Dear Parents and Guardians,

This has been an exciting year at Pocalla Springs Elementary. We have participated in many initiatives and have earned several recognitions. We are able to accomplish these things because at Pocalla Springs Elementary, we Aim for Success!

Pocalla Springs aims for success by being a school where students are prepared to learn and ready to meet the challenges of each day. We aim to have a school where parents are actively involved and participate in their child's education by attending workshops and special events, and by encouraging school attendance, good homework habits, and excellent behavior. We aim for a safe and supportive environment across the entire day—whether it is on the playground, on the bus, in the hallways, or in the cafeteria.

Pocalla Springs aims for success by utilizing the services of a school-wide curriculum coach to assist the principal in developing professional learning opportunities based on our population and needs. Opportunities include Standards-Based Curriculum Delivery, Student Assistance, Response to Intervention, Test Analysis, Explicit Direct Instruction, Brain Research, and Technology-based Learning. Our Reading Coach facilitates activities to improve instruction and to create a rich, literacy-based learning environment for students.

Pocalla Springs aims for success by contributing to and caring for the community. Service Learning initiatives include Shower Shaw with Cookies, Career Fair, and other projects to beautify the environment and raise awareness. Our philanthropic effort has been mainly geared toward the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life, but we have also made significant donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Jump Rope for Heart and Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Thank you for working with us and for giving us the opportunity to serve your child.

Angela Lee, Chairman School Improvement Council

Dr. Laura M. Brown, Principal

Pocalla Springs Elementary School

Our Beliefs

- Student learning is the chief priority for the school.
- A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.
- Teachers, administrators, parents, students, and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
- The commitment of continuous improvement is imperative at our school and will enable students to become confident, self-directed, and lifelong learners.

Our Vision

Committed students, staff, and parents achieve the best education.

Pocalla Springs Elementary School Report to Parents

2015-2016



The mission of Pocalla Springs Elementary School is to ensure the best education for every child.

2060 Bethel Church Road Sumter, SC 29154 (803) 481-5800



Chairperson Angela Lee Principal......Dr. Laura M. Brown Asst. Principal...... Dr. Candy Richburg Asst. Principal...... Robert Montgomery Parent..... Stephanie Bradley Parent.....Julie Denton Parent.....Rashida Durant Parent.....Amy Strickland Community Donna Johnston Community Charlene Miller Community Danny Shaw Staff...... Myra Dyson Staff...... Karen Gadson







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Accomplishments, Awards, and Initiatives

One to Global Chromebooks in 4th and 5th Grade Accredited -Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation **AfterCARES**

> American Heart Association supporter Back to School Orientation Balanced Literacy **Black History Program Career Awareness** Chorus

District Clean School Award Winner District Teacher of the Year Drama

Fall Festival Family Nights and Parent Workshops Grade Level Planning and Staff Development Heart Association fundraiser Lakewood Gator Mentor Program Math-a-Thon for St. Jude Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Palmetto Silver Award Parent Workshops and Family Nights LetterLand Multi-Sensory Phonics Program

Red Carpet School Red Ribbon Week and Drug Awareness Week Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) supporter School-wide Title One

Positive Behavior Rewards

Shower Shaw with Cookies **Skate Nights**

Student Assistance Program SuccessMaker

Volunteer and Mentor Programs Washington, DC field trip for 5th grade Wee Braves

Summary of Needs Assessment

In order to develop the Pocalla Springs Elementary Strategic Plan, district and school level administrators, teachers, parents and community members analyzed data from the last four school years. The sources included the ACT Aspire, Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The team also analyzed survey results from parents, teachers and students. They reviewed discipline/suspension reports, attendance trends, and teacher turnover rates. After a review of all data, teams developed strategies and activities based on specific areas of weakness and strength.

Student Achievement

The early childhood level requires emphasis on the implementation of strategies that address academic expectations, assessment procedures, and literacy skills. Continued emphasis on a strong family literacy program has been identified as a major need for children and families in this group.

Teacher Quality

In order to ensure teachers are highly qualified, ongoing professional development must be provided. Therefore, a major area of focus will be an emphasis on training, as well as recruitment and retention.

School Climate

Review of perception data, discipline and attendance records indicates a need for connecting with students and the community. Professional development focusing school/home relationship is shown to be a major need, along with a continued emphasis on service learning and school-to-work initiatives.

District Priority

Technology has been established as a district priority objective.

Pocalla Expectations

Be Ready

Respect Others

Act Responsibly

Value Myself

Enjoy Learning

Stay Safe

