

Jane Edwards Elementary School Annual Report to Parents 2013-2014

Introduction:

This report is provided to parents in compliance with the Education Finance Act (EFA) of 1977, the Education Improvement ACT (EIA) of 1984, and the Elementary and Secondary Academic Act (ACT 135) of 1993. It presents information about school accomplishments in the 2012-2013 school year and updates on the 2012-2013 goals.

Accomplishments:

- Our PASS scores increased. Our school report card's Absolute Rating increased from Average to Good and our Improvement Rating increased from Average to Good. We will be receiving The Palmetto Silver Award for general performance from the SC State Department of Education.
- MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) scores improved in reading and math throughout the year by 8-10 points. Students set their own goals and worked hard to reach those reading and math MAP goals.
- Recommendations for retention remain low based on successful MTSS Team meetings to determine appropriate intervention strategies for students struggling with reading and/or mathematics and monitoring their progress toward success frequently.
- Mrs. Kathy Mayer, teacher of Primary Grades Academy reading intervention for grades 1-3, was recognized as the 2013-14 Teacher of the Year for Jane Edwards. Mrs. Mayer was involved in the District 23 Reorganization School Team, wrote our Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grant for this year and next year, participated with students in our History Detectives program on Monday afternoons, and put together the proposal for our theme-based school for 2014-15, Jane Edwards School of Science and Humanities. Her passion is helping children learn to read and she has achieved that dream with many of our 1st – 3rd grade students.

Progress Toward Goals:

- Only 30% of students in grades 1-6 have read 25 books or more in the CCSD-mandated 25 Book Campaign. Each student that has read twenty five books has been recognized over the announcements, at quarterly awards ceremonies, and with medals. Last year we had twice as many students at this point. Ask your child if he/she has read 25 books.
- Teachers continue to implement the district's literacy model designed to differentiate reading instruction to better meet the needs of each student.
- Data from teacher assessments, PASS, MAP, Primary MAP, DIBELS, and DIAL III were analyzed during MTSS Team meetings to identify strengths and to target weaknesses. This information was used to plan instruction, develop differentiated activities to better meet the individual needs of our students, and provide interventions such as Voyager, Headsprout, Wilson Foundations, and Primary Grades Academy.
- Our school-wide positive discipline plan (PBIS) has continued for the fifth year. This year we have emphasized the process of Stop, Think, and Choose. Before doing something that may not meet our expectations, students are reminded each morning and throughout the day to Stop, Think about what they are going to do or refuse to do, then Choose the best option. We continue to recite our bus PAWS daily just prior to getting on the bus each afternoon to keep the ride from school safe. Our bus PAWS are located inside the bus so students can refresh their memories each morning and it gives the driver our expectation for appropriate bus behavior so they know our expectations and can use the same language for better understanding.
- Students participated in several projects and activities alongside our Student Support Specialist from Communities in Schools, Mrs. Amanda Fox, such as cooking for Food with Friends if you have read 25 books, Push Up and Up contest, and the Youth Marathon.
- Students continue to learn about bullying, what to do if bullied, and what to do when told to stop if they are the bully. Mrs. Fox, our CIS Student Support Specialist, and Mrs. Daniel, our guidance counselor, have worked together to support students with regard to bullying.
- We enjoyed another wonderful production by the ProKids Show with songs, magic, and puppets emphasizing self-respect and patriotism. Mrs. Fox also has groups working on anger management and appreciating others. She works with our CD class in their garden and they've taken care of it under her leadership and Mrs. Burns. Mrs. Burns wrote and received the Champions of the Environment grant to further extend our gardens and to supply our recognized Monarch Butterfly Waystation. Our students participated in a television commercial about our gardens, butterfly waystation, and our recycling efforts.
- Students interested in being on the Recycling Team write an essay and complete an application for their "job" on the Recycling Team. We have read some excellent essays on why they should be on the Recycling Team.
- Teachers continue to integrate technology into instruction through the use of SmartBoards, document cameras, and programs such as Study Island which challenges students on their learning level.
- We continue to feel safe with our locked foyer safety doors and cameras inside and outside to extend visibility from the office. We are currently installing locks on the main doors so anyone entering the building must be buzzed in by a staff member.



- Teachers continue to delve deeply into training for the rigors of the Common Core State Standards across all areas. We have had a math consultant provided by the Title I Office assist with the new math series, MyMath, once a month. Teachers have participated in a Writers' Workshop to increase their teaching writing skills.
- Students in K-3 continue to use ReadWell, a reading series highly recommended in Title I schools as a scripted reading model. Our students are progressing very nicely using this reading strategy. Students struggling in ReadWell have the opportunity for additional help through Primary Grades Academy and Wilson Foundations and LLI.
- Student winners of the tee-shirt design for Palmetto Pride were recognized. All participants in the contest received a free tee-shirt with the first and second place drawings on the shirts.
- Communication to parents and to the community is provided through newsletters, student agendas, school website (SharpSchool), weekly Parent PAW notes from the principal, articles in the local paper, and the ParentLink calling system.

Goals for 2014-15:

- Continue to implement strategies to increase parental involvement in student achievement.
- Continue to implement the district's literacy plan with fidelity toward all children reading at or above grade level at the end of each year.
- Continue to examine student data to provide the interventions most appropriate to ensure academic success for all students.
- Revise the 25 Book Campaign to be more inviting to students to participate.

School Improvement Council (SIC) Members: (please call 869-2124 for contact information)

Mrs. Florence Smith, SIC Chair/PTO President, and Mrs. Susan Miles, principal

