

The 2012-2013 school year at Hickory Grove /Sharon Elementary was a year full of new ideas implemented, academic growth, and individual successes. Student achievement continued to be a priority as our school has become a school where data greatly influences instructional decisions. Our students were continually challenged to display good character and good work ethics as well.

Some things that have been highlights this school year included an ice cream social by our PTO that welcomed everyone to Meet the Teacher night in August.

Literacy continued to be a strong focus. Reading initiative goals were set and were met by our students and as a result administrators and other faculty dressed as Wizard of Oz characters. HG/S again sponsored our Fall for Reading Carnival in the fall with games, prizes and books galore. In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we also had a Read Across America Book Parade this past year with each class creating a float based on their favorite book. We continued and increased our character education-led Jam in the Gym monthly assemblies where we learn good character and recognize student and staff achievements.

As a school we were proud to receive a Palmetto Silver Award for closing the achievement gaps among our student groups. We continued to focus on our mission, vision, and beliefs for our school and district; however our district goals remain in the forefront of our student's academic endeavors. Hickory Grove/Sharon Elementary scored an A on our school accountability report which we were very proud of and are working very hard to keep.

During the summer, teacher and staff volunteers again manned a summer library program here and plan to do it again. We also implemented Countdown to Kindergarten last year with our preschool teacher working in the summer with a selection of rising kindergartners to better prepare them for kindergarten.

We are very proud and very pleased with the 2012-2013 school year at Hickory Grove/Sharon Elementary School!

H. Dietrich Long, Principal

Lacie Patterson, School Improvement Council Chairperson