

**Millwood Elementary School
Annual Report to Parents
For School Year 2011-2012**

April 30, 2012

Dear Parents:

This report includes an assessment of some of our programs from last year and some information about areas of special emphasis for this year. In 1993, the State Legislature passed the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act (Act 135), requiring schools to begin a comprehensive five-year planning process to improve academic services to our students. Our School Improvement Plan was developed in response to this Act. During the 2009 -2010 school year we were in the fourth year of the implementation of our five-year School Improvement Plan. We want to thank the members of our School Improvement Council, as well as parents and members of the Sumter community who assisted us in the implementation of our plan.

Mission Statement

The mission of Millwood Elementary School is to empower students to achieve academic excellence and become responsible, respectful citizens. To achieve this mission we will provide a challenging and diverse educational foundation in a safe and nurturing environment.

Successes

Millwood continues to build on its tradition of excellence through the collective hard work of our parents, teachers, and students. During the 2010 – 2011 school year, our full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools was maintained, as well as the all clear rating from the State Department of Education. Millwood Elementary received two prestigious awards: “Palmetto Gold Award” in the area of “closing the gap” and “Palmetto Silver Award” for improvement.

Our faculty and staff continued to provide learning opportunities beyond regular classroom instruction through a wonderful variety of programs and activities which included the Ecology Club, Variety Show, Jammin’ Jumpers, Intramural Athletics, Spelling Bee, Shadow a Relative, Job Interviews, Book Buddies, and the Millwood Today TV Show. Our Cooking Caravan, Science Lab, and the Wilderness Walk allowed students to apply science concepts. Engaging our students in these real life activities provided learning opportunities that will be valuable to them in later life. Our PTA had another successful year marked by our Seventh Annual Read-a-thon. This event is not a fund raiser but simply an effort to encourage students to read more. It was very successful and has become a highlight of our year. The Faculty and Staff held the Tenth Annual Barry Leach Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser in conjunction with our PTA’s “Science Night” in February. The Barry Leach Scholarship Fund awarded four scholarships of \$500 each to four graduating seniors of Sumter High School, who previously attended Millwood School, to help with college tuition this past fall.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)

The chart below provides information about our PASS scores, [Met or Exemplary], for last year compared to all students in District 17 and all students in the State of South Carolina.

	ELA			MATH			SCIENCE			SS		
	MWE	DIST	STATE	MWE	DIST	STATE	MWE	DIST	STATE	MWE	DIST	STATE
3 rd	88.4	77.5	80	71.6	63.4	70.4	68.8	54.5	60.8	85.1	72.3	76.6
4 th	89.6	71.7	78	92.5	70	79.4	82.1	58.9	70.9	81.1	71.1	77.1
5 th	89.5	77	78.3	87.4	75.7	75.3	64.6	60.2	64.9	93.6	68.6	70.4

Millwood Elementary School

School Improvement Council 2010 – 2011

Mrs. Camiko Banks	Mr. Rodney Ragin	Mrs. Deanna McElveen
Ms. Melissa Erario	Mrs. Shelly Stokes	Mrs. Laura Zink
Mr. Bobby Greene	Mr. Rodney Ragin	Mrs. Angela Williams
Mrs. Marirose Moran	Mrs. Mikki Owens	Mrs. Wanda Williams
Ms. Anita Hunter	Dr. John B. Hilton Jr.	

Last year our School Improvement Council met each month to discuss issues and programs to make Millwood School a better place for our students to learn. The Council also continued implementation of our School Improvement Plan. In addition, our School Improvement Council provided input regarding use of federal funds provided through our Title One Grant.

2010 - 2011 Objectives

Millwood Elementary School had two objectives for the 2010-2011 school year. Major objectives and evidence of progress in meeting them are presented below.

Objective 1: Provide opportunities for students to develop effective problem solving skills.

Strategy 1– *Provide programs that will enable students to develop the ability to transfer knowledge acquired in the classroom to real life situations.*

The ability to transfer knowledge from the classroom to real life is the whole point of education. At Millwood we strive to provide learning opportunities in the classroom that allow our students to connect what they are learning in class to real life. Last year, students were exposed to Science and Math concepts through the Cooking Caravan. Accelerated Reader and Drops In The Bucket provided real life incentives for students to polish their skills in Reading comprehension and Math problem solving by earning “Millwood Bucks” to spend at the incentive store. Hands on activities and practical applications were a regular part of our instruction.

Strategy 2 - *Provide problem solving situations involving computational and non-computational strategies.*

One of the activities provided was AIMS (Activities Integrating Math and Science), which involves problem solving and higher level thinking skills. Students were also exposed to a variety of problem solving activities such as Drops In The Bucket, Hands On Equations, and ADD Math (Arithmetic Developed Daily). In addition, one of our fourth grade teachers formed an after-school Math Club which enabled students in grades 4 and 5 to compete against other students through a program titled “Math Olympics.” The guidance counselor, during classroom guidance time, provided opportunities through discussion, role-play, and written work for students to learn problem-solving skills.

Objective 2: Provide opportunities for students to develop skills that enable them to effectively interact with individuals and within groups.

Strategy 1– *Provide activities to encourage personal growth and development of interpersonal skills.*

Our Character Education activities included a character development “word of the week” which was discussed on the morning announcements and reinforced by teachers using classroom activities. In addition, the guidance counselor provided classroom guidance lessons for all students with an emphasis on the importance of positive lifestyles and making good choices. Positive reinforcement for respectful behavior was provided students through the “Terrific Kids”, “Magnificent Mustangs”, and “Citizens of the Month” programs that rewarded students for exhibiting good citizenship. The guidance counselor also provided conflict resolution and peer mediation training. Other activities which helped students improve their interpersonal skills included Book Buddies and Cooperative Learning Groups.

Strategy 2 – *Provide extra-curricular group activities that foster teamwork.*

Millwood provided a variety of activities that promote teamwork which include Intra-mural Sports, Jammin’ Jumpers, Chorus, The Variety Show, Student Congress, Ecology Club, and Safety Patrols.

2011– 2012 Strategies for Improvement

The planning team, in conjunction with the faculty and parents, developed the following goals and strategies.

Goal 1: We will provide opportunities for students to learn personal and social responsibility.

Strategy 1 – *Provide a system of positive reinforcement for acceptable and ethical behavior.*

Strategy 2– *Provide learning opportunities to foster cultural understanding, sensitivity and respect for human values.*

Goal 2: We will provide opportunities for all students to gain knowledge and skills needed to experience academic growth towards meeting grade level standards or higher.

Strategy 1– *Increase teacher knowledge of relevant and best instructional practices through staff development opportunities focusing on student achievement correlating to the state standards.*

Strategy 2 – *Increase parental involvement through parenting workshops in order to provide academic assistance to students at home.*