



# Bellevue Elementary School

## "Together We Learn"

Dear Families,

Bellevue Elementary School has been a wonderful place to teach and learn since 1955 and the 2012-13 school year was no different. We were awarded the Palmetto Silver Award for a fifth consecutive year for closing the achievement gap. Our teachers received over \$10,000 in grants and awards and our students raised over \$7,000 for various charitable organizations. Crystal Stewart, a teacher in our third grade Challenge Based Learning Class, was named Teacher of the Year. We are encouraged about the progress our students have made this year and are very excited about the future, as we begin planning for our students in fourth and fifth grade to enter the world of 1:1 computing through our district's iRock Initiative.

Bellevue Elementary School has a very diverse school community with four continents represented in our current enrollment of approximately 470 students K4-5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are a Title 1 school with 78% of our students qualifying for subsidized meals. Our dedicated faculty is highly qualified with nearly 75% having either a master's degree or National Board Certification.

It is our mission to provide a safe and nurturing environment rich with learning opportunities. Our decisions for school improvement are driven by what is best for children. Our challenge to the students and their families is to take an active role in their own education. The instruction at Bellevue is determined by the individual interests and needs of each learner. We strive to build background experiences by making learning authentic and real world related.

Recognizing that learning is much more than reading and writing our students have plenty of opportunities to develop themselves emotionally and physically. Programs such as Kids on the Ball, Trailblazers, and Girls on the Run all promote healthy lifestyles by staying active and eating well. Our Eco Police lead the charge for our recycling efforts as well as educate their peers about the needs to be more environmentally conscious. The Student Ambassadors serve as mentors to new students to our school as they begin to get acclimated to their new school.

Parents and other family members are also provided with opportunities to make a difference in our school community. Our PTO is growing stronger through their dedicated efforts to reach out to new families and building relationships both inside and outside of the school. PTO hosts events such as Movie Nights, Fall Festival, Spring Dance, Muffins for Mom, Donuts for Dad, and Goodies for Grandparents. Most of the money raised by PTO goes directly back to the students in the form of field trip scholarships, Angel Tree, and food for families in need. PTO is also crucial in funding projects around the school such as our Outdoor Learning lab and purchasing needed equipment to enhance our Related Arts programs.



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Our School Improvement Council and Parent Advisory Board play a crucial role in the success of our school. These committees help foster changes that need to be made and gain family support to strengthen current policies and programs as well as the development of new ones.

Whether you are a student or family member there is something extra for everyone at Bellevue Elementary School!

John C. Kirell

Principal