite you to celebrate Oakview's outstanding teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week starting April 29. After Spring Break, your Room Coordinators will forward information to all families concerning the week's events.

Don't forget to continue to record your home volunteer hours and submit them to the front desk or

email them to Kimberly or Francine via the PTA website. We appreciate all that you do!

Thank you to the Nominating Committee who is spending countless hours finding leaders to help run our fantastic school next year.

**Most of all,
thank you for
volunteering!**

*Our final joint Art Show and Bingo Night of 2013 is on Friday, **March 22** for Kindergarten and First grade. The Art Show opens at 5:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM, followed by Bingo at 6:00 PM. We are planning a fun evening for you and your families, so come enjoy artwork, eat dinner, play Bingo and win some great prizes. Our Second/Third grade and Fourth/Fifth grade events were a lot of fun.*

Box Tops

Danielle Colby and Julie Wells, Co-Chairs

A big THANK YOU to all that participated in the "Love My Teacher" Box Tops Contest! Mrs. Mannix's class won with a total of 44 hearts (that's 1,100 Box Tops!). Ms. Emmons and Ms. Gilbert followed closely behind with 41 hearts each!

Mrs. Mannix received a gift basket filled with some of her favorite

things and Jacob Schwasnick received a teddy bear and \$20 gift card to Target.

With everyone's help, we were able to collect over 18,000 Box Tops, which surpassed our fall collection total! Great Job!!!

Keep collecting those Box Tops! We

will be holding one more contest in May to get some Box Tops in before the summer break!



Reflections Cheri Furr, Chair

Southeast Council Level

Winners

Intermediate Music

1st Manasvini Ranganathan

Primary Literature

3rd Yashasvini Ranganathan

Primary Photography

2nd Caroline Furr

Primary Dance

2nd Yashasvini Ranganathan

Intermediate Dance

1st Faith Bloomstran

Primary Film

2nd Yashasvini Ranganathan

Intermediate Film

3rd Masasvini Ranganathan

State Winners

Primary Film

HM Yashasvini Ranganathan

Intermediate Film

2nd Manasvini Ranganathan

Intermediate Dance Choreography

2nd Faith Bloomstran

District Winners

Primary Film

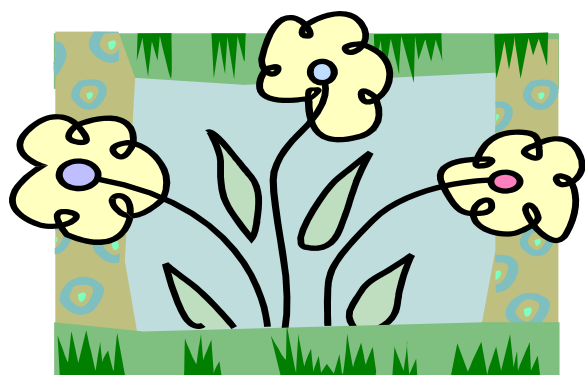
2nd Yashasvini Ranganathan

Intermediate Dance

2nd Faith Bloomstran

Intermediate Music

HM Manasvini Ranganathan



New School Safety Procedure: The school office door will remain locked until a clerk is on duty at 7:15 a.m. each morning. Parents who have an early morning appointment should communicate with the teacher in advance to gain entry into the building prior to 7:15.

Nominating Committee

Julie Wells, Chair

All signs point to you being involved in PTA!

Participating as an Executive Officer or chairing a committee or sub committee is one of the best ways to have a positive impact on the Oakview community.

Have you ever wondered how to get involved with the PTA but aren't sure exactly how?

If you are interested in representing the voice and vision of the parents of Oakview, the PTA of Oakview Elementary needs you!

Get Involved!

Review position descriptions posted on the Oakview website PTA webpage: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/oakview/parents/pta/index.asp>

Contact a Nominating Committee member you know or that has a child in your same grade **by March 28, 2013** to express your interest or learn more.

If you are interested in a position, the Nominating Committee will add your name to the potential candidates list. Hootenanny and Boosterthon are great ways to get involved!!

Lots of opportunity to help!

The 2013-2014 Nominating Committee is currently working to fill the roughly eighty positions that make up the Oakview PTA Board of Officers and Committee Chairs that represent our students and the school at large. We thank those of you that have already expressed an interest or have agreed to stay in your current position for another year. Once the nomination and approval process is complete, the Nominating Committee will inform all approved nominees.

Many positions remain open, so now is an excellent time to reach out!

Contact Your Nominating Committee Representative Today!

This year's Nominating Committee is comprised of five members representing multiple grade levels and local neighborhoods in the Oakview community.

Julie Wells (1st & 4th, Roper Mountain Estates) wells-family33@gmail.com

Gena Runion (1st & 5th, Spaulding Farm) genarunion@hotmail.com

Jean Scott (1st & 3rd, Kingsbridge) diana-jeanscott@yahoo.com

Misti Buckner (2nd & 4th, Orchard Farms) misti.buckner@gmail.com

Betsy Williams (1st, Tuxedo Park) bet-syw22@yahoo.com

Student Holidays

Friday, March 29 (snow day) and Monday - Friday, April 1 - 5 (Spring Break),
Friday, April 29 (snow day) and May 27 (Memorial Day)

Calendar of Events*

March

March 22 Bingo Grades K and 1 and Art Show
March 28 Internet Safety Assembly
March 29 No School, Make-Up Day 3

April

April 1—5 Spring Break, no school
April 13 Garden Work Day
April 15—19 5th grade to Barrier Island
April 16 Chik-fil-A night
April 20 Garden Work Day
April 24 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
April 26 Space Day for First Grade
April 29 Snow Make-up Day
April 30—May 3 Teacher Appreciation Week

May

May 1 & 2 2nd Grade Mother's Day Play
May 16 Kindergarten Parent Orientation
May 17 Twisted Cup Night
May 21 Chik-fil-A Night
May 27 Memorial Day, no school
May 31 5th Grade Day

June

June 4 Half day, field day K & 1
June 5 Half day, field day 2 & 3
June 6 Half day, field day 4 & 5, last day of 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
Find National PTA information at: www.pta.org

Principal:

Dr. Phillip Reavis

Assistant Principals:

Mrs. Carrie Prochaska
Mrs. Terri Wheeler-Hawkins

PTA President:

Mindy Kupec

Newsletter Editor:

Tate Nicolini, tatenicolini@yahoo.com

The Acorn can be found online at:

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

*Calendar Note

Should school not be cancelled for winter weather, it will be closed on the designated Snow Make Up Days in the order in which they are needed. See the GCS 2012-2013 Parent/Student calendar for complete information. http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/Calendar/docs/parental_1213.pdf



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.





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

School Buses

Regular Route Buses are Provided by the State. All regular route buses (not sports, activity or magnet school buses) are provided by the state for all school districts. Funding for the purchase of school buses comes from several state sources: the state lottery, the state general fund budget and proceeds from the sale of decommissioned buses for scrap metal.

State Law Calls for a 15-Year Replacement Cycle. A 2007 state law established a 15-year replacement cycle for state-provided school buses: Approximately one fifteenth of the school bus fleet is to be replaced each year with new school buses resulting in a complete replacement of the fleet every fifteen years.

The State is not Providing the Necessary Funding. Despite the new school bus purchases announced in December, the last time the state appropriated annual funding to meet the 15-year replacement cycle was in 2008. The December purchases used funding from two fiscal years and scrap metal sales to replace 7% of school buses in the state—enough to replace those buses over 25 years old.

Since 2008 the state has improved the school bus fleet by purchasing used buses from other states. In 2010 the state purchased 130 used school buses averaging 18 years old from Kentucky and other states. Money to purchase these buses came from the sale of junked buses for scrap metal.

State Law Establishes Minimum Transportation Services to be Provided by School Districts. State law dictates which students must be provided school bus service. This includes those beyond a certain distance from their assigned school and special bus services for children in four-year old Kindergarten.

Greenville County Schools Buses. Our school district operates 341 school buses on a daily basis transporting 35% of the students in our schools. Even with the upcoming arrival of 39 buses from the state, nearly 50% of the school buses on the road will be over 15 years old including a large number over 20 years old. During the last school year there was an average of four bus breakdowns or failures to start per school day.

Did You Know?

The South Carolina State Legislature meets annually from the second Tuesday in January through the first Thursday in June. Decisions by the legislature have a major impact on class sizes and teacher salaries.

If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved with the Oakview PTA Legislative Committee, please contact Melissa Pair at mjpair@gmail.com.