



*Learning through the Arts*

**SIC Report to the People  
April 2016  
SIC President: Jim Roper**

**Standards Implementation and Professional Development** – All teachers have implemented the SC College and Career-Ready Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math this year. Teachers have received professional development in ELA and Math and will continue to learn more about these rigorous standards throughout this year to best meet the needs of our students.

**ROAR program** - Our school-wide academic assistance program for reading and math continues to benefit our students. Students receive assistance during a 50 minute block during the school day. We have implemented Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) as a new reading intervention for students not reading on grade level. Based on our data, our students have shown significant growth. We are excited to have this intervention system and look forward to seeing even more reading growth in the future.

**Reading and Enrichment Time** - In order to achieve uninterrupted class time, all students, including those needing special services, receive enrichment during a 50 minute block of time each day. These blocks of time are staggered among grade levels.

**Read Across America's Dr. Seuss Day and Walk to School Day** – Our staff and students combine physical activity with a character parade and reading for pleasure throughout the week. Because of events such as this, La France Elementary is recognized as a "Silver Level" partner with the SC Safe Routes Program.

**SC Dogs Therapy "Bark" Program** – Students participate in animal assisted activities that are goal directed, therapeutic interventions to help meet their special needs.

**Writers' Pride** – Students are encouraged and celebrated for exemplary writing each nine weeks with a cookies and milk snack and small writing gifts. Their writing is showcased on a Writers' Pride bulletin board for the entire school to enjoy.

**GoalPost** – In collaboration with Clemson University, extra assistance is provided to students based on academic need in grades 3-6.

**Tutoring Program-** We collaborate with local universities to obtain student tutors for our students. While the college students receive credit for their classes, our students receive extra weekly support.

**Mentoring Program** – Students receive special attention from mentors from various walks of life depending on their needs. For example, our Good News Club leaders have mentored several of our students based on teacher requests. On May 5th our kindergarten team will be awarded the Commendation of Excellence in Service Learning award by the Commission on Higher Education from our state because of the way in which they incorporate mentors from Tri-County Technical College within their daily instruction.

**MAGI Christmas Assistance** – Families receive meals and gifts donated by area churches and distributed through our school.

**Backpack and PACK Program-** In collaboration with United Way and our local churches, we provide book bags and all of the needed supplies to begin the school year. In addition, we send home “kid-friendly” meals each weekend in backpacks for students in need.

**Character Education Program** - Each month a different character trait is introduced and toward the end of the month, each teacher selects one winner. The winner is recognized during awards day. Students are also rewarded with special field trips and activities each 9 weeks.

**Olweus Bully - Prevention Program** – This comprehensive, school-wide approach addresses bullying and creates a safer, more positive place to learn. Olweus focuses on improving relationships among our students rather than just those who have been bullied or have bullied others.

**International Peace Day** - On Sept. 18 the entire school population assembled on the school grounds for a ceremony to affirm our desire to spread peace in our world. We sang songs about peace and a speaker gave students ideas to prevent bullying at our school. Students used the Zentangle method of creating line and shape patterns with sharpies on their pinwheel templates. Next the pinwheels were constructed using straws and pins. We used our pinwheels to create an art installation that reflects our wish for a peaceful school campus.

**Archery in PE** - LES students in third through sixth grades participated in the National Archery in the Schools archery unit in the fall. Students perfected their skills and had an opportunity to tryout for the archery team. With the leadership of Coach Terry and Mr. Brock, the La France Archery team has once again earned state recognition. Our team placed 1st in the district and regional tournaments and 4th in the state tournament.

**SC Elementary Honors Choir since 2005** – Four of our students represented our school in this year's performance in Columbia, SC. The choir consisted of approximately 240 students from across the state selected through a rigorous recorded audition process.

**Engaging students through Visual Arts** - Three of our kindergarten students swept the Anderson Independent Mail spooky drawing contest winning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. 10 of our students had art work displayed at the Anderson County Arts Council during Youth Art Month and one student was awarded 2nd place overall in the elementary division. Four of our 5th graders had their artwork chosen to be displayed on the Anderson Oconee Solicitors Anti-Drug Calendar and were awarded \$100 gift cards. All students will have the opportunity to work with artists in residence during our day long arts event in May.

**Engaging Learners with a Focus on the Arts** – Our teachers have continued using the strategies they learned through the Focus Five training and Kennedy Center workshops to integrate the arts into our curriculum. Specifically, we have learned how the use of movement, drama, art, and music will enhance lessons ensuring our students retain what they learn through the 4C's (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity) and further assist our students in the development of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills.\*

**Cup Stacking** - Physical education used Speed Stacks to have students work on their eye-hand coordination, ambidexterity and concentration through cross-linear movements and patterns. Once students have experienced the use of Speed Stacks, research shows the brain experiences biological changes which lead to an increase in academic abilities, memory retrieval and cognitive abilities.

**Dance** - Our PTO has sponsored a dance teacher to teach our 4K - Second grade students. Through this program, the students learn dance moves that help with body control and body motion. They are exposed to different types of dance (jazz, ballet, etc), learning multiple steps and combinations to create small routines. In addition, the students experience different types of music while discovering the beats and other aspects of music as it relates to dance.

**PTO** – Our Parent Teacher Organization plays an active role in our school community sponsoring family and school events throughout the school year including our Father/Daughter Dance and all our Family Nights.

**IXL Math and IXL ELA** – IXL Math and ELA are designed to help your child learn at his or her own pace. The website is adaptive and will adjust to your child's needs. IXL Math and ELA are aligned with state standards and Common Core.

**2016 All Stars Program** – The Greenville Drive All Star Reading Program is a reading incentive program aimed at promoting reading and academic success among youth across the Upstate. The program is open to 3rd – 8th grades.

**AOP Jet Toy** - This is the third year our students have participated in the challenge sponsored by A World in Motion, which is a program that brings science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to life in the classroom. The Jet Toy Challenge event challenges students to create balloon-powered toy cars that meet specific performance criteria like; distance traveled, weight carried, and speed. Jet propulsion, friction, air resistance, and design are the core scientific concepts students explore in this challenge.

**Wax Museum 2nd grade** - Each 2nd Grade student chooses a famous American and researches that person's life. After completing research, each student writes a report and makes a display including the report and artifacts to represent the person. The entire school along with parents and other guests are invited to come and view our annual Second Grade Wax Museum.

### **School wide ACT and SCPASS data from the 2015-16 school year:**

- 82.0% ACT readiness for ELA
- 27.1% ACT readiness for Writing
- 60.4% ACT readiness for Math
- 79.2% meeting or exceeding standard for Science
- 91.6% meeting or exceeding standard for Social Studies
- 88.1% meeting or exceeding standard for Writing

**I am thrilled to say we performed better than schools like ours in every subject area.**

### **21st Century Skills and Arts Integration**

With the vast social, cultural, technological, and economical changes our nation is experiencing, as well as those we have yet to imagine, many are reconsidering what knowledge and skills students will need to be successful in the 21st century. The question under consideration is how to create "a new learning environment consistent with the cognitive and expressive demands of the 21st century." The teachers and staff at La France Elementary feel the answer to this question is for students to be immersed in the arts encouraging creativity and problem solving.

That arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic."

*—William Bennett, Former US Secretary of Education*

