

IN CLOVER



CLOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Each Child, Each Day... Excellence

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the November edition of the *In Clover* Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of *In Clover*. We are so excited to give you a glimpse of some of the great things happening across the Clover School District during the month of October! From introducing you to the staff members at each school voted employee of the month by their peers, to celebrating one of our very own elementary schools being named "Best in State" for the second year in a row, we are certain you will be impressed!

HIGHLIGHTS

2 Employees of the Month

Congratulations to our staff members who were selected as the employee of the month in October.

3 Namaste In School

4th Grader Tori Klein talks about her passion for Yoga which led to starting a morning class at Crowders Creek.

4 4-H at Bethany Elementary

The hatching of baby chicks kicked off the first school-wide 4-H program at Bethany Elementary School.

October Staff Members of the Month



**Kathy
Weathers**
Bethany



**Tammi
Carter**
Bethel



**Eileen
Parsons**
Crowders Creek



**Emily
Garren**
Griggs Road



**Stephanie
Hines**
Kinard



**Hope
Stinnett**
Larne



**Suzanne
Heffner**
Oakridge



**Shanon
Widener**
Blue Eagle Aca.



**Chasity
Knight**
Clover Middle



**Madison
Grant**
Oakridge Middle



**Lindsay
Miller**
Clover High



**Tracey
Player**
9th Grade Campus

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



KINDERGARTEN TEAM

LARNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

After analyzing trends in school literacy data, kindergarten teachers at Larne and other CSD elementary schools added the Phonemic Awareness Curriculum (PAC) (Heggerty, 2015) as a supplemental intervention to their daily instruction. This research-based curriculum is a systematic program which provides explicit modeling and active student engagement to support the development of phonemic awareness skills. Teachers note that students view PAC as a game and enjoy playing with words. Students have been observed initiating word games with each other on the playground and in different settings beyond the classroom.

The kindergarten team at Larne Elementary has done an outstanding job of implementing this program with their students.

Last year, fourth-grade-student Tori Klein began hosting her own yoga classes in the mornings at Crowders Creek Elementary.

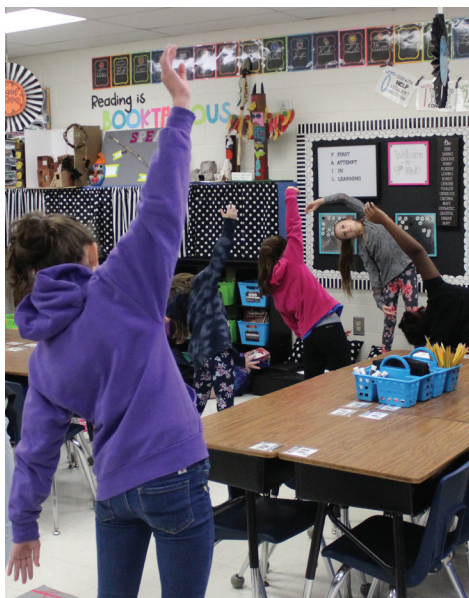
Klein started practicing yoga with her Mom at the YMCA and said she fell in love with the movements and how it helped her body. Not long after, she decided to share this activity with her peers.

“I definitely wanted to teach my classmates yoga because I’m already a student ambassador and I love helping others and being a leader and a role model,” said Klein.

According to CCE Principal Dr. Kershena Dickey, last year Klein set up a meeting with her to present her proposal for the Namaste in School holding room, and she just couldn’t say no.

“We really try to teach our kids to be empowered, to use their voice, to advocate for themselves and for their rights, so I just thought that was a wonderful example of her actually putting into action some of the things that we’ve been trying to instill in our kids.”

“Well I definitely think it [yoga] is important because it not only stretches the body, which is really important because you probably don’t want to get up in the mornings, but also the mind because sometimes you get stressed on Mondays if you have tests or stuff like that,” said Klein. “And it just kind of gets you ready and makes you feel relaxed that way you can be ready in the morning.”



Every Monday CCE students go through the cafeteria and some choose to pick up Namaste in School passes. They enter the classroom, grab a mat, and perform a series of stretches while listening to Klein’s guidance and relaxing instrumental music. Afterwards, each student hears a Monday Motivation quote and receives a treat as a thank you for coming from Klein. Then they are ready to take on a new day of classes.

Dr. Dickey says this year Klein’s class perfectly coincides with CCE’s Mindfulness Mondays where students are learning healthy living as well as ways to take care of their minds and bodies.

“It [Namaste in School] really sets the day off to a great, positive, very calming start,” said Dr. Dickey. “I would love it one day if we could do like a school-wide session with her because I think it would be very beneficial. Hopefully by the end of the year we’ll be able to create something a little more widespread.”

Namaste In School with Tori Klein

4-H Comes to Bethany Elementary



A Bethany kindergarten student beams as he holds one of the new chicks that his class hatched.

The hatching of Bethany Elementary School's baby chicks last month kicked off their first school wide 4-H program which will help students learn skills in science, agriculture, civic engagement and more through hands on activities during the school day.

According to BES Assistant Principal Margaret Guerin, the school's use of this program will be tailored to helping the many students who live locally in rural neighbourhoods.

"We were looking for something that could really speak

to our kids and our community at Bethany," said Guerin. "So we found a contact, Lauren Burdine, and she is our 4-H representative for all of York County. She works through Clemson Extension and the 4-H program."

This program through Clemson University seeks to improve the quality of life in South Carolina by supporting the state's \$42 billion agricultural and forestry industries and exposing young people to new opportunities in agriculture, science, technology, engineering and math. According to

their website, the 4-H program utilizes Clemson's knowledge and resources to shape today's youth into healthy, contributing members of society. BES Principal Kathy Weathers said she believes partnering with Clemson will provide valuable learning opportunities for students and faculty at Bethany.

"We would be doing this school a disservice if we did not reach out to Clemson Extension. Really and truly," said Weathers. "It's exciting to think what our kids are going to be exposed to... and how much our teachers are going to grow as well."

And the teachers at BES appear to be excited to implement the 4-H program into the classroom, as well, according to



Technology Coach Laura Falls.

“Our teachers are on board, and I think it is huge because we have to have that buy in and that support from the staff here to make it work,” said Falls.

Guerin explained that earlier in the year Clemson Extension representative, Burdine, went to BES and gave ideas of different projects to the entire faculty. She told them not only what was already available, but also gave teachers the option to have Clemson Extension create a project if they wanted to fit it to a specific standard.

After a couple weeks of deliberating with their grade level teams, the teachers came back and planned out exactly how they wanted to implement 4-H into their classrooms.

“Each grade level has a specific project topic that they’re working on this year, and they are all things that we can continue to grow on for years to come,” said Guerin.

The process of incorporating the 4-H program started in BES with the hatching of baby chicks for kindergarten students as well as multiple classes working with plant life either out in the school’s gardens or inside the classroom.

As of this year, each grade level is working with some aspect of plant life that students

can build on in later years from basic gardening to learning about pollinators and testing soil.

“Initially we want to start small, but eventually we would love to see more interest, more opportunities, more experiences that we could provide from our school to our kids,” said Weathers.

In the future BES administration would like to add more gardens and build a chicken coop to expand on what students are learning.

Weathers went on to say that 4-H is an opportunity that is available for every child at BES. “It’s not a club, it is instructional practice,” she said. “It’s in the classroom. It’s getting down with kids and getting them excited about learning. I bet you kids would be more apt to write if they could write their own individual experiences than if they are forced to write about something they have no connection to.”

According to the 4-H official website, the goal of the program is to get kids working hands-on in projects where they learn and grow in their confidence, independence, resilience, and compassion. Although the students receive guidance from adult mentors, they are also encouraged to participate in leadership roles and



become innovators in society.

“The 4-H program gives students the opportunity for the 21st century skills, for the presentation, for the global learning,” said Falls. “It’s not just about written tests on paper and pencil. It’s about so much more than that, and I think it’s giving them the leg up in not just the content but also the life experiences.”

According to Weathers, she believes this program will have lasting effects on students that will go beyond the walls of BES into middle school, high school, and even further into their futures.

“The more kids are independent in their own learning and their experiences the more they are able to see themselves contributing to society, so that’s the ultimate goal,” said Weathers.

The BES Principal said she is excited for where she sees this program going.

“I love it,” Weathers said with a laugh. “I do, I love it. I think it is great to enhance the learning in the classroom, I really do.”

4-H Pledge

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
and my health to better living,
for my club, my community, my
country, and my world.



Clover School District Choral Festival

The Clover School District's seven elementary schools teamed up for the ninth annual District Choral Festival on Tuesday, October 30th. Over 190 4th and 5th-grade students from across the district spent the day working with instructors from the middle school and high school programs to finalize pieces that culminated in a concert at the district auditorium.

"Working individually at your schools for two months on the song list and then being able to come together on the auditorium stage and work with the middle and high school instructors just builds the foundation of our music programs." Carla Ketchum, Crowders Creek



Oakridge Elementary Named “Best in State”



Students at Oakridge Elementary School read 342,851 minutes in the 2018 Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge™ earning them the title of “Best in State” for South Carolina for the second consecutive year. To celebrate the students’ reading achievements, Oakridge Elementary will be featured in the 2019 Scholastic Book of World Records to be released this fall, and will receive a commemorative plaque and a celebration kit. “We are so incredibly proud of our students at Oakridge Elementary for being named “Best in State” for the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge,” said Lori Maczko, Principal. As a staff, we appreciate all of our families that continuously encourage our students to read, and we hope their love of reading will continue with them into adulthood.”

The Clover School District Board of Trustees met on Monday, October 15 for its monthly board meeting. Here is a look at some of the business conducted.

1 **Transportation Update**

Mr. Jay Dover, CSD Transportation Coordinator, presented facts about the current bus fleet, including how many district-owned vs. state-owned buses and the daily mileage traveled.

2 **Literacy Presentation**

Mrs. Jennifer Dunder and Dr. Amy Bowles presented detailed information about the district’s literacy program. CSD is performing exceptionally well in literacy, ranking in the top three of all S.C. elementary and middle schools.

3 **Policies Approved**

The Clover School District Board approved policy changes related to employee protections for pregnancy, child-birth and related medical conditions. Amended policies include: AC, GBA, GCE, GCEC, GCF, and GDF.

WORDS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DR. SHEILA QUINN CSD SUPERINTENDENT

CSD has engaged in multiple initiatives to strengthen our safety infrastructure and improve our response to a variety of threats. These infrastructure changes not only provide a deterrent to possible threats but also harden the security presence. Additionally, we have engaged in many training activities to improve our response to emergencies including re-training all building and district leaders in Incident Command certification, participating in tabletop scenario drills with law enforcement officials, and adopting a common emergency vernacular with other York County School Districts. Principals will be reviewing the commands: Lockout – Lockdown – Evacuate – and Shelter along with associated action steps for each command with students and staff this fall. Parents will receive a brochure on these four commands and how we use them in schools so that they can reinforce safety language at home. Finally, we have increased mental health counseling in all building through our partnership with Catawba Mental Health and Thrive. In Clover, the safety of our students and staff remains a top priority!



EACH CHILD, EACH DAY ...

Clover Schools will prepare each child for a successful, productive and responsible future.



In Clover will feature information from across the Clover School District each month

Teachers and staff, if there is something that you would like to have featured in the next edition of *In Clover*, contact Bryan Dillon.

A special thank you to Cori Erwin, of Winthrop University, for her contributions to this newsletter. Cori is a graduate of Clover High School

Why is the newsletter title In Clover?

The title comes from the idiom - In Clover - meaning:


Having good fortune; in a very good situation.


or

Prosperous, living well.



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