



Okatie Elementary

Your monthly guide to school news, information and events.



Straight From The Beak



**Volume 20
Issue:
August 2022**

"Learning Through Leadership"

Spreading Our Wings & Learning New Things

Respectful & Responsible Owls Learn Here!

WHAT'S INSIDE

**A Message from
your Principal**

page 2

**Literacy/Math
News**

page 3

Nurse News

page 3

Don't Forget!

page 3

Counseling

page 4

Birthdays

page 4

PTO/SIC News

page 5

**Contact Us:
(843)322-7700**

Join us on Facebook!



OKATIE ELEMENTARY'S 2022-2023 STAFF

Welcome Back!

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bluffton Office of Transportation Phone Number: 843-706-8400

Please check the updated routes for your student. Please notify your child's teacher how you child will go home each day using the transportation form that was provided. Remember, the first few weeks of school, buses can be up to thirty minutes late picking up in the morning and dropping off in the afternoon. This is due to learning the routes, new arrival of students and learning the dismissal procedures. An adult must be at the stop for Pre-K, K, and 1st grade students. Please be patient as we work to ensure the safe arrival of your student home. **ANY** changes in transportation need to be emailed to oes.school.office@beaufort.k12.sc.us. Please contact **Alison Hall**, at alison.hall@beaufort.k12.sc.us with any questions.



During the COVID-19 pandemic the federal government allocated free lunches for all students, but some of these options have since expired. As a result, families will now need to apply for free and reduced meals as was the process prior to the pandemic.

Reach us: Website: <http://oes.beaufort.k12.sc.us/>

Email: oes.school.office@beaufort.k12.sc.us

Please complete the application via www.paypams.com/onlineapp



A Message from our Principal



Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year Okie Families!

We are so excited to have our owls back in the nest this year! We loved seeing so many families and smiling faces last week at Open House and the first days of school this week! Thank you for your continued support of our school, teachers, and the students. We are amazing due to the support and care from each of you. I am so proud to lead and partner with our staff as the principal this year and I am looking forward to successful next chapter in the history of Okatie Elementary!

We will review the procedures and routines at Back to School Night and begin allowing parents in the building for lunch and volunteering. Back to School Night will be August 30th and 31st. We look forward to everyone attending. Please sign up for PTO and SIC to support the success of our school. We need all our Owl families to help us reach our goals.

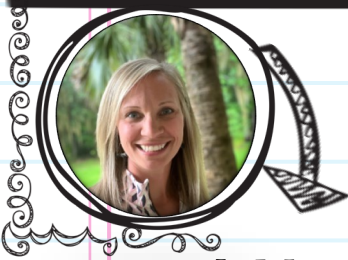
Please sign up for updates on our Website and on social media. That will keep you up to date on all the happenings in the nest.

My mission is to inspire curiosity, courage, and compassion for learning. We are excited about the upcoming year and all the exciting instruction, activities, and events that are already planned.

As the new principal, my goals are to ensure safety for our students and staff, continue the relationships with all stakeholders, and be committed to the tradition of excellence. Along with the teachers, I will continue to strive for a successful partnership with the community. I look forward to seeing each of you in the nest as we begin a fantastic 2022-2023 school year. It is important to me that families feel welcomed and encouraged to be a part of each child's learning experience. Please feel free to contact me by email at tracy.lanese@beaufort.k12.sc.us or (843) 322-7700.

With Much Appreciation,

Tracy Lanese



A Message from our Assistant Principal

My name is Alison Hall and I am so excited to be joining Okatie Elementary as your new Assistant Principal. I am excited to be in this position, and I am looking forward to assisting Mrs. Lanese in making this year a great one!

We moved to the Lowcountry 16 years ago and absolutely love it! I have spent the past 15 years working in Beaufort County School District. I have been a classroom teacher, interventionist, and a State Reading Coach. This is my first year as an Assistant Principal and am honored to serve the students, staff, and parents of OES. I was born and raised in Ohio but am lucky to call Bluffton home.

My husband, Matt, and I have three children. Addison and Kennedy will be joining me in becoming part of the Okatie family in 3rd and 5th grades. Our youngest, Camden, is currently in PreK and he will be an owl next year!

My motivation to become an administrator ultimately stemmed from my desire to support children in their growth as students in the classroom, citizens within the school community, and respectful future leaders in any endeavor in which they find joy. As the Assistant Principal, my goal is to work with all stakeholders to support the mission and vision of Okatie Elementary. As parents, you know your children the best and I am thrilled to work alongside you, and our amazing teachers, to support each of our students in becoming leaders inside and outside of the classroom.

If throughout the course of the year you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone. I can be reached at alison.hall@beaufort.k12.sc.us or by phone at (843)322-7702.

Hoping for an owlsome year!

Alison Hall, Assistant Principal

Literacy/Numeracy NEWS

Reading
nightly with
your child
improves test
scores and
fluency!



Welcome Back Okatie Families!

I hope you had a summer filled with fun, family, friends and of course, reading!

My name is Ms. Laura Phillips. I am the State Reading Coach for Okatie Elementary School. My main role is to provide high-quality professional development and literacy support to enhance ELA instruction throughout the school. I work closely with all teachers and spend time in every classroom. I look forward to working with the teachers, students, and parents this year. If you have any questions regarding ELA instruction, please reach out and contact me. My direct office line is 843-322-7768 or I can be reached via email at laura.phillips@beaufort.k12.sc.us.

The State Department of Education is in the process of reviewing the current ELA Standards for Learning. They are requesting feedback from educators, parents and the community. You can find the draft here <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/english-language-arts/standards/>. The public review time is short (due date Sept 5) so I urge you to provide feedback.

Many of our families participated in the Beaufort County Library Summer Reading! I know my family enjoyed reading together throughout the summer. The district will be announcing the school who had the most participants soon. I am hopeful that Okatie will be one of the winning schools.

Once again, I look forward to a successful year! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Laura Phillips State Reading Coach, Okatie Elementary

laura.phillips@beaufort.k12.sc.us

A BIG Thanks
to our Sponsors!

Hideaway Spa
Bulldog Fasteners



DON'T FORGET

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT:

Date: 8/30/2022

Time: 6:00-7:30

Who: ECSE, Pre-K, Kinder, 1st

Date: 8/31/2022

Time: 6:00-7:30

Who: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th

LOST AND FOUND:

Please make sure you mark
your child's belongings with
their first and last name!

MAP TESTING:

MAP Testing begins on
Aug. 29th through Sept. 9th

iReady:

Begins on Aug. 22 & ends on
Aug. 26

AGENDA BOOKS

Please review and sign your
child's agenda everyday



Nurse News

Welcome back! I cannot wait to see my OWLS and how much they grew over the summer!

Please do not send your child to school sick. The same rules apply that children with fever or vomiting stay at home for 24 hours. Please contact me for updated Covid protocols. As of now, we are not doing contact tracing or close contacts. Please contact me if your student has a positive Covid test as they do have to quarantine at home for 5 days. As always, please remember that a new medication form MUST be signed by the physician for THIS school year before prescription medication can be given.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or if you want your child to be seen for any reason so I can put them on my schedule for the day. Please feel free to Contact me at 843-322-7791 or

Brittany.kaczor@beaufort.k12.sc.us

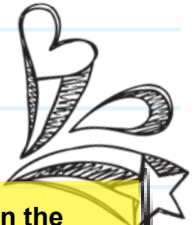
Guidance update: We are working hard to find a counselor to serve our owls and their families this year. Our wonderful social worker, Mrs. Waddell will be helping to fulfill some of the responsibilities until we are able to find the right fit. Please know we are all here to support the needs of our owls and will ensure they are taken care of in every capacity while they are at school.

Social Worker update: Happy Back to School, I am sad to see summer go but so excited to have another year with each of you! There are going to be so many different directives thrown your way between classroom expectation, front office expectation, and overall school expectation for your students, but also for you. If at any point there are feelings of becoming overwhelmed for any reason, please reach out to me, I am here to help! I am here to help supplement school supplies and needed uniforms. This year the school breakfast and lunch program will cost \$1.00 and \$1.75 respectfully. Even if you do not think you will qualify, please complete the free/reduced breakfast and lunch application. It can be found at paypams.com or I have hardcopies in the front office that can be filled out and submitted. Another biggie, snack time! Each grade allows the students to have a snack time during the day, it is important to have a snack pack each and every day separate from the lunch. If providing snacks poses a hardship, please let me know and I will be sure to provide your student with a snack. This is going to be a great school year full of laughter and learning!

Best Regards, Laura Waddell, MSW



Counseling in the Nest Mrs. Waddell, School Social Worker



Birthday Procedures are outlined in the agenda book—

- Children in grades 2-5 have a special celebration date each month when parents are free to provide a healthy snack: This month is August 26th.
- Balloons and flowers are not allowed to be sent to school.
- Please do not send home birthday invitations through the classroom teacher.
- Pre-K, K & 1st grades, please plan for the last 20 minutes of the school day or during lunch.
- Please do not bring in without scheduling with the teacher first.

Thank you for helping us limit sweets and protect instructional time!

Happy Birthday Owlets!

Birthdays:

1 Hazel, Dallas Nickolai
1 Maresma, Emily Rose
2 Benitez Ordonez, Genesis Valeria
2 Cronin, Holden Russell
2 Devine, Otto Denny
2 Dibble, Anna Mae
3 Balasco, Barron Todd
3 Fleming, Samira Lane
4 Harwood, Piper Rose-Marie
4 Hicks, William James
4 Royals, Lochlan Brantley Michael
4 Velasquez Perez, Cristian Miguel
5 Chaves Nacif, Juliana
6 Mrs. Davis
6 DiMartino, Clayton Michael
7 Arias Arroyo, Ange! Ariann
7 Belancik, Troy Richard
7 Kallail, Olivia Dae
7 Puryear, Aubrey McKenzie
8 Jean, Brayden Neite
8 Weeks, Zion Lamont
9 Privette, Kaylee Victoria
9 Rojas Estremera, Nayeliz

10 Epling, Lilly Michelle
10 Matute Baca, Mateo Alexander
10 Russell, Audrey Elizabeth
10 Saleeby, Robert Wilson
11 Anderzack, Addison JoAnn
11 Willis, Kamiyah
13 Mckinney, Rhyann Marissa
13 Mckinney, Rylee Marie
14 Koepke, Ethan James
14 Marcelo Mendoza, Brianna Arisbeth
14 Waddell, Kael Gabriel
15 Barnes, Carter James
15 Chirinos, Korben Andre
16 Ms. Finocchio
18 Swofford, Sara Royce
19 Farmer Bowman, Leyla Marie
20 Adame-Nava, Kevin Alexander

21 Par, Van Tha
21 Semmoum, Aria Evelyne
22 Miller, Remy Allen
22 Pollard, Scarlett Marie Rene
22 Mrs. Bailey
23 Chiafolo, John Benedetto
23 DeWeese, Elizabeth Katheryn
23 Rosales Zelaya, Jose Danilo
23 Salva, Avarie Madison
24 Swiger, Charlotte Grace
24 Wolfe, Carter Jackson
26 Church, Kyler Anderson
26 Coleman, Sora Scott
26 Unkaew, Dee
27 Wermann, Sophia Danicka-Maryanna
28 Bonney, Hailen Nicole
28 Scott, Carleigh Jo
28 Trujillo Cortes, Benjamin
29 Benitez Flores, Oliver Jarlel
29 Helton, Sawyer Levi
29 Ramos Alvarenga, Emanuel
30 Ms. Fries
30 Audie, Skylar Ann
31 Esquivel, Caylie Irene

Happy Birthday



PTO/SIC MEETINGS



PTO: Aug. 16th
SIC: Aug. 23rd
PTO/SIC: Sept. 13th

Mary Hinson, PTO President

Kira Swiger, SIC Chair

PTO NEWS: Welcome back to the nest! We would like to introduce our PTO board members for the 2022-2023 school year. Mary Hinson, President; Erin Sanofsky, Vice President; Jen Leiti and Quinn Saleeby, Co-Treasurers; Myra Jacob, Secretary; Kate Chiafolo, Volunteer Coordinator and Brittany Krivit, Board Member Liaison.

Thank you to our current sponsors for supporting OES PTO. If you would like to donate, please check the school website to access our sponsorship form. Current Sponsors: **Church of the Palms, Lowcountry Tool and Supply, Okatee Baptist Church, Palmetto State Bank, The Hideaway Spa, The Kneady Cat Gifts and Books**

Volunteers: This year we have created subcommittees for our various events throughout the year. If you are interested in helping but don't know where to start, this is the great avenue. Please email okatievolunteers@gmail.com for more information. Also, make sure to complete the mandatory district background check via <https://verify.identakid.com/beaufort> since it's only valid for 12 months.

Spirit Wear: Spirit Wear will be ordered via PTO only this year. We will have a table set up at Back to Schools Nights on 8/30 and 8/31 and send home order forms in Friday folders on 8/26. Please send in completed forms and cash or check by 9/2. The first order will be placed on 9/6 and will take 6-8 weeks. We will place another order in early November and late February.

BoxTops for Education: Look for BoxTops on Participating items, join and scan to earn money for our school.

PTO meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month at 3:10. This year we will meet in person at the school and provide a zoom link.

Join PTO/SIC
Stay involved
and make a
difference!

SIC NEWS: What is a School Improvement Council?

The School Improvement Council (SIC) serves as an advisory committee to a school's principal and faculty. Unlike PTSA and other voluntary school organizations, councils are mandated by law to exist in every public school in South Carolina. SICs play a key role in the education of our children, bringing together parents, educators and community stakeholders to collaborate on the improvement of their local school.

Who May Serve on a Council?

If you are a parent or community member interested in serving on our Okatie Elementary School Improvement Council for 2022-23, please contact Kira Swiger at swigerschool@gmail.com

Almost anyone is eligible to serve on a School Improvement Council - parents, teachers, business partners, and community leaders. We would love your input as we review and update the District and School Renewal Plan and ensure the success of all students.



WHERE? Media Center
TIME? 3:10pm

