

Jane Edwards Elementary School Annual Report to Parents 2014-2015

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 2013-2014 school year and updates on the 2014-2015 goals.

Accomplishments:

- MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) scores steadily improved in reading and math throughout the year. 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 frequently monitoring their progress toward success.
- Mrs. Virginia Flowers, 5th grade teacher, was recognized as the 2014-15 Teacher of the Year for Jane Edwards.
- Almost 100% of families have participated in *Three for Me*, a researched-based PTO initiative with an outcome of increased student achievement by spending as little as three hours per year at school activities with your child.
- Awarded theme-school status of Science and Humanities.
- Received second annual Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grant.
- Received third annual MUSC's Boeing Center for Children's Wellness grant.

Progress Toward Goals:

- Over 75% of students in grades K-5 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/tags. We currently have fifteen students who have read over 100 books on their level. This is a tremendous improvement over last year. A special thank you to parents of our youngest students for taking time to read nightly for 15-20 minutes with your child!!
- Teachers continue to implement the district's literacy model designed to differentiate reading and writing instruction to better meet the needs of each student. Students are writing daily using the Lucy Calkins model. They are writing in learning journals across all subject areas, in boat-building logs, on Google about experiences in the outdoor classroom, and in researching topics of study. Second grade created presentations on habitats on their iPads. Awesome job, second grade and Ms. Woodrum!!
- Data from teacher assessments, PASS, MAP, Primary MAP, DIBELS, Circle Test, and DIAL III were analyzed during MTSS Team meetings to identify strengths and to target weaknesses. This information was then used to plan instruction, to develop differentiated activities to better meet the individual needs of our students, and to provide interventions such as Voyager, Headsprout, Wilson Foundations, and Primary Grades Academy. We also had the privilege of a math interventionist, Mr. Sean, for two months followed by Mrs. Thrower for one month.
- 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 to and from school safe. Our bus PAWS are located inside the bus so students can refresh their memories each morning and it gives the drivers 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 they had read 25 books, composting, recycling, and literally blazing the trail for our upcoming Edisto Community Outdoor Classroom at "Jane Edwards' Corner".
- Several students and their families participated in Fitness Club on Thursday afternoons with Ms. Woodrum, Mrs. McCole, and Mr. H., and the Youth Marathon and Edisto Road Race with Mrs. McCole.
- 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 former CIS Student Support Specialist, and Mrs. Daniel, our former guidance counselor, worked together to support students with recognizing the differences between friendly teasing, hurtful teasing, peer conflicts, and bullying and how to handle each appropriately.
- We enjoyed another wonderful production by the ProKids Show with songs, magic, and puppets that emphasized the *importance of honesty, respect, self-esteem, cooperation, and responsibility*. Students enjoyed it during a day assembly and again with their families that evening at Family Night. Mrs. Fox also held groups working on anger management, appreciating others, and "executive functions" such as organization, time management, and self-monitoring. She worked with our CD class in the garden and they've taken care of it under her leadership and that of Mrs. Burns. Mrs. Burns wrote and received the Lowes grant to further extend our gardens and to supply our recognized Monarch Butterfly Waystation. We've been able to add a gazebo, shed, pergola, and raised-bed garden.



- 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. The Recycling Team earned a field trip to the Romney Street Recycling Center where they learned a great deal more about how the recycling process works.
- Teachers continue to integrate technology into instruction through the use of SmartBoards, document cameras, iPads, and programs such as Study Island, First in Math, and Reflex Math which all challenge 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. Our security system expanded and now requires anyone entering the building to be buzzed in by a staff member. Our top priority is to keep students and staff safe.
- 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 and participated in a summer book study on actively engaging students in classroom lessons.
- 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 (appropriately leveled reading texts.)
- 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.
- Mrs. Brown has provided additional opportunities for our students to participate in the arts. We always have winners of the Keep Hollywood Clean annual poster contest. We had two state winners for the recycled art project. She received a grant from the Edisto Art Guild to provide a potter's wheel and artist fee which complement our current oven for firing clay projects.
- Communication to parents and to the community is provided through newsletters, student agendas, school website (SharpSchool), weekly Parent PAWS note from the principal, occasional bookbag reminders, articles in the local paper, and the ParentLink call-out 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 to ensure all children are reading at or above grade level at the end of each year.
- Provide more opportunities for all students to access iPads to more individualize their learning.
- Continue our quest for healthy lifestyles for all students and staff through exercise, eating right, drinking water, getting plenty of sleep, and self-monitoring stress levels with strategies to de-stress.
- Continue to examine student data to provide interventions most appropriate to ensure academic success for all students.
- Revise the 25 Book Campaign to be more inviting to students to participate in fully and to enjoy reading for pleasure.
- Improve our PASS scores which decreased in 13-14. Our school report card's Absolute Rating decreased from Good to Average and our Improvement Rating remained Average. We hope the new ACT Aspire Test will show greater student growth than we saw on PASS because we know our students are learning.
- Use additional strategies to actively engage students in their learning as well as take responsibility for their learning through initiatives such as Completion Center.

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

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

Florence S. Smith Susan Miles

