

Lions....Learning Equals Success!

SIC Report to the People
March 2014
SIC President: Caren Sanders

- **Common Core Standards Implementation and Professional Development** – all classes have implemented the SC Common Core standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math this year. All teachers have received professional development in ELA and Math and will continue to learn more about these rigorous standards to best meet the needs of our students. All teachers, K-6th grade, are teaching CCSS this year.
- **ROAR program** - Our academic assistance reading and math program for grades 5K-6 during school hours.
- **Reading and Enrichment Time** - In order to increase uninterrupted class time, all students, including those needing special services, receive enrichment during a 50 minute block of time each day. These blocks of time are staggered among grade levels.
- **Read Across America's, Dr. Suess Day and Walk to School Day** – the students incorporate physical activity with a character parade and reading for pleasure throughout the week. We are recognized as a **Silver Level partner** with SC Safe Routes Program.
- **SC Dogs therapy "Bark" program** – Students participate in animal assisted activities that are goal directed, therapeutic interventions to help meet their special needs.
- **Writers Pride** – Students are encouraged and celebrated for exemplary writing each month with a cookies and milk snack and small writing gifts.
- **Upstate Writing Project Grant** – provides professional development strategies to improve writing across the curriculum.
- **GoalPost** – In collaboration with Clemson University, extra assistance is provided to students based on academic need in grades 3-6.
- **Tutoring Program**- we collaborate with local universities to obtain student tutors for our students. While the college students receive credit for their classes, our students receive extra weekly support.
- **Mentoring Program** – Students receive special attention from mentors from various walks of life depending on their needs. For example, our Good News Club leaders have mentored several of our students based on teacher requests.
- **MAGI Christmas Assistance** – Families receive meals and gifts donated by area churches and distributed through our school.

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- **Backpack and PACK Program**- In collaboration with United Way and our local churches we provide bookbags and all of the needed supplies to begin the school year and send home “kid-friendly” meals each weekend in backpacks for students in need.
- **Character Education Program** - Each month a different character trait is introduced and toward the end of the month, each teacher selects one winner. The winner is recognized during awards day. Students are recognized with special field trips and activities each 9 weeks.
- **Olweus Bully - Prevention Program** – This is a comprehensive, school-wide approach that addresses bullying and creates a safer, more positive place to learn. Olweus focuses on improving relationships among our students rather than just those who have been bullied or have bullied others.
- **Archery in PE** - Students continue to perfect their skills with the bow and arrow. With the leadership of Coach Terry, Mr. Long, and Mr. Brock, the La France Archery team has earned state recognition and hope to be competing in the national competition in May.
- **A Night at the Museum** – Art was celebrated at LES during this traveling art show exhibit. Our students and their parents enjoyed a night of fun as they learned more about famous artists while being entertained by our own chorus.
- **SC Elementary Honors Choir since 2005** –six of our students represented our school in this year’s performance in Charleston, SC. The choir consisted of approximately 240 students from across the state selected through recorded auditions.
- **Engaging students through Art**- Two students were selected winners in the poster contest for the solicitor of Anderson County. Their artwork was included in a special calendar to recognize them along with other students across three counties. We are ranked in the top 10 in the state on Artsonia, our online art gallery.
- **Engaging Learners with a Focus on the Arts** – Our teachers continue learning with professional development provided through the Kennedy Center workshops to gain more knowledge and obtain strategies on how to integrate the arts into our curriculum. Specifically, we have learned how the use of movement, drama, art, and music will enhance lessons causing our students to retain what they learn through the 4C’s Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity and assist our students in the development of 21st Century Learning Skills.*
- **AMERICORPS** – AmeriCorps is a nationally funded service initiative implemented with in local community nonprofits to address critical community needs in education, public safety. The volunteers work as academic assistants in our school.
- **Art Works Grant** – cooperative grant with the National Endowment of the Arts and the Town of Pendleton to provide our students with opportunities to work with artist in residence as well as service learning experiences.
- **Cup Stacking** - This year we have used Speed Stacks cup stacking products in Arts Integration and Infusion through physical education. The program is designed to have students work on hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity and concentration through

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cross-linear movements and patterns. Once students have experienced the use of Speed Stacks, research shows the brain experiences biological changes which lead to an increase in academic abilities, memory retrieval and cognitive abilities.

- **Dance** - In the PTO sponsored dance program, we include our 5k and EMD students to help with body control and body motion. The students have learned multiple steps and combinations within different types of dance (jazz, tap, ballet, etc.). The students have used different types of music to discover the beat and other aspects as music relates to dance. The students worked on gross and fine motor skills as well as skipping, galloping, right/left distinction, and speed.
- **PTO** – is an active member of our school community sponsoring family and school events throughout the school year including our Leaning Luau and all our Family Nights.
- **IXL Math** – IXL Math is designed to help your child learn at his or her own pace. The website is adaptive and will adjust to your child's needs. IXL Math is aligned with state standards and Common Core.
- **2014 All Stars Program** – The Greenville Drive All Star Reading Program is a reading incentive program aimed at promoting reading and academic success among youth across the Upstate. The program is open to 3rd – 8th grades.
- **AOP Jet Toy** - This is the second year our students have participated in the challenge sponsored by A World in Motion, which is a program that brings science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to life in the classroom. The JetToy Challenge event tasks students to create a balloon-powered toy car that meets specific performance criteria like; travels far, carries weight, or goes fast. Jet propulsion, friction, air resistance, and design are the core scientific concepts students explore in this challenge. The Art Car designed by our students won for the second year in a row.
- **Wax Museum 2nd grade** - In 2nd Grade the students study Famous Americans. The students pick a famous American and research that person's life. The students then write a report and make a display including the report and few artifacts to represent the person. . The entire school and parents are asked to come in to view the "Wax Museum."

School wide PASS data from the 2012-13 school year:

- 85.3% meeting or exceeding standard for ELA
- 81.5% meeting or exceeding standard for Math
- 80.95% meeting or exceeding standard for Science
- 89.2% meeting or exceeding standard for Social Studies
- 80.9% meeting or exceeding standard for Writing (5th grade only tested)

***How does the arts/arts integration contribute to the development of 21st century skills?**

What are 21st Century Skills?

They are (1) the Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes; (2) Learning and Innovation Skills (also known as the 4Cs - communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity); (3) Information, Media, and Technology Skills and (4) Life and Career Skills.

Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes

The arts are one of the core subjects in 21st century learning. To demonstrate how learning in and through the arts builds 21st century skills, P21 has also collaborated with six arts education professional organizations to create a Skills Map for the Arts12 that provides examples of how the four arts areas (dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, which collectively include the media arts) help develop many 21st century skills and outcomes including curiosity, imagination, creativity, and evaluation skills.

Learning and Innovation Skills/4Cs

One central goal is to fuse the core subjects with the 4Cs: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. This “fusing” suggests an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning. Arts integration is inherently interdisciplinary; it demonstrates ways to accomplish this “fusion.” Through arts integration, students develop dual content knowledge (in both an art form and another area of the curriculum) as well as develop skills in the 4Cs.

21st Century Skills and Arts Integration

With the vast social, cultural, technological, and economic changes our nation is experiencing, as well as those we have yet to imagine, many are reconsidering what knowledge and skills students need to be successful in the 21st century. The question under consideration is how to create “a new learning environment consistent with the cognitive and expressive demands of the 21st century.”

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”

Pablo Picasso

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