

School Achievements

- ◆ Recognized for a Value-Added Growth Score of “5” on the TAP Rubric
- ◆ Red Carpet School 2010-2013
- ◆ USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Grant 2008-2011
- ◆ Farm to School Grant 2011-2012
- ◆ US Healthier Schools Challenge (Bronze Award)
- ◆ PBIS Ribbon School 2010-2011
- ◆ AYP 2010-2011

School Programs

- ◆ Kid’s Club
- ◆ Parent University
- ◆ Student Council
- ◆ Lowcountry Foodbank (Backpack Buddies)

School Improvement Council

Members

2011-2012

Chairperson: Jessie Simmons

Vice– Chairperson: Carrie Smoak

Secretary: Shelita Evans

Teachers:

Renette Oliver

Stacy Driscoll

Community Members:

Joseph Kline, Jr.

Monique Gardner



Whale Branch Elementary School
“Proud to be a Title I School”
Annual School Improvement Council
“Report to Parents”
2011-2012



Home of the Tiger Sharks



Lynn Singleton, Principal
Celest LaVan, Asst. Principal
Molly Kingma, Asst. Principal

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Seabrook , SC 29940
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SIC School Renewal Plan

Annual Goals for 2011-2012



- ◆ Goal I: Increase Student Achievement to exceed state and national levels.
- ◆ Goal II: Ensure best practices and resources in learning, teaching and leadership, consistently and equitably across the school.
- ◆ Goal III: Encourage a higher level literacy through collaboration with other county wide agencies.
- ◆ Goal IV: Provide resources for appropriate learning environments.
- ◆ Goal V: Ensure a safe and healthy environment
- ◆ Goal VI: Develop practices, processes and technologies for open, frequent, transparent, and effective communication both internally and externally.
- ◆ Goal VII: Increase student achievement to exceed state and national level, with specific emphasis on closing the student achievement gap in the subgroup of African American males by 2011.

A comprehensive needs assessment was done by the School Improvement Council. An effort was made to increase school/community communication through School Fusion, newsletters, and School Messenger phone and email messages and has been successful. Collaboration with community organizations was noted as an essential component to our school program. We received strong support from the Sheldon Township and our church leaders.

For additional information, you may view our school's Report Card for the previous year at www.ed.sc.gov.



Mission Statement

Our mission is to build a collaborative learning environment to inspire life-long learners.

Student Achievement

Whale Branch Elementary School made great strides during the 2011-2012 school year. We were released from the Palmetto Priority Turnaround School list and continued in our third year as an Accelerated Learning School. As an Accelerated Learning School, we were able to provide twenty additional days of instructional time to "accelerate the learning process" of students in our school. The results of the additional instructional time and a more rigorous curriculum were evidenced as we were recognized by the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) for achieving a Value-Added Growth score of "5" on the TAP rubric, signifying student gains of more than 1.5 year as measured on MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) and the PASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards). Such gains are larger than would normally be expected at a school of a similar size and demographics. The implementation of TAP has allowed for weekly, collaborative professional development sessions that tailor to teacher and student needs, effective teaching practices, and a focus on data-driven decisions. Although we failed to meet district expectations in several areas on MAP, many of the scores are above national MAP averages. We continue to bridge the gap of struggling learners through RTI (Response to Intervention Services, and tutoring services.

Believing that a healthy body contributes to a "healthy brain" an emphasis has been placed on health and wellness. We are the recipients of a "Farm to School Grant"; which allows students to eat locally grown fruits and vegetables. Students have also participating in growing a garden at school. We are privileged to have onsite health services provided by Beaufort Jasper Comprehensive Health Services through the Sheldon Township Project.. Next year we will see the addition of a Dental Clinic to our building.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, there will be a continued focus on increasing parent involvement, attracting and maintaining highly qualified staff, and providing professional development opportunities for faculty and staff members, with particular emphasis on Differentiation and Cultural Diversity.

% MET OR EXEMPLARY					
	GRADE	ENG-LISH	MATH	SCI-ENCE	SOC. ST.
2010	3	59	43.6	15	46.2
	4	48.4	59.4	37.5	53.5
2011	3	65.5	54.8	34.1	54.7
	4	54.7	64.5	52.6	63.2

School Profile

Whale Branch Elementary School is located in rural Seabrook, SC, near the Whale Branch River. In addition to the main campus, Whale Branch Elementary School is also comprised of Davis Early Learning Center, located on Keans Neck Road in Dale, SC. We serve a population of approximately 504 students, of which 87% are African-American, 9% Caucasian, 3% Hispanic, and 1% other. 96% of the students receive free or reduced lunch. Many of the students are raised in single family households or by grandparents. Due to the location of the Whale Branch community, many of the residents have to travel several miles to work each day. Consequently, many of the parents are not able to be as active in their students' academic lives as they would like to be.



Whale Branch Elementary Events

- Technology Night
- Veteran's Day
- Pastries for Pastors and Community Members
- American Education Week
- Bully Prevention Week
- Grandparent's Day
- College and Career Week
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Red Ribbon Week