

Jane Edwards Elementary School Annual Report to Parents 2015-2016

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 2014-2015 school year and updates on the 2015-2016 goals.

Accomplishments:

- 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.
- Students in our Primary Grades Academy reading intervention for grades 1-3 under the direction of Mrs. Kathy Mayer have continued to move in the direction of solid readers on grade level. This is critical. The new Read to Succeed law states that by the end of the 2016-2017 school year, students in grade three not reading on third grade level will be retained. Mrs. Flowers, our new Read to Succeed Coach, has been helping our teachers accomplish the mandates for teaching reading based on the new law. She has provided reading support especially in reading comprehension for students in grades 3-5.
- We have enjoyed being a part of several Family Nights this year. Mrs. Estes and Mrs. Flowers have planned and implemented these nights successfully and shown us all that reading and writing can be great fun!!
- Our new Super Hero Reading program this year was altered slightly. Students have enjoyed the prizes for the number of pages read per month. As of the end of April, our students have read over 105,000 pages with four students receiving prizes for reading over 4,000 pages each.
- Received funds from MUSC Wellness Committee for our efforts to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment. This included a grant for daily snack of fresh fruit or vegetable.

Progress Toward Goals:

- Teachers continue to implement the district's literacy model designed to differentiate reading instruction to better meet the needs of each student.
- Mrs. Flowers has begun working with teachers on setting up their classroom environment in all classes to promote literacy. Classroom libraries are increasing; leveled libraries are increasing; students are writing more; and looking at text and writing an analysis of what they read...even in FIRST grade!!!
- Data from teacher assessments, PASS, ACT Aspire, MAP, Primary MAP, DRA+, and DIAL III were analyzed during MTSS Team meetings to identify student 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. We even piloted a semester of Gifted & Talented enrichment activities for our CD and kindergarten students taught by our itinerant GT teacher.
- Our school-wide positive discipline plan (PBIS) has continued for the sixth year. This year we continued to emphasize 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.
- Teachers have worked hard to increase rigor in their classroom. To promote the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, students must have world-class knowledge which contains rigorous College and Career Ready Standards. Students should graduate from high school with experiences in creativity, innovation, multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, math, the arts, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and knowing how they best learn. Life and career characteristics we hope to develop include integrity, self-direction, perseverance, interpersonal skills, work ethic, and being responsible for their behaviors and learning.
- Students had the opportunity to participate in activities to promote many of these skills and characteristics through boat building, WeatherBug reporting, collecting information to submit to our local area newspaper. Students also participated in after-school activities under the faithful and determined eyes of our Volunteers of the Year, Coach Eugene Middleton and Mr. Jack DiLuna. Students were provided instruction in basketball, cheerleading, t-ball, Google CS First for coding, History Detectives and archeology, Young Naturalists and science, creating an outdoor classroom from an ephemeral wetland adjacent to our school owned by the Edisto Island Open Land Trust and led by Mrs. Abi Prochaska, a certified naturalist. Our student Running Club participated in the Youth Marathon. Students enjoyed the Good News Club and Tippi Toes, dance instruction for children age 3 to 5th grade, performing at PTO meetings and closing with a wonderful dance recital. Our students always participate in the Edisto Island Clean Sweep tee-shirt contest and we claim first and second place winners every year. Our many, many volunteers bring so many experiences and opportunities to learn and grow and we thank them!!



- 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. Estes, our new Guidance Counselor and Parent Educator, worked to support students with regard to bullying.
- Mrs. Estes was able to bring together a six-week Financial Literacy Class for parents. She also had families come together to learn about proper care for animals/pets and was hosted by animal Lovers of Edisto (ALOE) with a service day of walking the dogs and helping care for them.
- Our CD class promoted planting and harvesting by each grade in their garden. They've taken care of it under the 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 5th grade students are our Recycling "Green" team. Students complete an application to be selected for the Recycling Team. On Fridays wearing their special green tee-shirts, they faithfully take all the recycling materials to the recycling bin on our campus. We create LOTS of recyclable materials.
- Teachers continue to integrate technology into instruction through the use of SmartBoards, document cameras, and programs such as Study Island, First in Math, and Renzuli which challenge students on their learning level. Two teachers per year participate in the yearlong Digital Learning Cohort (DLC) where they learn ways to increase student engagement with iPads in the classroom. We have seen some stellar student work using iPads.
- We continue to feel safe with our locked foyer safety doors, locked entrance doors, and cameras inside and outside to extend visibility from the office.
- 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, Wilson Foundations, and LLI.
- 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 School Messenger calling system.

Goals for 2015-16:

- 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.
- Implement a revised reading system to be more inviting to students to participate for the year
- Continue to support a healthy lifestyle through drinking water, eating lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, daily exercise, nutrition and health information, vision and dental screenings, and plenty of rest.

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

Mrs. Melissa Estes, SIC Chair, and Mrs. Susan Miles, principal

M. Estes

Susan Miles

