

# Oakview Elementary Honors and Awards

## 2007-2008

### OAKVIEW WINS CHAMPION OF THE ENVIRONMENT GRANT

#### SOLAR IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Solar Irrigation Project aims to capture and hold rainwater and, when needed for watering to use the sun's energy, to distribute it. After conducting an energy efficiency audit, Oakview Elementary Robotics Team wanted to improve the efficiency of watering the schools learning habitats. With help from a Clemson Extension agent and a local irrigation company, the students will place a small pump powered by a solar panel into each of two rain barrels located at downspouts on the school building. When there is not enough rainfall to keep the school's orchard and gardens wet enough the solar system will be used. This project will reduce energy required for irrigation, will reduce storm-water and put water back into the local environment.

Students are calculating the amount of energy saved by using a solar pump system over a conventional electric irrigation system. They will present their findings to the Greenville County School Board and will offer their expertise to other schools that may want to implement a similar project.

### OAKVIEW HONORED FOR "CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP"

Oakview has been honored for closing the achievement gap between traditionally underachieving demographic groups of students and those who typically do better, according to the state Education Oversight Committee. A study released today by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) identified four Greenville County schools that are closing the achievement gap between the performance of students who are economically advantaged versus disadvantaged, and/or between the performance of white and African-American students.

The study applied rigorous criteria to determine schools that are being recognized for their efforts. The criteria are:

- ☆ There must be at least 30 African-American or free/reduced lunch eligible students across all grades who were tested in at least one subject;
- ☆ The performance of the target and comparison group in the school must be either at the 90th percentile or higher or between the 75th and 89th percentile of schools statewide for students scoring basic and above and/or for students scoring proficient and above;
- ☆ Schools could be eligible for meeting the "closing the gap" requirements in either mathematics or English/language arts and for either economically disadvantaged or racial/ethnic groups; and
- ☆ The difference in the performance of the two groups must not be statistically significant.

"Oakview Elementary School has implemented its share of initiatives to 'close the gap,'" said Principal Phillip Reavis. "We have organized community volunteers to serve as Reading Tutors and Sunshine Math Volunteers, offered school programs and clubs for students, and trained teachers in the latest computer technology integration. But our greatest success lies in the hands and hearts of caring teachers."

Among Oakview's successful "closing the gap" measures are teachers who serve as volunteer tutors after school; community volunteers who serve as reading tutors; outdoor learning habitats; implementation of the 4-Blocks Literacy model; Book Buddies; grade level planning and vertical curriculum articulation; and focused, data-driven instruction. (From <http://www.scholix.com/GCSD062103.htm> on May 2, 2008).

### PALMETTO GOLD AWARD

The South Carolina Education Oversight Committee has awarded Oakview Elementary its seventh consecutive Palmetto Gold Award! This prestigious honor recognizes our school for outstanding test score performance on PACT and comes with a monetary award of over \$28,000! Thank you to all of our students for their hard work, our faculty for setting high standards in the classroom, our parents for their countless hours of volunteering and support from home, and our school community for their strong endorsement of what we do. To learn more about the Palmetto Gold Award, please visit <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/district/news/release/2008a/palmetto.asp>.

### OAKVIEW IS NOW A "GREEN STEP SCHOOL"

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