



Accents of Excellence

Blythe Academy of Languages
www.blythepta.org

Summer 2008
Volume 19/Issue 8

Dr. Phinnize Fisher
Superintendent of
Greenville County Schools

Dr. Sandra E. Griffin
Principal

Cecilia Cameron
Assistant Principal

Heather Hester
Assistant Principal

Robin McKenna
Jill McNair
PTA Co-Presidents

Jan Hernandez
Kathy McClintock
PTA Co-Vice Presidents

Amy Michaux
PTA Treasurer

Lisa Torres
PTA Secretary

Katy Smith
Newsletter Editor

100 Blythe Drive
Greenville, SC 29605
864.355.4400
www.greenville.k12.sc.us/blythe/

What a Blast!

The 2008 Blythe Blast on Friday, May 2nd not only offered fun for the hundreds of people who came but also raised generous support for our school. This year's event featured a 33-foot Titanic Slide, Moon Bounce, obstacle course, carnival games, great food, DJ, a balloon artist, marshmallow shoot-out, fabulous auction and raffle items, and much more! Thanks to Sydney Sykes and Beth Duke who chaired the event and to all of their co-chairs. If you would like to help with next year's Blast, please contact the 2009 chairs, Lynn Fitzpatrick at fitzpatricklynn@yahoo.ca or Pam Driggers at mauldinmania@aol.com.

Many thanks to our  2008-2009 Blythe Boosters who supported Blythe Blast and whose contributions will be instrumental in the coming school year:

- Carolina Cardiology**
- Eastern Industrial Supplies, Inc.**
- Greenville First**
- Grove Station Farms**
- Thermo Heating Elements, LLC**
- 10Best.com**
- Poinsett Family Practice**
- Southern Housepitality**

**Blythe Academy honors this month's
Blythe Booster**

Simpsonville Chevrolet

3431 N. Industrial Drive, Simpsonville, SC 29681
www.simpsonvillechevrolet.com or 236-4150

Thank you for being leaders in our community by financially supporting the educational needs and enrichment of our students!



Thanks to our Blythe Blast Auction and Raffle Donors

The Blythe Blast Auction and Raffle were a big success, thanks to our families and friends who purchased tickets and bid on items and, of course, the generous people and companies who contributed. Please thank those listed below for their support of our school:



- ◆ 1st Team Sports
- ◆ AMC Bowling
- ◆ Blue Fire Grill
- ◆ BMW
- ◆ Brick City Grill
- ◆ Café and Then Some
- ◆ Caine Halter Family YMCA
- ◆ California Dreaming
- ◆ Camilles
- ◆ Carolina Fitness Camp
- ◆ Childress Jewelers
- ◆ City of Greenville tennis camp
- ◆ Clemson Basketball
- ◆ Clemson Football
- ◆ Como's Petes
- ◆ Julienne Correa
- ◆ Curves
- ◆ Discovery Island
- ◆ Doc Cheys
- ◆ Edwin McCain
- ◆ EmbroidMe, Taylors location
- ◆ Emily Austin
- ◆ Russell and Diane Farr
- ◆ Foxfire
- ◆ Frozen Ropes Baseball Training
- ◆ Marka Fuller
- ◆ Gray Goose
- ◆ Greenville Country Club
- ◆ Greenville Drive
- ◆ Grove Station Farms
- ◆ Hampton Inn
- ◆ High Cotton
- ◆ John Pauls
- ◆ Jump Zone
- ◆ Justin's Steakhouse
- ◆ Le Chateau de Danse
- ◆ Lieus Chinese Bistro
- ◆ Little Lingoes
- ◆ Kathy McClintock
- ◆ Mellow Mushroom
- ◆ Moppets
- ◆ NY Butcher Shoppe
- ◆ O.P. Taylor
- ◆ Overlook Grill
- ◆ Oysters on the West End
- ◆ PF Changs
- ◆ The Pickwick
- ◆ The Pink Monogram
- ◆ Poinsett & Main Salon
- ◆ Potential Basketball Camp
- ◆ Rachel Balck Photography
- ◆ Rio Grille
- ◆ Ron Smith's Baseball Camp
- ◆ Saffrons
- ◆ South Carolina Children's Theatre
- ◆ Scratch
- ◆ Smoke of the Water
- ◆ Stax
- ◆ Cheves Steck
- ◆ Table 301
- ◆ The Carolina Opry
- ◆ The Distracted Globe
- ◆ The Great Escape
- ◆ The Strike Zone
- ◆ Trade Route
- ◆ Travinia
- ◆ Trio
- ◆ Upstate Karate
- ◆ Velocity Performance Sports
- ◆ Mary Jo Watson
- ◆ West End Creamery

**Hooray for
our donors!!**



Presidents' Message

It is always a shock to realize that the school year is almost over, especially now as we post our final President's letter of the year! On behalf of the Blythe Academy PTA, we would like to say thank you to all of the Blythe Families, staff and teachers for your support and understanding during this year of transition.

We would like to thank our PTA Board for their hard work and passion for our programs that have made our school year so successful, especially our executive board - Leslie Milligan, Janine Sally, Carole Flaspoebler, Cheryl Spiers, Amy Michaux, Kathy McClintock, Jan Hernandez, Jamie Owenby, Amy Grover, Allison Powell and Lisa Torres. A big thanks needs to go to our Blythe Blast committee who worked tirelessly to bring our Blast carnival to fruition, to Weezie Stephenson for an extremely successful 3M lunch series and to our Teacher Appreciation Committee for keeping our teachers and staff aware of how important they are to us!

We thank you again for a wonderful 2007/2008 school year and wish you all a safe and happy summer break!

Robin McKenna & Jill McNair

The Counselors' Column

by **Claire Barnett and Jane Brice**

We would like to say a big thank you to Bonnie Tollison for a wonderful presentation at our most recent "Lunch and Learn" parent workshop in April. Bonnie offered much insight into understanding test anxiety and shared tips to motivate children and improve listening, focusing, and comprehension skills. We have enjoyed bringing parent workshops to you throughout the year and look forward to more workshops next school year. Please feel free to offer suggestions of topics you would like us to feature next year, as well as any resources available.

As we wrap up another school year, we ask that all materials checked out from our parent resource library be returned this month. Remember to see us next year for books in the counseling office available to parents, students, and teachers on a variety of topics. We are continuously adding to our collection and hope you will take advantage of this opportunity in the future.

The counseling office ended the school year with middle school registration and getting ready for PACT testing. Fifth grade students going to Hughes Academy next year had the opportunity to attend orientation in April. We walked to Hughes and were greeted warmly by staff and students with a program and tour of the building.

We are proud of our many students who earned Chick-fil-A prize coupons this year for showing good character. Did you know Chick-fil-A has provided our character education supplies all year? Please be sure to thank Audrey Chapman and the staff at the Pelham Road Chick-fil-A for their support of our program.

Thank you for a wonderful school year, and make it a special summer your child will remember because you were there!



Principal's Message

from Sandra E. Griffin

Please join me in congratulating the following Blythe award winners! We are so proud of our students' accomplishments!

Science Fair Winners: Grade 4 - Rene Duhon, Blair Bickman, and Lindsey Hudson. Grade 5 - Corinne Wilmerdinger, Francesca Scott, and Zachary Morgan.

2008 Spring Sing Participants: Emily Mulkey, Thad Magnum, Joshua Smith, Benjamin Haertel, Sara Beth Coe, Sydney Watson, Cheyenne Belue, Grace Magera, Megan Carter, and Nicole McElveen.

The following students have framed art work on display in the Human Resources Conference Room at the newly renovated Central Office of Greenville County Schools: Second Grade: Jennie Worley and Carson Medlin (Dunsmore class), Third Grade: Faith Fowler, Martha McLeod, Cheyenne Grover and Zahria Stewart (Dixon's class), Fourth Grade: Andrew Maiorana, Dah'Vielle Lucas, and Peter McKenna (Landa's class), Fifth Grade: Grace Magera, Megan Carter and Logan Edwards (Brackett's class).

The 2007-2008 school year has gone so quickly and we have accomplished so much! Spring MAP testing is completed for students in grades 3, 4, & 5. Scores show gains in all areas tested at all grade levels.

Other highlights from this school year include:

- ◆ Black History Bowl Winning Team
- ◆ A Picasso Art Project Winner
- ◆ Reflections Winners
- ◆ Billy Jonas Concert
- ◆ National PTA School of Excellence Award

As we prepare for the 2008-2009 school year, please know that we cannot honor requests for specific teachers. If you have concerns about your child's teacher assignment for next year, please submit to me in writing a letter that describes your child's special needs. Please know that we take great care to match student needs with teaching styles. We want every child to have a successful and happy school experience at Blythe.

Parents, it is also critical that we have correct information on student addresses and telephone numbers for our computer database. Information for bus routes is pulled from this database. Incorrect information results in students who may need to ride school buses being coded incorrectly, which can negatively impact our allocation of school buses from the state. Please notify the school immediately if you move or make changes in how your child is transported to and from school each day. Thank you!

I wish you a safe and happy summer, and many thanks for making 2007-2008 a great school year!

The School Improvement Committee is charged with distributing the Annual Report to the Community. This report outlines the testing results of our students, our school goals and how we plan to accomplish our goals. This report went home with every student. We would like to thank one of our SIC board members, Sandy Coan, who helped to facilitate the copying of this report. Thank you to Dr. Judith Prince, Vice-Chancellor of USC Upstate who made the 800 copies of this report for our school. This support is greatly appreciated.

