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 Technologybased Learning.

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 and Jump Rope for Heart.

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

Donna Johnston, Chairman School Improvement Council

Dr. Laura M. Brown, Principal

## **Pocalla Springs Elementary School**

PrincipalDr. Laura M. Bro	
Assistant Principals.Dr. Doncella Gibson	
Roberta Montgom	ery
School-wide FacilitatorTracy Si	ms
CounselorsMyra Dys	son
Donna Johns	ton
SIC ChairpersonDonna Johns	ton
Secretary/Bookkeeper Janice Bro	wn
Teacher of the YearLeah Sime	ons

### **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

# 2013-2014



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	Donna Johnston
Principal	Dr. Laura M. Brown
Asst. Principal	.Dr. Doncella Gibson
Parent	Julie Denton
Parent	Alicia Johnson
Parent	Lindsay Waddell
Community	Napoleon Bradford
Community	Donovan Ryan
Community	Chelsea Soucey
Staff	Myra Dyson
Staff	Louise Kay
Staff	Donna Johnston



Sumter School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. For inquiries regarding the policy, contact the Chief Operations Officer or the Director of Specialized Programs, Sumter School District, 1345 Wilson Hall Road, Sumter, SC 29150, or call 803-469-6900. Accomplishments, Awards, and Initiatives

Accelerated Reader 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 Drama Fall Festival Family Nights and Parent Workshops Grade Level Planning and Staff Development Hands-on Science (FOSS) Heart Association fundraiser Math-a-Thon for St. Jude Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Palmetto Silver Award Parent Workshops and Family Nights Project Read Multi-Sensory Phonics Program Positive Behavior Rewards Red Carpet School Red Ribbon Week and Drug Awareness Week Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) supporter School-wide Title One Science Fair Regional Winner Shower Shaw with Cookies Skate Nights Student Assistance Program Study Island SuccessMaker Volunteer and Mentor Programs Washington, DC field trip for 5th grade Wee Braves Youth Empowerment Program

#### 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 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 on 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

