

# Proof Positive

November 19, 2019  
Board of Trustees Meeting



## Head, Heart, Hands, Health and Horses

The results of the 2019 4-H State Horse Show by Lexington District One students, who are members of the Country Springs 4-H Horse Club in Pelion, provide a remarkable accolade to their dedication and determination to excel in equine matters.

Gilbert Middle Sixth Grader Victoria E. Leiter achieved impressive first-place wins in Cross Rails, Junior Hunter Showmanship and Hunter Under Saddle.

Pelion Middle's Brooke K. Stalnaker capped her riding performance with a first-place win in both Short Stirrup 2 Feet and Short Stirrup 2 Feet Equitation.

Held at Clemson University, riders from throughout the state put their riding and showmanship skills through rigorous displays with the aim of qualifying to compete at the 4-H Southern Regionals later in the year.



## A dramatic development at play

Carolina Springs Middle Drama Teacher Jennifer S. Simmons won the Pioneer Drama A+ Teacher Playwriting Contest with her play, "Game of Myths," in competition against teachers across the United States and Canada. The play uses Greek mythology, part of the content and standards in sixth grade. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade theater students performed the play last year.

The annual contest bestows \$500 on the winning author for the rights and as an advance on royalties. CSMS will receive a one-time \$500 gift in recognition of the playwright.

"Game of Myths" will be published, allowing other educators to incorporate the play into their own class activities.



## SCSPA honors 2019 Cat's Paw with highest ranking for Class 4 yearbook

The South Carolina Scholastic Press Association recognized Lexington High's yearbook, *Cat's Paw*, with an All-State award and the Palmetto Award for Class 4 yearbooks at their Fall 2019 Annual Conference.

Yearbook Advisers Amanda Hajji and Department Chair for the Arts Candace M. Cannon worked with the 2019 "Go Beyond" yearbook staff: E. Brooke Beatty, Trinity C. Bullock, Meredith A. Cook, Ana'liza "Izzy" M. Jeffcoat, Emily G. Montgomery, Julia A. Schirra, Carolyne G. Shealy, Alexa A. Sirois, Ella M. Stilwell, Kelsey A. Turner, Hannah G. "HG" Waters and Hannah E. Webster.

Cook also received an award in the Best Extended Caption category.

The annual fall conference, held October 10, 2019, drew more than 600 attendees and participants, reflecting their determination to work toward excellence in academic publications.



## Grants prepare students for college

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in partnership with the ACT awarded several mini-grants to schools participating in College Application Month and College Goal South Carolina events such as College Application Day, FAFSA workshops, and College Decision Day.

Pelion High's Director of School Counseling Jessica J. Burke qualified for a mini-grant to help expand student awareness of and access to statewide college for students.

## First-Place Winners abound at the S.C. State Fair

The talented and skilled students of Lexington District One who garnered first-place wins include Carolina Springs Middle's Allysén E. Lindler, Gilbert Middle's Victoria E. Leiter, Midway Elementary's Madelyn K. Brown, Pelion Middle's Brooke K. Stalnaker and River Bluff High's Josef E. Ivory.

In the arena, Lindler excelled in the 12 and under category, winning first place for Youth Horse Hunt Seat Equitation and Hunter Under Saddle, as well as Grand Champion Hunter Showmanship.

Leiter also received significant recognition in the 12 and under category, acing first place in Hunter over Fences 18 Inches.

Stalnaker nabbed first place in 12 and under Western Showmanship, rounding out a fine exhibition of extraordinary skills by Lexington District One equestrians.

Third grade student Brown took first-place for 3D Art. Twelfth grader Ivory became a finalist in photography and placed first in his category.



*Madelyn Brown*



*Victoria Leiter*



*Photo by Josef Ivory*

# Lexington District One grooms the best of the best

Quarter Horse Association, 4-H and FFA teams from across the country recently competed at the 53rd All-American Quarter Horse Congress.

White Knoll High Ninth Grader Aliza G. Allison attended the congress in Ohio this year, displaying an exemplary range of knowledge in both Hippology and the Horse Bowl. She attained first-place status in Hippology Overall Team, Hippology Stations Individual, Hippology Exam Team and Hippology Team Stations. She also won a Horse Bowl Overall Team category.



## Lexington District One schools receive Palmetto Gold and Silver awards

Established by the Education Accountability Act of 1998, South Carolina's annual Palmetto Gold and Silver awards program recognizes and rewards schools that attain high academic achievement or make substantial progress in closing the achievement gap.

Palmetto Silver awards given in 2019 to Lake Murray Elementary, Meadow Glen Elementary, Meadow Glen Middle, Midway Elementary, New Providence Elementary, River Bluff High and Rocky Creek Elementary recognize our schools' whole-hearted commitment to ensuring every student meets the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

In 2018, Meadow Glen Elementary and Rocky Creek Elementary achieved Palmetto Gold Award status. Palmetto Silver Awards recognized Gilbert Elementary, Gilbert High, Lake Murray Elementary, Midway Elementary, New Providence Elementary, River Bluff High and White Knoll Elementary.

We are proud of all our schools and appreciate the recognition received by the recipients of these awards for their extraordinary success in aiming for excellence.



## Pelion High coach receives prestigious honor

In the history of high school sports, only a few coaches out of the thousands who are in the profession are selected for the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame through a thorough selection process. In 2019, Pelion High Teacher and Coach Mark S. Bedenbaugh can now claim to be one of only a few dozen in the state of South Carolina who have been inducted into that Hall of Fame.

The exacting criteria that leads to selection includes a review of accomplishments and an outstanding record of integrity, character, behavior, leadership, and professional, community, and civic contributions.





## 'Chopped,' cheered and chosen

School district teams from around the Palmetto State competed for the championship of the 2019 "Chopped" competition held on October 18, 2019, at the 66th annual School Nutrition Association of South Carolina Conference.

The winning Lexington District One team of food service managers held Kelly B. Blevins of White Knoll High, Angie F. Furtick of Carolina Springs Middle and S. Renee Ritter of Gilbert High School.

A 45-minute battle against other districts required the team to creatively incorporate three "mystery" ingredients (mozzarella cheese, taco meat and Doritos) on a plate to create a tasty meal that met the judges' criteria and scored high in food safety, sanitation, teamwork and presentation.

## Strengthening Families Program reinforced at Red Bank Elementary

Support from the Children's Trust of South Carolina Strengthening Families Program brought \$75,000 to Red Bank Elementary. The money helps them to work closely with families to reduce problem behaviors and conflict, and improve communication skills — all while strengthening family relationships and teaching children necessary skills for success in school and life. The program focuses on families with children 6 to 11 years old, and provides preschool childcare and activities for children 12 to 16.

The Strengthening Families Program helps parents strengthen bonds with their children and learn more effective parenting skills. Each two-hour session includes a family meal before splitting into parenting classes and child classes, concluding the evening by coming together again as a full group to practice new skills.



## Walmart grants support White Knoll Middle's athletics

Two separate grants of \$1,000 each, one awarded to Principal Guy A. Smith and the other to Athletic Director and Football Coach Joseph L. Albino, enhance the athletic program at White Knoll Middle.

The Student Recognition funds purchase awards (trophies, plaques, etc.) for the end-of-year Honor Hawk awards program, and replenish the awards for first, second and third nine-weeks programs through the principal's office.

The Athletic Meals grant, submitted by Albino, provides light pre-game meals and hydration for the football, volleyball, basketball and cheer teams.

# Turning a new page

The schoolwide book club at White Knoll Middle benefited from a Dollar General Literacy Foundation Youth Literacy grant this past summer. Reading opportunities and activities were greatly enhanced by Lead Interventionist and Instructional Coach Candace A. Lett's acquisition of \$2,000 in grant funding to purchase Junior Book Awards books.

WKMS was one of only 14 schools in South Carolina to receive this grant, which is intended to help students who are below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading.

## Gatorade recognizes athletic health and safety innovator

River Bluff High's co-head athletic trainer, George S. Wham, recently won honors for promoting health and safety among student athletes during his tenure at Pelion High. Gatorade and the National Athletic Trainers' Association named Wham as the District 3 Gatorade Secondary School Athletic Trainer of the Year.

The Gatorade Secondary School Athletic Trainer Award recognizes a certified athletic trainer from each NATA district who has made outstanding contributions in furthering their high school's athletic care program or the overall profession of Secondary School Athletic Training.

As part of the award, George received a Gatorade Play It Forward Grant for his school's program as part of Gatorade's initiative to encourage and empower athletes to realize their potential through sport.

## DonorsChoose supports Lexington District One teachers

The online giving platform DonorsChoose.org gives educators an opportunity to post funding requests for extra technology, etc.

Educators with fully funded projects include: Meadow Glen Elementary First Grade Teacher T. Deneece "Deni" Titcomb; Midway Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher Tammy Sharpe; Red Bank Elementary Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Christina L. Burbage; and White Knoll Middle Drama Teacher Debra C. Adams, Special Education Teacher Lisa M. Hartman, Chorus Teacher Jordan Henry, Sixth Grade Social Studies Teacher Suzanne R. Keller, Special Education Teacher Chandler T. Mappus, Sixth Grade Social Studies Teacher John Paul Sellars, Special Education Teacher Bonnie L. Slyce and Orchestra Teacher Jolene K Walter.

First grade students at MGES will benefit from more flexible seating and fidget tools.

The funding for MES purchases conceptual material for better learning, including materials kits, a tabletop easel and chart paper, and almost \$300 on a series of books for the classroom to support students becoming readers for life.

RBES sought funds to honor Helen McGough, a former RBES teacher, with "Communicating What We See and Do" hands-on activity and visual materials for deaf/hard of-hearing students to encourage language, storytelling and conversations.

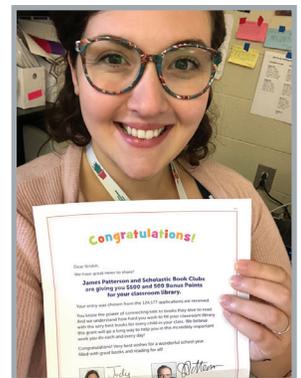
WKMS received a range of funding to support equipment and technology, books to supplement instruction, classroom supplies and athletic gear to enhance physical exercise and better health.



## Grant application hits the mark

Each year author James Patterson teams up with Scholastic Book Clubs to award teachers cash and bonus points to apply to building their classroom libraries.

Carolina Springs Middle Eighth Grade Teacher Kristin W. Loughlin, a new teacher this academic year, received a \$500 grant and 500 SBC bonus points to help build her classroom library through this Patterson Partnership.



Selected as one of 4,500 recipients from among more than 125,000 applicants, Loughlin intends to use the grant and points to expand her students' book choices to keep them engaged and interested in reading.



# Bringing bright ideas to light

Support for ideas and initiatives provided by Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative’s Bright Ideas grant program provides educators up to \$1,000.

This year’s winners include Gilbert Elementary’s Michelle L. Fuller, Pelion Middle’s Ashley Owens, Saxe Gotha Elementary’s A. Eunice Broach, Kimberly A. Lewis and Dona M. Vestal, and White Knoll Elementary’s Elizabeth “Beth” W. Banco.

These grants provided funding for a cross-curricular art and science lesson for 250 fifth grade students, cold-frame greenhouse raised beds that students will build in their school and community garden, and additional LEGO materials to help second grade students expand coding projects.



## Shaping a generation that welcomes everyone



Carolina Springs Middle continues to successfully seek funding support for its Special Olympics projects.

Special Education Teacher Erin B. Shumpert’s recent grant from the Unified Champion School program guarantees that the program continues to flourish and provide rich opportunities that lead to the creation of socially inclusive schools that support and engage all learners.

# Trick-or-Trees project brings a shady future

Carolina Springs Middle World Language Teacher and Junior Beta Club Sponsor Mary Anne Deal-Jenkins applied for and received a non-monetary Palmetto Pride's Tree Grant which donates trees to be used in beautification projects.

CSMS's Junior Beta Club planted the donated 75 red maple trees on campus near the outdoor fields to enhance the property after Lexington District One Maintenance staff assisted with marking power, water and gas lines near and at the site, digging holes, delivery of the trees, and making sure the 35 students involved were prepared to properly plant the trees for a healthy growth outcome.

The project, named "Trick-or-Trees," was led by CSMS students Nathan T. duBarry, Skylar M. Esbensen, Zaria E. Gibson and Gregory T. Pinckney.





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The district will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to process complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The district designates specific individuals to handle inquiries or complaints. To find out whom to contact and how to contact them, please go to our website at <http://www.lexington1.net/contact-us>.