

For Immediate Release

January 24, 2019

Contact:

Michelle Conner 843-763-1555

Media Release

Ashley River Creative Arts Student Earns Cash for Cabbage



**Ashley River Creative Arts
Elementary School**

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Cynthia Ambrose
Deputy Superintendent of
Learning Services

Michelle Simmons
Executive Director, Elementary
Learning Community

Michelle Conner
Principal

Charleston, SC – Mallory Posta might not pursue the agricultural field when she gets older, but the fourth-grader at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School might have a future in that line of work. She was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for winning “best in state” in the 2018 Bonnie Plants Third Grade Cabbage Program. Mallory grew her cabbage at home during the spring semester of her third-grade year before submitting her prize-winning entry.

More than 28,000 kids from South Carolina participated this past year, and more than one million third graders throughout the nation have participated in this contest since 2002.

Bonnie Plants, the largest producer and distributor of vegetable and herb plants in North America (based in Alabama), began this initiative in 1996 to inspire a love of vegetable gardening in young people and continue to “grow” the next generation of gardeners. By 2002, the Cabbage Program became a national endeavor. The program awards a \$1,000 scholarship to one student in each participating state. At the end of the season, teachers from each third grade class select the student who has grown the “best” cabbage, based on size and appearance. A digital image of the cabbage and student is submitted online at www.bonnieplants.com. That student's name is then entered in a statewide drawing. State winners are randomly selected by the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Mallory received the check, a plaque, a certificate, and a book during an assembly last week. Steve Chapman with Bonnie Plants and Benjamin Sease, the State Department of Education's Office of Nutrition and Health Farm to School Coordinator, presented her with the awards.

"Ashley River third graders have been participating in this program for several years," said Principal Michelle Conner. "This year, Mallory and other students in her class posted their progress on their Google Classroom account and gave growing tips to one another. We are so proud of Mallory for all of the hard work she put into growing her cabbage!"

For more information about the honor for Mallory, please contact Principal Michelle Conner at (843) 763-1555. To learn more about the Bonnie Plants Cabbage Program, visit <https://bonniecabbageprogram.com/>.

###

About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.