



# Oakview Elementary School PTA THE ACORN



## Principal's Report

Dr. Phillip Reavis, Principal



### **Oakview Earns "EXCELLENT" Ratings . . . Again!**

As the school year opened, parents were informed of Oakview's school grade of "A" in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education's accountability measures. As part of South Carolina's accountability measures, I am proud to announce today that Oakview has earned an EXCELLENT Absolute Rating and EXCELLENT Growth Rating on its SC School Report Card! These ratings continue our tradition of high student performance as measured by the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS). The Absolute Rating measures test score performance in the spring of 2012 and the Growth Rating measures student performance from one year to the next for those students continuously enrolled at the school.

When reviewing the data, Oakview performs near the top compared to the 642 elementary schools statewide. In English Language Arts and Math, Oakview ranks in the top 2% and 3% respectively statewide. This is attained, while at

the same time, serving an extremely diverse student population. With some of the most rigorous curriculum standards in the nation, these rankings reflect the deep commitment the Oakview community has in educating its children.

Congratulations to students, parents, teachers, volunteers, and community partners as Oakview earns yet another EXCELLENT rating on its SC School Report Card!

### **Describing Oakview in a Few Words – Difficult to Do!**

Recently, Greenville County Schools Superintendent Burke Royster asked principals to develop a "special emphasis and tag line" that would best describe the unique opportunities and culture of our respective schools. Had we been a magnet school or other specialized school, this task would have been easy. Another challenge in describing Oakview is to determine what we do best, when by all measures, we do many things very well!

After feedback and consensus from the faculty and School Improvement Council, it became apparent that describing Oakview in a few sim-

ple words was a challenge. While we have much to boast about in terms of test score performance, the school has also developed a reputation of "Offering opportunities" to its students (Oakview Mission Statement) well beyond the classroom. From Lego robotics to drama and health & wellness to technology, Oakview truly seeks to grow the "whole child."

In concluding its work, the Oakview faculty and SIC present the following as a description of who we are. You will see that we maintained the school's current motto, "Habitat for Learning" but have expanded the tag line to encompass the multitude of student programs that exist at the school. You will begin to see this tag line in a variety of formats. Enjoy and be proud of your school!

### **Oakview Elementary School "Habitat for Learning"**

#### **Developing each student through:**

**Arts & Academics**

**Research & Technology**

**Health & Wellness**

## President's Report

Mindy Kupec, PTA President



Welcome to the chill of November. We have many reasons for which we can be thankful this month, beginning with an Oakview tradition: the Hootenanny. The following week, our country celebrates Veteran's Day.

Later in the month, we gather with our families and take time to appreciate everything we are grateful for on Thanksgiving Day.

Hootenanny was an absolute blast! There were so many people that pitched in. I wish I could thank each and every one of you! The event could not have been possible without our wonderful chairs—Jean Scott, Kim Botzo and Kerry Fish. Betsy Williams was indispensable to step up and help organize the middle and high school volunteers. Sean Malia was gracious with his patience and willingness to help us with whatever we needed from him.

November is also the month when our country salutes our military Veterans. Many families have members that have been in the military, including my own, so it is very special for me. Many lives are affected when someone serves Our country. From the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every person that has served to keep our country safe and for the sacrifices they make for their families at home.

Thanksgiving... what do you think of when you hear that word? Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans and football come to mind. Thanksgiving is also a time to remember our families—even though they could be driving you crazy during the holidays. I am thankful that my children have wonderful schools to help them grow. I am thankful for each and every one of you that has helped to make the first half of this school year successful, easy and fun to be your President. I look forward to leading into next year. Have a safe and happy holiday season.



## Volunteers

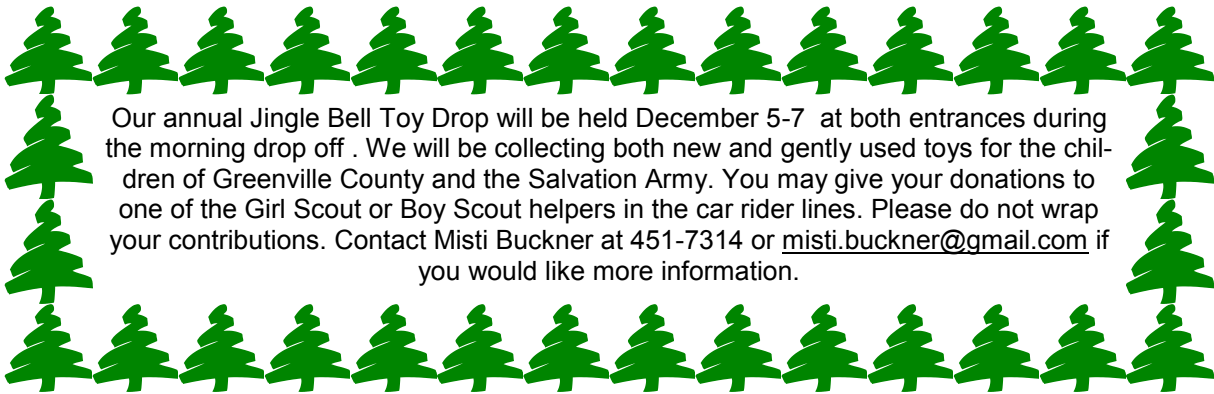
Francine Morris and Kimberly Masters, Co-Chairs

We have had a great start to the year with many volunteer hours already logged in. Thank you for your help with Breakfast with Dad, Red Ribbon Week, Preschool Book Donation, American Education Week, and America Recycles Week!

The Hootenanny Fall Festival was an amazing success! This family-fun event had the kids enjoying games, carnival rides, and lots of delicious food! We could not have hosted the fantastic night without your generous contribu-

tions and team work. We thank all of our volunteers from our parents to our middle school alumni to all of the Oakview teachers and administration. The hours of work and planning by our Hootenanny committee, Jean Scott, Kim Botzo, and Kerry Fish were instrumental in the huge success of the evening. Hats off to you ladies! Please continue to volunteer as we head into our holiday season. Whether it is making copies, creating a classroom calendar, lunch bunch, or sending in goodies for the holiday party, your hours are important

to our school. Please log on to oakviewpta.com and report the hours you have spent on volunteer activities outside of the school. Thank you for all that you do for our children and our school. You are an integral part of what makes Oakview Elementary a "Habitat For Learning"!



Our annual Jingle Bell Toy Drop will be held December 5-7 at both entrances during the morning drop off. We will be collecting both new and gently used toys for the children of Greenville County and the Salvation Army. You may give your donations to one of the Girl Scout or Boy Scout helpers in the car rider lines. Please do not wrap your contributions. Contact Misti Buckner at 451-7314 or [misti.buckner@gmail.com](mailto:misti.buckner@gmail.com) if you would like more information.

## Preschool Book Donation Drive

Pam Harris, Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who donated books for the Preschool Book Donation Drive held the week of November 5-9. We were able to collect over 1,800 books! Both **Ready 4 Reading** and the **Golden Strip Child Development Cen-**

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



## Box Tops

Danielle Colby and Julie Wells, Co Chairs

Thank you to all that participated in our Fall Box Tops Blitz! We had a great collection event, with over 17,000 Box Tops counted! The winning classes from each grade will celebrate with a pajama day and a new piece of play equipment for recess.

Keep collecting those Box Tops! We will be holding both **individual and class contests** throughout the year. Check your student's backpack for upcoming events!





What a Hoot! We were blessed with beautiful, clear weather for Hootenanny 2012 on Nov. 2, and many current and former students and their families turned out for four and a half hours of games, rides and goodies. We surpassed our budgeted gross income with about \$37,700 in sales. Our current estimated net income is \$20,000, which also exceeds PTA's budgeted profit.

The Fun Zone—featuring confetti eggs for smashing and Silly String for blasting—was once again our top feature. The new Chicken Chuckin' and Toilet-Paper Toss games were also popular. Special thanks to Attendance Clerk Cathy Nolen for her "Hooten' Annie" promotions of the Chicken Chuckin' game and other festival features during the school's morning news. You still have us laughing!

Thank you to all of you who worked booth shifts, which were signed up for online this year for the first time in the festival's history. Thanks to those who helped create more than 400 tissue-paper flowers to sell. Thanks to those who helped prepare 250 dozen confetti eggs. Thanks to those who donated Bingo prizes, drinks, candy, tissue paper or Silly String.



Thanks also to the many parents who baked bake-sale goodies and cakes for our cakewalk. Approximately 125 cakes (or pies or packages of cupcakes or cake pops) were submitted for the cakewalk and entered into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hootenanny Cake-Decorating Contest. The winners were announced at the end of the school day Nov. 2.

Winners for the Youth Division of the Cake-Decorating Contest:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Ashleigh Martin for her owl with owlets cake

2<sup>nd</sup> place: London Chastain for her candy-covered butterfly cake

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Olivia Campbell for her owl in a beautiful tree

Outstanding Owl Cake: Addison Scott for her owl with Oreo eyes

Outstanding Creativity: Lily Peck for her "Princess and the Pea Cake"

Outstanding Oakview "All Signs Point to Success" Cake: Nate Adams for his oak-tree cake

Winners for the Adult Division of the Cake-Decorating Contest:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Tammie Moore for her cupcake cake of an oak tree and owl

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Amy Funke for her light-up fire engine cake

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Cathy Hodge for her chocolate owl cake

Outstanding Owl Cake: Amy Funke for cake of an owl on a branch

Outstanding Creativity: Shannon Makosiej for her giant owl cake accented with candies and a crown

Outstanding Oakview "All Signs Point to Success" Cake: Jennifer Cronk

All winners received a gift card donated by a local business and a ribbon. Adult 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place winners also received Biltmore Inspirations gifts donated by Kim Botzo.

Additional thanks go out to the following Hootenanny Committee members:

- Carmen Beeson and Sergio Beeson—Bingo
  - John Scott—Bingo
  - Bethann Graham—Tissue-Paper Flowers
  - Jennifer Phillips—Fun Zone for Silly String and confetti eggs
  - Betsy Williams and Jessica Payne—Student-volunteer coordinators
- And Tracie Dowis—Cake-Decorating contest

Special thanks as well to PTA President Mindy Kupec, PTA Treasurer Christi Yenser, Volunteers Co-Chairs Kimberly Masters and Francine Morris, PTA Ways and Means Co-Chairs Bethann Graham and Kelle Corvin, and Business Partner Chair Susan Hunter.

PTA is also grateful to our principal, Dr. Phillip Reavis, and Assistant Principals Carrie Prochaska and Terri Wheeler-Hawkins for their assistance and support and to Plant Engineer Sean Malia and his staff for helping with setup, cleanup and logistics. Thanks also to guidance counselor Allyson Blackwell, or "Miss Bee," for her help in judging cakes along with Ms. Prochaska and Ms. Wheeler-Hawkins. And finally, we could not pull off this event without the help of Oakview's teachers, who worked at ticket sales, Bingo, the Cakewalk, and the Parkside Pediatrics Mock Medic Booth.

As we continue to tally our profits, we are mindful that there is no way to tally the thousands of smiles that were smiled at the festival that evening, and for that we are also grateful.







## Legislative Updates Melissa Pair, Chair

### Greenville County School Board

The operations of Greenville County Schools are governed by an elected 12-member Board of Trustees. Each board member represents a single area of the county. There are no "at-large" seats on the board. The term of office is 4 years and there is not a limit on the number of terms a board member can serve.

The board is responsible for hiring a Superintendent and for approving school district budgets, policies and plans and conducting other official business. The Superintendent of Greenville County Schools reports to, and is evaluated by, the school board.

Board meetings are open to the public, the school board generally meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays. The meeting on the second Tuesday is informational and held during the day. Official business of the board is conducted at evening meetings on the fourth Thursday. Prior to the start of this meeting, members of the public have an opportunity to make a brief presentation to the board.

Elections for school board members

are held every two years with 6 members elected each time. Races for school board are non-partisan: Candidates are not affiliated with any political party. There is no run-off election. No matter the number of candidates for a school board area, the person with the most votes wins.

To find information on the current members of the school board go to [www.greenville.k12.sc.us](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us) and click on "School Board."

### State Board of Education

The State Board of Education is the body responsible for public elementary and secondary education in South Carolina. The Board consists of 17 members, one appointed from each of the state's 16 judicial circuits by the legislative delegations representing the various circuits and one member appointed by the governor. Members are appointed for four-year terms.

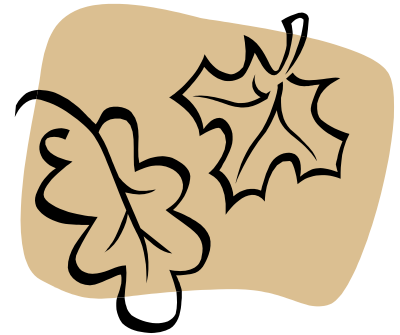
The next State Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. To watch the meeting live or see videos of

previous meetings visit: <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/stateboard/video/index.cfm>

### Did You Know?

Of the funds South Carolina school districts have to spend on school operations, 71% goes to instruction and instructional support and less than 3% is spent for district administration.

Source: In\$ite, South Carolina Department of Education.



## Elf Shelf Celeste Blinston, Kari Bristol, Cyndi Jennings, Co-chairs

It's that time of year again and the elves are busy in their workshop! All classes are invited to visit *Elf Shelf* Dec 11th-Dec 13th to shop for mom and dad. Students may buy one gift for mom and one gift for dad. Prices will range from \$1 to \$5 each, cash only.

**Be on the lookout for more information on the website and in book bags soon!**



## Reflections

Cherie Furr, Coordinator

The following are the winners for Reflections. The theme this year was **"The Magic of a Moment."**

### Primary Visual Arts

1st Caroline Furr  
2nd Brooklynn Cutter  
3rd Yashasvini Ranganathan  
HM Ashley Chittum  
HM Samantha Mergl

### Intermediate Visual Arts

1st Sonia Garg  
2nd Caitlyn Furr  
3rd Clayton Bloomstran  
HM Kimsey Fiddie  
HM Dylan Mergl

### Intermediate Music

1st Manasvini Ranganathan

### Primary Film

1st Yashasvini Ranganathan

### Intermediate Film

1st Manasvini Ranganathan  
2nd Hayden Copeland  
3rd Madhav Bhat

### Primary Photography

1st Caroline Furr  
2nd Yashasvini Ranganathan

### Intermediate Photography

1st Caitlyn Furr  
2nd Caitlyn Furr  
3rd Miranda Felt  
HM Olivia Corvin

HM Miranda Felt

### Primary Dance

1st Yashasvini Ranganathan

### Intermediate Dance

1st Faith Bloomstran  
2nd Clarissa Meier

### Primary Literature

1st Yashasvini Ranganathan

### Intermediate Literature

1st Omika Merchant  
2nd Madhav Bhat  
3rd Sara Sasser  
HM Nandita Bhat  
HM Apoorva Mahendranath

## Ways and Means

Well, the Hootenanny was a HUGE success. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and supported our fall festival this year. We could not have done it without you! As the holidays approach, don't forget that you can Christmas shop and support Oakview at the same time. Enjoy shopping online? Go to box tops for education's website, and earn extra money for Oakview while enjoying hassle-free shopping from

home. Prefer going to the store? Use your Red card when shopping at Target, and a portion of your total comes directly to Oakview. (If you have any questions about linking your red card to Oakview, feel free to contact us). Also returning in December is our Holiday Elf Shelf. Oakview students will have a chance to shop for 2 gifts for loved ones. Look for details coming home after Thanksgiving, or check out our website for dates and

volunteer information. Thanks again for your support in making Oakview the best school it can be!"



## Hurricane Sandy Assistance

Would you like to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy in the NY area? We know this a busy time of year and many of you have been giving a lot to Oakview over these past few weeks which we very much appreciate. However, if you would like to help our neighbors in the Northeast, please consider donating \*new\* blankets, coats (all sizes) and socks to help the children stay warm as it gets colder. Everything needs to be brought to the stage by Friday, November 16th

so that Jennifer Garvey can get them to the right people.

Any questions, please email Jennifer at [dmd4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:dmd4kids@yahoo.com).



# 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

### November

- Nov 14 Chick-fil-a Night
- Nov 21-23 Thanksgiving Break—No School
- Nov 29 Breakfast with Dad for Second Grade, 7:15am

### December

- Dec 3 General PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
- Dec 5 PTA Board Meeting 9am
- Dec 5-7 Jingle Bell Toy Drop
- Dec 11-13 Elf Shelf
- Dec 14 Chick-Fil-A Night
- Dec 19 Holiday Party
- Dec 20 to Jan 1 Winter Break—NO SCHOOL

### January

- Jan 7 - 11 Your Pie Restaurant Week
- Jan 8 ACORN Articles Due
- Jan 9 PTA Board Meeting 9:00am
- Jan 15 Chick-Fil-A Night
- Jan 15 ACORN Distributed
- Jan 18-21 No School
- Jan 24 Teacher In-Service and MLK Holiday
- Jan 24 Breakfast with Dads Third Grade 7:15am
- Jan 25 Art Show & Bingo Grades 4 and 5
- Jan 31 Math, Science and Technology 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](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:

Mindy Kupec

### Newsletter Editor:

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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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Next issue publication: **January 15, 2013**

### 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.

