

SIC Report to Parents

Whale Branch Family-

The 2012-2013 school year saw a great deal of growth for Whale Branch Elementary School. With a sustained focus on literacy, math, and technology, our students have made positive academic gains across the curriculum. Our school remains focused on stretching our learners and providing them with rich experiences to draw from as they learn. We are extremely proud of the learning path we are on, and will continue to seek and implement ways to build on our successes.

Our school goal is to carry forward on the momentum we developed this year by utilizing Best Practices in all instructional areas. These best practices include:

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support school wide to emphasize and model positive behaviors
- RTI (Response to Intervention) to target learners needs and provide tiered interventions to close the gap
- Instructional coaches and interventionists to support both teachers and students in developing best practices
- TAP leadership and weekly cluster meetings which allow for collaborative professional development, development of effective teaching practices, data-driven decision making, and a focus on developing writers from PreK – 4th grade

The success of our school is aided by the participation, involvement, and collaborative effort of students, teachers, parents, and community members. Sheldon Township continues to support our schools and focus on the health and wellness of the children in our community. Our onsite health services provided by BJCHHS in partnership with Sheldon Township expanded to include a Dental Clinic.

Through a collaborative effort our students have been privileged to participate in activities including Cockey's Reading Express (a reading initiative sponsored by USC), Author Visits, Read Across America Day, and Tail Waggin' Tutors. Volunteers have supported a healthy environment, creating a courtyard for students and teachers to enjoy, and visiting with classes on Bring Your Parent to School Day. Families had the opportunity to come in for Literacy nights and programs throughout the year. Faculty and staff participated in a mentoring program to help student development socially and academically. In the spirit of collaboration, we partnered with our school family, Whale Branch Middle School and Whale Branch Early College High School, to complete a variety of activities including Book Buddies, weekly visits from teacher cadets, visits from the various athletic teams to read to and with students school wide, and participation in "Children Of Poverty" training with Ruby Payne.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we will continue our focus on writing throughout the curriculum, increasing parent involvement, and developing our teachers through professional development. We invite community members and parents to visit out school, volunteer with our students, and be involved!

Sincerely,

Anita Lynn Singleton, Principal

Jessie Simmons, SIC President