

JANUARY 24, 2023

THE PANTHER PRESS

LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT THREE'S
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 25th - B-L Middle School Book Vending Machine Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 10 am

February 1st - Reality Town Event for 8th Graders at B-L Middle School from 8:10 am until 10:20 am

February 1st - Early Release Day

BLPS dismisses at 11:30 am
BLES dismisses at 11:45 am
BLMS dismisses at 12:15 pm
BLHS dismisses at 12:30 pm

February 2nd - B-L Middle School Band Concert at 7 pm in the BLMS gym

February 6th - Senator Shane Massey Town Hall event at the Fine Arts Center at 6 pm

February 10th - B-L Middle School Chorus's Skate-a-Thon event at Celebrations from 6 pm to 8 pm

February 10th - Interim Reports go home

February 14th - Lexington Three Board of Trustees meeting at the District Office at 6 pm

B-L High School Selected as a Finalist for the *Palmetto's Finest Award*



Batesburg-Leesville High School has been chosen as a finalist for the 2023 Palmetto's Finest Award. The school was chosen to enter the final round of the competition following a rigorous 20-page application process and an extensive on-campus evaluation by the Palmetto's Finest Awards Committee back in the Fall. Finalists will receive a second onsite visit sometime in the next few weeks and then, on March 15th, the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) will livestream the announcement of the overall winners.

The South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) presents the Palmetto's Finest awards each year to schools that offer the best in innovative, effective educational programs. The application process includes elements on student achievement, instructional programs, professional learning communities, and school culture. The Palmetto's Finest Award is celebrating its 43rd year and is one of the most coveted and respected awards among educators.

"Indeed it is a true honor to be named as a finalist for the Palmetto's Finest Award and to give our students and staff the recognition they certainly deserve for the exceptional work they put in every single day. Amazing things are happening at Batesburg-Leesville High School and we are excited to showcase our forward-thinking learning processes for everyone to see. Go Panthers!" said Sonya Bryant, Principal of Batesburg-Leesville High School.

Congrats BLHS faculty, staff and students!

January is National Mentoring Month

This article was written and contributed by Elizabeth Phillips, Lexington Three's Mentoring Program Director



"Thank Your Mentor Day" is an annual celebration on January 21st of each year and is a day set aside to express gratitude and appreciation to those individuals who serve as mentors in our society. Mentors are dedicated adults who help children who are in need of academic support. Our mentors in Lexington County School District Three are remarkable because they step up to the plate to make a difference in a child's life.

This month, we express our gratitude to our mentors. They are listed as follows: Teresa Blanton, Donna Boozer, Mike Bothwell, Donna Crapps, Lynn Goodman, Doris Hicks, Rosa Hix, Lisa Isenhower, Freida Israel, Stephen Padgett, Delores Peaster, Elizabeth Phillips, Daylene Pitts, Darlene Simpkins, Eurllee Steadman, Tricia Wilburn and Peggy McCulloch Worthy.

Marie Curie, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, once said, "You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity."

Lexington County School District Three and I want to personally thank all the mentors who dedicate their precious time to the Panther Pals Reading Buddies and Mentoring Program.

Miss Panther Pageant Applications Now Being Accepted



The 2023 Miss Panther Pageant is scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 4th at the Lexington County School District Three Fine Arts Center. The competitions will begin at 2 pm that day.

The pageant is open to Lexington Three students in grades K4 through 12th. If your child is interested in participating, pageant applications can be obtained by emailing misspantherpageant@gmail.com, messaging the Miss Batesburg-Leesville Panther page on Facebook, or picked up in the front offices of each school. The deadline to enter is Monday, February 20th by 5:00 pm.

Proceeds from the pageant benefit the B-L Panther Athletic Booster Club scholarship fund for senior athletes.

B-L Elementary School Announces Cast and Crew for Upcoming Musical "Descendants"



On Saturday, April 22nd, students from B-L Elementary and Middle Schools will present the Disney musical "Descendants" at the Lexington County School District Three Fine Arts Center. Showtimes are at 11 am and 5 pm and general admission is \$5 at the door. Congratulations to the following students who were selected as cast and crew members!

Evils

Mal - Taylor Ann Bowdler
Evie - Genevieve Potts
Jay - Conner Rikard
Carlos - Hunter Holley

Evil Parents

Maleficent - Meadow McManus
Evil Queen - Zi'yan Paradise-Williams
Jafar - Nate Rogers
Cruella de Vil - Camille Glowacki

Auradon

Ben - Nathan Jones
King Beast - Wyatt Derrick
Queen Belle - Megan Hendricks
Fairy Godmother - Ainsley Jones
Jane - Ryleigh Nero
Chad - Yates Taylor
Audrey - Izzy Velasquez
Doug - DJ Carney
Royal Page - Melodie Infinger
Royal Guard (Museum Employee) - Fisher Hand
Maurice (Chemistry Teacher) - Emma Doney
Coach (Tourney Coach) - Cadence Cumbee
Snow White (Red Carpet Reporter) - Violet Jones

Ensemble

Isle Ensemble Inhabitants -
Ariel Eads, Eva Eads, Arianna Oakman, Ava Woodward,
Wyman Oswald, Zoey Hughey

Smitten Kid 1 - Ali Wheeler
Smitten Kid 2 - Emily Smith

Auradonian Ensemble
Auradonian 1 - Leah Rhoden

Auradonian Prep Students

Paisley Driggers, Molly Price, Bailey Carvajal, Reagan Mobley, Olivia Alexander, Peighton Humphrey-Merritt

Coronation Crowd Members

Crowd Member 1 - Ansley Crapps
Crowd Member 2 - Abbie McCormick

Auradonian A Capella Choir

Alyssa Howard, Camden Gunter, Brooke Wise, Serenidy Morris, Kaylin Hughey, Shayla Barrett, Austin Lybrand

Stage Crew Members

Stage Manager - Audriana Moss
Stage Manager - Katrell Green

Crew

Calla Wood, Izzy Tuminski, Wyatt Scott,
Abby Iheanachor, Rylan Shore, Ansleigh Hand

B-L Middle School Jr. Beta Club Members Bring Home Awards From State Convention



The B-L Middle School Junior Beta Club attended the SC Junior Beta Club Convention in Myrtle Beach January 11th through 13th.

Students competed in numerous academic contests and talent competitions and ended their time down at the coast with top five finishes in four events! The following students also earned invitations to compete at the National Junior Beta Club Convention this summer:

--Lexie Davis (Color Photography and Solo Vocalist Performance)

--Ismael Olvera (Academics - Spanish)

--Alyssa Guy, Keira Frye, Callie McDougall, & Sara Puryear (Marketing and Communications)

The BLMS Junior Beta Club is sponsored by teachers Perri Bryant, Ashley Dyches and Shannon Lindsay. Congratulations Panthers!



"Badges Across Batesburg–Leesville" Segment Begins



Lexington County School District Three and the Batesburg-Leesville Police Department are teaming up to help students, staff and members of the town get to know our law enforcement officers a little better. These individuals are committed to upholding the law and risking their own lives to ensure the safety of others and for that, we want to pay tribute to their bravery and sacrifice. Out of this goal the "Badges of Batesburg-Leesville" segment was created. We hope you enjoy learning more about these dedicated public servants. We will be highlighting a new officer every few weeks starting with our School Resource Officers.

Officer Shane Shuler SRO at Batesburg–Leesville Primary School

Total years in law enforcement: 4

Favorite food: Chocolate chip cookies

Favorite sports team: Clemson

Favorite subject in school: History

Pets: 2 dogs named Marv and Harry after the classic 90s
Christmas movie "Home Alone"

What he loves most about working in B-L: "I love working in a small town. Almost everywhere I go we all know each other. Working in the school has definitely been a blessing to get to know more people in this community as well. It's a great town to be part of!"

Other information about Officer Shuler: He has been married for eight years and has two children – Kevin (age 4) and Kinsleigh (age 2).





NEWS BRIEFS

Meet this year's Induction Class in Lexington County School District Three! These individuals are in their first year of teaching and meet monthly with our district's Chief Academic Officer for general support and guidance. They also each have a mentor assigned to them at their school who works closely with them to provide on-the-job support.



From left to right are: Ashley Fulmer, Kristin Wickiser, Erin Enlow, Magan Hook, Cole Armstrong, Samantha McCarver, Elizabeth Schofield, Cara Lawhorne, and Samuel Kokoski. Not pictured - Alivia Crowell and Cambey Roof.

We LOVE our teachers!

What a special morning at B-L Elementary School on January 17th as WJBF Meteorologist Sherrie Shealy Jumper spoke with students about weather. Thank you, Sherrie, for supporting our schools and for sharing your knowledge with our Panther students!



Students in Mrs. Werner's and Mrs. McCaffrey's class at B-L Middle School wrapped up their studies with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) that is provided through the Clemson University Cooperative Extension on Thursday, January 19th.

Students received their Certificates of Completion and had a final cooking class with Nutrition Educator Dianna Richardson.

Congratulations Panther students!



MORE NEWS:

