

**For Immediate Release**

September 4, 2009

**Contact:**

IRT, Melody Herscher  
or Principal Beth McCraw  
at (843) 745-7113

## MUSC Partners with Burns Elementary

Elizabeth McCraw  
Principal

Edmund A. Burns Elementary School

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Dr. Nancy J. McGinley  
Superintendent of Schools

This year, the children at Burns Elementary School in North Charleston are going to have an additional class added to their already busy curriculum.

When School Nurse, Mamie Rader, RN, heard offers of help from parents and a nursing instructor at MUSC, she knew she'd have the necessary people to create an initiative to teach the children (4 year old preschoolers to 5<sup>th</sup> graders) about taking care of themselves, avoiding illness, and caring for minor wounds. Beginning September 4<sup>th</sup>, Rader will visit one class every day for 15 minutes to present on a single topic. With 28 classes, that means each class will have 4 or 5 health lessons throughout the school year.

Besides classroom presentations, the PTA will do a one-on-one hand-washing program, teaching infection control along with good personal habits (and un-teaching bad ones) to the entire Burns student body. The classroom presentations will address:

1. Nutrition - the Importance of Breakfast
2. Personal Hygiene - the Importance of Regular Bathing & Grooming
3. Basic Self Care & 1st Aid
4. Sunshine, Fresh Air & PLAY
5. Deskercises & Simple Yoga

Assisting with this program are:

- Parent volunteers under the guidance of Burns PTA President Linda Rivers.
- A group of 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of nursing students at MUSC's College of Nursing under the tutelage of their instructor, Cindy Hudson, DNSc, RN, PHCNS, BC, Assistant Professor of Nursing at MUSC's College of Nursing. The students are using Burns as one of their clinical sites and will assist with vision and hearing screens, as well as present to the children on some of the planned topics.
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- An anonymous friend of Ms Rader who is suffering from emphezema and wants to talk to 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade children about her need for oxygen 24/7, her disease, and the hazards of smoking. (Ms Rader's friend had started smoking at age 13.)

For more information regarding this program, please contact Principal Beth McCraw or Instructional Resource Teacher Melody Herscher at (843) 745-7113.