

Bluffton Elementary School and Early Childhood Center

April 28, 2016

Report to Parents

For the 2016/17 school year, the BLES school report card shows baseline student performance for the new SC Ready state testing in ELA and Math. For comparative data, we compared BLES to the district and state.

-ELA (by grade level percentage)

-Students scoring Meets or Exceeds Expectations

All grades exceeded both the Beaufort County School District Average (44.8%)
and the State Average (43%)

-3rd grade – 53%

-4th grade – 58.3%

-5th grade – 59.4%

-Math (by grade level percentage)

-Students scoring Meets or Exceeds Expectations

All grades exceeded both the Beaufort County School District Average (46.9%)
and the State Average (42.6%)

-3rd grade – 56.8%

-4th grade – 59.4%

-5th grade – 66.2%

The analysis so far from the Winter MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) shows growth in 6 out of 6 (k-5) grade levels in Reading. Growth was also shown in Math in 6 out of 6 (k-5) grades.

Palmetto Gold Award, 2002, 2003, 2010, 2015

Palmetto Silver Award, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2016

“Closing the Achievement Gap” award—Gold—2012

“Closing the Achievement Gap” award—Silver—2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

South Carolina Writing Network Award, 2003-2006

Innovative Technology Award—SC EdTech—Animation 2010, 2016

Arts Innovation Award -Arts Schools Network—2011

In View with Larry King showcase for animation—2012



Animation, Creation and Design

This year we have incorporated a Makerspace into our STEM focus. A Makerspace is a hands-on environment where students can create, explore, design and manipulative a wide variety of ideas and materials. The space has materials that range from art supplies to technology. The technology items include MakeyMakey kits, Arduino boards, Raspberry Pi kits and Lego items. The idea for the space is for a student to be able to explore anything they would like to create. For example, the teacher may give the students a starter topic such as “create a bridge that can support 20 pounds.” The students can be given a list of supplies or be able to use anything in the room. Please remember to save your recyclable materials and send them in to us for the Makerspace.

The one-to-one devices have received an upgrade that will be completed by August. The students in grades 3-5 were issued a new HP laptop in April to replace the tablets. The students in grades kindergarten through 2nd will be receiving iPad Airs for next school year.

As the year has progressed, we have been gradually adding more robots. This expansion gives access to more classrooms for daily usage. We have added more Dash and Dot robots, Ozobots, and the new Codeapillar for the ECC.

Our two Technology nights were a huge success. These nights gave parents an opportunity to see the wide range of STEM activities the students experience each day.

Something new for next year: Over the summer, our BLES main building media center will be remodeled. The remodel will allow us to convert the space into more of a social environment for the students. There will be a wide array of flexible seating and more ways for the students to share their work with others.

We are hoping to add to our technology choices next year. We have purchased a few Makebots that will provide students with a different platform than Lego. We are searching for new animation software, preferably 3-D and we were given a donation of a new 3-D printer that will be in the Makerspace.



Coding Resources

Apps- Daisy the Dinosaur, Kodable, The Foos, Hopscotch, Scratch and Scratch Jr., Stencyl

Websites—Kodu, Code.org BrainPop, GameStar Mechanic

Downloads—Unity

Skills Students Learn from Coding

- It helps kids learn in meaningful context .
- It teaches them that learning is a process and not a product.
- It teaches them how to take complex ideas and break them down into simpler parts.
- It teaches them how to collaborate with others .
- It teaches them how to keep persistent and persevere in the face of frustration when things are not working well.
- It teaches determination and risk-taking.
- It helps them become fluent with technologies and enable them to open up and express their ideas.
- It helps them be creative .
- It helps them interact with the world around them.

www.educatorstechnology.com

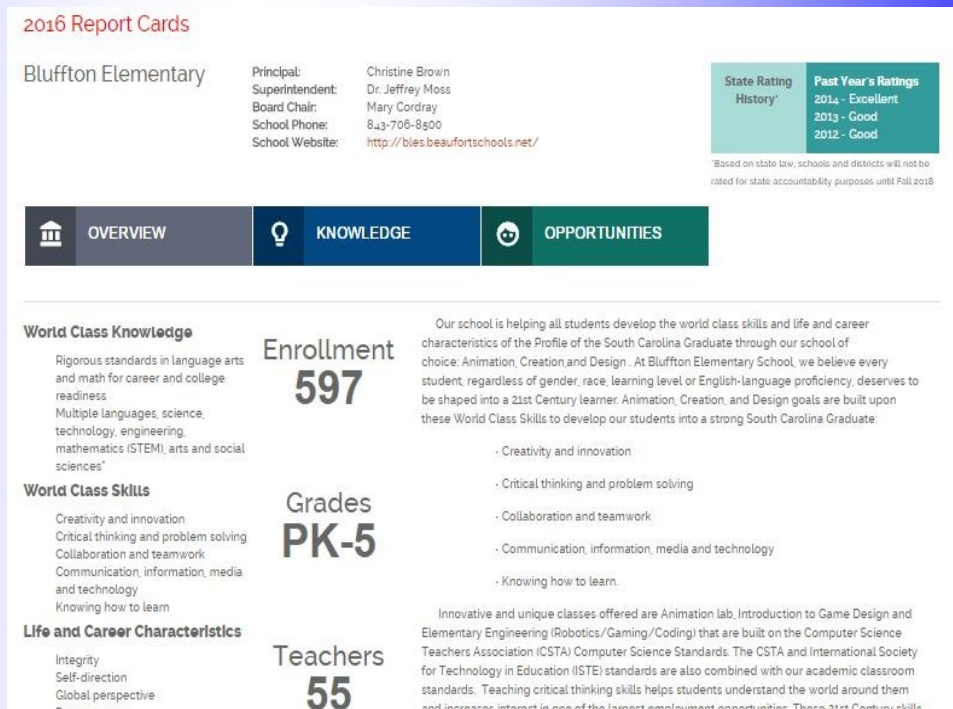
Ticker as of 4/21/1: Enrollment—674

New State School Report Card

To the left is a snapshot of the new state school report cards. The information is now divided into three categories: Overview, Knowledge, Opportunities. This year, the report card has been updated to reflect changes in reporting directed by the SC Education Oversight Committee. Schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2018 when the state will transition to a single accountability system.

To view the entire report card, please visit the website:

<http://ed.sc.gov/data/report-cards/state-report-cards/2016/>



Want more information? Want to see pictures/videos of our events?

Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BLESECCWildcats

YouTube Channel: <https://goo.gl/156i6J>

Ways we communicate:

Email

Phone calls

Facebook

Agenda books

Text messaging through Remind-ask us how you can sign up

Attendance Zones changes

For the 2017/18 school year, the Bluffton Elementary attendance zone has changed. Our zone has been extended to include areas along Highway 46 from Buckwalter Parkway to Stoney Creek Bridge. This would include Barton's Run, Gascoigne Bluff, Grande Oaks, Rose Dhu Plantation and

This school year was impacted by Hurricane Matthew. While its destruction was wide spread, our community came together to help each other endure. We continued that outpouring of support to help one of our parents and one of the BLES staff members facing the challenges of cancer. The Young Ladies and Young Gentlemen clubs collected a variety of donations throughout the school year for several organizations, including Bluffton Self Help and PALS. Bluffton Elementary wishes to thank everyone for being willing to show compassion and for rallying around our school and the community at large when it was needed.

Have you attended SIC meetings? Second Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm. Our President is Kathy Cuppia. Any parent, staff member or community member may attend.



2016-2017 Parent/Teacher Organization Report

The 2016-2017 school year has certainly been eventful for Bluffton Elementary!

In September, we kicked off the year with the election of new officers, followed shortly thereafter with the annual spirit wear order. Over \$2,000 was collected as students in both the ECC and main school donned their new red spirit wear with PRIDE. After Hurricane Matthew destroyed many of our neighborhoods in October, the PTO joined forces with the administration at school to host a Trunk or Treat for Halloween. Over 25 parents, teachers and friends donated their time and trunks for a great afternoon of safe trick-or-treating in the main school parking lot. The event was so successful, the PTO hopes to make it an annual affair. In November, the PTO provided an informal breakfast for teachers and staff as our way of showing appreciation at Thanksgiving. We asked for donations of K-cups and supplied both school kitchens with new Keurig machines.

January 2017 brought a new year and a renewed emphasis on better communication between the parents and teachers through the PTO. We delivered a newsletter outlining upcoming events and tried to step up our presence on social media. We focused on the Scholastic Book Fairs in February, hosting two very successful Book Fairs at each school. Raising over \$10,000 in sales, the Fairs generated enough Scholastic Dollars to fulfill ALL of the teacher wish lists and still have money left over to provide for future needs. It was one of the most successful Book Fairs in our school history! Toward the end of the month, the Boosterthon Fun Run kicked off with an enthusiastic pep rally. Two weeks followed with character videos, challenges and goal-achieving lessons for our students. We hosted the Fun Run on April 7th and had a wonderful crowd of supporters cheering on our students. The PTO was also able to secure several sponsorships that helped pay for our Fun Run t-shirts and allow more money to be raised directly for our school. As we write this update, we are still collecting funds, but it appears we will exceed our goal by raising over \$8,000 in pledged donations! As we wind down the year in May, the PTO will sponsor Teacher Appreciation Week, as well as provide food and festivities for the end of the year school picnic.

In addition to these special activities mentioned above, the PTO has also hosted Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights each month which consistently provide \$300-\$400 for our school. We have also partnered with Publix Partners which has yielded \$250 in support. Box Tops for Education has enjoyed tremendous success this year, with collections surpassing \$700! We have also provided two bicycles at each quarterly PRIDE Ceremony and sponsored holiday dress down days.

But where does all this fundraising money go??? To date, the PTO has provided the following to the school:

- \$4,000+ in Scholastic Dollars to replenish books and resources for the library and classrooms
- Gem Mining Experiment for the 3rd grade
- Deluxe water tables and learning centers for Pre-K
- Dash Dot Robots for technology classes
- Leo people for Lego Clubs
- Code-A-Pillar sets for the ECC
- Raz-Plus and Reading A to Z subscriptions for all classes
- Transportation funds for the 2nd and 5th grade field trips
- River rocks and art supplies for art class projects
- Two ukuleles, instructional guides and cases for music class
- And many more items!

In addition, we will be setting aside a modest scholarship fund to assist teachers in the future with maintaining their certification so we can train and retain the great teachers we have on staff.

The items and resources the PTO has funded have literally touched every student in the school, and we are extremely proud of that accomplishment. Our parents have PRIDE and that empowers our teachers to have PRIDE in Bluffton Elementary. Thank you for a fantastic year!

Purpose of the Report: "This Report is issued by Bluffton Elementary School's Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."