



**Paw Prints from the Principal**  
**Duncan Elementary School**  
**April/May 2016**

Hello Duncan Wildcat Families!

Duncan Wildcats have been hard 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.

Building positive relationships with our students and their families is a priority for us. Each year, we strive to grow these relationships so that we may better serve our students.

Our School Improvement Council (SIC)/Title I Committee will meet later in the spring 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 Surveys will be distributed to parents soon. This survey is used to provide feedback on the current school year, and it helps us to plan for the coming year. Your input is greatly appreciated. It is our desire to continue to improvement each year in order to better meet the needs of our students.

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. If additional changes become necessary with these events, we will notify you as soon as possible.**

**April**

- 26 SC Ready Math Test for 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 27 7:00 Munching with Moms-Grade K & 1st  
SC Ready ELA Test for 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 28 7:00 Munching with Mom for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades  
SC Ready ELA Test for 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 29 Volunteer Luncheon in Media Center Conference Room

**May**


- 2-6 National Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- 3 5:30-7:30 Family Skate Night at Roebuck Skating Rink
- 6 9-11 Drop in and Play
- 11 SC PASS Science Testing-4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 12 SC PASS Social Studies Testing-4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 13 2:45-3:30 Spring Dance for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Last Day of K4
- 19 6:00-Midnight Relay for Life-USC Upstate
- 20 Movie Star Day & 6:00 p.m. Variety Show at Duncan Elementary School  
Field Day
- 22 Reading All Stars Game for participating 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade students at FLUOR Field
- 24 Awards Days: 8:15 K/5; 9:45 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- 25 Awards Days: 8:15 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; 9:45 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- 26 8:15 4<sup>th</sup> grade Awards Day
- 27 Half-Day Attendance for Students; Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.
- 30 Memorial Day Holiday
- 31 Student Make-up Day (from Inclement Weather);  
Half-Day Attendance for Students; Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.

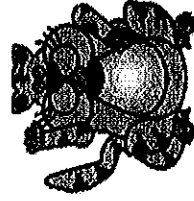
**June**

- 1 Student Make-up Day 7:40-12:40 (from missing school on March 15-recovering from hailstorm)

Included in this "Paw Prints" is our Annual Report to the People for the 2014-2015 School Year. Thank you for taking time to read through the accomplishments of our students and school family. Please contact me ([Susan.Hill@spart5.net](mailto:Susan.Hill@spart5.net) or 949-2373) if you have questions.




  
**Duncan Elementary School**
  
**Annual Report to the People for the 2014-2015 School Year**



**“Wildcat Wows”**

- Since 2001, 100% of our Teachers have been “Highly Qualified”.
- Duncan Elementary has a total of 12 teachers who have earned National Board Certification.
- Sally Robinson, Special Education Teacher, was named Duncan Elementary School Teacher of the Year.
- Beth Schell, Instructional Assistant, was named Duncan Elementary School Support Employee of the Year.
- Ryan Hand, Fourth Grade, was recognized as the Terrific Kid of the Year for Duncan Elementary School.
- Catarina Neves-Costa, Fourth Grade, was recognized with the Superintendent’s Citizenship Award.
- Duncan Elementary School provided the following special area and extracurricular programs:  
German (1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade), Creations, Wildcat Chorus/Drama, Student Council, Wildcat Patrol, 7 Habits Video Crew, Breakfast Buddies, Lunch Buddies, and Reading Buddies from Byrnes High School.

**Our Duncan Wildcats Care**

- Duncan Wildcats’ “Relay for Life” Team raised \$2,478.43 for the American Cancer Society.
- United Way contributions by our faculty/staff totaled \$ 1,527.00.
- Duncan Wildcats collected \$100 for the March of Dimes.

**School Climate** (as assessed by State Report Card Surveys-Spring 2015)

	Teachers	Students	Parents
Percent satisfied with learning environment	92.0	94.0	90.0
Percent satisfied with social & physical environment	96.0	90.0	90.0
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	69.0	93.0	77.0

*Our Title I Surveys will be distributed soon. Thank you, in advance, for providing us with specific feedback in this area so that we may continue to improve our school climate.*

**MAP (Measures of Academic Performance) Goals for 2014-2015**

- 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).

**Reading**

\*Common Core Standards assessed 2013-2015 (District Score is in parentheses.)

Grade Level	Average Baseline	2011	2012	2013-CCS*	2014-CCS*	2015-CCS*
K (Primary MAP)	72.5	61.0	56.0	54.4	52.8	NA
1 <sup>st</sup> (Primary MAP)	53.8	68.6	33.9	38.2	39.3	52 (47.0)
2 <sup>nd</sup> (Primary MAP)	53.5	55.2	39.8	44.1	42.7	31 (45.0)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	54.3	57.5	46.3	44.1	45.0	52 (56.0)
4 <sup>th</sup>	41.9	48.2	40.7	51.0	44.7	41 (46.0)

**Math**

\*Common Core Standards assessed 2013-2015

Grade Level	Average Baseline	2011	2012	2013-CCS*	2014-CCS*	2015-CCS*
K (Primary MAP)	80.7	81.6	57.4	65.2	67.7	NA
1 <sup>st</sup> (Primary MAP)	50.5	56.7	39.1	53.5	65.3	56 (50.0)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	54.1	46.9	41.2	32.5	34.3	46 (51.0)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	41.0	40.2	32.3	49.0	52.2	34 (56.0)
4 <sup>th</sup>	64.5	68.8	70.9	71.1	55.1	50 (43.0)

### State Report Card Update

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. Due to changes in our state law, schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017.

### Student Achievement Update

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) until Spring 2015 when ACT Aspire, which was timed, was administered. Note: The State Assessment for 2015-2016 is SC Ready, which is not a timed test.

Percentage of Students Meeting Standard

\*The numbers highlighted (in the diagonal pattern) indicate growth from one year to another for the "same group" of students.

Due to the change in State Assessments, assessing growth for the "same group" of students is not possible.

	ELA		2015**		Writing		Math		
	2013	2014	English	Reading	2013	2014	2013	2014	
<b>Grade 3</b>									
School	<del>84.1</del>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<del>75.2</del>	<b>83.3</b>	<del>62.6</del>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>55.8</b>
District	84.7	82.9	71.7	34.4	76.4	83.0	74.4	78.1	67.8
State	82.9	78.9	65.1	31.8	71.0	78.1	72.6	71.6	58.0
<b>Grade 4</b>									
School	<b>84.1</b>	<del>72.3</del>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<del>80.8</del>	<b>86.9</b>	<del>79.2</del>	<b>43.8</b>
District	83.5	79.0	69.8	34.7	77.9	78.1	85.7	79.6	54.2
State	78.2	76.5	67.2	32.8	74.4	77.1	78.4	75.4	49.4

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)

	Science			Social Studies		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015**
<b>Grade 3</b>						
School	<del>55.6</del>	<b>54.4</b>	NA	<del>84.9</del>	<b>68.6</b>	NA
District	70.8	66.6		82.2	79.5	
State	67.8	63.4		79.8	77.2	
<b>Grade 4</b>						
School	<b>72.0</b>	<del>64.4</del>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<del>82.5</del>	<b>80.3</b>
District	76.6	74.6	69.8	82.6	85.9	85.1
State	73.1	69.8	69.9	81.8	83.7	85.3

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

- Terry Perez, Parent
- Rose Maldonado, Parent
- Christy Bridges, Parent
- Kathryn Neves-Costa, Parent
- Stacia Dellinger, Parent
- Tameka Fiddemon, Parent
- Stephanie Ball, Community Member
- Rhonda Lindsey, Community Member
- Sis Walters, Community Member
- Teresa Baxley, Teacher
- Ana Ceasar, Staff
- Lisa Russell, Teacher
- Leslie Cash, Guidance Counselor
- Ex-Officio Members include:
- Susan Curnane, Parent Educator
- Sally Robinson, Duncan Teacher of the Year 2014-2015
- Belinda Snow, District Title I & Elementary Education Coordinator
- Branddon Benson, Assistant Principal
- Mary Troisi, Assistant Principal
- Susan Hill, Principal

*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.*