

A large, close-up photograph of a sunflower with vibrant yellow petals and a dark brown center, set against a dark background with green leaves.

Letter To The Parents

The School Improvement Council for Red Bank Elementary is proud to share the many successes and celebrations accomplished during the 2014-2015 school year. We owe these successes to our students, parents, faculty and staff, business and community partners.

Red Bank Elementary students and families participated in many school-wide events including Special Olympics competitions and celebrations, Unified Cheerleading competitions, RBE PTO Family Nights, Fine Arts Celebration, STEM for Girls, Student Talent Show, and Literacy Night. The annual Red Bank Spring Fling was a fun filled day for families in our community. Students enjoyed learning about a variety of career opportunities thanks to many community volunteers who shared during our Career Day. In addition to regular school activities, many of our students participated in Lego League, RBE Morning Announcement Team, Garden Club, Safety Patrol, Recycling Team, Etiquette Dinner, Run Hard for Girls and Boys, Student Ambassadors, Student Leadership Council, and the Make Your Mark Leadership Foundation.

Once again our school counselors sponsored Career Day for all of our students. Students heard speakers from many different careers, such as fire fighting, military, banking, and others. The highlight, of course, was students seeing a helicopter take flight!

Red Bank Elementary and teachers received grants from Unified Partners for Special Olympics and from the Sisters of Charity to fund our Healing Species Character and Literacy Program for second grade. Our business partners and community members continue to support our students by funding enhanced learning experiences, and providing volunteers as mentors and tutors. Michelin provided funding for our students' enrichment in the arts by sponsoring a visit from the Columbia City Ballet. Michelin also funded intervention materials for reading for primary level students. To further enhance our fine arts program at RBE, second grade students benefited from a grant for an Artist in Residence from Pork Chop Theatre.

One of Red Bank's own teachers created a foundation in which many of our students have learned skills in the areas of academics, leadership, and basketball. The Make Your Mark Foundation is a program in which students can volunteer to participate after school. They have practiced character and empathy by raising funds for community members in need and supporting school initiatives.

The use of iPads in our school has been a huge factor in continuing our personalized learning initiative. Students have used iPads to communicate, complete assignments, take assessments, set goals, track learning, and complete projects. Students used such programs as Compass Odyssey, Lexia, and RAZ kids, just to name a few, to enhance their learning experience at RBE, and to prepare them for the future with 21st Century Skills.

Red Bank Elementary continued to participate as a Transform SC School. We were honored to take several students to speak at the New Carolina Spring Conference. The students did a magnificent job of sharing RBE's vision of a 21st Century School, and giving examples of their own experiences with personalized and blended learning.



This year began RBE's journey towards becoming a Stephen Covey Lighthouse School. Through the study and practice of the principles of leadership outlined in Covey's book, *The Leader in Me*, students and teachers incorporate the "Seven Habits" of successful people and happy kids in the school environment and in their daily lives. Students and staff are eloquently using the common language throughout the school as we build leadership skills that will help all of us work and learn in a positive, healthy environment.

SCPASS, our state standardized assessment was administered in the Spring of 2014 in 3rd through 5th grades. . The results of that assessment revealed that 69% of our students met or exceeded expectations for writing, 75% met or exceeded expectations for English/language arts, and 68% met or exceeded expectations for math. The system of assessment does not measure many of the strengths that our students show in the skills they need for the world today such as collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking.

Our students demonstrated care and compassion with the many service projects they proposed and supported through their own crafts, such as rubber band bracelets, paper wallets, Greeky-mons, and artwork. They donated food items, gently used shoes, clothing and items for the food bank, gave to Relay for Life, and the Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter. Their heart for others continues to amaze and impress!

In addition to our 4K-grade 5 curriculum, we also support a Parenting Center for toddlers and children under school age. This program helps parents and children learn together. We have been proud of our program, led by Mrs. Sallie Bozard, who continues to find creative ways to involve young children and families in learning on a school campus.

Red Bank Elementary and Lexington District One believe in providing for our families in many ways. Along with a social worker who is available to our school, we now also have a school-based, mental health counselor from Lexington County Mental Health providing counseling for our students on campus.

This year we have been fortunate to have a full-time literacy coach, math coach, and technology integration specialist on our campus to provide continuous professional learning for our teaching staff. These instructional coaches have provided classroom teachers with resources, strategies, and modeled lessons in order to build knowledge in math concepts and application, high progress literacy classrooms, and technology.

We are very excited about the initiatives in place at Red Bank Elementary! Our students and staff created a shared vision that is summarized in a school pledge:

We encourage each other.
We learn every day.
We never give up.
We are strong leaders.
We are Red Bank!

We will continue our journey of personalizing learning for every student because our vision is Successful Learning for All!