

Report to the People 2018-2019

Jeffrey Simpson: Principal

Alyse Neal: SIC Chairperson



#Worldchangers

This Year's Highlights

- ◆ **STEM Night-** This year was our first annual STEM night, which allowed our students and families to engage in a night full of hands-on literacy, math, science, and engineering fun. Our math teachers presented material on our Eureka Math program at each grade band in order to explain our math curriculum and strengthen the school-home connection.
- ◆ **Literacy & Musical Nights-** We had another wonderful year combining student-led conferences and musical performances. All students received two free high-interest books of their choice for attending. This continues to be a great opportunity for our students to showcase their hard work at school and increase parental involvement.
- ◆ **Career Day-** This year, twenty-five community volunteers spoke to our students about various careers, including law enforcement, cosmetology, education, military, law, graphic design, and many others. We want our students to know that they can be successful and have great careers as they graduate!
- ◆ **"Every Child a Graduate" Week-** This year we started our first annual "Every Child a Graduate Week" in March. This week included special announcements, fun dress-up days, and representatives from Tri-County Technical College visiting. Teachers shared their own experiences with both high school and college graduation, as well as how they selected their careers. This was a great week of learning and being future-focused for our students!
- ◆ **Olweus Bullying Prevention Kickoff and Class Meetings-** Chief Doyle Burdette with the Pendleton City Police Department came to encourage us to be great detectives and look for kindness opportunities at our Olweus kick-off. Our school participates in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, which is a district-wide initiative. Classrooms participate in weekly family meetings, where they discuss ways to prevent bullying and promote kindness.
- ◆ **PES Legacy Day-** Retired PES teachers were invited back to go on a tour of the school, visit their previous classrooms, fellowship with one another, and read a story to a class. We are grateful for their impact and legacy on our school.
- ◆ **World Read-Aloud Day-** Community members, staff members, and district office personnel were invited in to read stories to classrooms to promote a love for literacy in the lives of our students.
- ◆ **PES Family Events-** We enjoyed spending time with our PES families at our annual Boonanza Fall Festival, sponsored by PTO. Our family dance in February was well attended, and families were able to take home used books to build at-home libraries to promote reading at home.
- ◆ **Engaged Reader Lunches-** Our students are rewarded for being authentically engaged in independent reading. Students can earn "Caught Being 100% Engaged" tickets from any teacher in the building to turn in to our literacy coach, Mrs. Gandy. Five names per month are drawn to have a special lunch with the reading coach, media specialist, and resource officer, as well as pick out a new book to take home.
- ◆ **Screen-Free Week -** Students and families participated in national Screen-Free Week, where they limited technology in order to spend quality time together, spend time outside, and spend time engaging in physical activity. Student ambassadors created promotional videos and posters to promote the event.

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PES Bulldogs GROWL

- *G- Gratitude*
- *R- Respect*
- *O- Ownership*
- *W- World Changer*
- *L- Leadership*

We continue to emphasize our school wide character-building program, nominating faculty, staff, and students who demonstrate characteristics of our GROWLs to be recognized.

Unique Opportunities

- ◆ **Kindness Club-** This year we began a new after-school club led by our school counselor, Mrs. Tilley, for students in grades 3-6. Students in this club participated in activities that left traces of kindness all around our school. The main project that the students worked on was the Crayon Initiative. The students created, distributed, and collected crayon donation boxes. We were able to donate forty-five pounds of crayons to be recycled into new crayons that will be distributed to children in hospitals.
- ◆ **World Changers Celebrations-** Students with outstanding behavior each 9 weeks attend our World Changers celebration, which includes music, face painting, jump rope, dancing, and inflatables. To attend, students must reach "purple" on the clip art at least 4 times per 9 weeks.
- ◆ **Student Ambassadors-** This year, Mrs. Batson led an afterschool group of student leaders in grades 4-6. Students worked to organize a canned food drive for our community and helped lead and promote the Screen-Free Week initiative. They served as guides and greeters for outside visitors, practicing and using strong communication and soft skills. They are wonderful role models and representatives of our school.
- ◆ **Overnight Field Trip Experiences-** Our overnight field trips provide invaluable hands-on learning experiences for our students. Fourth grade spent two nights aboard the USS Yorktown in Charleston. As a part of this trip, students experienced an Eco Tour to Capers Island, the state aquarium, and Fort Sumter. They even received a VIP tour on the ship and had free time to explore Patriot's Point. Our fifth graders attended Space Camp in Alabama, where they participated in astronaut training simulators and learned how to build rockets. Our sixth graders attended Robotics Camp in Alabama, where they built and manipulated robots. Space camp and robotics camps required students to work together and demonstrate strong team-building and collaboration skills. Space camp and robotics camp have a heavy STEM emphasis.
- ◆ **Garden Club-** We had a wonderful year partnering with Clemson University Extension and MUSC in order to revitalize our school garden.
- ◆ **Explore the Arts-** We had a very successful year in Explore the Arts, which ended with a culminating musical production "Journey Into Outer Space." Students performed this in front of their families and K-2 classrooms at school.
- ◆ **Jet Toy-** Our winning fifth grade team represented PES at the regional Jet Toy competition and placed in the top three, qualifying them for the national competition in Detroit.
- ◆ **Upstate Mentor-** We have community members that take time out of their day to visit with students once a week to talk about life, school, and anything that can help them be good students and citizens of the community. We are thankful for our mentors.

Our Amazing Faculty & Staff

- ◆ **Book Study-** This year, our teachers did a book study on [The Energy Bus](#) by Jon Gordon. This study helped us maintain a common vision and focus for this school year. Positivity is an important element of our school culture.
- ◆ **Professional Learning Communities-** At PES, we have professional learning communities (PLCs) meetings to collaborate with a student-centered focus. We focus on standards, data, best practice, and individual student needs. PLC teams analyze evidence of student learning and discuss research-based methods and strategies to improve professional practice. Most importantly, our PLCs work interdependently to achieve common goals to promote student achievement.
- ◆ **Professional Development Opportunities-** Our staff has been provided with opportunities to attend conferences on Eureka Math and Orton Gillingham research-based strategies. In addition, a group of teachers attended SCIRA, the state literacy conference. This ongoing learning positively impacts classroom instruction and our students' learning experiences.

Data & Accountability

- ◆ PES received a report card rating of EXCELLENT from the state of South Carolina.
- ◆ SC Ready meets and exceeds for English Language Arts—41.6%
- ◆ SC Ready meets and exceeds for Math—46.5%
- ◆ SC PASS meets and exceeds for Science— 50%
- ◆ SC PASS meets and exceeds for Social Studies— 69.4%