



RED BANK ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014

The School Improvement Council for Red Bank Elementary realized many accomplishments and celebrations for the 2013-14 school year. We owe these successes to our students, parents, faculty and staff, business and community partners.

Students and families at Red Bank Elementary enjoyed school-wide events such as our Fall Festival Cardboard Challenge, Spring Festival, Special Olympics celebrations and competitions, Unified Team events, and other school related activities. Students participated in Lego League, 4-H Club, News Team, Kool Kidz Radio, Garden Club, Safety Patrol, Color Guard, Recycling Team, Business Mentor Program, Adopt-a-Highway, and more!

Teachers received grants for gaming in education, master gardening curriculum, Unified Team, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) curriculum to enhance the learning experiences of our students. Our business partners also supported enhances learning experiences. Michelin supported our fifth grade students on a trip to the Boeing plant in Charleston. They also funded a curriculum for developing social and emotional intelligence for our primary grades (K-2) to help them recognize feelings of self and others and to recognize strengths in self and others.

Our district continued to provide support for personalized learning by providing an iPad for every student. Our parents were troopers as Apple changed the regulations for creating accounts for students in the midst of our roll-out. RBE parents were the BEST as they worked with us through these challenges. Though our students only had them for use for the last few weeks of school, this time was well used to implement this tool for learning. We are excited to start the year with these devices for learning.

Red Bank Elementary was designated as one of 32 schools in South Carolina as a Transform SC School. This designation came from an application process through the New Carolina organization that is supporting the changes needed in schools today. Our system of education was developed for an agrarian society and Red Bank has been recognized as making tremendous strides in transforming school to meet the needs of the 21st century learner. One of the board members for Transform SC visited Red Bank Elementary in the spring and commented, "I have traveled thousands of miles visiting schools across this state and I have not seen another elementary school transforming school as well as Red Bank Elementary. She encouraged us to "stay the course" and continue through the struggles of this change. The leadership and 21st century skills, demonstrated by our students, is evidence that we are on the right course.

Our state-wide assessment system, PASS, was administered in the May. 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, and the cardboard challenge. The donated food items, gently used shoes, clothing and items for the food bank, 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.

Next year, we look forward to having a full-time literacy coach and math coach on our campus to provide continuous professional learning for our teaching staff. These teachers of teachers will also be able to offer tips to parents who are seeking ways to help their children at home with reading, writing, and math.

We will implement the practices of a Leader in Me school in the 2014-15 school year. Our faculty and staff have been trained by the Covey Organization in the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and we will immerse those practices into our curriculum so that students come to own and understand that leadership comes from within. We are excited about the potential stemming from these leadership practices.

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