

Bluffton Elementary School and Early Childhood Center

April 28, 2016

Report to Parents

For the 2015/16 school year, the school 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 2017 when the state will transition to a single accountability system. The report card shows student performance but not comparative data. For school purposes we compared our ACT Aspire data to district and state levels. BLES did exceed the district/state percentage for students in the exceeding expectations category. The percentages for students needing improvement were below the district/state percentage. However, we were close in 3rd grade Reading. BLES has noted the reading percentages are a high concern, especially in the needs improvement area. Strategies have been implemented to improve student performance.

The analysis so far from the Winter MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) shows growth in 4 out of 6 (k-5)grade levels in Reading. Growth was also shown in Math in 4 out of 6 (k-5)grades. Upon analysis of data in comparison with Beaufort County School District, we continued to show greater growth in grades 3rd, 4th and 5th in Reading. It is essential to note that an average of 78% of the students at BLES are on grade level in Mathematics and 76% in the area of Reading. This is a 6% increase for math and a 4% increase for Reading.

Palmetto Gold Award, 2002, 2003, 2010, 2015

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

“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

Arts Innovation Award -Arts Schools Network—2011

In View with Larry King showcase for animation—2012



Animation, Creation and Design

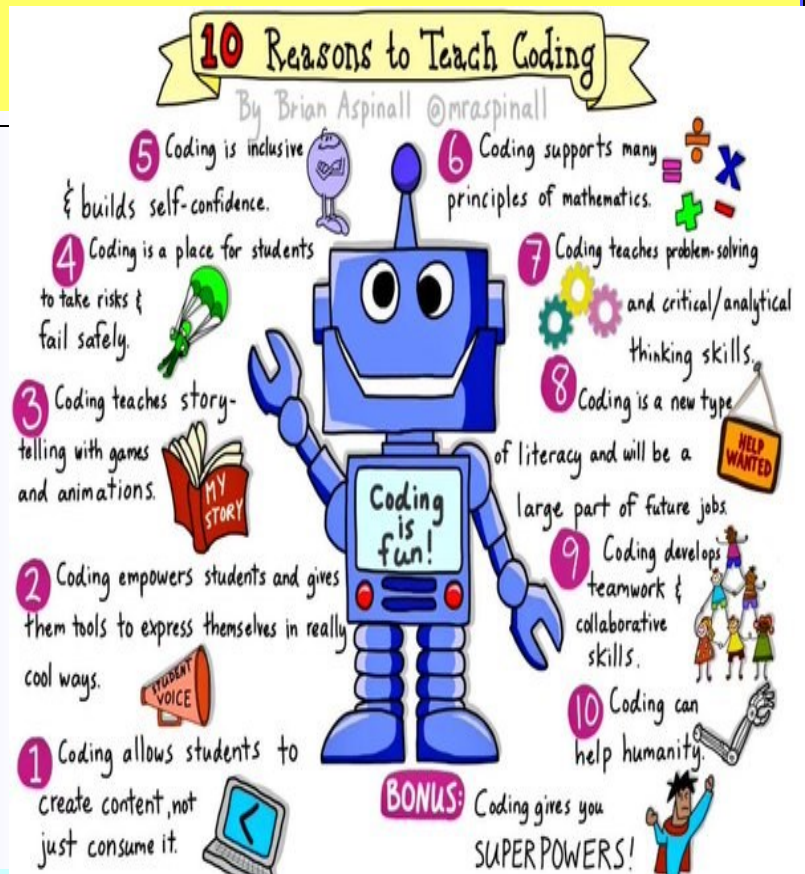
Animation, Creation and Design is a school of choice that is designed to teach students to think not only literally scientifically, mathematically, and in historical ways, but in critical and holistic ways as well. This means that students can think and create more because they fully understand computers and their educational potential. The creation of innovative classes enhance our choice goals. The classes are: Animation Lab, Introduction to Game Design and Elementary Engineering (robotics) that build on the CSTA Computer Science Standards. The goals of Animation, Creation and Design are to: Build Problem solving skills ,Enhance creativity ,Teach critical thinking skills ,Help students understand the world around them, Increase interest in one of the largest employment opportunities (21st Century skills) and Create technology confidence to not only “consume” technology, but “create” it.

This year, starting in Kindergarten, students have been learning basic coding skills using plugged (computer) and unplugged (no technology) activities. The coding languages have included Ruby, Blockly, LOGO, Python, and Javascript. The students have learned the vocabulary and variables for each of the languages. The basics led to the students developing their own games in 3rd –5th grades. Also, students in K-5 have worked with robots including Dash and Dot, Ozobots, Lego Mindstorms and Lego WeDO.

All computer lessons have been integrated into the academic standards. For example, 1st grade coded Dash and Dot robots to follow a path on a World Map carpet. The students then explained the habitats and climate for each location. Kindergarten learned about perimeter and area using Minecraft. 5th grade learned about health choices through a Lego Mindstorms challenge.

Coding Vocabulary Examples

Algorithm	Binary
Persistence	Debug
Command	Event
Variable	Function
Procedure	Logic
Program	Workspace
Looping	Simulation
Sequence	
Run Program	
Input/Output	
Conditional	
Computational Thinking	



Ticker as of 4/21/16: Enrollment – 625

Ebooks

Big Universe Virtual Library (www.biguniverse.com) – Our Big Universe subscription has provided a wonderful opportunity for Bluffton Elementary students to gain access to more than 10,000 ebooks in a virtual library platform. The Big Universe virtual library contains high quality leveled ebooks from over 40 different publishers and is well liked by students and staff. Big Universe is very user-friendly and enjoyable to access 24 hours a day. Big Universe has allowed us to make sure we have countless books available to suit every child's reading level and reading interests. As we near the end of the school year, it will be important for you to continue monitoring your child's daily amount of reading. The Big Universe virtual library is accessible at home with any device connected to the internet. If you are unsure of your child's Big Universe username and password, please contact his or her teacher. Students will have access to Big Universe during the summer with their username and password. Read on Wildcats!

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

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Ways we communicate:

Email Phone calls

Facebook Agenda books

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

Animated Art

BLES is excited to have the opportunity for the 2016-2017 school year to combine our animation program with the arts curriculum with the focus on our school of choice program, Animation, Creation and Design. We are thrilled to have Ms. Miller, a certified art teacher, and our current animation teacher take on the role of our art teacher. Her years of experience in art and animation will allow the program to expand into a dynamic and diverse program that will allow our students to explore art through creative and innovative lessons.

The Early Childhood Center has implemented the use of QR codes throughout designated areas of the building. This allows our community and visitors to embark on a self-guided tour of the school through the integration of technology. Visitors are further able to actively engage through videos and demonstrations created by students which highlight key areas and activities such as the nurse's station, the computer lab, and our character trait of the month bulletin board. This exemplifies our continued dedication to enhance the success of all students and meet the needs of our community in a technologically demanding world.

PTO News



2015-2016 Parent/Teacher Organization Report

This has been a wonderful school year for the Parent Teacher Organization. We have contributed over \$15,000 to be used to improve the educational experience for our students at Bluffton Elementary & Early Childhood Center.

This year funds were used for class field trips, bicycles at the Pride Ceremonies, subscriptions to several publications and internet tools for all classes, Kids' Club, Scholastic Classroom Books, PBIS Popsicles & Gatorades, Lego WeDo Robots, end of the year picnic, Teacher Appreciation Week, and so much more!!!

But with our success for this year, we have been faced with one main challenge! This challenge is Parent Involvement! The PTO cannot support our fundraisers and events such Yankee Candle, monthly Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights, Scholastic Book Fairs, Spirit Wear, Teacher Appreciation, Boosterthon Fun Run and more without you!

So please ask yourself, do you want BLES/ECC to be one of the BEST schools in SC? We need your support if we are going continue to help our schools. There are a variety of avenues of which you can help. Please come to a meeting and see what we are about.

Dedicated teachers, staff and PARENTS help make Bluffton Elementary & Early Childhood Center a great school! Join us. It's rewarding, it's important, and it's even FUN!

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."

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