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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCSD School Board Chairwoman Ruby Edwards. Orangeburg County Councilwoman Delores Frazier, Brothers of the Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and students from Rivelon Elementary School

CHRISTMAS IN OCSD DISTRICT SIX

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – For the third consecutive year, OCSD Board Chairwoman Ruby Edwards has celebrated the holiday season by sharing gifts of cheer with students in District 6. On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, Chair Edwards surprised students at Mellichamp, Rivelon, and Sheridan by presenting them with a Christmas gift.

Through the generosity of Chair Edwards and community partners, including the brothers of the Delta Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Paragon Builders, County Orangeburg Councilwoman Deloris Frazier, and MaddieFR Designs and Viok Marketing, more than 200 students in grades Pre-K through kindergarten who attend Rivelon and Sheridan received an age-appropriate board game. And nearly 75 students who attend Mellichamp received a \$5.00 gift card to McDonald's.

During her gift-giving, of importance for Chairwoman Edwards was to be able to provide toys for students that were not computer-based or the usage of social media needed to play. She wanted to give toys that would allow students to be kids, to use their hands, to use their imagination, and take a 'screentime' break. "I wanted to give the children toys that would allow them to be creative, to dream big, and just to be a child," said Chairwoman Edwards.

At Mellichamp, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade students were recognized for their growth on the i-Ready Assessment. The students who were presented gifts grew from their baseline score in the fall to show significant gains in ELA or Math during this assessment cycle. In addition, the students either met or surpassed the 'typical' growth or the 'stretch' growth goals exceeding expectations during the school year.

"We are extremely proud of our scholars at Mellichamp," said Principal Elrica Glover. "They have exceeded expectations, and I am so proud they are being recognized for academic excellence," Glover continued.

When presenting the gifts to the students in District Six, Chairwoman Edwards expressed how proud she was of all the children she met and shared with them the expectation that she wanted them to continue to be excellent student scholars. She closed her comments to the students by sharing with them, their teachers, and principals that she wouldn't be able to do this without community partners. "We are all so blessed to be able to bring smiles to children's faces during this time of year, and I, along with those who have partnered with me, hope we can continue this tradition for many more holiday seasons," she concluded.

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

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