

Red Bank Elementary School  
246 Community Drive  
Lexington, SC 29073

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Dear Parents,

Each year we send an update to parents as a part of the function of the School Improvement Council. This year, thanks to each of you and your children, we have many accomplishments to report from Red Bank Elementary School.

Red Bank Elementary has been selected as a pilot for Lexington School District One's personalized learning approach where students are educated in a competency-based, standards-based environment. Students are able to demonstrate their learning in multiple ways by having a choice, whenever possible, so that they can learn in their preferred learning style.

As part of this effort, our students have done well with a new reporting system based on standards. Students know what they must learn and know when they have "mastered" the learning so that they can move to the next level in the content areas. They set goals for their learning to keep them on track. The new report card has been a tremendous change for our parents and we appreciate your patience as you have had to see something unlike anything you have seen before. We know that, over time, elementary school parents will appreciate the report that provides much more information about the details of their learning. Henry Ford said, "If I asked the people what they wanted, they would have said a faster horse." We are working on the needed changes for 21<sup>st</sup> Century education. Not a faster horse, but a new way of living and leading as learners.

Whether students are in the regular curriculum or in the Spanish Partial Immersion program, they have learned about learning. Metacognition helps us know how we best learn, how we think, and makes us better able to solve problems. Our students have been learning the Common Core State Standards in English-language arts and math, which the State of South Carolina is adopting to help them be college and career ready.

Red Bank Elementary is proud to have received the Palmetto Silver Award for improved academic achievement during the 2011-2012 school year. We are continuously working to improve our students' achievement by addressing the learning standards where they demonstrate weaknesses. We also provide opportunities for our students to extend their learning beyond the classroom to higher levels of learning and achievement.

Examples of student leadership are noticed all over the school. Students produce a daily news show that is completely student-led. They decide on the news to be delivered and have expanded the show to include new features such as *Make it Happen Monday!* A student tech team produces the show each day.

Students produce a radio show that features a new episode each week. They interview featured guests from within the school, the district, around the state and country, as well as international guests. They have stories of interest and focus on topics relevant to the school and community. Kool Kidz and a Radio Show can be heard on 90.7 FM in the car rider line and at [tiny.cc/koolkidz](http://tiny.cc/koolkidz). The students create podcasts by recording on site and at events they attend with the use of an iPod.

Our school also extends learning opportunities to those outside of the K-5 classroom. A parenting center, Roadrunner Tots, serves parents and their children who are toddlers or pre-school age in helping them prepare the little ones to be life-long learners as they get ready to enter school. Also, we have adult education classes which meet daily to provide support for English language learners. Childcare is provided for students attending these classes.

Our students proudly support children with special needs as they participate in Project Unify. Through this program, regular education students have partnered with special needs students and support them in Special Olympics, Unified Cheerleading, and through mentoring. Our students have attended the *End the "R" Word Rally* at the State House and have spoken out in support of their friends and performed at both the rally and at the state games. Our drum group has been invited to the 2013 Summer Games to perform. In 2012, our students created a rap and performed for the opening ceremonies. Together, we can!

Listed below are activities of caring, of learning, of collaboration, of creativity, of communication, and critical thinking that have been a part of the 2012-13 school year. In addition to the defined instructional program, here are *some* of the other exciting learning activities that have taken place by our students, for our students, by our parents, for our parents, and for our community.

Relay for Life	Green Steps Recycling Program
Presidential Mock Election	Morning Announcement Team
Daily News Show Team	Technology Team
Personalized Learning Team	4-H Club
Garden Club	Recycling Team
Student Videos for News	Unified Cheerleading Team
Project Unify Team	Special Olympics Fan Club
First Lego League	Hoops for Heart Fundraiser for American Heart Association
Kool Kidz Radio Show	Safety Patrol
Color Guard	Roadrunner Tots
English for English Language Learners	Jobs Now Program
Mentor Program	Student Crisis Intervention Team

These are some of the opportunities for our students and community members that exist because of the commitment and collaboration with parents, teachers, and community members. We are thankful for the privilege of serving our students and their families at Red Bank Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Marie G. Watson  
Principal

Thomas Dandridge  
School Improvement Council Chair