

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.

October 2018

Principal's Points

Shanon Lusk

Happy Fall!

I wanted to remind everyone of the Read to Succeed Act that is in full implementation beginning this school year. According to the Ready to Succeed Act, current 3rd grade students who are significantly below grade level in reading will be retained. This is not a School District of Oconee County policy, but is a requirement of a SC state law enacted in 2014. The intent of the Read to Succeed Act is to provide the support students need to read on grade level by the end of the 3rd grade. We are working extremely hard to provide ample opportunities for students to read on grade level. All 2nd and 3rd grade students will be receiving a parent letter that explains the Read to Succeed Act in much more detail. In addition, our teachers will be scheduling parent conferences to review student progress. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns regarding the performance of your child.

I hope you are planning to join us for our first PTST Meeting/Open House on Monday, October 1st. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM. Following a brief PTST meeting, parents will be allowed to visit classrooms to see all of the student learning so far this school year! The computer labs will also be open to help set up Canvas accounts.

If you would like to volunteer at our school or chaperone a field trip, the SDOC has implemented a new procedure for completing background checks. Please see page 3 of the newsletter for more detailed information.

I appreciate your support of Walhalla Elementary School. Educating our students is a partnership between the home and school. I encourage you to be actively involved in your child's education. Communication is a crucial factor in the success of our students. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I am looking forward to a great school year!

WELCOME
FALL

Calendar of Events

October 2018

10/1	PTST Meeting & Open House at 6:00 pm
10/8-10/12	Fire Prevention Week
10/22	End of 1 st Nine Weeks
10/22-10/26	Red Ribbon Week
10/22	5 th Grade Parent Meeting 6:00 pm Cafeteria
10/24-10/26	GT Testing
10/29	Parent Conference Evening 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
10/30-10/31	GT Testing

November 2018

11/4	Daylight Savings Time Ends
11/5	STUDENT HOLIDAY
11/6	STUDENT HOLIDAY
11/12	PTST Thanksgiving Dinner – 5:30 pm
11/12-11/16	American Education Week
11/16	Bojangles Spirit Night 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
11/20	NO GOOD NEWS CLUB
11/21-11/23	Thanksgiving Holidays

Curriculum for Students Christi Hartsock

Hello Fall! Our students have hit the ground running and are already making some wonderful strides in their academics! With the exception of 2nd grade, our students did not Fall MAP test this year. Our teachers used the Spring 2018 data to drive their fall instruction. We will Winter MAP test in December.

Exact dates will be posted soon. MAP testing is a diagnostic, formative assessment, that provides our teachers with an individual instructional "recipe" for each child to target their specific needs.

GATE Testing

At the end of October, all 2nd grade students and any referred 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will participate in Gifted and Talented testing. Testing will start at the beginning of our school day, so please make sure your student arrives to school on time. If you are interested in having your 3rd – 5th grade child participate in Gifted and Talented testing, please refer their name to Mrs. Hartsock.

As always, your help and support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns that I can help you with, feel free to contact me at 886-4480.

Star Students
September 2018

A.B. Phillips – Grant Alexander, Gracie LeCroy; **Rochester** – Ada McCall; **Bibb** – Hudson Hill, Leah Justice, Ella Roper; **Hollifield** – Abel Aguilar, C.J. Robinson, Naomi Taylor; **Morgan** – Savannah Davis, Cole Suttles, Eli Zavala; **S. Phillips** – Jovani Escamilla, Brealyn Goodwin; **Underwood** – Benjamin Lusk, Sutton Roach; **Watt** – Bryleigh Addis; **Phillis** – Giovani Gonzalez, Addie Smith; **Noe** – Kyle Kelly, Lizzie Medlin; **McGuffin** – Michael Butler, Kinley Carter; **Chappell** – Caysen Whitfield, Stella Wilson; **McCall** – Bailey Cobb, Perryn Poore; **Land** – Hagen Roach, Noah Wilson; **Lusk** – Antonio Cantero, Brenley Duncan; **Saxon** – Dorothy Roman, Blair Underwood; **Ivester** – Zach Crum; **Foster** – Skyler Qualls; **Beesley** – Barzi Melendez; **Syck** – Macie Tatum; **Roberts** – Walker Crawford; **T. Phillips** – Junior Heaton; **Campbell** – Sam Lowery, Miguel Murillo; **Anderson** – Jared Estrada, Marissa Reeves; **Laye** – Landyn Stuart; **Abbott** – Samantha Resendiz; **O'Connor** – Cheyanne Rogers; **Shepherd** – Caden Pacek; **Westbrook** – Benjamin Bello; **Butler** – Cason Crum

**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, www.ingles-markets.com/advantage_card, 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

Counselor's Corner Heather Hunnicutt

In the month of October, our Character word that we will be learning about is Contentment! Contentment means deciding to be happy with what you have. It is important that our students learn to be happy with what is given to them and make a difference, no matter what. I look forward to visiting each classroom this month and teaching the students our new Character word!

“Red Ribbon” week is **October 22nd-October 26th**. This week is a fun yet very important week to show our support in our school being drug free. Here is the list of how you can participate each day during “Red Ribbon” week:

- Monday** **Wear RED to kick off Red Ribbon Week!**
- Tuesday** **Stay in the game and stay away from drugs! Wear your favorite team shirt/Jersey!**
- Wednesday** **Hats off to being drug free! Wear a fun hat!**
- Thursday** **“Sock it” to drugs! Wear crazy socks!**
- Friday** **“Superheroes” are drug free! Wear Superhero shirts!**

*****Please be sure to participate during “Red Ribbon” week to show your support in being drug free!*****



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.

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.



Literacy Coach's Corner By Linda Smith

Happy Fall Everyone! As we move into this new season, we continue to find ways to encourage our students to be excited about reading and writing here at Walhalla Elementary School. The south is famous for its love of football, and here in SC we are no exception. The State Department of Education sponsors a reading incentive program each year called “**Read Your Way to the BIG Game**”. This is a fun way to have kids show their loyalty to whichever team they like (Carolina Gamecocks or Clemson Tigers) while reading any 6 books on their reading level to enter for a chance to win tickets to the game! We will be asking students to add to our bulletin board display in the front hall, if they would like to, by writing about their favorite team. Please look for the information about this contest in your child's classroom newsletter, and visit <http://screads.org/read-your-way-to-the-big-game/> to learn more. As always, if you have any questions or something that I might be able to help with please don't hesitate to contact me! My email address is: lsmith4@g.oconee.k12.sc.us

Happy Reading, Writing, and THINKING!!



5th Grade Donut Fundraiser

Help 5th grade raise some dough for Washington, D.C.! **Krispy Kreme** donuts will be delivered to the school. \$6 per dozen and orders and money are due October 5th.

DONUTS TO BE DELIVERED ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH.

For more information, contact a 5th grade teacher.

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.

5th Grade Yearbook Ads

Looking for a creative way to tell your student, "I love you and I'm proud of you"? Place a recognition ad in the yearbook! What a great way to recreate your student's memories than through an ad saying how you feel about them.

All ads this year will be \$30 and will be on quarter pages in the yearbook. All ads can include two pictures. This can be a baby picture and a 5th grade picture or whatever two pictures you choose. It can be just one if you want.

Reserve a space for your ad today to say how proud you are. Like the yearbook, your message will be a permanent memory.

If you have not purchased the yearbook and would like to do so, go to:

www.inter-state.com/yearbook
Code: 31485J



RECOGNITION AD ORDER FORM 2018-2019

Deadline is: November 16, 2018

Send to: Walhalla Elementary

Sheryl Crook (Yearbook Advisor)

Please feel free to email your pictures and message to:

scrook@g.oconee.k12.sc.us

Student Name _____ Teacher Name _____

Parent Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Amount: \$30 Cash _____ or Check # _____

(Make checks payable to Walhalla Elem.)

Don't forget to include your photos!

Please write the message that you would like to write to your student on the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper. The maximum amount of words will be 75.
