

Florence County School District Three

BITS & PIECES

A Newsletter from the Superintendent

November 17, 2017

FCSD3 Receives 'Clean' Audit Report from Independent Auditor for FY17

Florence County School District Three received a "clean audit" following an annual review of its 2016-2017 school year.

The auditor's opinion of the district's financial statements and footnotes states that it is a clean audit report, said James Lawrimore of Lawrimore CPA Group, LLC, at Thursday's regular monthly board of trustees meeting.

Lawrimore presented the independent annual audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining funds information for the year ending June 30, 2017.

The audit showed one significant deficiency, Lawrimore told board members. The district, he said, is not in compliance with SC Code Section 59-20-90, "Fiscal Practices and Budgetary Conditions," that became law May 9. The Act requires the S.C. Department of Education to develop and adopt a statewide program for identifying fiscal practices and budgetary conditions that, if uncorrected, could compromise the fiscal integrity of a school district. The Act requires that school districts maintain a general reserve fund of at least one month of general fund operating expenditures of the previous two completed fiscal years. The Act uses two tests in order to determine compliance. The first test uses the general fund operating expenditures for the current year and the second test uses an average of the current year and prior year general fund expenditures.

One month of general fund current year expenditures for District Three is \$2,284,403. One month of general fund operating expenditures based on an average of current and prior year is \$2,327,269.

As the principal operating fund of the district, the general fund is responsible for approximately 75 percent of the total instructional and supporting expenditures. The school district ended last 2015-2016 fiscal year with a negative general fund balance of \$1,279,757. This year the district ended the year with a surplus of \$1,537,538, turning the general fund balance to a positive \$257,781 or 0.91 percent of the operating budget.

The district concurs with the finding in this FY17 audit and will continue to implement an intentional corrective action plan that began last year in December 2016. Strategic

procedures were approved by the board and implemented in December to establish financial stability. All material weaknesses, significant deficiencies and current and prior year matters for consideration found in the FY16 audit were addressed and corrected by June 30.

The district and board of trustees will continue to maintain a budget that prioritizes instruction and safety and builds the reserve fund balance.

Students Provide JPT a Natural Decor

A group of students from J. Paul Truluck Intermediate School planted flowers in front of the school Wednesday, October 25.

Students worked with Kelli Meeker and Rebecca Turk, representatives from Moore Farms Botanical Garden, to get hands-on experience with plants. Each student was briefed with information regarding the plants that they interacted with and applied that information in their gardening. Students planted a Hydrangea bush, ferns, Strawberry Begonias, Liriope, and Hostas.

Throughout the process students were able to demonstrate both their knowledge and their creativity. Furthermore, the students' hard work helped to exemplify this year's theme at JPTIS: W.I.L.D. about Learning.

Students at JPTIS are wise, inquisitive, loyal, and determined.





Barbara Singletary-Bryant (second from left), chairperson of the FCSD3 board of trustees, administers the oath of office to new board member Johnnice Williams during Thursday's monthly board of trustees meeting. also pictured are FCSD3 Superintendent Laura Hickson (left) and Adam Williams (right), Ms. Williams's son. Ms. Williams was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Lane N. Floyd. Ms. Williams will serve the remainder of the term, which expires in 2018.

LCECC Celebrates Thanksgiving

Lake City Early Childhood Center celebrated National Parent Involvement Day in a big way Thursday, November 16.

The school invited stakeholders to have an early Thanksgiving Feast with students and staff. Over 190 parents, grandparents and community members came to celebrate Thanksgiving with the students at LCECC.

It was a well-organized, delicious affair with a tasty traditional Thanksgiving meal complete with turkey, stuffing and even ham, among other savory items. The cafeteria, art and multipurpose rooms were transformed into lovely dining areas complete with patterned tablecloths, comfortable seating and handmade turkey centerpieces. The centerpieces were an extension of a project-based learning experience where students made real connections to the meaning of Thanksgiving and things they are thankful for this year.

LCECC appreciates the dedication of its families, community and staff for helping create a Thanksgiving feast the students won't soon forget.



MSE Hosts Annual Heroes Day

Main Street Elementary School hosted its annual Heroes Day Breakfast Friday, November 9 to honor local heroes and military veterans.

In attendance were Mayor Lovith Anderson, Chief of Police Kipp Coker, Fire Chief Randy Driggers, a number of sheriff deputies, policemen, firemen and paramedics.

The program was officiated by John Battiste, students (Amari Hannah led the Pledge of Allegiance and D'Andre McDaniel said a prayer). Assistant Principal Tonyelle Thomas gave closing remarks.

The guest speaker for the occasion was fourth-grade teacher Brittany Lawrence, who is a nine-year veteran and serves in the United States Army National Guard as a first lieutenant.

She encouraged veterans to give back to their local communities through charities, donations, volunteering, and to be more visible so that students can interact with the heroes they so often admire and hope to emulate.



MSE Hosts Thanksgiving Feast

Main Street Elementary School parents really turned out for the school's Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 16, during each grade level lunch.

The cafeteria was decorated for fine dining for the parents and students.

The expressions of the parents were, "it's beautiful," "this is nice" and "the food is delicious."

There were a lot of smiling faces and everyone enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by Sandra Floyd and her cafeteria staff.



Kindergarten Elections at LCECC

During the week of October 30-November 3, the kindergarten students of Lake City Early Childhood Center began to learn about the election process. The roles of the president and vice president were discussed.

Each class was responsible for electing a class president and vice president. Students elected were Erie Burgess and Zylon Morris, Lexandria Reid and Jermaine Ware, Mhriyah Croker and Shyheem Graham, Chennedy Kegler and Marli Gaskins, Rylen Williams and Gia Hannah, Cayliana Ford and Christopher Gregg.

The candidates spent a week campaigning, making posters and creating slogans to try and win the vote of their fellow kindergarten students.

The candidates enjoyed a limo ride Thursday, November 9, provided by Mr. Barr from Graham and Godwin Funeral Home, before walking the red carpet. They stood before their peers and presented campaign speeches to persuade their peers to vote for them.

Bertha Scott from the Florence County Board of Voter Registrations and Elections brought two voting booths and an official ballot box.

When it was time to vote, Revely Thomy was there to assist with the ballots and the voting process. Each student was given a voter's registration card and a sticker to show they voted.

After all of the ballots were counted, a new kindergarten president and vice president were announced. Congratulations to Rylen Williams and Gia Hannah!



PEBA Offers Members New No-Pay Copay for Certain Generic Medications

No-Pay Copay encourages members to be more engaged in their health—and saves them money. This program allows members with certain conditions to receive generic drugs at no cost. Participants qualify for the program on a quarterly basis. By completing certain activities in one quarter, they can receive certain generic drugs the next quarter.

Covered conditions include:

- High blood pressure and high cholesterol;
- Cardiovascular disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease; and
- Diabetes.

No-Pay Copay will pay for your generic medications to treat your condition. All you need to do is complete a few simple health-enhancing activities each quarter. Your custom activities may include talking to a health coach, reading articles about your condition or having a lab test. Every three months, your required activities will change. You'll need to complete the new activities to qualify for your generic drugs the next three months.

BlueCross identifies eligible members and mails an in-

itation to join the program. Participants must then [register for the Rally](#) to complete activities. Visit StateSC.South-CarolinaBlues.com or call BlueCross at 800.868.2520 for more details.

If you think you qualify for the program, call BlueCross at 855.838.5897. BlueCross administers the program. Express Scripts, the pharmacy benefits manager, can provide more information about eligible generic prescriptions. Contact Express Scripts at 855.612.3128.

***Submit your articles and photos
for Bits and Pieces by
noon Thursdays to
bhuckabee@fsd3.org***

4H/STEM Students Make Corn Dance

Scranton Elementary STEAM Academy 4H/STEM members made corn kernels do magic at their latest 4H meeting.

They were able to make corn kernels “dance” in a jar. As they made this happen they realized this wasn’t magic at all. Instead, it was a chemical reaction that caused the kernels to rise to the surface and fall back down continuously.

Students worked in groups to complete this experiment and were all very excited to see it in action.



Sue-Ham Visits OES 5K Students

Sulondia Hammond, also known as “Sue -Ham,” inspired Olanta Elementary School 5K students in Chasie Cattenhead and Yvonne McFadden’s class by repeatedly saying, “I just want to be me.”

Sue-Ham is a native of Kingstree and a motivational mover for millions. She is the creator of the Sue-Ham School of Success, a published author, motivational and business speaker, and internet marketer. She has appeared on The Steve Harvey Show twice and was featured in the movie, *This Christmas*.

She interacted with the students by impersonating Michael Jackson, a doctor and a singer. She encouraged students to dream big and charged them to never give up.



OES Goes on Community Walkabout

Second-grade students at Olanta Elementary School wrapped up their geography unit by taking a walk around their community.

The students visited four important places to learn about what each one offered the people in their community.

The first stop was Dr. John M. Thomason Public Library. Robert Slabaugh talked with the students about the many things that the library has to offer. They were told how to get a library card and were given a list of various upcoming events. Ms. Crystal gave the children a tour of the children’s section and talked with them about the rules of the library and why they were needed.

The next stop was The Citizens Bank. The students were introduced to the employees and then Ms. Valerie took them on a tour of the bank. They got to go into the various vaults and see a stack of money. The students were very impressed with the history lesson of the bank as well as the gifts they received. Each child went home with a piggy bank so that they could begin saving.

The students also visited the Olanta Town Hall where they were given a tour by Mayor Huggins. They were also able to take pictures in the courtroom. They learned more about small town government.

The last stop was the neighborhood IGA. Students were given a tour of the store and learned about where the various products came from and how they got to the store.

One group of students was given an amount of cash. Their job was to purchase snacks for both classes. The students had to create a budget based on the number of students and the amount of money they had. The students had the opportunity to go shopping at the IGA using the budget they had created to purchase snacks for the classmates, teachers and chaperones.

The field trip was very enjoyable as well as educational. The students were able to see the real world results of what they had been taught in the classroom.

