

WHITESIDES



Mamie P. Whitesides
Elementary School

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

Anita Huggins
Interim Deputy Superintendent

Jennifer Swearingen, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Superintendent
of the Elementary Learning
Community

Michelle Conner
Principal

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

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Media Release

Whitesides student wins state art contest

Mt. Pleasant, SC - Sarah O'Reilly, a kindergarten student at Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School, won first place for her age group (6-10) in the Talking Book Services Student Art Gallery Contest and the highest honor of the program among all age groups, the State Librarian Award, from the South Carolina State Library. As the State Librarian Award winner, her work, *Coastal Flounder*, will be in the permanent collection at the State Library.

O'Reilly worked on the ceramic project with Whitesides art teacher Jennifer Goodall, who submitted the project. O'Reilly created the piece using found objects for texture and glazed it with a crystal glaze giving it a unique appearance.

"I am grateful that our State Library encourages and celebrates art created by students who are blind or visually impaired," said Goodall. "Sarah's *Coastal Flounder* is a fantastic example of surpassing limitations to enjoy and experience the powerful process of creating."

O'Reilly and her parents received the award at a ceremony and reception at the South Carolina State Library on April 27, 2023.

"We are so proud of Sarah," added Principal Michelle Conner. "Her light shines bright in our school. She is always smiling, and her positivity is contagious. We are grateful for our art teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Goodall, and for the South Carolina State Library, for providing the opportunity for Sarah to participate in this contest and receive this award."

Twenty-two schools and 57 students submitted artwork for the contest this year. The Talking Book Services Student Art Gallery is a yearly competition open to South Carolina students who are blind or visually impaired. Winners are selected in three age groups in addition to the State Librarian Award.

Talking Book Services (TBS) is a free library service from the State Library for anyone who has a visual, physical, or print disability that prevents them from holding or reading normal print books. This free library program brings reading materials in digital audio and braille formats to the homes of patrons from preschoolers to centenarians.

For more information, contact Principal Michelle Conner at michelle_conner@charleston.k12.sc.us or (843) 849-2838.

Photo Captions

Sarah O'Reilly 1

State Librarian Leesa Aiken, David O'Reilly, Jessica O'Reilly, Sarah O'Reilly, and Whitesides art teacher Jennifer Goodall hold Sarah's two awards at the TBS Student Art Awards Ceremony April 27, 2023.

Sarah O'Reilly 2

Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary kindergarten student Sarah O'Reilly created her winning ceramic piece using objects she found in the classroom to make her textural art, *Coastal Flounder*. She worked with her art teacher, Jennifer Goodall, to create her art.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.