

## **O.P. Earle Elementary School is a SC Honor Reading School**

The South Carolina International Reading Association announced that O.P. Earle Elementary School in Landrum, part of District One Schools, Spartanburg, is the state's elementary Honor Exemplary Reading School for 2010-2011.

The SCIRA made the announcement at its annual conference where educators from across the state convene to share best practices in reading and literacy.

O.P. Earle Elementary School, in Landrum, SC, serves approximately 500 students in k4-5<sup>th</sup> grade. The faculty and staff communicate high expectations and students are responding by demonstrating success in reading every day. At O.P. Earle Elementary, students are provided with multiple opportunities to learn with a strong literacy foundation.

Mrs. Nita High, Principal at O.P. Earle is extremely proud of her school's accomplishments. "We are truly a 'student-centered school' and stress the importance of literacy. Our teachers and staff are committed to ensuring that ALL children are immersed with a literacy rich environment in order to instill the love of reading for a lifetime."

Honor schools must meet the stringent criteria set by SCIRA's Exemplary Reading Program Award Committee. Each program has some unique aspects that fit the circumstances and needs of that particular school. Schools with exemplary reading and literacy programs will demonstrate the following qualities:

- strong administrative leadership;
- strong support and leadership from the school district that aligns with the total vision and mission of the school system;
- a balanced approach to reading instruction;
- active parent and community involvement;
- an emphasis on reading throughout the curriculum;
- ongoing, meaningful staff development;
- early intervention for struggling readers ;
- an emphasis on encouraging students to develop both the skills to read and the desire to read.

Dr. Ron Garner, Superintendent of District One Schools, was present to see O.P. Earle receive state-wide recognition for its exemplary reading program. He stated, "At O.P. Earle, the staff does its best to create classroom cultures that honor thinking and celebrate that what students say, write, and think matters. Our school district is extremely fortunate to have schools of the caliber of O.P. Earle, where students are inspired to 'become the best' through reading."