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Area Teachers Win Bright Ideas grants

Palmetto Electric Cooperative and Palmetto Electric Trust awarded \$29,010 in the sixth annual Bright Ideas grant program Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 15 to winning teachers and their team members. This year, a total of 43 grants will benefit more than 7,000 students in southern Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties.

The Cooperative's Bright Ideas Patrol presented the money where it will be spent – the teachers' classrooms. Representatives from the Cooperative and the Trust greeted teachers with balloons, gift bags and their checks at each school. Next month, the cooperative will host a luncheon at Palmetto Electric's New River facility to honor the teachers and their administrators.

The Cooperative invited teachers earlier this year to submit proposals for innovative classroom projects. Last month, 84 grant applications, totaling over \$76,330, were received from teachers in the three counties.

Area winners are:

- Valecia Whitfield, *Using Wii in the Classroom*, Okatie Elementary School
- Beth Felder, *Math Matters*, Cross School
- Mary Swofford, *Adventures Through Reading*, Bluffton Elementary School
- Kimberly Young, *Books for Blooming Readers*, Bluffton Elementary School
- Colleen Langley, *Children's Community Theater Production*, May River Montessori School
- Paula Ilami, *Cycle of Life Community Garden Learning Project*, May River Montessori School
- Michelle Morrison-Crum, *A Library of my own – at School and Home*, Red Cedar Elementary School
- Jodi Nason, *"How about What I Want?" Literacy Learning chosen by the child*, Red Cedar Elementary School

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- Peg Hamilton, *“The Standing O”*, Hilton Head Preparatory School
- Angela Taylor, *Power UP*, Hilton Head Preparatory School
- John Hutcheson, *Getting A Head in Class*, Sea Pines Montessori Academy
- Matthew Pheiffer, *21st Century Cartography*, Hilton Head Island High School
- Deanna Flores, *AVID “Achievers – Achieving by Reaching Out*, Hilton Head Island High School
- Amy Dungan, *Hear Ye, Hear Ye*, Hilton Head Island Middle School
- Tennille Kasper, *Kindling Literacy*, Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
- Melinda Smith, *Building Bridges in Music*, Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
- Kelly Bausher, *FLIP: Fifth Graders Learn Through Initiative Portfolios*, Hilton Head Island IB Elementary School
- Karen Osborne, *We’ve Got the Beat!* Hilton Head Island IB Elementary School
- Karen Perdue, *Morning News Video Production*, Hilton Head Island IB Elementary School
- Vivian Johnson, *Got Science!*, Hilton Head Island IB Elementary School
- Treva Kent, *“Bowls for Bucks” A fundraiser for uniforms*, Hilton Head Island IB Elementary School
- Frances Ferrene, *Kids First Response Team*, Hilton Head Island IB Elementary School

The Bright Ideas grants are for local school teachers in grades K-12. The grants give teachers money to put innovative classroom projects into action.

Palmetto Electric Trust is supported by funds from Operation Round Up®, a program in which the Cooperative’s members round their electric bill up to the nearest whole dollar. The program is a true example of how small change...changes lives. Additional funding was provided by Palmetto Electric’s Million Dollar Hole-In-One Shootout and WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) Chapters.

Palmetto Electric Cooperative, a member of Touchstone Energy®, is a not-for-profit, consumer-owned power cooperative providing electricity to over 68,000 consumers in southern Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties.

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