



**Paw Prints from the Principal
Duncan Elementary School
April/May 2013**

Hello, Duncan Wildcat Families! I hope that you and your families had a wonderful Spring Break. It's so hard to believe that we are already in the fourth quarter of the school year. Duncan Wildcats have been busy at work and enjoying each other's company along the way. We have a very busy rest of the year planned, so I encourage you to carefully read the information/newsletter from your child's teacher, as well as this newsletter.

Continuing to build a strong partnership with our families is always one of our goals. Remember, there is no membership fee for taking part in your child's education here at school; all you have to do is say "yes" when contacted. If you are willing to serve in a leadership capacity, please contact Tiffany Wood, our Parent Volunteer Coordinator, at ksdbyangels@aol.com

Our SIC/Title I Committee will meet in May to review our school's progress as mapped out in our school's Title I program and plan for next school year. In preparation for this process, our annual Title I Parent Surveys were distributed at our Variety Show earlier this semester. This survey is used to provide feedback on the current school year, and it helps us to plan for the coming year.

Remember, as we begin to plan for next school year, that while we do not take specific requests for teachers, I do encourage you to send me a letter describing your child's learning needs academically, socially, and emotionally. We will use this information in addition to many other important pieces of information to make the very best placement "fit" for your child. Your child's best interest is our top priority.

We continue to have many wonderful events planned for our students and families. Information will continue to be sent home on a regular basis with important dates. **Please see the snapshot of important dates below that you'll want to place on your family calendar. Look for more details in your child's newsletter. Thank you for your understanding if changes become necessary with these events. We will notify you as soon as possible in the event of a change.**

April 15-19	MAP Testing (Reading) for 3 rd and 4 th grade
April 18	2:45-4:00 Student Council Spring Dance for 3 rd and 4 th grade
April 22-26	Volunteer Appreciation Week District & School Accreditation Visit
April 29-May 3	MAP Testing (Math) for 3 rd and 4 th grade MAP Testing (Reading) for K, 1 st , and 2 nd grade
April 30	7:00 "Munching with Mom" for Students in K-1 Progress Reports Issued to Students in Grades 2-4
May 1	3 rd grade Field Trip to Columbia
May 2	7:00 "Munching with Mom" for Students in Grades 2 nd -4 th
May 3	4 th grade Field Trip to Charleston
May 6-10	MAP Testing (Math) for K, 1 st , and 2 nd grade
May 7	PASS Testing (ELA) for 3 rd and 4 th grade
May 8	PASS Testing (Math) for 3 rd and 4 th grade
May 9	PASS Testing (Science <u>or</u> Social Studies) for 3 rd grade; Science for 4 th grade
May 10	PASS Testing (Social Studies) for 4 th grade
May 17	Last Day of K/4 –Program at 8:15
May 23	4 th grade Arts Day
May 24	Field Day in the morning
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday
May 29	Awards Day-8:15 Kindergarten; 9:45 1 st grade
May 30	Awards Day-8:15 2 nd grade; 9:45 3 rd grade; Dismissal at 11:25
May 31	Last Day of School for Students Awards Day-8:15 4 th grade; Dismissal at 11:25; Report Cards Issued

Included in this "Paw Prints" is our Annual Report to the People for the 2011-2012 School Year. Please take time to read through the accomplishments of our students and school family.

Don't hesitate to contact me (Susan.Hill@spart5.net or 949-2373) if you have questions.



**Duncan Elementary School
Annual Report to the People for the 2011-2012 School Year**



“Wildcat Wows”

- Recognized by the State Department of Education as a Palmetto Silver Award Winner for “Overall Student Improvement” as measured by our 3rd and 4th grade students’ performance on Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) test.
- Shelby Shuler was recognized as the Terrific Kid of the Year for Duncan Elementary School.
- Duncan Elementary School provided the following extracurricular programs: Wildcat Chorus/Drama, Creations, K-Kids, Girls on the Run, and our “Early Bird” Extended Day Program.
- Duncan Elementary has a total of twelve teachers who have earned National Board Certification.
- Lisa Russell, First Grade Teacher, was named Duncan Elementary School Teacher of the Year.
- Glenda Nilsson was named Duncan Elementary School Support Employee of the Year.

Our Duncan Wildcats Care

- Duncan Wildcats’ “Relay for Life” Team raised \$ 6,827.68 for the American Cancer Society.
- United Way participation by the staff was 100% (seventh consecutive year) with contributions totaling \$3,585.

MAP (Measures of Academic Performance) Goals for 2011-2012

- The percentage of students meeting their individual target goals on MAP in reading and math will increase each year.
- All students will show significant gains in reading and math (specific attention given to the strand within each content area rather than overall score).

The school data wall, in the cafeteria, displays the achievement of students in K-4th in each individual academic strand. Data walls in 2nd-4th grade classrooms display this information.

State Report Card

In July 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education was granted a waiver from several accountability requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The waiver allowed South Carolina to replace the former pass/fail system with one that utilizes more of the statewide assessments already in place to determine if a school has met the target or made progress toward the target.

The overall weighted points that Duncan Elementary School has earned through this waiver is 87.5 with an overall grade conversion of “B”. The grade indicates that our students’ performance exceeds the state expectations. Duncan Elementary School has also been designated as a Title I Reward School for Performance—among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.

**Student Achievement Update
Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)**

Percentage of Students Meeting Standard

	ELA			Writing		Math			Science			Social Studies		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Grade 3														
School	81.7	71.9	79.8	77.7	NA	65.1	58.8	53.2	62.3	57.4	49.0	71.4	78.3	60.9
District	82.6	82.4	83.3	76.4		75.5	76.4	74.4	62.5	68.3	66.4	79.6	81.7	73.4
State	80.7	80.0	80.3	71.0		70.0	70.4	72.6	55.7	60.8	60.7	73.2	76.6	74.6
Grade 4														
School	75.7	81.8	78.1	77.1	NA	78.6	84.5	80.7	68.9	76.4	72.8	69.9	85.5	79.8
District	80.9	81.9	83.5	77.3		83.4	85.8	85.7	77.5	80.1	82.4	80.2	82.8	87.5
State	76.5	78.0	78.2	72.3		76.7	79.4	78.4	69.3	70.9	73.8	76.2	77.1	80.9

**Duncan Elementary School is a Title I School-wide Project.
Our School Improvement Council (SIC)/Title I Planning Committee**

Lynn Vaughn
Tiffany Wood
Teresa Baxley
Melissa Brannon-Onofre
Maggie Pack
Alisha Jones
Ana Ceasar
Lamar McAbee
Chief Ryan Cothran
Richard Kelly
Sis Walters
Susan Curnane
Debbie Kelly
Lisa Russell
Belinda Snow
Mary Troisi
Susan Hill
Lisa Russell (Chair)

The mission of Duncan Elementary School is to provide every student's quality educational experiences in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment, enabling each individual to succeed in life and function as a productive citizen.

