

Our school theme for the 2011-2012 school year has been “Sailing For Success”, and that is just what our students have done.

This year began a new chapter in the life of Liberty Elementary School (LES). We are now much smaller with the opening of Chastain Road Elementary just down the road, but still strive hard to provide the same family atmosphere. As always, student achievement is our main goal at LES. We have a strong history of academic success. We have won **10 straight Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards** and **9 Closing The Achievement Gap Awards**. We have received an **Absolute Rating of Excellent** and an **Improvement Rating of Excellent** on our School Report Card for the past two years, and have scored “**Met**” on **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)** for the past two years.

Our faculty, staff, and administration work hard to provide a safe, caring, and academically challenging environment for all 550 of our students. Our goal is for each of them to learn and reach their full potential. To achieve this goal our staff uses a variety of best practices such as: **Thinking Maps, Café, manipulatives, Every Day Math, Classworks, science kits, guided reading, Accelerated Reader, Write From The Beginning, STEM based instruction, and Reading Recovery**. This year our entire faculty read the book *Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs* and worked hard to tailor homework to ensure we are intentional with our assignments.

At Liberty Elementary we not only focus on educating the mind, we work hard to develop the whole child. This year we continued to use the **Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)** program here at LES. We also continued our partnership with the YMCA of Pickens County through our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant and had them providing a free after school care to students on free and reduced lunch. The **Young Appalachian Musician (YAMs)** program began its second year here at LES. This program had numerous students staying after school to learn to play the banjo, guitar, and fiddle. These students have excelled and even had the opportunity to play at a county wide festival. Our guidance department used Chic-Fil-A’s **Core Essentials** program to focus on Character Education and continued both the **BARK** and **Fix-It-Fido** programs. These two wonderful programs bring dogs into the school to work with students who struggle with reading and also to assist students with bullying issues. We also partnered with the **Feed A Hungry Child Program** to provide food over the weekend for numerous students who would not otherwise have an adequate meal. We continued to offer **Breakfast In The Classroom** for our students. This program ensures students are receiving a healthy and nutritious breakfast and helps parents by providing an alternative on those busy school mornings.

We appreciate the continued parental support we received this year. Parent communication and support is essential to the success of any school. Therefore, we use a variety of forms of communication to inform parents of how their child is doing in school. We communicate through weekly folders, the Parent Link phone system, newsletters, and agendas. We also offer a variety of ways for parents to become involved in their child’s education. Some of the opportunities for our school involvement include the School Improvement Council, PTO, parent nights, and the volunteer program. The school, family, and community must share the educational responsibility to produce students who are effective members of society. Thank you for all of your support in helping to make this year a year to remember.

Elaine Dacus, Chair of the School Improvement Council  
Lowell Haynes, Principal