

# Proof Positive

November 14, 2017 • Board of Trustees Meeting  
LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE



## From bogeys to birdies and everything in between

Lexington High girls golf extended its legacy by claiming another state championship on October 24. In the past 14 years, the Lady Wildcat golfers earned 12 state titles.

Members of the 2017 winning team include Lexington High's **Caroline L. Bedenbaugh, Emily D. Beiers, Gracy L. Burgess, Abby C. Gore, Molly C. Hardwick, Hannah N. Stephenson** and **Karlee M. Vardas**, and Pleasant Hill Middle's **Emily C. Barnett, Bella A. Bernagozzi, Kennedy T. Gooding** and **Isabella H. Rawl**.

During the first day of the 5A state tournament, LHS leaped out in front of the competition with a 34-stroke lead. Extending their lead further, LHS finished the tournament with a 49-stroke victory over Boiling Springs — just three strokes shy of the state record held by LHS.

Head Coach **C. Brandon Smith** says he's "unbelievably proud of this team from top to bottom."

In the individual 5A standings, Burgess finished third overall with a two-day total of 146. Rawl came in one stroke behind her with 147 for a fourth-place finish.





## Building a future

Five-year-old **Rabun W. Coppock** doesn't let her small stature keep her from accomplishing big things. By raising funds for children battling serious illnesses, Coppock received the Mungo Community Builder award on October 11.

In partnership with WIS-TV, Mungo Homes honors community leaders who have contributed to the region in a positive way.

Coppock, a New Providence Elementary School student, began raising money for Happy Wheels this fall using tooth fairy money. Instead of keeping the money for herself, she purchased toys and books for Happy Wheels, a nonprofit that distributes toys and books to hospitalized children.

Coppock raises money at a snow cone and popcorn stand in her neighborhood, and isn't shy about asking fellow Clemson fans for a donation when she attends games with her parents.

To date, she's raised approximately \$8,000 to support Happy Wheels. As the youngest Mungo Community Builder to date, Coppock received a \$1,000 donation from Mungo Homes for Happy Wheels.

## Signing yearbooks with 'Cougar Pride'

Before entering high school, a group of Lexington District One students created an award-winning middle school yearbook.

The 2016–2017 "Cougar Pride" yearbook staff at Pleasant Hill Middle won the S.C. Scholastic Press Association's Palmetto Award given to the best yearbook in each classification. Members of the winning staff included Gilbert High's **Natalie N. Cousins** and Lexington High's **S. Reagan Blackwell, Samantha L. Bucknam, Camryn W. Hambrick, Izzy M. Jeffcoat, Morgan R. McManus** and **Abby M. Wright**.

The "Cougar Pride" yearbook also received All-State, the highest level of evaluation, during the S.C. Scholastic Press Association's Fall Conference. Jeffcoat also took second place for Best Sports Photo, and Bucknam won third place for Best Feature Photo.

PHMS has received the Palmetto Award and All-State multiple times during the last decade under the direction of Yearbook Adviser **René S. Horton**. These talented individuals continue to bring their creativity and inventiveness to creating a top-notch yearbook for their school.





## Parents as Teachers

The Lexington District One Parenting Center serves as a valuable resource for district families as they prepare to send children to school full time. The center's team of **Maria E. Arroyo, Marla G. Hamilton, Gigi E. Towers, Milu F. Walker** and **Chanta V. J. Zeigler** recently earned Blue Ribbon Affiliate endorsement from the Parents as Teachers organization.

To receive Blue Ribbon endorsement, an affiliate must meet or exceed all 17 Essential Requirements and meet at least 75 percent of the additional Parents as Teachers Quality Standards during the Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement and Improvement process.

The Lexington District One Parenting Center staff not only met or exceeded all 17 Essential Requirements, but they also met 92 percent of the Quality Standards.

Staff members seek to empower parents to be their child's first teacher through weekly home visits, school-based centers and community group activities. The center offers a bilingual program, teen parenting program and an adult education/family literacy program.

The Blue Ribbon endorsement remains valid for five years as long as the affiliate continues to meet standards.

## Billue joins CERRA board

Lexington High's **Sheryn H. Billue** recently joined the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement's board of directors.

The organization strives to recruit and retain South Carolina's best and brightest teachers. As a board member, Billue will help oversee the Center's budget and operations for the next three years.

An AP Statistics and International Baccalaureate Mathematics Teacher, Billue has more than 20 years of educational experience. She represented Lexington District One as District Teacher of the Year in 2015 and was named a finalist for State Teacher of the Year in 2016.







## Energizing 'Bright Ideas'

Representatives from Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative surprised four Lexington District One teachers with a \$1,000 check.

Lexington Middle's **Meghan Blackburn**, Pleasant Hill Elementary's **Anya S. Degtyareva**, Red Bank Elementary's **John Paul Sellars** and River Bluff High's **Aaron G. Railey** received funding for class projects through MCEC's Bright Ideas program for educators.

MCEC provides grant funds each October to "energize" learning environments around Lexington, Richland and Saluda counties. Educators must demonstrate their project's goals and innovative elements in order to be considered for grant funding.

Lexington District One's Bright Ideas innovative projects include a new recording studio, multi-cultural music education, STEAM family nights focused on healthy choices, and a TechGirlz Club.

## Fiscal Services earns accolades

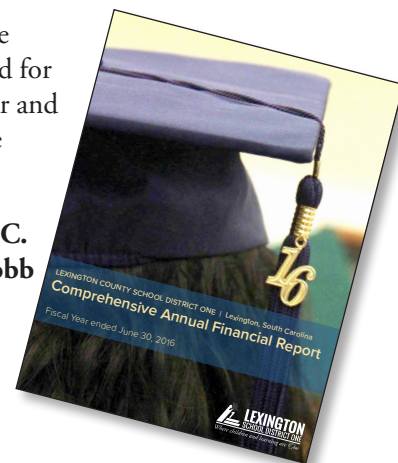
Lexington District One's Fiscal Services Office received two accolades for the Fiscal Year 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Both the Association of School Business Officials International and the Government Finance Officers Association recognized the district with their top honor. The district received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from ASBO and a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from GFOA.

Earning these honors, the highest forms of recognition in the areas of governmental accounting and financial reporting, represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The achievement signifies the district met or exceeded each association's highest standards for financial reporting and accountability.

The Fiscal Services Office received the ASBO award for the 23rd consecutive year and the GFOA award for the 22nd consecutive year.

**Deena S. Bishop, John C. Butler** and **David A. Cobb** accepted the award.



## Duvall steps up

Lexington High's **Anna R. Duvall** stepped into a leadership role with a state organization this year. In addition to her duties as LHS's director of guidance, Duvall was elected president of the Palmetto State School Counselor Association's executive board.

Duvall will serve a one-year term as president. She hopes to see PSSCA grow to better serve and support its members across South Carolina.

PSSCA promotes excellence in the profession of school counseling in order to enhance service for all students.



## Stop the presses

Lexington High's **Amanda L. Hajji** encourages her students to be creative and think outside of the box as they work long hours to create the LHS yearbook, "Cat's Paw." This fall, she became the first Lexington District One employee to receive the S.C. Scholastic Press Association's Bruce E. Konkle Rising Star Award.

Hajji, a French teacher, allows students to take the lead while guiding them toward professionalism in media production. Students know she runs the yearbook like a business, tailoring editorial responsibilities to their strengths.

Principal Melissa Rawl described Hajji as someone who "brought a burst of light to a darkening curriculum."

Former student Rosemary Coskrey agrees. "I will forever appreciate her support and advice throughout that process, and am so grateful to have had a teacher who puts so much energy into forming meaningful connections with her students."



## Patterson Partnership Grant

Author James Patterson continued his pledge to support literacy by offering grant funding to educators. Carolina Springs Elementary's **Maria G. Tamayo** received funding in the fall 2017 cycle.

Through Scholastic Book Clubs, Patterson distributed \$500 each to 3,500 teachers nationwide. Scholastic matched his donation with 500 bonus points for each winner, which teachers can use to acquire books and other materials.

Tamayo plans to purchase titles for her ESOL students at CSES and Gilbert Elementary.

# What do you get when you cross 3-D art with a chicken?

Multiple Lexington District One students won first-place ribbons at the 2017 S.C. State Fair. From baking cakes to creating art to riding champion horses, students showcased their talents and passions.

First-place student art winners included Pleasant Hill Elementary's **Hudson J. Kupchinsky** for 3-D art, **Carson R. Myers** for photography and **Brooks M. Warren** for 2-D art; Pleasant Hill Middle's **Aubrey E. Kraft** for 3-D art; River Bluff High's **Carrie Balda-Sherer** for 2-D art and **Jennifer R. Sturkie** for photography; and Rocky Creek Elementary's **Madison P. Jordan** for 2-D art.

**Carrie Balda-Sherer** won both Best in Show for 2-D art at the high school level and an overall Best in Show.

Carolina Springs Middle's **Aliza Grace Allison**, Forts Pond Elementary's **Brooke K. Stalnaker**, Gilbert Elementary's **Kameron L. Benac**, Gilbert High's **Ellie G. Dukes**, Gilbert Middle's **Khara D. Cox**, Lexington High's **Avery A. Vining** and Midway Elementary's **Hailee E. Thomas** won first-place ribbons for competing in the fair's youth horse events. While judges watched closely, they demonstrated communication with and control over their horses as they put them through a routine.

Students also showed skill in arts and crafts. First-place winners included Lake Murray Elementary's **Laken C. Busher** for a LEGO creation, Lexington High's **MaKenna J. Busher** for a decorated cake, Pleasant Hill Middle's **Emmeline C. McKelvey** for homemade cupcakes, and White Knoll Elementary's **D. Jay Rutherford** and **K. Lane Rutherford** for creative lanyards.

In the agriculture category, GHS's **Kayhsen L. Taylor** won numerous awards including two first-place ribbons for oats and peanuts she grew and harvested. Pelion High's **Natalie K. Sharpe** won five first-place ribbons and two second-place ribbons in the small stock category for her exceptional chickens.



## Move over Picasso

Pleasant Hill Elementary's **Anya S. Degtyareva** won an award for the second consecutive year recognizing her work guiding promising young artists. Degtyareva received the Student Art Education Teacher Award in the elementary division for having the most student art winners at the 2017 S.C. State Fair.

More than 10 of Degtyareva's students received awards in categories including photography, 2-D art and 3-D art. Students won first-, second- and third-place ribbons, in addition to multiple merit awards.

Degtyareva joined PHES in 2012 as an art teacher after teaching at Gilbert Elementary from 2001 to 2010.

## Wowing the judges

Two Lexington District One employees wowed the S.C. State Fair judges with their handiwork this fall. Forts Pond Elementary's **Janet L. Callahan** and New Providence Elementary's **Jennifer E. Berry** both received first-place ribbons.

Berry won for her special occasion tiered cake, which had an Armed Forces theme. Callahan crocheted a tri-color baby blanket to win a blue ribbon in the afghan category.



# Special Olympics South Carolina Unified Champion School

Midway Elementary's **Stephanie R.H. Hunt** helped her school obtain continued funding for Special Olympics activities.

As a Unified Champion School, MES provides opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to play sports together and build friendships. Students at Unified Champion Schools partner to compete in sports including basketball, bocce and tennis.

MES received \$450 that can be used for transportation or sports equipment, merchandise credit for T-shirts or uniforms, and school resources to assist with advocacy efforts.



## 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant

For the next four years, Pelion Elementary will receive funding to support after-school activities that encourage students to keep learning even after the school day is over.

At PES, the four-year 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant totaling \$563,250 will allow the school to operate an extended-day program for 80 students, allowing RtI and resource students to receive additional instruction on top of the core instruction they receive during the regular school day.

Through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, schools offer academically rich activities that focus on core subjects, including mathematics and literacy.

The team of **Amanda M. Barefoot**, **Kenny L. Brazell**, **Julie A. Long** and **Wendy S. West** helped PES successfully apply for the grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

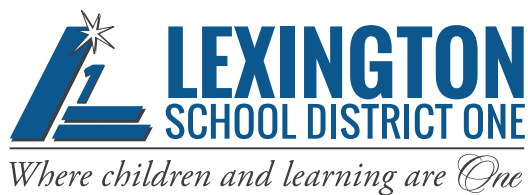
## w!se Gold Star Teacher Award

Two Lexington Technology Center educators earned a national honor in recognition of student success.

Working in Support of Education, also known as w!se, named Business Teachers **Amy P. Kuntz** and **Randy D. Scott** as recipients of the Gold Star Teacher Award.

To be considered for the Gold Star Teacher Award, a teacher must achieve a 93 percent pass rate in at least one of his/her classes on either the Fall or Spring w!se Financial Literacy Certification Test.

Kuntz and Scott challenge their students to become financially capable young adults by emphasizing and providing instruction on relevant personal finance topics.



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The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints. Chief Human Resources Officer Michael L. Stacey handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title IX, inquiries/complaints regarding Title II with respect to employees and/or public access to buildings and grounds, and inquiries/complaints involving the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Inquiries/complaints regarding IDEA for students K-12 go to Director of Special Services Wendy Balough, Ed.D. Inquiries/complaints regarding Section 504 for students K-12 go to Director of School Counseling and Advisement Zan Tracy Pender. Inquiries/complaints regarding Title II implementation go to Coordinator of Title II Part A Dianne Steelman.

Contact these people if you have questions regarding these issues at 100 Tarrar Springs Road, Lexington, SC 29072 and telephone number 803-821-1000.