

newsmakers

Eagle Nest Hosts Literacy Night

On February 22, more than 200 people attended Eagle Nest Elementary's "Multicultural Family Literacy Night, Your Passport to Adventure." A school with a 25% population of ESOL students, ENES had the opportunity to celebrate diversity through literacy.

Parents were greeted by the soothing island sounds of the River Oaks Middle Steel Band lead by Vincent Talbert. Upon arrival, families received a passport, a map of countries to visit, a prize drawing ticket, and a free book

for their home libraries. Grades 3-5 put on a cultural performance and families had the rest of the night to explore. Each destination was a home country of ENES students. These countries included Pakistan, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Vietnam, and China. There were food tastings, literacy activities, the Book Fair, a performance by poet Carlos Johnson from Speak Freely, a cultural dance party room, and more.



District Highlights



Ashton Poole and Sam Proctor of Gregg Middle School were Tournament Champions of the VEX Robotics competition held at West Ashley High School on February 24. They are the first team to bring a Championship Trophy to our district.



Hilarity ensued as students at Beech Hill Elementary met their Boosterthon challenge goal and enjoyed seeing P.E. teacher Eric Seitz and Boosterthon Site Coordinator Carly Aselage taped to a light pole.

ARHS Helps Build Fence for Animals

Students from the agriculture class at Ashley Ridge High School recently spent a day at Dr. Eugene Sires Elementary School to build a fence for the school's mini-farm. The fence encompasses the chicken coops, which already house Sires' chickens. Goats will soon take up residence at Sires Elementary as well. The Sires' mini-farm pays tribute to the late Dr. Eugene Sires, the school's namesake.



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Therapy Dogs Attend ESES

Every Wednesday, Mercy, the Newfoundland, visits Dr. Eugene Sires Elementary School. Mercy is a certified Therapy Dog and member of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. She makes her first appearance in Mrs. Tonya Sexton's classroom where she interacts with students, helping to keep them calm and putting a smile on their faces.



Mercy's next assignment is in the media center. Her job is to invite students to read without worry.

When a student makes a mistake or stumbles over a word while reading, Mercy stays the vigilant listener regardless. A friendly, furry, non-judgmental reading buddy helps students form positive relationships with reading. Whether in the classroom, in the media center, or just in the hallway, many students look forward to Mercy's visits.

Plantation Singers Visit FDES

The Plantation Singers came to Fort Dorchester Elementary School on March 7th, to educate the third graders on Gullah heritage and culture. The students were entertained with many Gullah songs and introduced to several Gullah words and phrases. Jennifaye Singleton, a sweetgrass weaver and performer, demonstrated the techniques of sweetgrass basket weaving. The Plantation Singers educated the students on the history of Gullah, Gullah traditions, and the importance of the four key aspects of Gullah music.



Black History Month Bowl at BHES

Beech Hill Elementary School culminated their celebration of Black History Month with a Black History Month Bowl. Students worked in groups to respond to related questions, such as "Do you know which African-American Olympian won a Silver and Gold Medal in the 1936 competition in Germany but wasn't nearly as famous as his younger brother became?" Answer: Mack Robinson, brother of Jackie Robinson.



District Highlights



Oakbrook Middle School's Kevin Heyn recently qualified for the state geography bee. After battling through a tough championship round involving the best of three questions and single elimination tie breaker questions, Heyn came out on top. He will head to the state bee on April 6.

The following Fort Dorchester High School students recently competed at the FBLA State Conference. All competitors ranked in the top 20 percent.

- Michael Belton and DaQuan Polite: Sports and Entertainment Management
- Camryn Crumme: Journalism
- Jamailah Riddick: Journalism
- Acacia Nathaniel: Accounting
- Harvella Dannis: 6th Place, Introduction to Business
- Camara Crumme: 6th Place, Introduction to Financial Math
- Elawna Mitchell: 6th Place, Public Speaking
- Jalen Myers: 4th Place, Impromptu Speaking
- Christian Wade: 4th Place, Entrepreneurship
- Madison Blanding and Asyia Benton-Blake: 1st Place, Hospitality Management
- Hunter Stone: 1st Place, Securities and Investments

First place winners will compete at the National Leadership Conference in Baltimore, MD.





Pye Elementary Named Palmetto's Finest

More than 1,000 students, teachers, school and district staff members, parents, and school board members gathered in the all-purpose room at Joseph R. Pye Elementary School on March 20 to hear the announcement that they were a 2018 Palmetto's Finest School. The SC Association of School Administrators live-streamed the announcement of state winners from Columbia via SC ETV at 1:45 p.m. From among 12 finalists, five schools received this prestigious award as being among the best schools in the state. Awards were presented to one high school, one middle school, two elementary schools, and one math, science and technology school during this celebration of public schools. Alston Middle School was a finalist in the middle school category.



FES Hosts Vehicle Day

Vehicles from all over the community recently came out to Flowertown Elementary School to demonstrate the way they use their vehicles to support their careers. Students were able to climb aboard a coast guard vessel, watch a "cherry picker" in action, and explore many unique and distinctive vehicles. The Career Vehicle Day was organized by the school's guidance department and a faculty "HIVE." The students had a great time seeing so many different vehicles from around town.



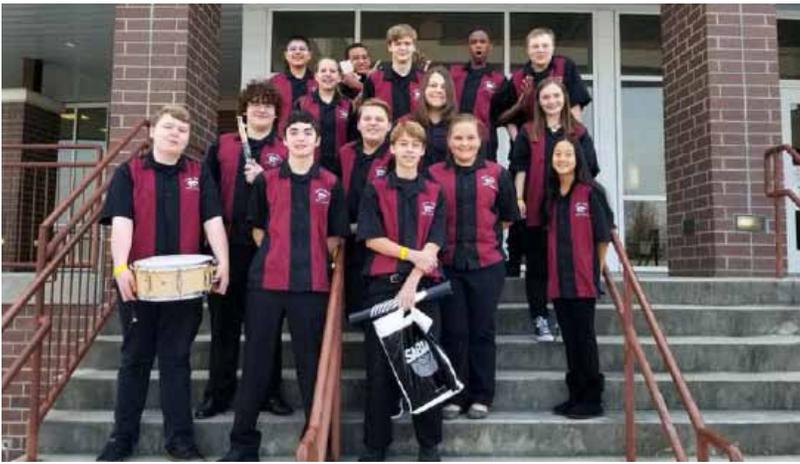
OMS Archery Team Qualifies for State

The Oakbrook Middle School Archery team has qualified for the State competition. The Eagles rank 12th out of 33 middle schools in the state. This comes after competing at the Regional competition and ranking 7th out of 16 teams, and only missing 6th place by 3 points. They are coached by Mr. Andrew Bishop.

Band Students Awarded

Under the direction of Susan Bocook and Michael Shiverdecker, a record number of band students from Gregg Middle School were named to the All-State and Region Bands this year: Alex Martinez (All-State), Tess Abrams (All-State), Rosemary Valmores (All-State), Ashlie Garcia (Region), McClendon Hughes (Region), Sidney Truluck (All-State & Region). Not pictured: Matthew Brunson (Region).





Steel Band Rated Superior

Members of the DuBose Middle School Advanced Steel Band participated in the SC Percussive Arts Society Day of Percussion Steel Festival and received the highest possible rating of Superior. In addition to performing for evaluation, students attended clinics with musicians and had the opportunity to win musical instruments as door prizes. Pictured are (front row, from left) Chad Merritt, Cobe Kinard, Gabriel Perry, Kaitlyn Webb, Lily Reece; (middle row) Zakary Rehrig, Victoria Ouzts, Cooper Clark, Cassidy Cripps-Pritchard, Elaina Poli; (back row) Bobby Wendel, Mitchell Jackson, Tristan Thornton, Mahki Pommelli, Damien Bartl.

ARHS Softball Team Reads to Kindergartners at SHES

On March 27, the girls' varsity softball team of Ashley Ridge High School traveled to Sand Hill Elementary to read to Kindergarten students.



"I think this is a great way to bring the enjoyment of reading to all the students involved," says ARHS Librarian Jennifer Traeger. "Our students are wonderful role models for our elementary school kids and to see the smiles on the kindergarten student's faces during reading time was precious."

The team spent about two hours reading to four different kindergarten classes.



FDES Students Earn Reflections Awards

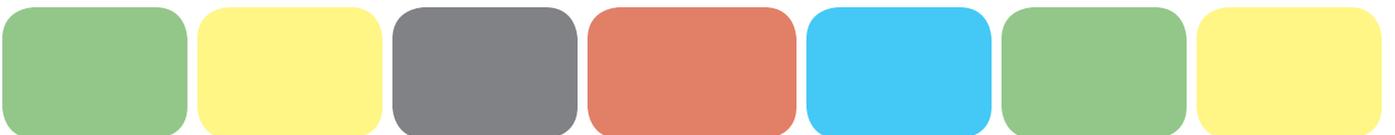
Fort Dorchester Elementary School fifth grader Alysse Davis (pictured above, left) received the Award of Excellence in Film Production for her entry titled, "Puppy", in the PTA Reflection Competition. PTA Reflections is a national program that sparks students' imagination, curiosity, and participation in the arts. Alysse was awarded a \$200 Young Artist Scholarship as well as a Silver Medal. Her entry will advance to the National Qualifying Round with the National Awardees announced on May 1.

Antara Gangrade (pictured above, right), also a fifth grader at FDES, received a Bronze Medal and the Award of Merit for Literature, with her entry titled, "I Made It!" Both Alysse and Antara's works will be featured in the National PTA Reflection's traveling exhibition.



Algebra Nation Visits District Schools

Study experts from Algebra Nation South Carolina, a dynamic free resource available for Algebra 1 students and teachers, held a pep rally at several Dorchester District Two schools. The pep rally was to get students excited for EOC prep, allow them to meet their favorite study experts, and learn about the TEST YOURSELF challenge. In the month of April, students have the opportunity to win an iPad and other prizes through this challenge.





Ashley Ridge Students Win Winthrop Cup

The Ashley Ridge Model UN Team traveled to Winthrop University March 21-23 to compete against 20 other schools from South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina in the Model UN competition. The students were named Best Overall School and brought home the Winthrop Cup.

Students spent many hours preparing for the competition with their teacher, Mrs. Victoria Merritt. They focused on several key things in order to be prepared for the competition. First, they learned all the formal rules of order. Second, they learned about worldwide issues and major historical events that may have caused different allies and enemies. Lastly, students focused on their individual countries that they would be representing so that they could be 'in character' at the competition.

"Model UN was such an intellectually stimulating experience," says ARHS student Anaya Waugh. "Winning was a collaborative effort and we worked together as a team. I was really nervous to think about competing against so many other people but I enjoyed learning about issues around the world and once I got there I knew that I was very prepared and focused. I really would like to get involved in Model United Nations in college because I enjoyed it so much."

Overall Results included:

- Distinguished Delegate in Legal: Anaya Waugh, Venezuela
- Distinguished/Most in Character Delegate in Hu-



- man Rights: Kyle Fersner, Iraq
- Distinguished Delegate in Human Rights: Jeremiah Williams, Egypt
- Distinguished Delegate in African Union: Selena Halabi
- Distinguished Delegate in Security Council: Collin Martin
- Top 3 Country in General Assembly: Iraq
- Top 3 Country in General Assembly: Egypt
- Best Overall School: Ashley Ridge

Student Wins at Theatre Festival

DuBose Middle School eighth grader Ashley Burgess won 1st place overall for her original monologue at the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association's 2018 Middle School Festival.

Burgess and members of the DMS Encore Theatre Company attended the SCSTA Middle School Festival and brought home superior ratings, as well as 2nd place overall for Group Acting. The DMS Encore Theater Company, an after-school program, competed against programs that all receive theatre instruction as a class during their school day.



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