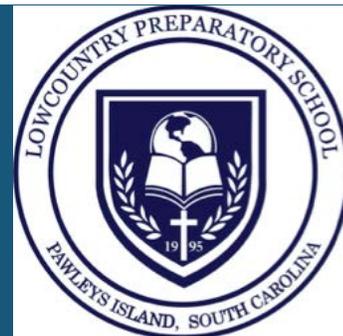


Monthly Report to Parents

April 2018



Sports Banquet!

April 2018, Volume 26

This year's Sports Banquet took place on the grounds of All Saints Church on April 30, 2018. As it does every year, the event drew a crowd—this time in excess of 160. Adam Kirby of Bistro 217 and Rustic Table provided an outstanding dinner.

The evening began with a surprise presentation by Head of School Gibson to Athletic Director Gwyn Single. In his remarks, Gibson praised the AD for her character, hard work, results, and smile throughout the year in achieving a major upgrade to the athletic program.

AD Single followed by recognizing the Foundation Leagues, new teams for Lower and Middle School students. They include Cheerleading, B-Team Boys Soccer, B-Team Boys Basketball, and Middle School Girls Basketball.

Coaches of each team then announced winners of the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award and Coaches' Award. They included the following: for Girls Varsity Tennis, Kaitlin Bellune

and Riley Moore; for Girls Junior Varsity Volleyball, Lucy Joseph and Jalayah Mickel; for Girls Varsity Volleyball, Tanea Miller and Peyton Little; for Boys Varsity Soccer, Rayce Gibson and Blake Joseph; for Girls Varsity Basketball, Josie Mangialardo and Brooke Ashton; for Boys Varsity Basketball, Cody Appleton and Andy Williams; and for Varsity Golf, Elijah Fesperman and Albert Miller. Also recognized were swimming and sailing.

Winners of special awards included the following: Student Athlete Awards: Josie Mangialardo, Andy Williams, Blake Errico, and Olivia Collins; Lowcountry Academic Award: Blake Errico; the Marlin Award: Tanea Miller; and the Ellen Donkle Spirit Award: Chas Cooper. Congratulations, all!



Errico, Little, DeMello Honored at South Strand News Best of Prep Awards Banquet

Juniors Blake Errico and Peyton Little earned the Scholar of the Year Award and eighth-grader Venus DeMello the Equestrian Award out of all of Georgetown County School District and St. James High. The three were recognized at the Best of Prep Sports Awards Banquet on April 26, 2018. The citations accompanying the awards specified their academic excellence.

Errico and Little have been battling for the top spot in the junior class over the course of the academic year. The competition has, of course, been a friendly one.

Meanwhile, young Venus DeMello continues to demonstrate excellence both in the classroom and on the back of her horse. Congratulations, all!



Errico Selected for Palmetto Boys State

Junior Blake Errico has earned a spot at Palmetto Boys State. The announcement came shortly following his interview with members of the American Legion who sponsor the activity.

Students from Lowcountry Preparatory School have participated in both Boys State and Girls State over the years. For example, in April 2017 Rayce Gibson, Andy Williams, and John Augustino were selected for Boys State. Prior to that, Coleman Lucas, presently studying at Washington and Lee University, was selected for Girls State.

Errico sees Boys State as a good place to expand his horizons. Friends who have participated have described the expansion of their networks as a result of the experience.



Augustino, Miller Win DAR Awards

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recognized seniors John Augustino and Tanea Miller at a DAR awards ceremony on April 18, 2018. Tanea Miller was selected as a DAR Good Citizen. Among twenty-five nominees, John Augustino was selected as one of six winners of a DAR Scholarship. The scholarship is for college and is in the amount of \$2,500.

Augustino has considered a number of good options for his undergraduate work and recently selected the College of Charleston. His classmate Miller, meanwhile, had plenty of choices, as well. She opted for Furman University. Congratulations to two sharp seniors and thank you, DAR!



Three Works Featured at Myrtle Beach Art Show

The art work of three LPS students was featured in the Horry-Georgetown County High Schools 19th Annual Juried Exhibition at the Art Museum of Myrtle Beach. The pieces chosen included, "Maybe You Shouldn't Try It," by Alice Dong. The piece features ceramic cookies, including an especially convincing Oreo. Molly Rumph entered her piece, "Naturally Peaceful," an acrylic work. Finally, Ross Cox entered a watercolor, "Over the Fence."

The exhibition opened on April 22, 2018. In the end, judges selected Alice Dong's piece for an honorable mention. The exhibition will be on display at the at the Art Museum of Myrtle Beach until May 20, 2018.

"I'm very proud of their hard work," said Middle and Upper School Art Teacher Meagan Johnson. "Our students demonstrate remarkable talent, and the generous support of our parents has boosted our art program."

Next year, the Middle and Upper School art program will expand with the addition of a second IB art course. "Can't wait!" said Meagan.



Fesperman Earns Post-Masters Caddy Spot

Seventh-grader Elijah Fesperman competed in the Caddie Classic on March 25, 2018 in pursuit of a spot to caddy in the Monday after the Masters in North Myrtle Beach. He succeeded!

Fesperman competed in a tough age group, namely 13-18 years of age. He emerged as the only member of the Class of 2023 to qualify.

Fesperman's sister, Hannah, LPS Class of 2017, is no stranger to golf either. In fact, she earned a four-year, full scholarship to Erskine College as a result of her excellent record.

In addition to earning his post-Masters Caddy spot, Fesperman earned the Most Valuable Player Award for golf at the Sports Banquet.



Lowcountry Students Excel at First Annual Feria

What exactly is Feria? Good question. Feria is an interstate competition that tests students' Spanish abilities in spelling, impromptu speaking, and impromptu writing. It is open to high school students. The event took place on April 28, 2018 at the University of South Carolina.

Ms. Maggie Dunlap took freshmen Cameron Tedrow and Eric Bennet to the competition. Tedrow placed second overall in the Spanish Spelling Bee, correctly spelling "ganga" (bargain) and "berenjena" (eggplant). Tedrow and Bennet presented on the topic of "Las personas que hay en mi familia" (The people in my family). Both were rewarded with an "Excelente" (Excellent), the second highest distinction for speakers!

"I am so very proud of these young men and the way they represented their school this weekend," said Dunlap. "We should also be very proud of their performance as the only private school in attendance out of six participating schools!"



SCISA State Science Fair

This year's SCISA State Science Fair took place on April 10, 2018 at the Sumter Civic Center. A total of eight Lowcountry students participated. Among them, Emma Rusnak took first place in behavioral science, and Noah Hensley landed second place in environmental science. Nice work, Emma and Noah!



Fighter Pilot Discusses Getting out of the Comfort Zone

Broker-in-Charge of Pawleys Island Realty, Walter McElveen, served as a guest speaker in the Character Development class on April 27, 2018. Among his key points was the need to get out of one's comfort zone.

In the US Air Force, McElveen flew fighter jets, including the A-7/Corsair II, the Alpha Jet, the F-4/Phantom, and the F-16/Fighting Falcon. He noted that transitioning to new aircraft involved getting out of his comfort zone. He recognized that each time he did so, he grew in terms of skill set and confidence. Likewise, he described the years he and his family spent in Germany when he was an exchange pilot. He noted all members of the family were out of their comfort zones and all subsequently profited greatly through friendships that have lasted a lifetime and familiarity with a very different culture. Thanks for the lesson, sir!



Navy JAG Talks Trustworthiness

Before she was Mrs. Lynn Bennet she was CMDR Lynn Bennet, US Navy, now retired. On April 26, 2018, she addressed the Character Development class in which her son, Eric, is enrolled.

In her remarks, she described her career in the Navy over 20 years. Among her assignments was that of Special Court Martial Judge. Her assignments took her overseas to locations such as Japan and included duty at sea aboard the USS HOLLAND and the USS PROTEUS.

On the topic of character, she emphasized the importance of establishing oneself as trustworthy. She explained that one does so foremost in one's actions but that professionalism, proper dress, and proper speech matter, too. She noted that when one establishes trustworthiness, that is when one truly becomes a member of the team.

She also addressed Admiral McRaven's fifth lesson, namely "Failure can make you stronger." She noted that when one does wrong, the person most often hurt is the perpetrator himself. Her remarks nicely underscored one popular definition of character, namely how you act when no one is watching. Thank you for your insight, ma'am!

Van Hoewyk Among Top Nine SCISA Teachers

SCISA Executive Director Larry Watt recognized Abby Van Hoewyk, our French Teacher and World Languages Department Chair, at the SCISA Teacher of the Year Banquet held at the Orangeburg Country Club on April 26, 2018. Eight finalists from other schools were recognized, as well.

Each year, SCISA selects three candidates each for Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School Teacher of the Year. The process begins with nominations from the school. A interview panel followed at SCISA on March 13, 2018. Abby then received her invitation to the banquet. While Abby did not win the Upper School Teacher of the Year, she remains, nonetheless, among the top three tenths of one percent of SCISA teachers—congratulations, Abby!



Yard Sale!

The spring yard sale took place this year on April 28, 2018. Trustee Linda Ray once again led the effort, aided by Mrs. Wendy DeMello. The venue shifted this year from the Marlin Cafe to the Resource Center.

Accustomed to the event, locals were quick to pounce when the doors opened. A broad spectrum of goods was sold, ranging from clothing through picture frames, furniture, and toys.

We thank all members of the school community who kindly donated items for the sale. They made economical purchases for our customers and a nice profit for our school—everyone came out on top!

Does anyone recognize this fellow who showed up for the sale?



First Round of IB Exams

IB Coordinator David Suber has been busy preparing the International Baccalaureate (IB) exams for members of the senior class. Testing will take place in the gymnasium under tightly controlled conditions, as required by IB.

“We are making certain the testing conditions are optimal for our students,” said Suber. Drawing upon his many years of IB experience, he knows that time management is of the essence for testers. Accordingly, he has acquired four large clocks for display throughout the testing area.

Testing is scheduled to begin on May 2 and conclude on May 18, 2018. IB Coordinator Suber will then send completed tests off for scoring. The release of test scores is set for July 5, 2018.



AdvancED Activities Wind Down

Head of School Gibson concluded his third and final Engagement Review for AdvancED, the school's accrediting agency, on April 8-10, 2018. In this final case, the educational facility was New Hope Carolinas in Rock Hill. The lead evaluator, Dr. Holly Wingard, was the same lead evaluator who led the External Review of Lowcountry Preparatory School in March 2016.

On April 17, 2018, Gibson subsequently attended an AdvancED Workshop on the Performance Assessment Report (PAR). The PAR is a new means by which schools report their solutions to Improvement Priorities. Such solutions are required within two years of the External Review. The straightforward PAR comes as a welcome relief to that which it replaced. LPS submitted its solutions ahead of schedule.



STEM Certification Site Visit Set for May 16th

SCISA Executive Director Larry Watt has advised Head of School Gibson to expect a three-person team on campus on May 16, 2018. The purpose of the team's visit is to assess the school for STEM Certification.

“We'll be ready for them,” claimed Lower School STEM Coordinator Krisiti Rhoades. “Our STEM program has been underway for some time and we are determined to earn our certification.”

Middle and Upper School STEM Coordinator Becky Schroeder expressed similar determination. “We have studied the STEM rubric and feel that we are clearly meeting requirements.”

During the course of the visit, SCISA team members are expected to interview eight teachers and four students. The two STEM coordinators have been tasked with selecting their four teachers and two students each.

Consistent with the certification protocol, SCISA Executive Director Watt will announce at the conclusion of the visit whether certification has been earned. If not, he will leave the school with a list of improvement priorities.