



## Letter from Our Principal

Welcome to Okatie Elementary School!

The past year, 2018-19, was another “owlsome” year in the nest! Beta Club

created the first ever school newspaper written by students. Fishing Club was started by Mr. Roberts; the members met at Sergeant Jasper Park to demonstrate their casting and catching abilities. Lastly, grades 3-5 piloted the Live School online behavior tracking program to increase positive recognition and rewards.

We continue to rank in the top 100 elementary schools in SC! We are currently ranked 95th out of 624 schools for 2018 according to School Digger. In addition, Bree Lauffer, Corey Patel, Jacqui German and Megan DeWeese received an Innovative Teacher Grant to start composting leftover lunch food to be used in the school garden as fertilizer. We placed first in the school district for Plaid About Reading. Two students received perfect scores in the Continental Math League, Emily Chiafalo and Kaden Claffy; two students were district winners for character awards, Maggie Maine and Ben McCullough; and two students won local Tutor Doctor’s Writing Challenge, McKenzie Merck and Isabella Walker. Parents Rhett and Jenni Livingston generously donated 41 Jacob’s Kits, so that now, every classroom has one. We are very proud, honored and humbled by our accomplishments and know that we could not do it without the support, effort and collaboration between home, school and community.

Parents, there are so many opportunities for you to become involved, including joining the Parent Teacher Organization led by Ellen Andreoletti and co-chair Jenn Parrott. PTO is responsible for our fundraisers, WINGS celebrations, field trip scholarships, uniforms and a multitude of family fun activities. The PTO, with parent support, raised over \$20,000.00 again this year! The board has decided to set aside \$8,000.00 from this year to add to profits for the next two years with plans to add additional playground equipment. We are very thankful for our “owlsome” PTO.

Parents are also encouraged to participate in the School Improvement Council chaired by Kira Swiger. The SIC is primarily responsible for monitoring progress of the Five-Year School Renewal Plan. This year, the SIC will help monitor the school safety plan, TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement) Plan and Live School. They will also help us monitor implementation of the state standards as well as our “**Learning through**

**Leadership**” goals.

Special congratulations are extended to **Amanda Hogshead**, fourth grade teacher, our 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year; **Kari Dollar**, Kindergarten Paraprofessional, our Support Staff of the Year AND District Support Staff of the Year; and **Nohemi Rodriguez**, our Volunteer of the Year! All three are “owlstanding” members of the Okatie family.

At the start of the new school year, we will welcome new staff members. **Jennifer Farmer**, who took the past two years to be a stay-at-home mom, will join first grade. **Teil Huggins and Taylor Cleland**, former student teachers at OES will join second grade and **Valencia King**, also one of last year’s student teachers will join the fourth-grade team. One program will be transferred to us from Bluffton Elementary, an Early Childhood Special Education program with teacher, **Kendra Dibble**, from Shelburne, Vermont and paraprofessional, **Trina Mike**, transferring to us from Bluffton Elementary. All are enthusiastic and eager to meet you!

This year in our yearly run/walk challenge, we are making two virtual stops. First, we will head to San Martin de los Andes, Argentina for the North Face Challenge and then on to Tokyo, Japan for the Summer Olympics. The roundtrip distance between Okatie, Argentina and Japan is 23,188 miles! Boys and girls walk each morning before school on the track or in the gym. Students are also required to walk around the track before playing during recess. They are expected to complete at least fifteen minutes of physical activity for homework. Start logging those miles, boys and girls. “Healthy habits that start young stay with you for life!”

Students in grades 3-5 will participate in the fourth year of the **Connect to Learn Program**. Students will be allowed to take laptops home after Back to School Night once their technology fee is paid and a contract signed.

**Responsible** learners arrive on time for instruction, complete their homework and classwork, follow procedures and stay in school all day!

**Respectful** learners treat themselves and others with respect. They share and help when needed, and they do the right thing even when no one is looking!

We continue to “**Spread Our Wings and Learn New Things.**” I look forward to another exciting year at OES and want to thank you in advance for your support.

**Yours in Education,  
Jamie Pinckney, Principal**

## OES MISSION & Vision Statement

**The mission** of Okatie Elementary School staff, parents and community is to help cultivate, guide and foster student confidence, imagination, responsibility, respect and knowledge to promote experiential learning. Our students will have a greater respect for their community and their environment by engaging in leadership and service learning.

**The vision** of Okatie Elementary School is to provide leadership opportunities and experiences for allowing students to develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in critical thinking, decision making and problem solving that positively impact their world and future.

*Okie Owls are **Responsible** and **Respectful** Learners!*

### Learning Through Leadership

OES embodies "Learning Through Leadership" with programs offering and expectations for students by:

- Engaging students in authentic, standards-based learning.
- Creating a nurturing environment where students are active participants.
- Providing genuine opportunities which expand leadership skills.
- Developing the whole child by establishing positive self-image, integrity, responsibility, proper etiquette and leadership among peers.
- Providing opportunities to participate in service projects and enrichment activities.

Our students take ownership in their education while supporting their peers in the process through collaboration and mentoring. Sponsored by grade levels, all students are engaged in authentic service projects, instilling social responsibility, environmental awareness and connections with the community. Participation promotes self-awareness, self-confidence and motivation, thus encouraging students to be respectful and responsible.



### BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION

The Beaufort County School District (BCSD), through a personalized learning approach, will prepare graduates who compete and succeed in an ever-changing global society and career marketplace.



### BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION

We will work with families and our diverse community to ensure that students perform at an internationally competitive level in a learning environment that is safe, nurturing and engaging.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### MAIN OFFICE

- Office hours are 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Parents/visitors must use the front door and are required to sign in. You will need a picture ID or volunteer badge to sign in if you plan to visit a classroom or academic area past the main office.
- For text message updates regarding cancellations or late buses, please register at <https://www.Remind101.com>. Sign up for *Principal Pinckney's Okatie notifications*: Text @oka to (720) 924-4074 or Email [oka@mail.remind101.com](mailto:oka@mail.remind101.com)
- School email address is – [oes.school.office@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:oes.school.office@beaufort.k12.sc.us)



### ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

#### Arrival:

- Student arrival begins at 7:00 a.m.
- Students arriving after 7:40 a.m. are considered tardy and **must be signed in by a parent or guardian. Please use the crosswalk.**
- Continued tardiness will be recommended for a truancy referral. Truancy is handled by the school social worker, Laura Waddell, and district office staff.

#### Absence:

- If your child is absent from school, a parent or medical excuse is required.
- More than 10 unexcused absences may result in retention.
- **Please do not schedule vacation time during the school year.**
- If a child has three (3) consecutive or five (5) total unexcused absences, they are considered truant. A student attendance contract will be developed and signed by the parent, principal and school social worker.
- If additional unexcused absences occur, a truancy hearing may be required. Absences affect learning and our State School Report Card. Please send your student to school unless he or she is sick.

#### Tardiness/Early Leaves

- The school day ends at 2:45. Plan appointments after school please.
- Any changes to the way your child goes home **MUST** be in writing, emailed, or faxed prior to 2:00 pm.
- Email EMERGENCY changes to [oes.school.office@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:oes.school.office@beaufort.k12.sc.us)
- You must bring in a signed note from a doctor

documenting early leave/ late arrival for it to be excused.

- **Perfect attendance, within the quarter, will not be awarded if a student accumulates a total of five or more unexcused late arrivals (tardy) and/or early check-outs. This may also result in a Truancy Contract.**
- Students may not be signed out **after 2:15 pm due** to transitions, instruction, and announcements. When parents sign students out early, it disrupts learning for all.
- Volunteers are asked **to not sign their students** out prior to the 2:45 dismissal. Thank you for your help!



## VISITORS

- Visitors are always welcome at Okatie Elementary.
- Classroom observations require a 24-hour notice to the teacher. Please contact an administrator to schedule.
- All visitors **must have a valid driver's license or state ID** to scan for access into the building and wear a visitor's badge.
- **Parents may not walk their student to class after the first two weeks.** This reduces disruption to learning and to help your child separate from you.
- This is a **smoke free campus**. **Please do not smoke on our campus or in the car rider line.**
- **Cellphones should not be used when visiting classrooms or eating lunch with your student. Be respectful of students and staff.**



## Volunteer Applications

Anyone wishing to volunteer in the Beaufort County School District, including student mentors and parents, must submit an online application and consent to a criminal history check. Start this process by clicking on the link below.

<http://beaufort.k12.sc.us/cms/one.aspx?pageId=241007>

## VOLUNTEER APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete the application and consent for background check.
- Select one or more schools.
- Application status may be checked through the OES front office.

## REVIEW OF VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS

- The review and approval process may take up to 14 days.
- Failure to provide required information will result in a delay.

## CLEARED VOLUNTEERS

Social Security numbers and background checks are NOT VIEWED by school personnel.

- Returning volunteers must resubmit the online application bi- annually.
- Once your application is approved, you will receive an on-line confirmation. Your permanent volunteer ID badge should arrive in the mail in approximately 10 days. It is valid for two years. You must wear the volunteer ID badge at the school site at all times. You will also need to bring a government-issued photo ID when you enter the school to verify your identity.

**AN IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please do not wait until the day before an event and then be disappointed when your application cannot be approved in such a short time. It usually takes **2-3 weeks for approval**, it is important to plan ahead.

Volunteers are always needed to assist with shelving books in the library, chaperoning field trips, mentoring students or assisting with clerical tasks in the office.

## Background Check Process

The school district's volunteer background check process includes a nationwide search of criminal databases and sex offender registries. There is no charge for the background check, and no information about the content or nature of the background check is shared with school principals or staff. Social Security numbers are strictly confidential and are never made available to school personnel.

Please be truthful in your application, and rest assured that a minor infraction in your past will not prevent you from volunteering.



## STUDENT/FAMILY EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- Student Health Cards are kept on file in the nurse's office.
- Please notify the data specialist, Mrs. Valentino, of any **change of address or telephone number** that occur during the year. It is imperative that we have working numbers and emails to contact parents in the event of an emergency.
- Please provide a current email address when enrolling or updating records.

**Moving within the District** – Your child may be eligible to stay at OES for the remainder of the year if you move to another area within the Beaufort County School District. Check with the data specialist to obtain detailed district regulations regarding requirements.

If it is discovered that you have failed to report a change of address to another school attendance area, your child will not be eligible to remain at this school.



## **SAFETY DRILLS**

Fire drills and other safety drills will be conducted monthly. If a major fire, earthquake or other disaster should occur during school hours, children will be kept at school in a safe area until an authorized adult comes to pick them up.

We will have unscheduled lockdown drills throughout the year. During all drills the phones will not be answered but will go directly to voicemail. In the event of a true emergency, please listen to local radio and television stations for updates.

## **LOST and FOUND**

- Label all clothing, book bags, lunch boxes, agenda books, etc. with a permanent marker.
- Check the Lost & Found if you have lost an item.
- Periodically, throughout the year, unclaimed items are donated to charitable organizations.
- Students are responsible to find or pay for any lost books.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Leslie Bauer, School Counselor**

The main function of the school counselor is to advocate for the students. Students can be assisted directly or in conjunction with parents and staff. The counselor is available for meetings with students, staff and parents. Students can be seen individually, in small group or in the classroom. The school counselor also serves as a resource for students, parents and the community by making referrals to outside agencies that may be more appropriate for the individual's needs. Our school counselor coordinates the Responsible Student Program, classroom lessons, hall monitors and is a member of the Response to Intervention Team.

[leslie.bauer@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:leslie.bauer@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

### **Kerri Doud, School Nurse**

The school nurse's office exists for emergency situations and as a waiting area for ill students who are going home. All medications must be dispensed from the nurse's office. If a child is to be on medication during the school day, parents must provide the nurse with a completed form signed by the parent and physician. These forms are available in the

nurse's office. All medications must be in the original prescription container. Most pharmacies are happy to provide an additional "school bottle" upon request. Parents are to drop off their child's medication with the nurse. Parents must pick up remaining medication from the nurse. Medication will not be sent home with students under any circumstances. Students are not permitted to **personally possess any medication at school**, prescription or non-prescription.

Students who are contagious will be sent home. If a student has *lice*, he or she will be sent home until they are nit free. Siblings and classrooms will also be checked for lice when it is identified on a student. The nurse will notify parents through email or letter if there is a student with lice in the classroom. [kerri.doud@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:kerri.doud@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

### **Laura Waddell, Social Worker**

The school social worker acts as a liaison between students, parents, teachers, and the community. Students are assisted in a variety of ways: attendance issues, school supplies, lunch applications, food boxes, school uniforms and transportation. Social workers also make home visits to verify residency and to coordinate homeschool services. Outside agencies are accessed as well as community organizations to assist students and their families. The school social worker also assists as a member of the Response to Intervention team. [laura.waddell@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:laura.waddell@beaufort.k12.sc.us)



## **SCHOOL INSURANCE**

If a student is injured at school, the parent is responsible for the costs incurred. It is recommended that parents purchase school insurance if they do not have coverage. The school insurance is very reasonable and will cover many of the costs resulting from an injury that occurs at school or during a school function. For more information on the insurance coverages, please visit the website below. [www.bollingerschools.com](http://www.bollingerschools.com)

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TOYS**

Students ***may not*** bring:

1. **Cell phones & smart watches (not allowed for students)**
2. Handheld gaming devices or other electronic devices should not be brought to school or on the school bus.
3. No students should bring toys or trading cards such as Pokémon © or fidget toys. If a student is found with such an item, it will be taken away and returned to a parent at a later date. **This could result in a written office referral.**

**Connect2Learn** is the BCSD mobile device program. During the 2019-20 school year, BCSD will continue its 1:1 program by issuing a mobile device to all students in grades K-5 (K-2 are issued iPads that stay in the classroom; 3-5 receives a laptop that can be taken home with a \$20 annual tech fee). The school district's goal is to increase student achievement and improve student engagement in a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom.

See pages 2-4 for information on iPad/laptop program and mobile device student pledge.



**Internet Safety & Cyber-bullying:** All students receive Internet Safety and cyber-bullying lessons annually to help inform and discuss current issues surrounding the digital world. If a cyber-bullying issue carries over into the school environment, there may be a consequence if it disrupts the learning of others. **(Contact the media specialist, counselor or an administrator with questions or concerns.)**

## FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the school year, each grade level will go on educational field trips. A school bus is the normal means of transportation.

- Students are required to ride to and from school field trips on school provided transportation.
- Students may be expected to pay admission fees and transportation costs for the trip.
- Scholarships are available if you cannot afford the trip. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher for information.
- Students will provide their own lunch or receive a pre-ordered bag lunch from the cafeteria.
- Parents/guardians will be required to sign a permission slip and pay in advance for all trips.
- Per district policy, parents cannot drive separately and meet students at the field trip location. Parents chaperoning on field trips are required to ride the school bus to and from the field trip.
- Inappropriate behavior on field trips will be subject to the same consequences as school.
- A volunteer application is required for all chaperones prior to the field trip and must be completed online at the Beaufort County website. The application process can take 10 or more days.
- Siblings or non-school age children may not accompany parents on the field trip.

## BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Students may purchase a nutritious, Class "A" lunch consisting of a varying menu which is served on a daily basis. Please pay daily, weekly, or monthly.

- Full price for breakfast is **\$1.00** each day
- Full price for lunch is **\$1.75** each day
- Reduced is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch
- You can prepay for lunch at [www.paypams.com](http://www.paypams.com).
- **It is extremely important that lunch balances are paid on time.**
- Free and reduced lunch forms are available online and in the front office. Forms can be updated if financial status changes during the school year. **Initially, forms must be completed within the first 15 days of school.**
- The application will be reviewed and approved or denied by the Beaufort County School District Office.
- Menus will be sent home monthly.
- Please join your child for lunch occasionally or as often as possible. When sending a packed lunch from home, please ensure that the lunch is healthy.
- **Please do not send candy, soda, or bring lunches from "fast food/take out" restaurants as a special treat.**

We are promoting healthy eating habits.



## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

You may view the Beaufort County School District Code of Conduct Book in its entirety on our school website. A few of the topics in the handbook are as follows:

**Actions for which a student will receive a warning, loss of privileges or out-of-school suspension:**

- Pushing another student
- Refusal to follow directions
- Bringing an item to school that should be left at home
- Unkind words to another student
- Lying

**Actions for which a student will receive in-school or out-of-school suspension:**

- Inappropriate gesture/language
- Disrespect to an adult
- Theft
- Fighting
- Damaging school or other's property

The severity of the action, the number of times the student has been referred for behavior issues in the past and other factors will have an impact upon the consequences.

**Actions which are classified as violations of the Safe School Act requiring a mandatory out-of-school suspension and are reported to the School Safety Officer or Police Department include:**

- Carrying a weapon (including toy guns)
- Possession of drugs
- Assault
- Possession of alcohol
- Certain theft
- Disrupting school

If a student violates the Safe Schools Act, a hearing will be set to determine if the student will be allowed to continue to attend Okatie Elementary and what other consequences the student might face. The student will be suspended out of school for 3-10 days prior to attending the hearing.



### CAR RIDER LINE

- Morning Drop-off is 7:00-7:40 in main car rider line; from 7:30-7:40 the 2<sup>nd</sup> line opens at the main entrance.
- After 7:40 a parent **must** accompany student into office to sign in.
- Afternoon dismissal starts at 2:45; after 3:05 parents will need to pick up students from the front office.
- **Parents of car riders are asked to display their students first and last name & grade level in front window.**
- Please turn off your **cellphone** once you enter the main campus circle. This will limit distractions and maximize student safety.
- Seatbelts are required, SC State Law.
- Children under the age of 6 are required to sit in the back seat and must be in a car seat, SC State Law.
- Help keep our students safe and please be respectful of adults on duty.
- **Do not park and cross the bus drop off line in the morning or afternoon. This is a hazard and slows down the line for those loading or unloading students on buses.**



The first few weeks of school, the car rider line is especially long. Please be patient and cautious!

### TRANSPORTATION

Bluffton 843-706-8400

Beaufort 843-322-0770

The first few weeks of school, buses can be thirty minutes

late picking up in the morning and thirty minutes late dropping off in the afternoon. This is due to learning the routes, new arrival of students and learning the dismissal procedures. Please be patient. For updates, be sure to enroll for text messaging at Remind101.com.

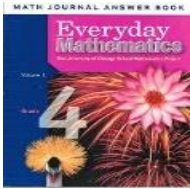
**Marva Neal, OES bus contact** [marva.neal@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:marva.neal@beaufort.k12.sc.us)



### Beaufort County Schools Bus Rules

- Students are to remain well out of the road while waiting for the bus.
- Getting on and off the bus should be done in an orderly manner.
- Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Fighting on the bus is not allowed
- Permission to ride a bus other than the one assigned must be obtained by the parent from the administrator.
- Conversations must be with a "six-inch voice."
- No part of the body should ever be extended outside the bus.
- Eating and drinking is not allowed.
- Marking or vandalizing the bus will result in the student's family paying for repairs.
- Bus drivers will be treated with respect.
- Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
- Matches, lighters, tobacco, cigarettes, medicine, guns, knives, weapons of any kind, fireworks, pets, drugs, electronic equipment, games, toys, inappropriate magazines and books are not allowed on the bus or at school at any time.
- When a student receives a bus referral that is found to be accurate, he/she generally receives a warning. Upon receiving the second referral, the child has silent lunch for one day. The third offense means one day bus suspension. The fourth offense means a two-day bus suspension. The fifth will result in three days off the bus. The sixth referral could result in the child losing bus privileges for the remainder of the year. Maintaining safety is the main goal; therefore, behavior that jeopardizes safety may be handled differently. Please remember if a child loses his/her bus privileges, it is the parent's responsibility to transport the child to and from school.

## Instructional Tools



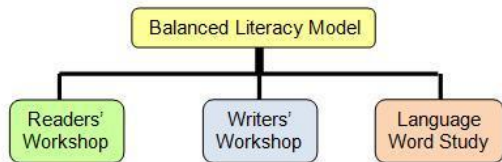
**EDM (Everyday Mathematics):** Everyday Mathematics materials are used as a resource in the classroom. These resources encourage students to explore the full range of mathematics across all grade levels. Math activities are connected to past experiences and studied in a problem-rich environment with links

to many areas both within mathematics and other subject areas. Each grade level includes content from the area listed below:

- Numeration and Counting: saying, reading, and writing numbers; counting patterns; place value; whole numbers, fractions and decimals.
- Operations and Relations: number facts; operation families; informal work with properties.
- Problem Solving and Number Models: mental and written arithmetic along with puzzles, brain teasers and real-life problems.
- Measures and Reference Frames: measures of length, width, area, weight, capacity, temperature and time; clocks; calendars; timelines; thermometers; ordinal numbers.
- Exploring Data: collecting and ordering data; tables, charts and graphs; exploring uncertainty; fairness; making predictions.
- Geometry: exploring two and three dimensional shapes.
- Rules and Patterns: functions, relations, attributes, patterns and sequences.
- Algebra and Uses of Variables: generalizing patterns, exploring variables, solving equations.

**(Contact Susan Tucker, Math Coach**

[Susan.tucker@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Susan.tucker@beaufort.k12.sc.us))



**Literacy Plan:** At OES, we are committed to successful literacy experiences for all students. The curriculum is developed around the standards and the results of student assessments. Balanced Literacy is a framework designed to help all students learn to read and write effectively. The model is predicated on the belief that all students can read and write through instruction that is based on best practices in the field and incorporates the theories of Vygotsky, Cambourne, and Gallagher. The gradual release of responsibility allows for students to receive the instruction they need in order to reach grade level status, while allowing students to work at a level that is appropriate for growth and achievement.

Balanced literacy instruction includes the following:

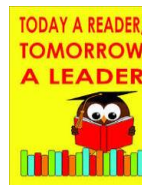
- Short, explicit mini-lessons on management, strategies, skills, research, and literature study.
- Teachers use Fountas & Pinnell assessments throughout the year to determine text reading level which is recorded on the report card and WINGS insert.
- W.H.O.O.S. Reading allows students to practice their reading skills. Students choose books that are at their appropriate level. Teachers hold reading conferences with each student to provide direct instruction based on his/her reading needs. This must occur at home and at school to be the most effective. Non-fiction should be 50% of what students read to increase vocabulary, critical thinking and comprehension.
- Independent Writing allows students to practice their writing skills. Teachers hold conferences with each student to provide direct instruction based on his/her writing needs.
- Word Study is part of Reading and Writing instruction. Students learn about words as they relate to their own reading and writing.
- Exposure to read alouds, time for sharing and debriefing, and the opportunity for written and oral reflection are built into each language arts class.
- Writers Workshop & Readers Workshop model is based primarily on Lucy Calkins Units of Study.

**(Contact Laura Phillips, Literacy Coach**

[laura.phillips@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:laura.phillips@beaufort.k12.sc.us))

## W.H.O.O.S. Reading Program

**(We Honor Outstanding Okatie Students Reading)**



W.H.O.O.S. Reading is a silent reading program which allows students to personally select books on their independent reading level to read at school and at home.

Okatie students are given daily independent reading time. This is in addition to their nightly required reading.

A record for W.H.O.O.S. Reading will be kept in the student agenda book. Even though this is not a written assignment, it is still required homework. Parents/guardians must sign nightly indicating their student completed the required W.H.O.O.S. Reading.

Students meeting their W.H.O.O.S. Reading goal during the quarter will be recognized at the W.I.N.G.S. Ceremony.

**To Earn W.H.O.O.S. reading for each quarter –**

**K/1 – must complete their WR 40 of the 45 days (including book title and parent signature)**

**2-5- must complete their WR 43 of the 45 days (including book title and parent signature)**

***The more we read the better we read!!!!***

## W.H.O.O.S. Reading Nightly Reading Expectation

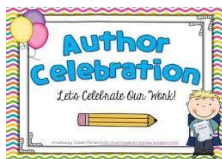
by grade level:

Grade Level	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Kindergarten	10 Minutes	10 Minutes	15 Minutes	15 Minutes
First Grade	15 Minutes	15 Minutes	20 Minutes	20 Minutes
Second Grade	20 Minutes	20 Minutes	30 Minutes	30 Minutes
Third-Fifth Grade	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	30 Minutes

### Author's Tea

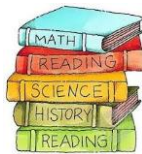
Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

Dressed in their Sunday best (no jeans please), positioned in front of their classmates and classroom guests, students proudly read aloud their favorite written piece from the year. Once each student has shared their priceless treasure, everyone enjoys special refreshments provided by parent volunteers. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend this once a year celebration and recognition honoring the growing writers of Okatie Elementary.



### BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT

All books and equipment loaned to students during the school year are the property of Beaufort County School District. Any student who defaces school property will be required to pay for damages. The following fines will be assessed for lost or damaged textbooks: \$15.00 for a damaged textbook, \$25.00 for a lost used textbook, and \$40.00 for the loss of a brand new textbook. (Marva Neal, Textbook Coordinator)



### HOMEWORK

Homework is a way to help students review and reinforce lessons taught in school. It also helps students develop work and study habits that will assist them throughout the years spent in school. Each student is expected to complete the **assigned homework** on a daily basis. Time spent on homework will depend on a student's learning style and time needed to complete the task. Assignments are written in the **agenda book** daily and should be **initialed** by a parent or guardian. Daily homework for all students includes physical activity (biking, running, sports) 20-30 minutes; W.H.O.O.S. Reading every night and grade specific assignments.

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- K-2 - 20 minutes and 3-5 – 30 minutes each day
- Nightly physical activity is required. Examples include: running, skipping, hopping, biking, soccer, dance, Wii Fit, walking, karate, etc.
- Record and have parent initial activity nightly.
- We are headed to San Martin de los Andes, Argentina for the North Face Challenge and the on to Tokyo, Japan for Summer Olympics.
- The total miles will be added to the school total to help us reach our new destination this year of 23,188 miles!

### YEARLY TESTING

**Assessment/Testing:** Students will be assessed in a variety of ways, both formally and informally, throughout the school year. The words most often used with assessments are *Formative* assessments (to inform the teacher; such as quizzes and tests) and *Summative* assessments (for students to show their knowledge; final unit tests, projects, reports).

In addition, students will be involved with the following assessments:

#### CogAt (Cognitive Abilities Test) & IOWA Assessment:

Formal evaluation for Gifted/Talented Identification begins in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The objective of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade testing program is to evaluate students for placement into the district GT program. Students must meet the criteria for two out of the three dimensions. Dimension A (Reasoning Abilities) requires students to demonstrate high aptitude (93<sup>rd</sup> national age percentile) in one or more of these areas: verbal, quantitative, nonverbal and/or a composite of the three. Scores on CogAt may be used for this purpose.

Dimension B requires that students demonstrate high achievement in reading or math (94<sup>th</sup> national percentile and above) as measured by a nationally normed assessment. Scores on the Iowa Assessment may be used for this purpose. All qualifying scores are good for two years.

- Iowa Assessment – October 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>
- CogAt Test – November 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Performance Task Assessment (PTA) Test:

Students must have a qualifying score to take the PTA. This assessment is used to identify students for GT. Dimension C requires students to demonstrate a high degree of interest in intellectual characteristic.

- February 18 – March 12

**Measure of Academic Progress (MAP Growth):** a computerized adaptive assessment to identify strengths, weaknesses and progress. This assessment is used for teachers to help drive instructional practices. MAP tests are



given three times a year; fall, winter and spring. Students' scores are given as Rausch Unit scores (RIT) and percentages that are based on national averages. These are recorded in the agenda book after each assessment is given. **Please avoid planning appointments and vacations during MAP testing.**



### South Carolina – and Career

**Ready Assessments (SC Ready)** is a statewide assessment in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics that will meet all of the requirements of Acts 155 and 200, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). All students in grades 3–5 are required to take the SC READY.

- May 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> SC Ready
- May 18<sup>th</sup> - Make-ups

### Palmetto Assessment of State Standards

**(SCPASS)** is an online assessment given to students in grades 4 in science. Students receive a score of Exemplary, Met or Not Met.

- May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Make-ups May 20<sup>th</sup>

***Please do not schedule appointments or vacations during testing windows.***

**ACCESS for ELLS:** an assessment given to students who are currently identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) once a year (date to be determined, usually third quarter) to note progress with English Language Proficiency in the areas of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. (February & March 2020)

### Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment

**System** is administered three times each year in a one-to-one setting. The assessment determines the independent and instructional levels for each student and documents student progress across the school year and grade levels. The level reported on progress reports and the report card identify the student's instructional reading level and is noted as reading **above, on, or below grade** level for that point in the year.

**RTI (Response to Intervention):** The Response to Intervention Team (RTI) consists of a team of educators at the school who work together as effective problem solvers. Using the RTI model, teams learn how to uncover the underlying reasons that a student might be experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties and to assemble practical, classroom-friendly interventions to address those student

problems. Any teacher, administrator or parent can refer a child to the RTI for review. The team documents interventions in the areas of academics and behaviors and notes progress or lack thereof. Parents will receive feedback about these interventions and will be involved in the process.

**(Contact Mrs. Neal, RTI Coordinator, or the homeroom teacher to schedule a meeting)**

### ACADEMIC GIFTED AND TALENTED

Okatie Elementary School's Academic Gifted and Talented program is designed to provide gifted students in grades 3-5 with a learning environment that encourages their academic, social and emotional development. This program offers a differentiated and integrated curriculum that encourages complex, analytical and critical thinking, while accommodating the speed of each student's learning (Testing dates noted in testing section). To discuss criteria to qualify for GT Contact: [jacqueline.german@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:jacqueline.german@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

**Goals of the Academic GT program:**

1. Develop independent, self-directed, active learners.
2. Develop higher-level thinking and reasoning skills.
3. Develop research process skills.
4. Develop communication and technology skills.
5. Encourage the development of unique ideas.
6. Evaluate outcomes using appropriate criteria.



### Our Way to Learn (OWL) Program

OES offers the Our Way to Learn [OWL] Program - an afterschool care program starting on **September 3<sup>rd</sup>**, the day after

Labor Day.

The Program will run Monday – Friday. Hours are 3:00-5:30 pm, **no exceptions**. If students are picked up late, there will be a late pick-up fee of **\$5 for every five minutes late**. If students are consistently picked up late they will be dismissed from the program.

There is a \$20 per family non-refundable registration fee due at the time of registration. Pre-registration will occur during our Open House at 2 p.m. **Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** and each day after school starts. Please note the OWL Program does not start until **September 3<sup>rd</sup>**, the day after Labor Day.

The program fee is \$55 a week for 1 child, and \$50 for each additional child. The fee for shorter weeks will be reduced by \$10 for each day school is not in session that week. Snacks will be provided and students will be offered homework time.

### Learning Through Leadership is exemplified in our School Clubs.

Students have ample opportunity to participate in a variety of school activities and clubs before and/or after school. We

offer Spirit Squad, Chorus, Beta Club, Spanish Club, Garden Club, Kids on the Run, TEK Club, Young Astronauts, S.T.A.R.S Drama Clubs. Children are expected to follow the school's Responsible Student Program which includes being respectful of self and others. They will not be allowed to participate in any school clubs if he/she receives a written referral for behavior reasons within a quarter. Students will be placed on probation by the Club Chair for at least two weeks and re-admittance will be based on improvement of behavior. Our goal is for all students to be allowed to participate in clubs and activities. It is the child's responsibility to keep that privilege.



### **Okatie Elementary Young Astronauts**

All 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in the Young Astronauts Club and are invited to attend the overnight adventure to Cape Canaveral in February. As a member of the club, students will have an opportunity to participate in stimulating activities focusing on the principles of flight and space exploration. Some exciting events include our paper airplane contest, egg drop and making mock space shuttles. The club overnight adventure trip to the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida will be **February 27-28th**. All club meetings will be during homeroom. The club meeting dates will correlate with the space and astronomy unit that is done in the classroom. As a member of the club, students will pledge to improve their grades in science and math as well as maintain good conduct and earn their WINGS.

This is an exciting and adventurous program that will engage children through science and space technology.

#### **The core goals of the club are to:**

- Improve grades in science, mathematics and other subjects.
- Learn about space, aeronautics and principles of flight.
- Earn their WINGS.
- Complete ALL Young Astronaut projects and participate in all activities.

[amanda.hogshead@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:amanda.hogshead@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

[christine.lancaster@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:christine.lancaster@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

**Chorus** is open to any 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade student who has an interest in learning how to sing as part of a choral group. Practices are scheduled for Wednesday mornings from 7:10 a.m.-7:40 a.m. Please check the agenda book for dates and times for chorus practice.

**GT Music** will be new this year at Okatie! The primary focus of this club will be to prepare students who are interested in auditioning for the Honor Choir. The club will run from November until mid-January. Please check the agenda book for dates and time.

[leighlyn.underhill@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:leighlyn.underhill@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

### **Kids on the Run**

Starting September 3<sup>rd</sup>

- All students complete 1 lap during recess.
- Monday – Friday (7:20 – 7:35) students will complete laps on the track. K-1<sup>st</sup> will complete laps in the gym.
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students –TTh
  - o 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> – MWF

[jacob.lauffer@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:jacob.lauffer@beaufort.k12.sc.us)



### **OES Color Run – Turkey Trot**

- Okatie Elementary will attempt to log 500 miles in 1 school day.
- Students will run/walk during the school day. Parents are encouraged to participate.
- Volunteers will run a water station.

**November 8<sup>th</sup> – School Event**

[Emily.davis@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Emily.davis@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

### **Spanish Club**

In the Okatie Spanish Club, students will begin to learn the Spanish language and the culture of the many countries that speak it through lessons, videos and games. Basic vocabulary is taught, including colors, numbers, school tools, parts of the body, pets and beginning verbs. It is a great way for students to broaden vocabulary and increase their knowledge of the world. Spanish Club meets January 22<sup>nd</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> and is available for 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Rossillo at:

[angela.rossillo@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:angela.rossillo@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

**Okatie Drama Club** will meet Mondays from 3:00-5:00 pm starting in September. The Drama Club is primarily an opportunity for **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade** students who are interested in **musical theatre**. Students will rehearse several dances, which they will perform at Okatie's annual **Talent Show** which will be held on **February 6<sup>th</sup>**. This introductory club will meet each Monday from 3-5 PM. **Students must audition for the club on September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Members will be selected based on their demonstrated talent, commitment, interest & ability. Classes end February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Ms. Goodwin at [elizabeth.goodwin@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:elizabeth.goodwin@beaufort.k12.sc.us) for more information.

**G.T. S.T.A.R.S. Drama Club** will meet Mondays from 3:00 -5:00 pm starting in February. This club is primarily an opportunity for **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade** students to work on advanced theatre techniques. Student will be learning scenes/monologues/one acts to present at **Okatie's Coffee House Performances on April 30<sup>th</sup>**. Interested students must audition on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-5. Students will be

selected based on their demonstrated talent, commitment, interest and preparation. Students will also be expected to audition for the district's GT arts program. Contact Ms. Goodwin at [elizabeth.goodwin@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:elizabeth.goodwin@beaufort.k12.sc.us) for more information

(An End of the Year Celebration (EOY) for both drama clubs will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 3-5)



**Okatie's Got Talent!** This year's talent show will be held on **February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**. Our tradition is to involve students and their families whenever possible. Individuals, teams, as well as entire families are invited to **audition on January 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00** for a spot in the program. **Call backs** will be **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. For more information contact Ms. Goodwin at [Elizabeth.Goodwin@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Elizabeth.Goodwin@beaufort.k12.sc.us).

**Spirit Squad** is coached by Mrs. Altman and Dr. DeWeese. It will be comprised of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders who exemplify Okatie School Spirit. Practices will be held every other Tuesday beginning **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** thru the end of the year from 3:00 to 4:15. All students on the Okatie Spirit Squad must be role model students. If a student fails to exhibit behavior as outlined in the Spirit Squad contract, they could be removed from the squad. Tryouts for Spirit Squad are held late spring for the following year. If you have additional questions, please contact Mrs. Altman or Dr. DeWeese at:

[amanda.altman@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:amanda.altman@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

[megan.deweese@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:megan.deweese@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

**Okie Acres Garden Club** –The Garden Club meets afterschool on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2:45 – 3:35. Students (and parents) in grades 1-5 are invited to participate in the planting, weeding and harvesting of the vegetables grown in the school garden. Mrs. Lauffer, Science Lab teacher, has the ultimate 'green thumb' and enjoys planting corn, squash, tomatoes, eggplant, zucchini, broccoli and cucumbers each year. Be sure to bring your 'green thumb' too! Garden starts March 10<sup>th</sup>-May 6<sup>th</sup>.

[bree.lauffer@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:bree.lauffer@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

**Lady Owls** –The Lady Owls is a unique program, empowering girls to be their own best friend and inspires them to discover and to be proud of themselves. The goal of the club is to allow the students to prove themselves as leaders and mentors among other students. The girls will learn about self-image, integrity, taking responsibility for their actions, setting goals, table etiquette, etc. The girls will also complete a community service project, plan a tea, and complete a portfolio project. Mrs. Brown and Ms. Mulligan are the coordinators. The Lady Owls is open to 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls

and meets one Thursday a month from 7:10 to 7:40 am, **September 12<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>**. Contact Mrs. Brown or Ms. Mulligan if you have questions or would like to volunteer to work with the ladies.

[kylie.brown@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:kylie.brown@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

[lindsey.mulligan@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:lindsey.mulligan@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

### **Gentlemen's First**

The primary objective of Gentlemen's First Club is to transform young males into gentlemen. Gentlemen's First Club is a leadership/mentoring program geared toward increasing student involvement and motivation through relationships and career building. Role models and mentors help posture our young boys with activities and service in the community. The club curriculum provides monthly lessons to guide students through subjects such as responsibility, etiquette, dignity and patience. The Gentlemen's First Club is open to 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and meets once a month, **September 12<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>**. Contact Mr. Roberts if you have questions or would like to volunteer to work with the boys.

[lonnie.roberts@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:lonnie.roberts@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

### **TEK (Technology Education for Kids) Club**

The TEK club is a 6-week afterschool club that will focus on coding and problem-solving skills through a fun, gamified platform. Students will work through teacher-led lessons and video tutorials to learn foundational skills in computer science. Computer Science is...



- A theory and practice that allows you to program a computer to do what you want it to do.
- A tool that helps you create a game, app or tell a story with technology.
- A discipline that emphasizes persistence in problem solving-a skill applicable across disciplines.
- A skill that teaches students how to use computers to create, not just consume.

#### Our Goals

- To increase confidence when using computers
- To instill courage to try new things
- To persevere when tackling difficult problems
- To demonstrate the impact CS has on careers and communities

Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade are invited to participate in TEK Club beginning Monday, September 23 through October 28. We will meet Mondays from 2:50-3:45pm.

[Aubrey.hogshead@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Aubrey.hogshead@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

### **Beta Club**

The National Beta Club has been recognizing high achievement, encouraging service and developing character

and leadership skills since 1934. OES will be selecting students from grades 4-5 to be inducted into our Beta Club chapter based on academics, character, leadership and teacher recommendations. The students will meet each Tuesday starting **September 10<sup>th</sup>**. The students will begin writing a quarterly newspaper to be distributed to parents. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Jacqueline German or Colleen Heaton.

[jacqueline.german@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:jacqueline.german@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

[colleen.heaton@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:colleen.heaton@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

## **Fishing Club**

Students will meet monthly **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** through **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The goal is to learn different aspects of fishing such as safety, scouting locations, catch and release, organizing gear and so much more. This club is open to students in grades 3-5. Space is limited to no more than 15 students. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Lonnie Roberts. [lonnie.roberts@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:lonnie.roberts@beaufort.k12.sc.us).

## **WHOOT News**

The morning broadcast is provided by our students. They are responsible for announcements each day and spreading Okatie cheer. If you are here during the morning broadcast, please actively participate by saying the pledge, observing the moment of silence and listening attentively to announcements. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ellen Latimer.

[ellen.latimer@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:ellen.latimer@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

## **Recycling**

Staff and students recycle paper and cardboard weekly. Beta Club members are responsible for collecting the recyclables weekly and then separating. If you would like to help out with our efforts, please contact Jacqueline German.

[Jacqueline.German@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Jacqueline.German@beaufort.k12.sc.us)



## **What is a STEM Focus school?**

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. A STEM school makes a commitment to focus on these subjects throughout the school day to help the students gain the skills required to be successful in tomorrow's challenging world. With these interdisciplinary lessons, teachers make the commitment to provide opportunities for innovative thinking in the fields of science and technology and critical problem-solving skills in a

collaborative work environment.

What can I do as a parent to help promote STEM disciplines in my home?

1. "Encourage problem solving and teach resourcefulness," says Laura Plant, the co-founder and co-executive director of Ladies Learning Code. Rather than providing the answers to their questions, work with your children to use technology to research information and come up with solutions themselves. "Show enthusiasm for your kids' ideas; set up a place for building and prototyping, and stock this space with materials and tools that will inspire and empower your kids to bring their ideas to reality."  
(<http://www.todayparent.com/kids/why-girls-need-stem/> )
2. "Explore what works for your kids and find where their STEM sweet spot lies. Even simple things (a terrarium for growing beans) can make a huge difference. Does your child love to build things? Go with it. [Block play](#) is associated with later math competence. Got a nature lover? Get outside. Many scientists cite their early exposure to nature as the reason they found careers in science."  
(<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/what-is-stem/>)
3. Read "10 Ways to Support Children's Science Learning" to help create a supportive and exciting learning environment in your home where students can strengthen inquiry skills while you are building memories together.  
(<http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/child-development/10-tips-support-children%E2%80%99s-science-learning> )



## **MEDIA CENTER POLICIES**

All students are eligible to check out books from the media center. Students in grades K-2 check out one book per visit. Grades 3-5 check out two books per visit. Books are checked out for a period of ten days. Classroom students with a library pass may come to the media center during the school day and exchange books as needed. Students are encouraged to return materials in a timely manner. Lost and damaged books will be assessed a fee for repair and/or replacement.

The cost for replacement of hard cover books is \$20.00 and replacement cost for paperback books is \$5.00.

## ESOL

The goal of the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program is to provide equal educational opportunities to students who have a primary or home language other than English. The main objective of ESOL instruction is to ensure that children develop proficiency in English and achieve high content standards. The primary focus is to instruct students in reading, writing, listening and speaking so that students will achieve success with their academic work. We enable students to use English to communicate in social settings, to achieve academically in all content areas, and interact socially and culturally in appropriate ways. ESOL support comes in the form of instruction by ESOL teachers and within the mainstream teacher's classroom with accommodations and modifications made to both curriculum and instruction based on a child's English proficiency and their Individual Modification Plan (IMP).

Angela Rossillo is the ESOL Teacher. She can be reached at 322-7711 or [angela.rossillo@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:angela.rossillo@beaufort.k12.sc.us).

Mina Ortega is the ESOL liaison; she can be reached at [guillermina.ortega@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:guillermina.ortega@beaufort.k12.sc.us) or 843-322-7704. Please contact them if you have any questions or need assistance.

## PARENT CONFERENCES

The key to student success is the connection between parents and teachers. We encourage parents to contact the school and schedule an appointment whenever they see a need to discuss their child's educational, social and/or intellectual development. The scheduled conference dates:

**October 17 from 3:00-7:00 pm**  
**October 18 from 12:30-2:30 pm**

## UNIFORM POLICY

All elementary school students will be required to wear a school uniform as mandated by Beaufort County Public Schools.

- Collared shirts must be **red, white, or navy**.
- Pants, shorts, jumpers, skirts or skorts must be khaki or navy.
- Shorts and skirts should be fingertip length.
- Okatie Elementary School spirit shirts are available online and may be worn on Fridays.
- Leggings may be worn under shorts, skirts or jumpers, but must be either solid khaki, red, white or navy.
- Socks must be solid school colors
- Sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets and coats that are worn in the building must be school colors – red, white, or navy.
- Shoes must be closed toe and rubber sole.
  - No flip-flops or sandals.
- Jeans and hats are not permitted, unless on

specified days.

- Dyed hair is not allowed.

If you need uniform assistance, contact the school social worker, Laura Waddell at [laura.waddell@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:laura.waddell@beaufort.k12.sc.us).

**If a student comes to school out of uniform, the student will be changed into a uniform.** If a student has an accident at school, parents will be called, and a uniform will be provided.

We are very proud of our patriotic school colors and the image we project in the community, on field trips, and in our building. Students' behavior, school pride and academic performance are influenced by what is worn to school each day. We hope to maintain school cohesiveness and sense of belonging and unity with our uniform policies and are counting on your support.

When in doubt if something is uniform appropriate call the school first.



## SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Okatie Elementary is committed to open and clear communication. All parents are encouraged to participate in their child's education in a variety of ways such as joining Parent Teacher Organization, School Improvement Council, becoming a room parent, participating in field trips or clubs. Our volunteering opportunities are too numerous to list but we can use your help, just ask!

### Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The PTO is a group of parents committed to keeping Okatie a happy, fun environment for all students. We accomplish this by working with the teachers and staff. PTO is responsible for fundraisers, school beautification, a positive climate and school spirit. If this is something you are interested in being a part of, we would love to have YOU. You can access the website by going to the Okatie website, click on Parents & Students to see the PTO link. There are downloadable forms and a listing of all our upcoming events for the school year. Jump in and get involved – and remember to complete a volunteer application annually!

PTO hosts monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 3:10 pm. Parents are encouraged to attend and support all PTO events. Please volunteer to assist with at least one PTO event this year. Your help and involvement will help reduce the work load for all! Involved parents help students perform better in school and become more successful adults!



## 2019 – 2020 Meeting Schedule 3:10

September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	October 1 <sup>st</sup>
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	February 4 <sup>th</sup>
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	April 7 <sup>th</sup>

### PTO Board

Ellen Andreoletti -President  
[ekandreoletti78@gmail.com](mailto:ekandreoletti78@gmail.com)

Quinn Saleeby -Treasurer/Secretary  
[quinnsaleeby@gmail.com](mailto:quinnsaleeby@gmail.com)

Karen Davidson- Co-Treasurer/Co- Secretary  
[ksd205@gmail.com](mailto:ksd205@gmail.com)

Lisa Church & Kate Chiafalo - Volunteer Coordinators  
[Lisamg81@yahoo.com](mailto:Lisamg81@yahoo.com)  
[meinerka@yahoo.com](mailto:meinerka@yahoo.com)

Myra Jacob – Sponsorship Coordinator  
[myra.jacob@westinjekyllisland.com](mailto:myra.jacob@westinjekyllisland.com)

### School Improvement Council (SIC)

SIC is committed to assisting the ongoing improvement of the school and student achievement. The council is responsible for establishing and achieving goals set by the members. Together, our members are an impartial voice for the school, for all our children, not individual students, groups or agendas.

Some examples of what we do are:

- Participate in the development of the five-year School Improvement Plan and its implementation
- Annually update the plan and goals
- Analyze State/Local Testing Data
- Write the annual Report to the Parents
- Assist with implementation of school's Learning Through Leadership goals
- Participation in District Joint SIC to monitor District/School Growth and possible rezoning

### **SIC Goals for 2019-20 include:**

- Continue to help expand and develop our School of Choice, **Learning through Leadership**
- Monitor School Renewal Plan
- Monitor and Assess Live School
- Car rider line safety
- Increase participation in SIC

Help us to **Inform, Improve & Impact** our school, our community and the Beaufort County School District! Please feel free to contact us with any concerns, questions or ideas.

## 2019 – 2020 Meeting Schedule

August 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:10-7:40	September 17 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:10-7:40
October 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 3:10-3:40	November 19 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:10-7:40
December 17 <sup>th</sup> @ 3:10-3:40	January 21 <sup>st</sup> @ 7:10-7:40
February 18 <sup>th</sup> @ 3:10-3:40	March 17 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:10-7:40
April 21 <sup>st</sup> @ 3:10-3:40	

### SIC Officers

Kira Swiger, Chairperson  
[kiraswiger@hotmail.com](mailto:kiraswiger@hotmail.com)

Kristina Roller – Vice Chair  
[kristina\\_roller@yahoo.com](mailto:kristina_roller@yahoo.com)

Lisa Church  
[Lisamg81@yahoo.com](mailto:Lisamg81@yahoo.com)

### School-Wide Important Parent Meeting Dates

**Open House** – August 17<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 3 pm



Back to School Nights

- September 4<sup>th</sup> - **PreK-2** 6:00 – 7:30
- September 5<sup>th</sup> - **Grades 3-5**

- Connect2Learn – Laptop 5:30-6:00
- Back to School General Session 6:00-7:30

### COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Agenda Book Communication between home and school is very important. **Sign your child's agenda book nightly and review all notes.**
- W.H.O.O.S. Reading and Physical Activity– **please sign in agenda book nightly!**
- Please read the Okatie Elementary School Newsletter and E-News when it is sent home. Newsletter is once a month and E-News is emailed home each month. (Both may be read on our website!) Send us your current email address please.
- School email – visit our website at [www.oes.beaufort.k12.sc.us](http://www.oes.beaufort.k12.sc.us). It is updated monthly.

## BUSINESS PARTNERS

- Business Partners can support the school through donations, resources, skills, and more. We take pride on having a warm and inviting school campus where everyone feels at home. Please stop by any time to visit.
- Many thanks to **Golden Corral** for continuing to sponsor our WINGS ceremonies each quarter for the last 9 years!
- Official Business Partners: **Adventure Pediatric Dentistry, Backpack Buddies, Berkeley Hall, Bishop Eye Center, BLOOM Senior Living, Bluffton Sign Company, Bluffton Township Fire District, Bluffton Veterinary Hospital, Callawassie Garden Club, Coastal Pediatric Dentistry, LLC, CrossFit Port Royal Sound, Elite Lowcountry Painting, LLC, Golden Corral, GOSTorelt, Heritage Dental Spa and Salon, Jack Frost, Longhorn, Mathnasium, Palmetto Pediatrics, Peacock Subaru, Peter Rippey, MD, South State Bank, Star family, The Bannon Law Group, LLC, and Walmart.**

**Squirrel Club** is a savings program offered through South State Bank for our students. South State provides their services once a month for students to make a deposit directly into their savings account. Help students save their allowance and earn interest too!

### Schedule

August 27 <sup>th</sup>	September 17 <sup>th</sup>
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	November 19 <sup>th</sup>
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	January 21 <sup>st</sup>
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	March 17 <sup>th</sup>
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	

## Healthy Owls Are Successful Owls

Okatie Elementary is committed to providing a healthy school environment by promoting healthy eating and daily physical activity that is essential for student achievement; as well as lifelong good health and well-being. As health and academic success in schools are interrelated, we encourage students to make healthy food choices.

- Bring a healthy snack and water bottle
- Lunches from home should be health
- Parents who join students for lunch, **please do not bring in "fast food"**

Okatie has a number of opportunities for students to keep active throughout each week. We offer Kids on the Run Club, Recess, P.E., Garden Club, Spirit Squad and daily physical activity homework. Join us in developing healthier habits.

## Monthly Birthday Celebrations



To celebrate all of our students' birthdays, grades 2-5 will celebrate birthdays monthly on the dates listed below. Parents are free to provide a healthy treat for the entire class.

Room moms will help organize the monthly celebration. This will help minimize sweets being brought in to the classrooms repeatedly throughout the month. *Please do not bring in without scheduling with the teachers first.* **Balloons, singing quartets and flowers** are not allowed to be sent to the school for students. **Treat bags** are not allowed. Please check with the teacher regarding student allergies.

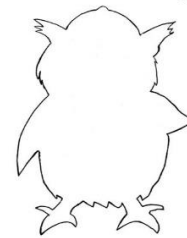
### Celebration Dates

August 30 <sup>th</sup> (July & August birthdays)	
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	October 25 <sup>th</sup>
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	December 20 <sup>th</sup>
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	February 21 <sup>st</sup>
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	April 24 <sup>th</sup>
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> (May & June birthdays)	



## Grade Level Service Project Dates

Oct. 4 – 25 <sup>th</sup>	BETA Club – Canned Food Drive
Oct. 28 – Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>	PreK & K Operation Christmas Child
Dec. 2 - 13 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nursing Home Care Packages
Jan. 13– 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lady Owls Sweet Cases Foster Care Bags
Jan. 27-31 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Hearts for Seniors
Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Jump Rope for Heart
Feb. 10– 28 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Pet Awareness
March 16– April 9 <sup>th</sup>	BETA Club Cancer Awareness and Dialysis Care Packages



(draw my face, uniform and color me)

*Have an Owlsome Year making friends, learning new things and earning your WINGS!!!*