

Oakdale Elementary

School Improvement Council

2013-2014

Annual Report to Parents

DATES TO

REMEMBER

May 1 - Rockin' Robots Club 2:30-3:30

May 1-9 - Teacher Appreciation Days

May 3 - Stupendous Saturday STEM Day Camp 9: 00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

May 6 - 9 - PASS Testing

May 8 - Rockin' Robots Club 2:30-3:30

May 12 - 30 - MAPS Testing (K-2 only)

May 13 - PTO Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Media Center

May 15 - Rockin' Robots

Club 2:30-3:30

May 16 - Terrific Kid Ceremony at 1:30 p.m. *By invitation only

May 16 - Teacher Appreciation Luncheon in media center

May 19 - STEM Club Field Trip to Discovery Place

May 19 - SIC Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Media Center

May 20 - STEM Challenge Showcase *During School Day

May 20 - Kindergarten Recycling Fun Day

May 26 - No School; Student Holiday

May 28 - Lunch and Learn

May 29 - Art and Music Show at South Pointe High

School at 7:00 p.m.

May 30 - 5th Grade Dance 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

June 2 - Field Day and Character Rally

June 4 - Half Day for Students; report cards issued

June 4 - 5th Grade Graduation at 6:00 p.m. at Saluda Trail Middle School

June 5 - Half Day for Students (Snow Make-up Day)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Each year School Improvement Councils are required to report and publish the SIC Report to Parents that includes accomplishments, as well as, progress towards

SIC and school goals for the current school year. Information regarding our SIC's and school's work is below. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Denise Khaalid

Principal

The 2013-2014 school year marked Oakdale Elementary School's second year as a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) magnet, and a major priority has been to deepen the implementation, understanding, and awareness of STEM program among faculty/staff, students, parents, and the community in general.

STEM Partners

This year, Oakdale has established some key partnerships. First, we began working with Stem Centers SC and reconnected with the Urban Leadership Learning Center to build on our faculty's instructional expertise to challenge and meet the needs of all our students. Specifically, we have learned more about the characteristics of highly effective STEM classrooms, with an emphasis on quality, rigorous questioning practices and creating a student-centered classroom.

Another key partnership was established with Science on the Move, a 4-H Initiative. The Science on the Move team has helped support our Nutty Professors STEM Club, co-sponsored our Stupedous Saturday STEM Day Camps, and helped connect our school with community resources. We have created further awareness of and enthusiasm for STEM among students, parents, and our community through our Hands on Family Fun Nights, Rockin' Robotics Club, and reinstituting DNN - the Dragon Network News.

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Our kindergarten team and the SPICE (Students Practicing Ideas of Character and Environmental Education) Club have expanded the school gardening program, which allows students to literally see the "fruits of their labor." Both groups have reached out to master gardeners, local nurseries, and parents to help our students apply what they learn in the classroom in a real-life setting. This year's culminating event will be our STEM Challenge, which will showcase individual and class experiments designed by students on topics of their choice.

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Grants

To financially support many of our initiatives, we have secured over \$5,000 in grants. These funds have been used to purchase a weather station, a NASCAR car project, as well as materials for our other clubs and organizations.

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iRock Initiative

The Rock Hill Schools iRock Initiative, which provides iPads for all 4th and 5th grade students, has helped support our implementation of STEM. Oakdale purchased additional iPads, so that teachers in kindergarten, second, and third grades can utilize them in classes.

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Writing Instruction

In addition to the integration of STEM into curriculum, teachers have focused on improving writing instruction through units of study. Each grade level teacher received Lucy Calkins' Units of Study for Teaching Writing, which features real-world writing and alignment with Common Core State Standards.

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## Student Accomplishments

Our students have had some notable accomplishments, as well. Our Gifted and Talented students participated in the South Carolina Economic Concepts Poster/Calendar Competition. Tyrinn Moton's illustration was selected to appear in the 2013-2014 calendar, and Carlee Young's illustration will appear in the 2014-2015 calendar.

The 2014 Oakdale Science Bowl team, comprised of fifth grade students and coached by fifth grade teachers, placed third overall in the district out of seventeen elementary schools. We also had a four fifth grade students compete in the You Be the Chemist Challenge, a national competition to encourage interest in science. Tyrinn Moton advanced to the state finals in held in Columbia, where he competed against middle school students.

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School Accomplishments

Oakdale has also received some school-wide recognition this year. In the fall, we were identified as a 2013-2014 Title I Reward School for Performance. To be named a Reward School for Performance a school must have attained an "A" or "B" in the two most recent school years, have a free/reduced lunch count that is greater than 50%, not have significant achievement gaps, and have at least one tested grade on state assessments.

Oakdale was also named as a one of the 2013-2014 Rock Hill Schools Recycling Champions. Oakdale was the leader among the seventeen elementary schools for recycling 62% of waste such as paper, plastics, and cardboard.

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## Watch DOGS and Days of Excellence

We launched the Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) Program and Days of Excellence to create more opportunities for parents to be involved during school day. Our kindergarten team has held several Days of Excellence, which featured students explaining and

demonstrating their learning for their parents. We look forward to expanding the Day of Excellence concept to all grades next year.

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Proud to Be

We have continued our efforts with our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS). Our Braggin' Dragon Rules, also known as "The 4 Be's," are at the core of our "Proud to Be" initiative. This year we have focused on rule number one, Be Respectful, which includes being polite, grateful, kind, and positive. Each week, faculty and staff submit names of students who have demonstrated these characteristics, and students are recognized on DNN, have their picture featured on a hall display, receive "Proud to Be" bracelet, and have their names entered in a drawing for a "Proud to Be" t-shirt.

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New Look

Finally, we look forward to some physical changes to our building in 2014-2015. Oakdale was budgeted \$450,000 in capital funds this year for the first phase of some renovations and construction. The project includes interior updates, an updated front façade, new signage, a new logo, and the addition of an outdoor learning pavilion that can used year-round.

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