

School Safety is Priority

Spring 2014

Ware Shoals School District 51 is dedicated to the safety of our students. Security cameras and a bell system for monitoring access to the school buildings were installed at all locations to assist the school offices with the control of individuals through the front doors of each building. Facilities and buses are monitored by security cameras that record events with sound for review at any time.

On March 21st, Ware Shoals School District, under the leadership of Eric Cox, partnered with Greenwood County Sheriff's Department, Laurens County Sheriff's Department, Ware Shoals Police Department, South Carolina Highway Patrol, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Laurens County Coroner's Office, Greenwood County Coroner's Office, Western Laurens County Fire Department, Ware Shoals Police Department, and the Ware Shoals Student Council to enact a two hour practice exercise for school safety. Fifteen parents, substitute teachers, and grief counselors were also involved in the exercise. The exercise was followed by an after-action review for all participants. School employees were also surveyed to determine improvements that could be made in the emergency response process.



Ware Shoals School District 51 continues to work diligently to assure the safety of all students as we prepare our students to be productive, contributing, and successful members of society.

Feel Free to Contact Us

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Superintendent— Dr. Fay Sprouse

District Office Staff

Marti Arsenault—Secretary
 Bert Brantly—Maintenance Dir
 Linda Estes—Accounts Payable
 Dr. Julie Fowler—Asst. Supt
 Julie Madden—Payroll/Benefits
 Brenda Mattison—Office Manager
 Shane Mattison—Maintenance
 David Nelson—Technology Dir
 Alison Richter—Sch Psychologist
 Arlene O'Dell—Dir Support Ser
 Jenny Pitts—Dir Special Ed
 Susan Smith—Lunchroom Accts
 Kyle West—Technology

Paula Taylor Named 13-14 District Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Mrs. Paula Taylor, 1st grade teacher at Ware Shoals Primary School, who is the Ware Shoals School District 51 Teacher of the Year for 2013-2014. In her application Mrs. Taylor said, "I believe it is an honor to serve the students of Ware Shoals. . . I believe that each child is a unique individual who needs a secure, caring, and motivating classroom in which to grow. . . I became a teacher because I love learning and wanted to share my passion with young children. I hope my



passion shows students that learning is valuable and worthwhile. . . I've learned to smile with the new, em-

brace the changes, and laugh often with my students."

Thank you, Mrs. Taylor for your service to our school district.

Congratulations to all the teachers who were nominated by their schools for District Teacher of the Year:

WSP—Paula Taylor

WSE—Brittany Slatten

WSJrH—Trish Wirszyła

WSH— Maria Beckner

Reports from Ware Shoals Schools

Ware Shoals Primary continues to provide a rigorous curriculum and places priority on character development. Although we are proud of the many successes we have accomplished, we continue to refine our instructional practices to ensure students are provided with optimal learning opportunities.

This year we have focused on intervention strategies which teachers have incorporated into their classroom lessons. Grade level teachers continually refine benchmark evaluations which are administered at the end of each nine weeks. These benchmarks ensure all Common Core State Standards are emphasized and, as a result, provide a consistency across each grade level.

Character education also plays an integral part of our curriculum. We embrace the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model of reinforcing and celebrating positive behavior as we understand it to be an integral part of our students' success outside the classroom.

We are truly fortunate to have the continuing support from students, parents, and our community which allows us to push towards our district vision of "Learning, Serving, and Leading".

Dr. Daniel Crockett, Principal
Mrs. Shawn Davenport, SIC Chairman

Ware Shoals Elementary School is a community dedicated to educational excellence. Our mission is to be the educational leader for the total community, preparing all students to be productive, contributing, and successful members of society. We have had an outstanding year! Our school was recognized as a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School. Ware Shoals Elementary fell into the Exemplary High Performing Schools category, meaning that our students scored within the top 15 percent of schools on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS). Our rating on the State School Report Card was an Excellent Absolute Rating and an Excellent Improvement Rating. This year Ware Shoals Elementary received a Palmetto Gold Award for academic achievement and a Palmetto Silver Award for closing the achievement gap.

Ware Shoals Elementary School students are held accountable to high standards of achievement. We recognize students' academic accomplishments through the Accelerated Reading Program, Semester Awards Day Programs, the District and Regional Spelling Bees, and the Beta Club. Students at Ware Shoals Elementary are given the opportunity to attend the Release Time Program. The WSES Safety Patrol provides assistance to our students and helps to keep our school safe. Our students are also provided an opportunity to participate in service learning activities which allow our students to give back to the community. This year our service learning projects included Relay for Life, Ware Shoals United Community Service, Christmas is For Kids, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Ware Shoals Community Food Bank.

The faculty and staff at WSES are united in our efforts to develop our students socially, emotionally, and intellectually. A combined effort from a dedicated faculty and staff, concerned parents, and a supportive community assures that we are assisting students in reaching their full potential.

Nancy Brown, Principal
Gwen Whitfield, SIC Chairperson

The mission of **Ware Shoals Jr./Sr. High School** is ensure continuous learning for all students by empowering them to be actively involved in their education and by providing varied opportunities for successful achievement of high standards. Our vision is to be an integral part of a district that is committed to learning, serving and leading.

Ware Shoals Jr./Sr. High continues to strive for excellence in all areas. Our athletes captured a Region Championship in football for the first time in four years. Our high school received an "Excellent/Excellent" Rating on our most recent Report Card as well as an "A" on the 2013 - ESEA / Federal Accountability System. This score was bolstered by the continued successes at the Junior High Level, which maintained a 91.1% (A) ESEA score. This year Ware Shoals High received a Palmetto Gold Award for academic achievement and a Palmetto Silver Award for closing the achievement gap.

Our student body continues to serve our community with our annual "Christmas for Kids" fund drive as well as renewed support for CATE Day which highlights our Career and Technology students. Our Student Council Rally was once again recognized as an Honors Council at the State Convention.

With results/data from the National Dropout Prevention Center, located in Clemson, we will be better equipped to support the needs of our school and community.

The faculty and staff at Ware Shoals Jr/Sr High are dedicated to providing a safe, challenging, and educational environment that meets the unique needs of our students while preparing them to be respectful, productive, and responsible members of a democratic society.

Paul Anderson, Principal
John Hansen, SIC Chairman

State District and School Report Card Rating 2013

Location	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	ESEA Grade
Ware Shoals School District	Good	Excellent	B
Ware Shoals Primary School	Average	At-Risk	C
Ware Shoals Elementary School	Excellent	Excellent	A National Blue Ribbon School Award Winner Palmetto Gold and Palmetto Silver Awards
Ware Shoals High School— Grades 7 and 8	Good	At-Risk	A
Ware Shoals High School— Grades 9—12	Excellent	Excellent	A Palmetto Gold and Palmetto Silver Awards