

WALHALLA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

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

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.

September 2018

Principal's Points

Shanon Lusk

Welcome back to the 2018 - 2019 school year! I hope you all enjoyed your summer. I am so glad to have your child with us at Walhalla Elementary School. We've had a great start to the new school year!

In an effort to reduce classroom interruptions and confusion for your child, please make transportation arrangements before school. If the method of transportation is different from the usual way, please send a note with your child. **If it is an emergency change in transportation, you may call the school office before 2:00 PM. We will not accept transportation changes after 2:00 PM.** Calls late in the day make it difficult to get the changes to classroom teachers. If you are picking your child up early for an appointment, please send a note with him/her, so that the teacher can make arrangements for your child to be ready.

While we welcome and encourage parents to visit our school, all visitors must stop by the front office to receive a visitor's badge upon entering the building at any time during school hours. If you plan to visit your child's classroom, please make sure you have made plans with the classroom teacher prior to arrival. This helps us maintain the safest environment possible for our students and accurately account for those in our school. Students are not allowed to open any outside doors for adults.

Once again, I consider it an honor to work with such wonderful students, families, and faculty/staff members. If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 886-4480. I look forward to wonderful year of learning!

Please help us welcome our new SRO, Mr. Adam Poore, and our new part-time assistant principal, Mr. Cliff Roberts. We are very fortunate to have both of them to support our school!



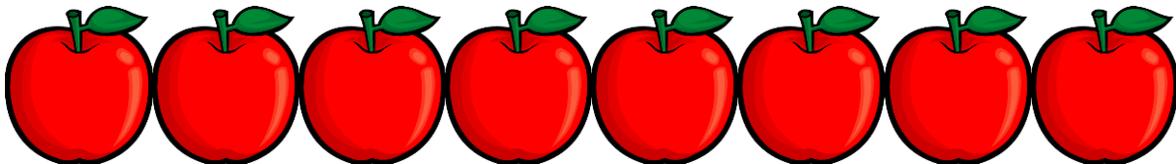
Calendar of Events September 2018

9/3	Labor Day Holiday
9/6	Individual Fall School Pictures
9/11	Good News Club Begins 3:00 – 4:00 pm
9/13	5 th Grade Grandparents Day Lunch
9/14	4 th Grade & Mrs. Butler's Class Grandparents Day Lunch
9/17	Constitution Day
9/20	1 st Grade Grandparents Day Lunch
9/21	5K Grandparents Day Lunch
9/17-9/21	Book Fair Week
9/27	2 nd Grade Grandparents Day Lunch
9/28	3 rd Grade Grandparents Day Lunch
9/28	Bojangles Spirit Night (5:00 – 8:00 PM)

Curriculum for Students Christi Hartsock

Welcome back! I am so excited to begin another wonderful year! We have had a great start to the new school year, and our students are really beaming with excitement at Walhalla Elementary! I wanted to inform you of some important upcoming events. Fall MAP testing will only take place for second grade, and it will begin September 5th. The entire school will participate in Winter and Spring MAP testing. I know our students will put forth their best effort!

We always appreciate your help and support throughout the school year! If you have any questions or concerns that I can help you with, feel free to contact me at 886-4480. I am looking forward to working with you and your children this year!



Welcome Back!

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:

- 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





Chorus began on Monday, August 27th until 3:30 pm. Parents are asked to pick up using the single file RIGHT dismissal line.

For any questions, please contact
Kayla Williams at
kmwilliams@g.oconee.k12.sc.us

Literacy Coach's Corner By Linda Smith

Welcome to a brand new school year! We are so excited to have the students with us and ready to learn! At every grade level, students will spend a great deal of time reading and writing across all subject areas. Our goal is that all students will be confident readers and writers, and will learn how to use these skills to grow in their knowledge of the world. One of the most important things you can do to help at home is to talk with your child about what they are reading and writing. Discuss what they are interested in and what they are doing at school. Encourage them to keep journals or diaries. They might be filled with drawings and words or just words. The point is to let them know that they can express their thoughts and feelings with paper and pencils or with a keyboard. You will hear a lot about **responding to text** this year. We want our students to be able to read something, and then talk about what they have read. We want them to be able to tell what the text said **AND** what they think about it. I will be sharing some good conversation strategies for you to use with them as the year goes on. 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!!

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.



Want to see grades and attendance at the tip of your finger? Then sign up for a Parent Portal account today! This website allows you to set up for weekly grade notifications as well as missing work. Parent Portal also makes registration a SNAP! Don't worry about snapcodes and passwords, log into your parent portal account and complete registration from your phone. That's right! There's an app for Parent Portal/Power School. Download the Power School app from your Apple or Android play store. The district code is JMGL. If you have any questions, please email nking@g.oconee.k12.sc.us or call the school at (864) 886-4480.

TERRACYCLE List 2018

Please only send items on this list!



Chip Wrappers

(Any brand/size chip wrappers, including individual, family size and multipacks)



Entenmann's Little Bites Packaging



Cereal bags

(Any brand/size cereal bags and liners)



Personal Care and Beauty Packaging

(hair care packaging, skin care packaging and cosmetics packaging)



Snack Bar Wrappers

(Any brand/type foil lined snack bar wrappers)



Healthy Snack Pouches

(lids only!!)



Air Care Packaging

(air freshener cartridges and plugs, packaging and flexible film packaging, trigger heads, and aerosol conta



Cleaning Product Packaging

(Cleaner lids, cleaner pumps, and cleaner flexible packaging and bags)

Thanks for your continued support!

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.



There are over 150 children in foster care in our county.

Could you be the one that can change their lives?

Could you be the one that offers love and hope?

Could you be a foster parent?

If so, contact us at the Tamassee DAR School Foster Care Program and join our fostering community.

Fall Scholastic BOOK FAIR! September 17-21

It's BOOK FAIR time! The Scholastic Book Fair is the Library's fund-raiser; it pays for lots of "extras" that benefit all our students. Come join the fun!

Parents & Family are welcome anytime during the school day; doors are open to parents at 7:30 a.m.

You may send cash, or checks made out to WES.

The Book Fair will close at NOON on Friday, September 21st!

**** Parents may use credit cards! ****



Grandparents Lunch Schedule

- Sept. 13 5th Grade Grandparents 12:20 - 12:45 pm
- Sept. 14 4th Grade Grandparents 12:15 - 12:40 pm
- Sept. 14 Ms. Butler's Class 11:45 am - 12:10 pm
- Sept. 20 1st Grade Grandparents 10:55 - 11:20 am
- Sept. 21 Kindergarten Grandparents 10:40 - 11:05 am
- Sept. 27 2nd Grade Grandparents 11:15 - 11:40 am
- Sept. 28 3rd Grade Grandparents 11:30 - 11:55 am



**Adult Lunch
Cost is \$3.75**