

*Bluffton Elementary
School
160 McCracken Circle
Bluffton, SC 29910
(843) 706-8500*



*Bluffton Elementary's
Early Childhood Center
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Bluffton, SC 29910
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Annual Report to the Parents—2010-2011

This has been a great year for Bluffton Elementary. Our Early Childhood Center (ECC) is in full swing. The building is a wonderful place for our kindergarteners and first graders. The portable buildings have been removed and replaced with a bus loop for the ECC and a new soccer field for our 2nd-5th graders. We have a current enrollment of 610 with roughly 204 at the ECC and 406 in the main building.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Early Intervention Saturdays—this program focused on parents of little ones between the ages of 2 and 4. The program provided parents with insight into healthy choices, social/emotional/physical growth expectations for each age, academic expectations for entering kindergarten and community resources.

Reading Prize Patrol—To promote the love of reading, the Reading Prize Patrol visited neighborhoods looking for a household where everyone was reading. The PTO sponsored the event and provided a basket of books, pencils, erasers and other fun stuff to the family “caught” reading.

Running Club—Thanks to wonderful parent volunteers, a running club was formed that met once a week. During the meeting, students learned the value of exercise and walked the BLES ECC bus loop to earn “charms.” The charms were given for each mile that a student walked.

School Fusion Website—the new school website offered the opportunity for parents to login and see their child’s grades and activities. The site was close to real time, meaning a teacher logs a grade that morning, the parent can see it that night. This site provided emailing of teachers and blogs as well. If you don’t have your confidential password, please see the front office. Through this site, a parent can see information for ALL of their children at one time.

SchoolMessenger—SchoolMessenger allowed the school to email, call or text all parents at a single click. Important dates, information or flyers can be sent via email so the school can go green. This service saved money on ink and paper.

Our MAP test scores have continued to grow from Fall to Spring. The students are performing well with 87% on grade level or above in Math and 81% on grade level or above in Reading for all grades kindergarten through fifth. BLES continues to push for improvement to achieve the 100% mark. Students needing that extra push are invited to the morning program: Wake Up Wildcats! and our afternoon program for our 2nd –5th graders. The students also attended the district sponsored ELT (Extended Learning Time).

Our adequate yearly progress (AYP) results were released in November of 2010 with BLES missing the mark by one indicator. AYP is based on the state PASS test that is administered in March for the writing portion and middle May for ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. We made great progress towards achieving AYP and even earned a Palmetto Gold for the excellent growth rating.

Our state of South Carolina report card ratings for the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2010	Good	Excellent
2009	Good	Good
2008	Average	Good

Our PTO helped provide many events this year to help promote the BLES idea of PRIDE. They held a Fall Harvest Festival, Book Fairs and a Family Fitness Night. Thanks to Cassandra Whitten and the PTO members for all their help. Thanks to the BLES staff and teachers for the musical performances, kid's club nights, Science fair, Jump Rope for Heart, Robotics, Focus on Recycling, Read Across America, Green Eggs and Ham Day, World Math Day, Math Night, Wake Up Wildcats!, and their dedication to the continued drive for achievement with our students.

With our movement in the right direction, BLES appreciates the support of community members, parents, teachers and staff. This overwhelming commitment has helped us exceed our Boxtops for Education goal of \$1800 and collect over 40,000 myco-kereward points. Working together we have created a strong educational foundation for our students as well that shows in the PASS/MAP growth and the day to day educational focus of the students. Thanks for another great year and your continued support of our students!

Christine Brown
Principal

Danese Addressi
Chair, School Improvement Council (SIC)

Missy Vogt
Assistant Principal

Ways parents/community can be involved:

- Parent/Teacher conferences
- School Improvement Council (SIC) meetings
- Reading Buddies for students
- Parent—Teacher Organization (PTO)
- PASS testing monitors
- Kindergarten orientation
- annual school picnic
- Child Find

Bluffton Elementary was recognized for the Animation program by the South Carolina Association for Educational Technology (SCAET) at the annual SC Educational Technology Conference (SC EdTech 2010).

