

# WALHALLA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

<https://sites.google.com/a/g.oconee.k12.sc.us/walhalla-elementary/home>

A Title I School

The mission of Walhalla Elementary School, in cooperation with home and community, is to develop confident, responsible, productive lifelong learners, by providing a total educational experience in a positive environment.

## February 2019

### Principal's Points

Shanon Lusk

As we begin the third nine weeks of school, it is a great time to remind our students to continue to work hard and be prepared daily for classes. You can help your child be successful in school by:

- Ensuring that he/she is at school and on time each day
- Ensuring that he/she is at school by 7:50 AM if eating breakfast in the cafeteria
- Ensuring that he/she is prepared for school
- Ensuring that he/she is reading and completing homework each night
- Staying in contact with his/her teacher
- Participating in school activities

I also wanted to remind everyone that we have a full time guidance counselor based at our school on a daily basis as well as a mental health counselor that comes to our school one day per week. We also have a protocol for bullying that is defined in the SDOC Behavior Code Book. The Behavior Code Book can be accessed on the Parent page of the SDOC Website. We continue to talk with our students daily about being kind to one another, and to let an adult know if concerns arise. Please help us by talking with your child(ren) about the importance of getting along with others as well as notifying adults (parents, faculty/staff, administration, and/or the SRO) if concerns do arise.

Please plan to join us at 5:30 PM on February 11th for our Math and Science Night. We will have a brief PTST meeting first and then begin our math and science activities. It will be a fun-filled night for all.

Our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Family Fun Run is Saturday, March 9th. There will be a 1 mile walk/run and a 5K walk/run for our families. We hope that you will participate in the family fitness event that also serves as a fundraiser for our school. The money earned from the Fun Run, which is sponsored by the School Improvement Council, helps pay for our family night activities and for our visiting authors. If you are interested in helping sponsor the Fun Run, or know someone who is, please contact me at the school. Entry forms for the Fun Run have already been sent home, but can also be accessed on our school website.

I appreciate your help and support and look forward to a wonderful and productive 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks of school.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.



# Calendar of Events

## February 2019

2/2	SDOC Battle of the Books
2/5	Class Pictures
2/8	Career Day
2/11	PTST/Math & Science Family Night-5:30 pm
2/15	Teacher In-Service Day
2/18	<b>STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL (SNOW MAKE-UP DAY)</b>
2/27	4th Grade NAEP Testing Day

## March 2019

3/5	Spring Individual Pictures
3/9	SIC Family Fun Run at 8:45 am
3/10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
3/18	PTST/Literacy Night at 6:00 pm
3/25	<b>STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL (SNOW MAKE-UP DAY)</b>
3/26	Chick-fil-A Night 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

## April 2019

4/1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade to Columbia
4/8-4/11	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade to Washington, DC
4/12	Special Olympics
4/15-4/19	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
4/23	Grades 3-5 READING MAP
4/25	Grades 3-5 MATH MAP
4/27	PTST Spring Carnival 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
4/30	Grades 3-5 LANGUAGE MAP

## Volunteer Information

The School District of Oconee County has implemented a new background check system. Background Information Bureau (BIB) provides a more detailed report that a volunteer can complete themselves without giving out their personal information to the school. The cost for the background check is \$19.45. A credit or debit card must be used to pay the fee online. You will receive a copy of your background check by email and within two weeks, a card in the mail. The background check will be good for two years. The school will receive notification of the background as well. **THIS IS THE ONLY BACKGROUND CHECK THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

To access BIB, please follow the guidelines below:

- **USE INTERNET EXPLORER BROWSER**
- Go to the school districts website-[www.oconee.k12.sc.us](http://www.oconee.k12.sc.us)
- Click on the parent link
- Look for the navigation bar on the right, "Information"
- Click on the Background Check to Volunteer
- Read paragraph and then select – Please use this link to complete a background check
- Read the Secure Volunteer information and click on the blue button **I WANT TO VOLUNTEER**
- Follow the steps as you are directed to fill in your personal information and payment

## Coke Rewards Program

Codes can be found on your favorite Coca-Cola brand's packaging. Check underneath the cap, inside the tear-off of 12-packs and inside the wrap of our multi-packs.

Points donated will be converted to cash and the school will receive a quarterly payment to be used on physical education, sports, technology, arts and/or classroom supplies.



## Curriculum for Students Christi Hartsock

### SC READY Testing

The state has chosen to administer the SC READY test as it's a summative, end-of-the year test again this year. It will take place for students in grades 3-5 within the last 30 days of school. They will be testing online for all subjects. Students in 4th and 5th grade will also take the SC PASS test in Science and Social Studies online. If you are interested in helping monitor during SC READY or SC PASS testing, please let me know.

5/7-ELA Day 1

5/9 - ELA Day 2

5/14- Math

5/16- SC PASS (4th grade- science, 5th grade social studies)

### Math and Science Night

Our annual Math and Science Night will take place on Monday, February 11th at 5:30 pm.

We will begin the evening with the PTST meeting in the cafeteria. Then, students will have the opportunity to participate in some fun science activities and math games with their family.

### Spring MAP

You have recently received your child's Winter MAP scores. All teachers will be individualizing instruction to meet your child's needs based on these scores. They will be reassessed after spring break for Spring MAP testing. Please contact your child's teacher with more information concerning your child's strengths and weaknesses.

**PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE  
APPOINTMENTS, VACATIONS, ETC.  
DURING THIS IMPORTANT, BUSY  
TIME!**

4/23-MAP Reading (3-5)

4/25- MAP Math (3-5)

4/30- MAP Language (2-5)

5/2- MAP Reading (K-2)

5/8- MAP Math (K-2)

### Don't Forget to Send in Excuses for Absences, Tardies & Early Dismissals

There has been a change from the SCDE regarding attendance and how long a student must be at school to be counted present for the day. **Per the SCDE, a pupil is counted absent if he/she is not present for greater than 50% of the school day.** The actual calculation (done automatically by PowerSchool) is based on the minutes covered in a school's bell schedule.

A student who misses school must present a written excuse within three (3) days after the student returns to school. If your child was absent but did not go to the doctor, we still need a written excuse, signed by a parent/legal guardian, stating why the child was absent.

Make sure the excuse contains the following information:

- date(s) student was absent
- student's first and last name
- teacher's name

These requirements also apply for tardies and early dismissals.

### **Don't forget to shop for points at Ingles!**

If you shop at Ingles, please make sure our school is listed on your Ingles Advantage Card. Please go to the Ingles website, <https://www.ingles-markets.com/toolsforschools-link>, to register your card. This has to be renewed each school year!





**Literacy Coach's Corner**  
**By Linda Smith**

Love is in the air this month, and a love of reading and writing is always what we are striving to instill in our students! Research has shown for many years that one of the most important factors in becoming a literate adult is being read to as a child. Unfortunately, as children get older, families often stop the tradition of reading aloud at home. Children should be read aloud to from infancy to high school. There are many benefits that are discussed here: [https://www.rif.org/sites/default/files/Support\\_Materials/ReadingAloud.pdf](https://www.rif.org/sites/default/files/Support_Materials/ReadingAloud.pdf)

Many times parents are looking for ways to involve their children and families in literacy activities. This month I am including a link to rif.org that has activity calendars for families to enjoy each month.

<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/calendars/february-2019-activity-calendar>

Enjoy your families and share the love of reading with everyone this month!



Valentine's Day is a time when love and gratitude are expressed. We know that you will use this day as yet another opportunity to share with your child how very special he/she is to you, but **we must ask that you select a time other than the school day to acknowledge Valentine's Day with a gift to your child.** Due to our large student population, we do not have either space to store items or an adequate number of staff members to distribute gifts. We appreciate your understanding!

## SchoolPay

The School District of Oconee County has partnered with SchoolPay to assist families in paying for school-related fees with a debit or credit card. SchoolPay allows parents to pay for school lunches, yearbooks, field trips, and any other related cost that may occur throughout the school year.

SchoolPay is also accessible through your child's Powerschool account.

To create an account with SchoolPay, go to: [www.schoolpay.com](http://www.schoolpay.com). You will need your child's student identification number and the name of the school he/she attends in order to register.

## Mark your calendars!!!

**The annual Walhalla Elementary School Fun Run and 5K is on March 9th!** We are looking for sponsors for this event. Are you or someone you know interested in sponsoring this event? All sponsor names are printed on the back of participant t-shirts. You may also send in flyers for us to place in the race bags. This is a great way to promote your business and show your school spirit. If you have any questions or if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Shanon Lusk, Sara Wright or Debbie Rowland at 864-886-4480.

Walhalla Elementary School continues to collect **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**. The school receives a dime for every box top that you send to school. Look for the labels pictured here for us to receive credit. They are on several brands of cereal, refrigerated/dairy, frozen, snacks, baking, and others.



Look for this symbol to collect points!

**Counselor's Corner**  
**Heath Hunnicutt**

During the month of February, we will be recognizing "Child Abuse Prevention Month" by visiting all classrooms during the regular guidance time to present our "***Safe Touch Program***" to all students. This program teaches children the difference between safe and unsafe touches and also emphasizes the importance of "Say no, get away if you can, and tell someone". This is a very important program focusing on your child's personal safety. We are very fortunate to have this program for all students in our county. We hope that, you as parents, are discussing with your child proper boundaries and keeping communication open for your child to tell you if they are in a situation that does not feel comfortable. Your influence is extremely significant in your child's understanding of safety! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Heather Hunnicutt, at 886-4480 ext.2001.

**Career Day Information**

Career Day for this year is scheduled for Friday, February 8th starting at 8:15 am. Parents of first, second, and fifth grade need to be on the look-out for letters going home about pet allergies. The grades mentioned will have cats and/or dogs present during the career presentations. Please let your teacher or the school know if we need to take precaution with your child due to any allergies. Thank you and I am looking forward to another wonderful career day!

**Per The Walhalla Elementary**  
**Family Handbook**

Parents are not allowed to bring in, or drop off, specially purchased meals (McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, etc.) for a child's lunch. No child will be allowed to have soft drinks at lunch or snack time.

**2019—2020 Kindergarten Registration**

Mark your calendars for Kindergarten Registration. All schools will hold registration during the week of March 12-15, 2019. Parents are asked to register children online at the school district's website, [www.oconee.k12.sc.us](http://www.oconee.k12.sc.us) by choosing the link for Parents. Please visit the elementary school in your attendance area for registration assistance, if needed. Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2019, to qualify for Kindergarten. Please see the list below for items needed to register your student.

- **Child's *long form* Birth Certificate**
- **Child's Social Security card**
- **Child's updated Immunization Form**
- **Driver's License or Identification Card of Parent/Guardian who is registering student**
- **Proof of residency: A copy of either a Power Bill, Water Bill, Gas Bill or a Rental Agreement**

Please provide the school with a copy of any legal documentation, such as custody papers, safety plans, etc.) All documentation provided will be copied and the originals will be returned to parent/guardian.

Come join your friends for pizza, music and fun!



**Who: WES 4th and 5th Graders**  
**Where: The WES Cafeteria**  
**When: Thursday, February 14th**



2:45-3:45 pm  
Cost: \$5 per student  
Drinks: \$1 Pizza: \$2

Additional drinks and pizza will be available for purchase at the dance.



The #BookNerds will represent Walhalla Elementary School in the District Battle of the Books competition on Saturday, February 2. The team members are: Kaylee Brown, Sophia Farmer, Isaac Kanagy, Isabella Reid, and Shaunice Williams.



Congratulations to the following students who were selected as members of the 2019 SC Elementary Honor Choir. They will travel to Columbia February 7-9 for rehearsals and concert with the other selected chorus members from all over the state:

Ella Gansen  
Anna Garrett  
Samantha Resendiz  
Keegan Smith



**A Note from the Nurse**  
**By Heather Robinson**

With colder temperatures approaching, colds and viruses and things such as head lice become more prevalent due to wearing jackets, scarves, toboggans, close family gatherings, etc. Take a few minutes to discuss ways to prevent illness with your child such as:

- washing hands with soap and water especially before eating
- covering their cough
- eating a well-balanced diet and getting plenty of rest

**Please note that district policy states that students must be free of fever or any episodes of vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.**

Also, please talk with your kids about ways to prevent the spread of head lice:

- do not share hats, brushes, combs, hair bows, scarves, jackets, towels, and even headphones
- avoid hair to hair contact while playing
- keep longer hair pulled up in pony tails or braids
- consider over the counter products such as sprays made to be lice repellent (as always, check with your child's physician before using any medications).
- check students and family member's hair for lice on a weekly basis and anytime intense scratching is noted.

Please note that while inconvenient, head lice do not harbor or spread any diseases. Please feel free to call or stop by my office with any questions!

**December Star Students**

**A.B. Phillips** – Kaitlyn Sayers, Elijah Rowland; **Rochester** – Mayte Lima-Gaspar; **Bibb** – Jeehtzael Manzano, Willow Sewell; **Morgan** – Gracie Sanford, Ian Sevilla; **S. Phillips** – Kyra Lillie, Giezi Matias; **Underwood** – Macie Ratliff, Jacob Lankford; **Watt** – Maddox Gillette, Zoe Linares; **Phillis** – Leila Lopez, Mallory Lynch; **Noe** – Anushka Nagulapally, Bentley Reece; **McGuffin** – Melony Edmonds, Dillon Fox; **Chappell** – Tyler Richardson, Addie Collins; **McCall** – Kinsey Smith, Cole Ward; **Land** – William Jacoba, Abbi Hendrix; **Lusk** – Sophie Tatum, Garrett Cox; **Saxon** – Carla Crane, Timothy Gonzales; **Ivester** – Laiken Roper; **Foster** – Ethan Lusk; **Beesley** – Ella Vinson; **Syck** – Brystol Hunneycutt; **Roberts** – Caden McCall; **T. Phillips** – Gabriella Laredo, Charlie Moreno; **Campbell** – Atleigh Nimmons, Cooper Watts; **Anderson** – Mikey Lusk, Alyssa Posey; **Laye** – Ashlyn Frick, Carson Bibb; **Abbott** – Ella Gansen; **O'Connor** – Noah Martin; **Shepherd** – Eli Jackson; **Westbrook** – Rowen Addis; **Butler** – Jacob Terry