

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.

January 2019

Principal's Points

Shanon Lusk

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break.

I am very excited and proud to announce that our school received an EXCELLENT Rating on our State Department of Education School Report Card! I am so proud of the hard work from our students, faculty/staff, and families. Our full Report Card is available to download at the following site: <https://ed.sc.gov/>

The next few months will continue to be very busy. Please continue to encourage your child to do his/her best at school. Your partnership with our school is crucial in the success of our students. I also encourage you to stay actively involved by attending our school activities and communicating regularly with your child's teacher(s) to ensure that good academic progress is being made. All students should be reading or being read to each night.

Please send students with long sleeve shirts, hoodies/sweatshirts, or jackets on these cold days for recess. If your child is missing a jacket or clothing item, check our lost and found. Please remember to put names or initials on clothing items.

Thank you once again for your continued support. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I look forward to a wonderful second half of the school year!



It's *Battle of the Books* season! This is a team reading competition for 4th & 5th grades. We have 6 teams this year who have been reading all year and will continue to practice in January. They will answer questions from ten great books, in a Jeopardy-style competition, with their friends and teachers watching! All of the other Oconee elementary schools are participating in this program as well. Our school competition is planned for Friday, January 11.

The winning team will go on to "battle" the other elementary school teams at the District Battle of the Books on Saturday, February 2!

Calendar of Events

January 2019

1/11	School Battle of the Books Competition
1/15	End of 2 nd Nine Weeks
1/16	Bojangles Spirit Night
1/21	STUDENT HOLIDAY
1/30	Report Cards Issued

February 2019

2/2	SDOC Battle of the Books
2/5	Class Pictures
2/8	Career Day
2/11	PTST/Math & Science Family Night-6:00 pm
2/15	Teacher In-Service Day
2/18	STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL (SNOW MAKE-UP DAY)
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	STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL (SNOW MAKE-UP DAY)
3/26	Chick-fil-A Night 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Curriculum for Students Christi Hartsock

I hope that all of you have had a wonderful holiday season with your friends and family and are ready to be back to start the second half of our school year! It will continue to be busy and exciting!

Winter MAP Testing

Winter MAP testing was completed in December. Your child's teacher will be sending home reports and scheduling conferences to discuss your child's scores. Feel free to contact me if you'd like to discuss these in more detail!

GT Results

Gifted and Talented testing results will be sent home soon! If your child qualified for additional testing, it will take place at the end of February/beginning of March. Please contact me if you have any questions!

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.



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!

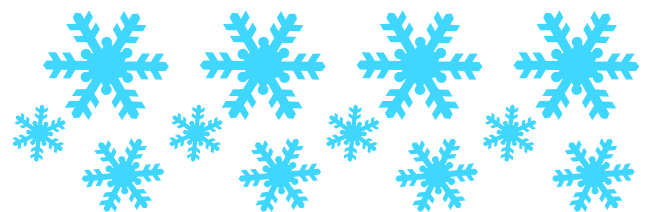


Volunteer Information

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
- 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





Literacy Coach's Corner
By Linda Smith

Happy New Year! I hope that you are all making some great resolutions for 2019 that include taking time to read and write for yourself and with your students. The weather forecast indicates that we will have a colder than average and wetter than average winter so let's think about how to keep our kids reading and writing through those winter days. Here are a few websites that you may find interesting for learning and writing about snow:

<https://nsidc.org/cryosphere/snow/science>

<https://writeshop.com/writing-prompts-about-winter/>

This month we will have our Battle of the Books competition for our six teams comprised of 4th and 5th graders on Friday, January 11th. Once we have a winner of the school competition, that team will go on to represent Walhalla Elementary at the district wide competition on February 2nd. We are so proud of the all these students!

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to the following for sponsoring a 5th grade student so they have the opportunity to participate in the Washington DC field trip. Donations are still being accepted!

Jetton's Grading, Inc.

Town of West Union

Domino's of Walhalla

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. 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!

THANK YOU PARENTS
for the wonderful Munchie Day!

Leigh Ann Thomas, Jamie Crum, Kelly Singer, Faith Hedden, Belinda Bonadies, Tashee Johnson, Amanda DuBose, Karis Jetton, Ashlynn Sheriff, Katie Fox, Lisa Beebe, Jessica Guillot, Danielle Pankuch, Janet Bailey, Leanda Price, Sheila Lowery, Tabitha Harvey, Kerry Nimmons, Marjorie Conaway, Robin Wilson and anyone else who provided something.

You are GREATLY appreciated!

Orders are now being taken for the 2018-2019 Yearbook. The cost of each yearbook is \$18.00. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook for your child, then complete the form on the left and send it in to your child's teacher. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WALHALLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

To order online, visit
www.inter-state.com/yearbook
and enter the code: 31485J

DEADLINE IS
February 1, 2019.

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.



Student's Name _____

Teacher's name: _____

Grade: _____

Number of Books: _____

Total: _____

Cash or Check# _____

The cost for each yearbook is \$18.00. Please make checks payable to
Walhalla Elementary School.

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!

November Star Students

A.B. Phillips-Levi Ramirez, Camila Ramirez; Rochester-Kaitlyn Kennemore; Bibb-Bianca Morales, Dylan Hernandez; Hollifield-Avery Glenn, Camila Torres, David Randle; Morgan-McKenzie Hoekstra, Alden Graba, Jace Wiley; S. Phillips-Genesis Lopez, Braxton Taylor; McGuffin-Wyatt Collins, Makenna Davis; Noe-Dylan Crum, Ava Saunders; Phillis-Brilee Eller, Brayden Miller; Underwood-Hailey Winchester, John Jetton; Watt-Miles Hamor, Addison Nicholson; Chappell-Keila Landeros-Ramirez, Levi Resendiz; Land-Lily Gibbs, Mitchell Phillips; Lusk-Thad Watkins, Khloe Lusk; McCall-Julian Leon, Chloe Lane; Saxon-Sawyer Simpson, Lilly Garrett; Beesley-Brady Smith; Foster-Kamdyn Kelley; Ivester-Grace Gansen; Roberts-Dane Wilson; Syck-Kaleigh Cothran; Anderson-Mya Cobb, Logan Blackburn; Campbell-Gabbie Bonadies, Brennan Sherman; Laye-Alysse Payne, Triston Woodland; T. Phillips-Ashton McAlister, Michelle Velasquez; Abbott-Pamela Murillo; O'Connor-Kyiah Sims; Shepherd-Eli Jackson; Westbrook-Ella Wilkie; Butler-Cason Crum