

# Clemson Elementary School News

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**"Where every day is a great day to learn!"**  
**October 2009**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

### **September 2009**

- 28 - Oct 9 Primary Map Testing
- 29 School Pictures, 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> & Floyd, Science Lab
- 30 School Pictures, 4K - 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ray & Whitlock, Science Lab

### **October 2009**

- 1 Volunteer Training, 6 - 6:30pm, Cafeteria
- 2 Chess Club starts, after school, room 401, every Friday
- 7 Kgn. Field Trip, Fire Station, 12-2:00pm
- 8 Wendy's Night, 5 - 8:00 pm  
Odyssey Parent/Student Info Mtg 7:00pm Science Lab

- 14 Volunteer Training, 10 - 11:00am, Science Lab
  - 15 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Field Trip May Lan Tree Plantation, 8:30am-2pm
  - 16 Go Green Day - IMA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, 8:30am-1:00pm
  - 20 Bojangles Night, Clemson, 5 - 8:00pm
  - 22 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ray, PMA Field Trips, Brooks Ctr 8:30-11:30am  
Firehouse Subs Night, Clemson, 5 - 8:00pm
  - 23-31 National Red Ribbon Week
  - 27 Odyssey Coaches' Training 7:00pm, Rm 401
  - 28 Columbo's Night, 5-8:00pm
- November 2009**
- 2 Pancho's Night, Central, 5 - 8:00pm

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Thank you to all who attended Open House. I realize this was shortly after Meet the Teacher Night, but it was good to see a sizable crowd. I appreciate all who found time in their hectic schedules to make it a point to come out on a busy night.

We are on course to continue excelling academically. Our first round of MAP testing is almost over as this is written. This will give teachers an accurate picture of each student's current progress. Fifth grade has two accelerated math classes that are a new initiative this year. Next year these math classes are scheduled to spread to fourth grade also. The new Reading Interventionist position started last week working with primary-age students needing extra reading help. We are proud the South Carolina State Department of Education has selected us as a Palmetto Gold Showcase school. The state has not released PASS scores from last spring. Scores will be sent home for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders as soon as we get them.

I am pleased that we were able to begin Volunteer Training. We are grateful for everything volunteers add to our school. Attending a Volunteer Training session clears a parent to help in classrooms this year. This Training Session is required for all volunteers. The Volunteer Training schedule is on our website and in this newsletter. The hold-up was with the state and SLED checks. The resolution is that volunteers supervising students on field trips without a teacher present (only first grade will not take such a field trip) must have had a SLED check. Regrettably, a SLED check will cost each volunteer \$25.00. Parents who were SLED checked last year are covered for this year.

The H1N1 flu is here at Clemson Elementary. Some is diagnosed and some is undiagnosed. We will do all we can to reduce spreading the flu here. Doctors recommend keeping a child home 24 hours after a fever has broken, frequent hand washing, and wiping rooms clean. Thank you for your help fighting this flu bug.

PTA is in the midst of selling Sally Foster gift wrap. This is the main fund-raiser for PTA to do all the wonderful things they do for us. I hope you were able to order some. It is high-quality gift wrap for all occasions. Thank you to Dena McEntire and her committee for heading up this huge commitment.

At the end of this portion of the newsletter I have included as a reminder several points from an earlier traffic memo distributed to all parents. I appreciate that 99% of our drivers are thoughtful and courteous, but it concerns me that some adult drivers are not following our procedures. The result creates a dangerous situation for adults and our students. Some adults are parking and walking or calling children across traffic. Just merging from two lanes to one has become a problem. We have even had two near head-on collisions when one car drove the wrong way up the exit lane. When drivers do not follow our

procedures it makes things more difficult and dangerous for all. Please be courteous to your fellow drivers. Our goal is to have a safe, orderly drop-off and pick-up for car riders. We need your help for this to happen. Following proper procedures would help remove much of the danger from pick-up and drop-off. Thank you for your co-operation.

1. *As cars come into the back of the school, the double lane merges into one lane. Please alternate with every other car merging to the right into the single lane and be courteous of your fellow drivers. Traffic signs have been posted as reminders.*
2. *For the safety of the students and to avoid confusion, please drop-off or pick-up only in the back of the school by the gym where proper supervision is available.*
3. *Please do not park and walk or send your children across the traffic lanes. This is very dangerous. The line will move quickly if cars stay in line to allow adults and 5<sup>th</sup> grade patrols to help with loading or unloading.*
4. *Do remember that the handicapped parking spots are only for individuals with handicapped hanging tags.*
5. *The front lot is for those with business in the front office. Please do not use this as a shortcut.*

*Dr. Ken Weichel  
Principal*

### **GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**

In case you haven't heard, we are so lucky to be partnered with Chick-fil-A this year to present the character education program, Core Essentials. You should have received a tent card for September on the character trait of Wisdom. I hope you take time to discuss these traits around the dinner table. Fold them in thirds and tape them together to make up a stand up triangle. The trait for October is Individuality - discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference! Students will be rewarded throughout the year for displaying these traits by receiving Value-Able Cards, good for a **free 4-Count Nuggets Kids' Meal!** Thanks Chick-fil-A!

I look forward to getting to know you and your children in the days to come. I plan to visit the classrooms monthly to provide lessons on topics such as bully prevention, friendship making and other social skills, conflict management, school success skills and career education. As the need arises, I will also form small groups to address issues such as divorce, self-esteem, academic improvement and friendship. One exciting group starting this month is G.I.R.L.S. (Girl In Real Life Situations). Every fifth grade girl will have the opportunity to participate in this lunch group addressing social and emotional development issues unique to girls. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions you have about these services.

Finally, national Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31. During Red Ribbon week we place special emphasis on the prevention of violence, tobacco use and drug/alcohol abuse.

*Lillie McPherson*

### **FROM THE LITERACY SPECIALIST**

Beginning September 28, kindergarten and first grade students will take the Primary MAP assessment in the computer lab. This assessment is composed of four segments - two segments for reading and two segments for math. The purpose of this assessment is to provide teachers with a way to determine the needs of each individual student. Teachers can use the results to better plan education experiences for each child in the classroom.

It is important for all students to do their best on these assessments so that the teacher can get an accurate picture of the students' skill levels. Please make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a good breakfast during his/her assessment period. Please see your teacher's newsletter for dates/times for testing.

For more information, you may visit the NWEA website at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org). Also, resources and information for parents are provided on the district webpage, [www.pickens.k12.sc.us](http://www.pickens.k12.sc.us), under instructional services/assessment.

*Melissa Terry*

### **VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

Volunteer Training will be held two times in October. We will offer volunteer training on Thursday, October 1 from 6:00pm to 6:30pm in the Cafeteria and Wednesday, October 14 at 10 AM in the Science Lab. All volunteers must complete an application and attend a training session in order to help in the classroom or attend field trips this year.

### **RACE FOR THE CURE - THANK YOU**

Thank you to the Clemson Elementary Team who ran or walked the 5K with me in the Race For The Cure on Saturday, September 26, 2009 in Greenville at ICAR. They were Alison Ryan, Jack Ryan, Erika Ryan, MaryAnn Hill, Daniel Hill, Donyea Brown, Carolyn Baird, Tracy Arwood, Garrett Arwood, Lowell Arwood, Jenna Piekutowski, and Michele Piekutowski.

*Teresa Skewes*

## PE NEWS

Classes are in full swing. We are teaching students how to have fun with friends by playing cooperation games. These games include all the old favorites such as NYC sidewalk games including jump rope and hopscotch. Ask your children to teach you how to play these and other games.

The Jump Rope Team meets on Mondays from 7:20 - 8:00 am for grades 2 & 3. Grades 4 & 5 meet on Wednesday mornings from 7:20 - 8:00 am. Jump Rope Team order forms have been given out and they need to be returned by October 2nd.  
*Janice Wheeler and Carolyn Baird*

## M.O.V.E CLUB

The move club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:35am (not 7:30) to 7:55am and is for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders only. If the temperature is below 40 or if it's raining, the club will not meet.

*Cissy Floyd*

## CLEMSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHESS TEAM (*defending State champions*)

**What:** Some Clemson area residents are organizing an elementary school chess team to learn and practice chess strategies weekly. This will be a competitive team and will represent Clemson Elementary School at the SC State Scholastic Chess Championship in the spring. The CES team has won the state championship in four of the last five years.

**Who:** Fourth and fifth grade students who want to learn or improve their chess and play competitively, as well as younger students who are serious chess players. The team will be limited to a maximum of 15 participants.

**When:** The team will meet most Friday afternoons from 2:30-3:45PM in Mrs. Burns' room (401), beginning October 2nd. *Regular attendance is required.* Students might want to bring snacks for themselves. Pick-up will be in the car-rider area at 3:45.

**Contact Information:** If you are interested in participating in the CES Chess Team, please contact Wayne Goddard (email: [goddard@clemson.edu](mailto:goddard@clemson.edu)) or pick up a flyer in Mrs. Burns' classroom and come along to the first meeting.

## ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Odyssey of the Mind is a national program that provides fun, creative problem-solving opportunities for students. Teams of 5 to 7 students work together to solve various problems. In this process, students develop divergent thinking skills as well as teamwork. Clemson Elementary took two teams to state competition last spring. We are in the process of forming this year's teams. All fourth and fifth-graders are invited to participate. **An information meeting for parents and students will be held on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Science Lab.** After teams are formed, Coaches' Training will be held Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Mrs. Burns' classroom # 401. Please contact Mrs. Burns ([lindaburns@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:lindaburns@pickens.k12.sc.us)) with questions and inquiries.

## CHICK-FIL-A CALENDARS-FUNDRAISER:

The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be selling Chick-fil-A calendars as a means of raising money for their class. The classic cow characters of the 2010 Chick-fil-A cow calendar are out to prove that the pen is mightier than the spatula! Twelve months of timeless favorites like Porter Pan, Salisbury in Wonderland and the Three Brisketeers are back in all their literary glory, complete with coupons for your favorite food and beverage items. The calendars sell for \$6.00. The calendar sale starts on October 2 and runs through October 16. So find a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> grader today to get your calendar.

## BONUS BUCKS

Enrich your child's education by purchasing gift cards through Bonus Bucks. You can contribute to the valuable programs of the PTA, such as the artists in residence, by purchasing gift cards for businesses such as Wendy's, Walmart, and Old Navy. Remember that this PTA fundraiser does not cost you anything extra! Please see the handout in Monday's folder for more information and email [bethmccracken@yahoo.com](mailto:bethmccracken@yahoo.com) with any questions. The first order is due Thursday, October 8th and the cards will be distributed by Tuesday, October 13th. Thank you for supporting the Clemson Elementary School PTA!

## GO GREEN - PAPERLESS COMMUNICATION AT CES

Save trees and costs by going paperless this year in all your school wide communication. If you have not already signed up for paperless communication, please email Linda Knudsen ([lindaknudsen@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:lindaknudsen@pickens.k12.sc.us)) to add your name to our e-mailing list. Don't forget to tell us your child(ren)'s name, grade and homeroom teacher so we can notify the teacher to mark the child's take-home folder as paperless. Should you be getting paper and e-mail communication at the same time, please contact Lorrie Jones ([LorrieJones@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:LorrieJones@pickens.k12.sc.us)) and your homeroom teacher to stop the paper. And remember if your email address changes, please contact [lindaknudsen@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:lindaknudsen@pickens.k12.sc.us) to update the school on the change.

Thank you for making our school green!

## INGLES TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

Ingles Tools for Schools is an incentive that our school participates in each year. Our school will receive a portion of all purchases made by customers that sign up for Clemson Elementary to be their local school that receives the funds. To sign up for the program you need to have an Ingles Advantage Card. If you do not have an Advantage Card, you may obtain one at Ingles or print an application from Ingles website. If you have an Advantage Card, you just need to follow the steps below. It takes just a few minutes.

How to sign up for Tools for School:

1. Go to Ingles Grocery Store website
2. Click on Advantage Card
3. Click on tools for Schools
4. Click on link your Advantage Card to school
5. Search term-Clemson Elementary
6. Click on the ID #
7. Fill out the online questions

You will be signed up to help Clemson Elementary every time you make a purchase at Ingles and use your Advantage Card

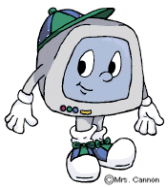
## ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

A student must provide (within 3 days of an absence) a written excuse from a parent/guardian or health practitioner. A valid excuse must contain the date, student's full name, date(s) of absence, reason for absence, telephone number, parent/guardian signature. If a student accumulates 10 absences then a medical excuse is required. It is not necessary to call the school when a student is absent.

All attendance notes are handled in the office. Please make sure that you are using the notepad that was provided for every student in the registration packet to communicate all the necessary information to the office.

School attendance regulations require the school to conduct a Student Attendance Intervention Conference for every student who accumulates 3 consecutive unexcused absences or a total of 5 unexcused absences.

## WELCOME TO CES COMPUTER LAB!



We have approximately 190 computers (desktops and laptops) in the building this year. The Computer Lab has 24 desktop computers and six laptop computers. All classrooms are equipped with two to four laptops in each room. In addition, we have two mobile carts of 24 laptops each that teachers may check out and take back to their rooms to use with their students.

This year the Computer Lab will be on a **FLEX SCHEDULE**. Younger students K-2 will come to the Computer lab for the first & third nine week **Sept. 1, Nov. 4, and Jan. 26, -April 6, 2010** while older students Multi-age -5<sup>th</sup> grade will come to computer lab the second & fourth nine weeks starting on **Nov. 5, -Jan. 25 and April 7, - June 10, 2010**.

Students will be able to use the lab at other times when their teacher schedules it---provided there isn't MAP testing going on.

We have a lot great things in store for our students this year. We are excited to announce we have upgraded our keyboarding program from "Type to Learn 3" to "Type to Learn 4" students will learn all aspects of keyboarding with this program. We will learn basic computer terminology, computer components, (by taking old computers apart), and learning to navigate Microsoft Office Suites. We will also use several educational programs and internet sites to enhance the learning experience such as Starfall, Brain Pop & Brain Pop jr just to name a few. We will also utilize the Classworks Program to assess each student's individual needs in order to meet their MAP test goals.

If you would like to volunteer in the computer lab, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at [BonnieAgostino@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:BonnieAgostino@pickens.k12.sc.us).

Thank you for all of your support. I'm looking forward to a "great" year!

*Bonnie Agostino, CES Computer Lab-TA*

## LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER NEWS

**MORNING READ ALOUD - Begins Tuesday October 6th**

**Tuesday-Friday 7:45-8:00a.m.**

Morning Read Aloud begins Tuesday October 7th and is held every Tuesday through Friday morning in the Media Center from 7:45 to 8:00. A book is selected and read by Mrs. English in its' entirety, on a continuous basis. New books are introduced on the morning television announcements as readings are completed. Interested students must sign-up and obtain passes in the library for each book. The first book to be read aloud will be **Surprises according to Humphrey, by Betty Birney**. Please encourage your child to participate in this relaxing early morning activity.

**THE READING PATCH BOOK CLUB**  
*Thursdays, 2:30-3:00p.m.*

**We are still in need of parent volunteers to serve as discussion leaders for Reading Patch Club.** We would like to have 2 leaders per group. Once parents are trained we will start our club. You may email Cathy English [CatherineEnglish@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:CatherineEnglish@pickens.k12.sc.us) or call 654-2341 ext. 136

**GREAT WEBSITES FOR READER and RESEARCH INFORMATION**

[www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com)

This website allows you to search for books that have Accelerated Reader quizzes. Students can take quizzes at school on any book found at this website.

<http://destiny.pickens.k12.sc.us/>

Check out our card catalog! Click on Clemson Elementary to view the collection of materials located in the library media center! Select the Catalog tab and customize your search by opening Reading Program. You may search to pull up books in your lexile range that have AR quizzes!

<http://www.scdiscus.org/>

DISCUS is South Carolina's virtual library. DISCUS provides all South Carolinians with access to essential information and learning resources. DISCUS resources are available via the Internet in all public schools, selected private schools, public libraries and colleges. The resources include full text articles from encyclopedias, magazines, newspapers, reference books, and news wire services. Also available are maps and business directories. Lesson plans, learning activities and links to high quality web sites are incorporated in the database for logical access to related information.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Habitat for Humanity is A Christian housing ministry financed through private donations and utilizing volunteer labor. Their purpose is to build homes with families and sell the houses at no profit and no interest to families who could not otherwise afford a home. Currently there are no families in the area waiting for a home. To qualify you must:

1. Have a housing need. For example, no indoor plumbing, poor heating, leaks in the roof, overcrowding (3 to a bedroom), unsafe or unsanitary conditions.
2. Have lived or worked in Pickens County for at least the past 12 months
3. Have been employed in your current job for at least the past 12 months. (Does not apply to those on Disability.)
4. With your permission employment will be verified, a statement will be obtained from your current landlord, and your credit history will be reviewed.
5. If approved, all adults (17 years and older) in your household are required to work a minimum of 200 sweat equity hours. All children 12-16 are asked to invest 50 hours of sweat equity time on their home. A \$500 down payment is required and must be paid prior to moving into your Habitat Home. The house will be sold to you at cost. The house payments, which include taxes and insurance, are approximately \$250 a month. (This is an estimate. The actual cost may vary.) These house payments will be used by Habitat to build more houses with other families.

For more information and specifics about this program, you may contact the school for an informative flyer. If you feel you qualify, you may request an application packet by calling toll free 864-868-3737. The entire application process takes approximately 3 months. (There are no applications available at the school.)

