

# *Florence County School District Three*

# **BITS & PIECES**

*A Newsletter from the Superintendent*

*April 19, 2019*

## ***FCSD3 Uses Strategic Planning Meeting to Prepare Graduates for the Future***

Parents, students, community leaders and educators gathered at Nan Ya Plastics Corporation on Monday, April 15, to participate in Florence County School District Three's District annual Strategic Planning Meeting and help create an educational road map to prepare district graduates for college and careers.

The workshop is part of FCSD3's annual improvement review process.

Superintendent Laura Hickson acknowledged that everyone wants excellent schools and successful students, but it takes everyone working together to make that vision a reality.

Participants reviewed the district mission and vision along with the district goals approved by the board of trustees and the district's strategic plan goals.

The stakeholders' groups discussed a list of eight guiding questions and recorded their answers. Questions included "What factors will drive change in education the next 10 years?", "What changes or additions, if any, should be made to our current mission?" and "What can we as a staff and as students do to help keep our schools safe?". Answers

to each question were then presented to the entire group.

Participants also heard a presentation on the FCSD3's Title I, Title II and Title III programs and how the district uses those federal funds. Those attending the meeting were asked for public input on the use of federal funds before the district submits federal grant applications for the 2019-2020 school year.



## ***FCSD3 Academic Challenge Teams Finishes Second in Regional Tournament***

The Academic Challenge Team, comprised of seventh- and eighth-graders from J. Paul Truluck Creative Arts and Science Magnet School and Dr. Ronald E. McNair School of Digital Communication and Leadership may have finished with a 3-2 season this year, but the team came on strong in the regional tournament at the Pee Dee Education Center March 9 and finished in second place.

The team lost in the finals to Williams Middle School, the eventual state champion, after competing against and defeating teams from across the nine surrounding counties.

To participate on the team, students were required to complete a test to try out for the team and participated in practices and matches twice a week during the months of January and February.

Team members and coaches Susan Cox, Amanda Cullars and Cliff Gardner were recognized by the FCSD3 board of trustees Thursday during its regular monthly meeting.





## ***Fifty-three DREM Students Rewarded with Kayaking Trip Along Black River***

Fifty-three students from Dr. Ronald E. McNair School of Digital Communication and Leadership went on a kayaking trip on the Black River Wednesday, April 10.

The trip was led by the Coastal Expeditions group out of Charleston. Students were taught kayaking basics on land and then embarked on a two-hour kayaking trip in pairs down the Black River. Students were taught how to steer and paddle as well as other proper techniques for boating.

Students learned about the flora and fauna in their surroundings and a brief history about how General Francis Marion hid and navigated this river. Before returning to shore, student groups had kayaking races to show off their new skills.

Students were selected for the trip by random drawing. Their names were entered into the drawing for meeting a spring MAP goal, earned PBIS Bucks, earned Principal PBIS recommendation or if they had perfect attendance for the third quarter.



## ***SESA Holds STEAM Family Night***

Students and their families got to experience what it's like to be a student at SESA when they attended two sessions geared towards STEAM learning and these sessions were led by students.

Some of the sessions included robotics, gardening, Google science, Spanish bingo, engineering with KEVA planks and art activities.

Information about the school's STEAM classes was shared with families and they also got to view and vote on a "People's Choice" project for the school's STEAM Fair. All of those projects were on display and they included recyclable arcade games, instruments, tools, boats, cars and bridges.

Parents left with tips and strategies they can use with their children at home to help them academically in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art and math.



*On Friday, April 5, 161 students from Scranton Elementary STEAM Academy traveled to Southgate Bowling Alley in Florence for a fun-filled day of bowling. These students in grades 5K-sixth grades earned this trip by meeting both of their spring MAP goals. This event was filled with laughter, fun and good sportsmanship and everyone had a blast.*

***Submit your articles and photos  
for Bits and Pieces  
by noon Thursdays to  
[bhuckabee@fsd3.org](mailto:bhuckabee@fsd3.org)***



# **Lake City Early Childhood Center enjoyed breakfast after having the Best Attendance for March**

