

Liberty Elementary School (LES) has had a military theme for the 2012-2013 school year and our focus has been on leadership. We have worked hard to teach our students that ***“Leadership Encourages Success”***. This year our entire faculty read the book ***“The Leader in Me”*** and worked hard to teach our students the 7 Habits of Leadership. We believe it is imperative that our students learn what it means to be a leader and that these skills will help to ensure their success, regardless of what profession they choose in life.

Our faculty, staff, and administration work diligently 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. We are proud of our strong history of academic success. LES has won the Palmetto Gold and Silver Award every year since its inception in 2002. **For 11 straight years, LES has won the Palmetto Gold/ Silver Award for general performance. For 10 years, LES has won the Palmetto Gold/Silver Award for Closing The Achievement Gap.** LES has also received an **Absolute Rating of Excellent** and an **Improvement Rating of Excellent** on our School Report Card for the past three years. We have achieved these accolades through the continuous professional development of our teachers. Our teachers are always seeking new and effective strategies. They currently use a variety of best practices such as: **Thinking Maps, Literacy By Design, Café, manipulatives, Every Day Math, Classworks, science kits, guided reading, Accelerated Reader, Project Read, Write From The Beginning, STEM based instruction, and Reading Recovery.** It is obvious that we are living our motto; we truly are a school that is ***“Learning and Growing Together”***.

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 **Young Appalachian Musicians (YAMs)** program. 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. Many of our students also participate in **Chorus** and have the opportunity to represent LES at the **State Honor Choir**. Our guidance counselor taught the **Seven Habits of Leadership** in monthly classroom guidance lessons. She also oversaw the continuing of 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 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 busy school mornings.

We appreciate the continued parental support we have 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, agendas, interim reports, and report cards. 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.

Corey Lewis, Chair of the School Improvement Council

Lowell Haynes, Principal