

District Highlights

• Gavin Hunt, a senior at Ashley Ridge High School, has been selected as a Top 10 State Semifinalist for the 2019 US Senate Youth Scholarship Competition.

Gavin was selected as one of the state's top 10 semifinalists from 146 students nominated. Gavin will now compete in the state finals at the State Department of Education when two students will be chosen to represent S.C. in Washington, D.C. for the national competition. The two state winners will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

•Fifth graders Tamia Vanhorn and Ella Reck of Dr. Eugene Sires Elementary School were recently selected as members of the 2019 South Carolina Elementary Honor Choir. They will travel to Columbia in February and sing alongside other choir members as they work with guest clinician Dr. Rollo Dillworth.



The following Ashley Ridge High School students were named to the All State Chorus: Audrey Smith, Casey Dorman, Colby Goodwin, Delaney Church, Emily Cooper, Meghan Frady, Madeline Van Dyke, Jordan Thompson, Davod Culbreth, Annay Sonthwal, David Perkins, Tiggarr Blanding, Jaden Campbell, Roberto Machado, Michael Trimboli, Konrak Knaak, Preston Tuttle, and Davis Russell.

FDHS Participates in High School Nation

Fort Dorchester High School recently had its students out moving and learning as they hosted High School Nation.

High School Nation brings live music and interactive booths to schools all over the country encouraging students to participate in activities related to careers in the fine arts. Students spent part of the day, singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, screen printing t-shirts, taking photos, and learning how to design video games. All 2,200 students participated in the event and some won prizes such as skateboards, home DJ sets, or t-shirts they designed themselves. Students had the unique opportunity to engage with musicians and artists from all over the country and learn about career opportunities in music and art.



Learning Takes on New Twist at ARHS

Many elementary schools have “break-out” room boxes to teach students library concepts or other material depending on the subject being taught. Ashley Ridge High School Media Specialist Jennifer Traeger wanted to try this at the high school level, and the results have been a success.

Traeger calls their boxes “lock-boxes” and custom-makes them with her staff, designing every puzzle, riddle, and clue to solve. Their first box was for freshmen library orientation. Every student was engaged and had a blast learning library concepts. The biggest success was that the students had to work together with their teammates to solve the envelope full of clues and break into their box.

Once word spread of the orientation lesson, teachers became interested in having lock-boxes created. The lock-boxes are designed specifically for class lessons. Students are learning new concepts, reviewing concepts or simply being introduced to a concept that will be discussed in depth in their classrooms. This is a great way for students to add excitement to learning and has increased their interest in the library.



District Schools Get Into the Spirit of Halloween



On October 29, River Oaks Middle School hosted their Fall Literacy Night with the theme “Day of the Dead.” Media Specialist Kristyn Palazzolo designed the event to highlight the cultural holiday celebrated in Mexico. The room featured student-created decorations such as clay sugar skulls, posters, an altar for Frida Kahlo, and paper lanterns and flowers. Students were encouraged to dress up for the event and invite their families.

Activities included writing words in Spanish on a graffiti wall; writing funny eulogies for favorite teachers; creating origami skeleton bookmarks; sugar skull face painting; creating paper flowers and vases; and creating sugar skull marks. A special cookie decoration station was donated by the school PTSA. The final touch was a reptile snake exhibit in the library run by Kris Boldizar, who works at Bee City.

In addition, students put on two performances for the event. Rico Isaac performed a piece called “Lord Dinwitty” and the second performance “Death Takes the Train” was performed by Dante Lungaro, Demetria Beaufort, Antionne Williams, Antwan Cummings, and Jayla Harris.

Eugene Sires Elementary held their annual Book Character Parade and Trunk or Treat celebration on October 31st. During these events, students dressed like a book character. First grader Major McLeod chose Fly Guy, a popular fly from the Fly Guy books as his character, and used his wings to “fly” through the Sires’ parade.

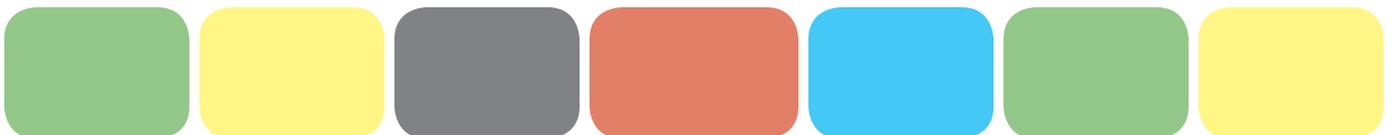


On Halloween morning, every student and teacher at Eagle Nest Elementary School dropped everything and read during the third annual PB&J celebration (Pumpkins, Books & Jammies) – because Eagle Nest and reading go together like PB&J!

Throughout the school, students curled up with blankets and good books and read while snacking on muffins and juice. Fifth graders took over the media center; third and fourth graders made themselves comfortable in the multipurpose room; second graders read with their kindergarten reading buddies; and first grade stayed home and read on the first grade wing. For thirty minutes, all was quiet at the Nest.



Adult Education ESL and Family Literacy Wee Wonders celebrated Halloween together with trick-or-treating and yummy food.





Pictured (front row, from left): Board Chair Tanya Robinson, Foundation Director Jennie Crosby, Italian Feast organizers Al Casciato, Jay Lombardo, Ralph Tileston, Russ Pudala; (back row) Superintendent Joe Pye and Foundation Board Chair Shannon Raglin.

Italian Feast Donates to Foundation

At the November 12 school board meeting, organizers for the Summerville Italian Feast held this fall presented a check for \$12,000 in proceeds from the festival to the Dorchester Two Educational Foundation to benefit Dorchester District Two schools.



Students Win at Dimension U

SPAWAR funds a math gaming program for 7th grade students called DimensionU. In October, they sponsored a challenge to encourage students to practice their math skills by getting on DimensionU and playing some math games. The three students in the district to get the most points won virtual reality headsets. The winners were Arkar Oo, Oakbrook Middle School; Cameron Sulton, Gregg Middle School; and Kyle McSparron, Gregg Middle School, all pictured above with their teachers.

Fox Den Coffee Unveiled

On October 1, Ashley Ridge High School's PTSA unveiled its newest project, The Fox Den Coffee House. FDCH is a school-run coffeehouse that partners with Coastal Coffee Roasters to bring environmentally friendly coffee to the students and staff. Even better, it is a true school endeavor.



From the stamping of the coffee sleeves and creating the menu to marketing the drinks and growing the herbs to make simply syrups, students have an opportunity to be a part of the coffee-house.

The AR culinary program is in the beginning stages of working on items to sell in the coffee shop while Horticulture uses used coffee grinds for fertilizer for their crops. Students are gaining valuable interpersonal skills as well as practical business skills. The coffee shop will give students hands-on experience in entrepreneurship.

Art Teacher Anne Baggett is pictured with 3rd grader Olivia Montagna dressed as artist Frida Kahlo at the Summerville Elementary School Book Character Parade.



SES Holds Book Character Parade

Summerville Elementary School held its annual Book Character Parade on October 31. Students and teachers dressed as a favorite book character and paraded around the school track.

WINTER BREAK
DECEMBER 21 - January 4





DMS a Unified Champion School

Mrs. Jennifer Witten's class from DuBose Middle School recently attended the 2018 Youth Activation Summit for Special Olympics. They learned about establishing an inclusive environment, how to become a Unified Champion School and how to establish inclusive youth leadership. In South Carolina there are 285 Unified Champion Schools. This is the first year that DuBose Middle School will be a Unified Champion School.



BHES Donates Shoes for a Cause

As Beech Hill Elementary classes work to "Change the World for Good," Kindergarten students participated in a service learning project for the Connect Lighthouse to collect shoes in an effort to raise money for a Beech Hill relative in need. For every 25 pairs of shoes, the organization Funds2Orgs will donate money towards a 5-organ transplant for an uncle of a BHES student, and distribute the shoes to needy families in 3rd world countries.



Students Take Anti-Bullying Pledge

Mr. Keith Deltano visited Oakbrook Middle School on November 19 to deliver an outstanding Anti-Bullying presentation. All students heard the presentation and had the opportunity to take the Anti-Bullying Pledge during 8th period that day. Mr. Deltano also conducted a workshop for parents and students to give them strategies to help safeguard against bullying.



GMS Named Football Champions

Under the leadership of Coach Corey Harris, the Gregg Middle School Mustangs football team won the 2018-2019 Dorchester District Two Middle School Football Championship for the second year in a row.

Basketball Team Visits FES

The ladies basketball team from the College of Charleston visited Flowertown Elementary to speak to the Basketball Buzz Club and the Bee Fit Student Wellness Team about basketball, being active, and being a student athlete. The ladies also shot some hoops and gave the kids pointers on basketball.

