

BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DEPARTMENT: Communications/Public
Information Department

TOPIC: GOOD NEWS

FOR THE MONTH OF: January 2024

1. **Gaston County Schools'** nutrition department won an award from the North Carolina Department of Instruction for its school garden. The 0.06-acre garden, which is certified with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), provided fresh produce for student meals during the summer nutrition program. The garden produced 750 pounds of cucumbers and 40 pounds of cherry tomatoes.
- 2.

7. The following high school students won awards at the Gaston Regional Science and Engineering Fair: **Stephany Mejia-Lopez, Kayla Carithers, and Rahza Adams** of **Gaston Early College High School** were the overall winners. **Henry Davis** of **Highland School of Technology** placed first in the Biological Sciences A category; **Jozzy Da Rosa** and **Adelai Hardin** of **Gaston Early College High School** placed first in the Biological Sciences B category; **Micajah Hanna** of **Gaston Early College High School** placed first in the Chemistry category. **Kyli Herndon** of **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences** placed first in the Earth and Environmental Sciences category; **Nicholas Markley** of **Forestview High School** placed first in the Physics category; **Addison Royall** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School** placed first in the Math, Statistics, and Data Science category; **Seth Eaker, Grayson Harrington, and Helanea Killian** of **Gaston Early College High School** placed first in the Engineering category; and **Thomas Azar, Shafin Irfan, and Coleson Burgess** of **Forestview High School** placed first in the Technology category. **Maggie Ballard** of **East Gaston High School** and **Jillian Norwood** of **Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences** were recipients of the Naval Science Award, and **Raegan Lilja** of **East Gaston High School** was the recipient of SPARC3 of Genius Award presented by Gaston College.

26. The Tri-M Music Honors Society at **East Gaston High School** presented a Christmas performance for the residents of Holy Angels in Belmont. Tri-M is made up of honors students in the band and choir ensembles who demonstrate leadership, musicianship, and quality of character. They actively engage in music-related service projects at the school and in the community. Over the past year, the group has successfully conducted two service projects in collaboration with Holy Angels.
27. **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy** has been selected for the Building Engineers in K-5 Classrooms Initiative.
28. **McAdenville Elementary** second grader **Kieran Miller** was chosen to “flip the switch” at the annual McAdenville tree lighting ceremony.
29. Students from **McAdenville Elementary** took part in the McAdenville Yule Log Parade. The students sang carols in front of the Pharr building and then proudly pulled the Yule Log sled down Main Street.
30. McAdenville Wesleyan Church and the Cramer Mountain Investment Club provided support for 31 **McAdenville Elementary** families during the holiday season.
31. **Kyle Haywood’s** carpentry students at **North Gaston High School** built a “Blessing Box” at **Chapel Grove Elementary**. The “Blessing Box” is stocked with essentials for the community.
32. **Pinewood Elementary School**