Vance County Schools and the Vance County Public School Foundation sponsored the third annual Arts Alive celebration on Saturday, April 27, in the McGregor Hall Performing Arts Center in downtown Henderson.

The event once again was a huge success as it showcased the talents of students who attend Vance County Schools. An audience of about 625 people watched the two-hour show that evening and marveled at the musical talents of approximately 75 student performers. Hundreds more viewed the over 200 pieces of student artwork on display in McGregor Gallery throughout the afternoon and evening. For the first time, master classes were offered to students at all grade levels in the morning of April 27. The master classes were led by representatives of Hill’s Music Shoppe of Henderson, Ballet Arts of Henderson and Wolf Trap Education from Washington, D.C.

Proceeds from corporate sponsorships and the sales of the show tickets for Arts Alive go to the Vance County Public School Foundation to support student programs in our schools.
An ARTS ALIVE celebration!

Student performances at Arts Alive ranged from solo singers, to dance groups to an individual pianist who also sang. The student artwork was colorful, authentic, abstract and thoughtful.
Vance County Schools honored the over 275 school volunteers and business partners who are involved in supporting our 15 public schools for the 2018-2019 school year at the district’s annual Volunteer/Business Partner Recognition Reception held on April 24.

The event was held at the Henderson Country Club.

During the event, Jack Richardson, a long-time volunteer at both Dabney and Pinkston Street elementary schools, was named the school system’s Volunteer of the Year for 2018-2019. Richardson was presented with the district volunteer award by Dr. Michael Putney, principal of Dabney, and Dr. Jacqueline Batchelor-Crosson, principal of Pinkston Street. Richardson has volunteered at both of the elementary schools for almost 15 years. He goes into the schools two to three days each week to tutor children in reading and mathematics. Both principals praised Richardson for his dedication to the children and his determination to have children adopt a love for reading and confidence in their math skills.

In addition to Richardson, 10 more school Volunteers of the Year were honored during the event. They were each presented with plaques by Dorothy Gooche, chairperson of the Vance County Board of Education and Superintendent Anthony Jackson. Those school Volunteers of the Year included: Betty Jo Pernell of Aycock Elementary School; Johanna Ragland of Carver Elementary School; JoAnne Allen of Clarke Elementary School; Eboni Terry of New Hope Elementary School; Susan Freeman of E.M. Rollins Elementary School; Rev. Ronald Regular of L.B. Yancey Elementary School; Richard Brand of E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary School; Cedric Hinton of Zeb Vance Elementary School; Leslie Walthall of STEM Early High School; and Norma Moore of Vance County Middle School.

The first business partner honored was First United Methodist Church, which earned the prestigious Shining Moment Award as the top business partner for the school system. Other Shining Moment partners include: Clearview Baptist Church, Cokesbury United Methodist Church, Flat Rock United Methodist Church, Henderson Family YMCA, Henderson Toyota, I Believe God Outreach Church, Optimist Club of Henderson, South Henderson Pentecostal Holiness Church and St. Paul United Church of Christ.
An outstanding group of 15 educators with Vance County Schools were honored during the evening of March 28, for their successful completion of the Vance County Teacher Executive Institute (TEI) program for the 2018-2019 school year. Those educators honored included: Angela Cusaac of Vance County High School and the school system’s Teacher of the Year; Christine Francis of Vance County High School; Davia Johnson of Vance County Middle School; Sherrie Evans-Bailey of AdVance Academy; Oscar Suarez of Early College High School; Tammy Barrow of STEM Early High School; Jessica Ayscue of Aycock Elementary School; Patricia Harris of Carver Elementary School; Kristy Martin of Clarke Elementary School; Pat Hughes of E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary School; Cherie Dixon of L.B. Yancey Elementary School; Taylor Evans of New Hope Elementary School; Jhaneille Downer of Pinkston Street Elementary School; Kimberly Holtzmann of Dabney Elementary School; and Vanessa Davis of Zeb Vance Elementary School.

Katie Eddings, a teacher at Lee County High School and the current N.C. North Central Region Teacher of the Year, was the featured speaker for the event. Eddings talked with the honored educators and guests about her passion for teaching and urged them all to focus on developing positive relationships with students. She also asked them to use their commitment to children to push for positive changes in public education and our society today.
Youth Orchestra continues to grow

The Vance County Schools Youth Orchestra continues to grow in numbers and talents in its second year with approximately 60 students from our 10 elementary schools completing their participation for the 2018-2019 school year with a concert on April 11. The concert was held in the auditorium at E.M. Rollins Elementary School with the students playing their violins and violas for an audience of about 400 parents, other family members, local educators and school system officials.

Vipers inducted into NTHS chapter

Fifteen Vance County High School students were inducted into the school’s new National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) chapter based on their outstanding performance in Career and Technical Education courses. Their induction occurred during a special event held at the school on April 4.

The students are shown at left as they accept their framed certificates from Pamela Huff, a Vance County High teacher and advisor for the NTHS chapter.
VCS Photo

Students who are members of the SAVE Promise Club in Vance County Schools manned a table at Vance County Middle School on April 8, to get students to sign a “violence free” pledge during National Youth Violence Prevention Week, April 8-12.

The students are shown at left prior to beginning their work. Shown with them is Dr. Ralphel Holloman, the school system’s safety officer and advisor for SAVE.

Throughout the week, SAVE members led efforts in local schools to encourage students at all grade levels to speak out about warning signs, signals and threats of violence. They also urged their peers to promote respect and tolerance for others and to resolve conflicts peacefully.
Events expose students to career opportunities

Spring is the time of the year when our schools focus on exposing students to future careers and college opportunities. Two events featuring a variety of career options were hosted by Aycock Elementary School and Zeb Vance Elementary School. Aycock Elementary featured students on April 10 with project boards and presentations on their possible future careers and choices for colleges to attend. The school followed this great event with its annual “Touch-A-Truck” event during the morning of April 12, featuring a wide range of vehicles used for jobs including the medical evacuation helicopter shown at above left. Zeb Vance held its annual Career Day on April 12, with business representatives, above right, going into classrooms to talk with students about their job responsibilities, training and the education they needed to qualify for their jobs.

Firefighters at Dabney

Firefighters from six local fire departments and one rescue squad unit spent the morning at Dabney Elementary School sharing their job expertise, training and equipment with students on April 10. Students went through different stations to learn about a firefighter’s personal protective equipment, physical fitness, teamwork activities, fire truck equipment, water application and fire safety and prevention. At left, teacher Kimberly Holtzmann takes photos of her students in firefighter gear.
Outstanding employees honored

The Vance County Board of Education recognized several outstanding school system employees for their work during the board’s meeting held on May 8.

Transportation Department staff members were recognized for earning high marks in the recent state inspection of school buses. The department earned a score that was seven points better than the state average. Kevin Perdue, the director of the Transportation and Maintenance departments, introduced the staff and provided information to the board. Perdue also introduced Keith Purnell, Sarah Williams and Nakitha Johnson as the top three drivers in the district’s “Bus Roadeo.” Purnell was first with a perfect score.

Transportation Department members stand as they are recognized by the board.

School custodial staffs were honored from 10 schools for recent outstanding building inspections. Johnnie Moore, head custodian at New Hope Elementary, accepted the award for the top score in elementary and all schools. Fred Jones, head custodian at Vance County Middle, accepted the award for the top secondary school.

Fred Jones, left, of Vance County Middle, with Assistant Principal Lemondre Watson.

Kevin Perdue introduces, from left, Keith Purnell, Sarah Williams and Nakitha Johnson as the top finishers in the Vance County Schools “Bus Roadeo.”