

# INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY

REPORT TO PARENTS 2012-2013

## Our Mission Statement

Working together with students, families, and the community, we will ensure that every student has the skill, knowledge, and desire to become a lifelong learner and to succeed in a changing world.

## I ROCK AMBASSADORS

We believe in the power of technology. Independence was the 1st school in our district to hold a Parent Information Night about the iRock plan. Since then, we have created a 2nd grade computer based learning class and have been able to purchase many ipads to be used school wide. We have encouraged students to bring their own devices to use during the school day and have even given ipods away as prizes at our Science Fair winners this year. We believe in iRock: Learning Anytime, Anywhere!



## Double Palmetto Gold Award Winners!

This year, Independence Elementary was the only school in RHSD #3 to receive two Palmetto Gold Awards in the areas of General Performance and Closing the Achievement Gap. We are

extremely proud of our 3rd-5th grade students for their outstanding performance and of our teachers for their dedication to extraordinary teaching. IDES "rocks the test!"



**SCIENCE BOWL:** Our 5th grade Science Bowl team, coached by Shannon Higgins and Danielle Prince, placed 2nd in the district championship. Way to go team!



**GIRLS ON THE RUN.** When these girls crossed the finish line of a 5K they realized that even the seemingly impossible IS possible.



**SC STATE HOUSE** 3rd grade classes learned about the branches of government and went on a field study to the SC State House.

# We're proud of our patriots



**Mrs. Hager's Kindergarten**

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

One of the goals identified by the School Improvement Council was to increase achievement by 9 points in Science for the 2012-2013 school year. Teachers have risen to the challenge and have provided the following Science enrichment activities:

- 12 Science Club for all students that met monthly for exciting science application.
- Science Fair school-wide with 30 + participants.
- Science Bowl Team that placed 2nd in the RHSD #3 District competition!
- Programming from the Carolina Raptor Center, Camp Cherokee and more.

Other SIC goals included:

English/Language Arts: Increasing scores by 5 points for all students and

decreasing the amount of interventions needed.

Math: Decreasing the number of students needing Tier 3 intervention or referred for evaluation by 10 percent.

## TITLE I

With a large free/reduced lunch population, our school is categorized as a Title 1 School. Because of this, our school receives significant extra funding from the State of SC for programs that benefit every child. This year, our Title 1 monies have been used for a full day 4 year old Kindergarten, 2 Literacy Coaches, 2 Instructional Assistants, Parent/Student Math & Literacy Nights, and other various resources.

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT

Our teachers are dedicated to keeping our students learning throughout the summer. Last summer IDES provided "You've Got Mail" and "Reading Rocks" as summer enrichment reading programs.

## WATCHDOG DADS

We value parent involvement at IDES. We've had enormous success with getting male role models into our school through this program. This year more than 20 dads spent a full day serving at our school.

## School Clubs

Battle of the Books

Dance Team

Girls on the Run

Lady Patriots

Recycling Club

Safety Patrol

Science Bowl Team

Step Team

Patriot Council

WatchDog Dads

## WE'RE MAKING THE GRADE!

IDES was also named a

*"Title 1 Reward School"*

for our superb scores  
on PASS Testing.

## PTO EVENTS FOR 2012-2103

Our PTO has been active again this year holding many events. Students have enjoyed Spirit Nights, Fall Festival, Holiday Shop, Red Ribbon Week, BINGO Night, Donuts for Dad and Muffins for Mom. PTO has been successful in raising monies to fund various educational programs, aviary maintenance, special events, safety patrol, teacher appreciation, and much more.

## CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION

This year we said goodbye to principal Marc Swygert and are welcoming principal Jill Pappas who comes to us from Rosewood Elementary.

## INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY

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## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

2012-2103

If you are interested in being part of the School Improvement Council, please contact Jill Pappas at [jpappas@rthmail.org](mailto:jpappas@rthmail.org) or Amanda Haskin at [amandahaskin@hotmail.com](mailto:amandahaskin@hotmail.com).