

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Ashley River Creative Arts 5th Grader Wins 2017 CCSD Spelling Bee

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Charleston, SC – Aarti Anugonda is the 2017 Charleston County School District (CCSD) Spelling Bee Champion. She captured the title in the fifth round of the competition at Burke High School on Thursday, January 19, 2017. She was the only one to spell the word “paradigm” correctly in the final round.

27 students from 24 different schools participated in the annual CCSD Spelling Bee. 18 of them will advance to the *Lowcountry SpellBound!* in March. The winner of that tournament will go to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. which begins on May 28, 2017.

The following CCSD students advanced to *Lowcountry SpellBound!*:

1st place: Aarti Anugonda, Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, 5th grade

2nd place: Elliott Catoe-Griffis, Charleston County School of the Arts, 7th grade

3rd place: Lauren Rabb, Thomas C. Cario Middle, 8th grade

4th place: William Wells, Haut Gap Middle - Advanced Studies Magnet , 8th grade

Additional top 18 spellers:

Melanie Garcia-Sandoval, West Ashley Middle - Advanced Studies Magnet, 7th grade

Caroline Spann, Buist Academy for Advanced Studies, 5th grade

Thomas Demetre, Buist Academy for Advanced Studies, 8th grade

Rawisara (Bell) Pansap, C. E. Williams Middle, 8th grade

Ashlyn (Brodie) Mayhew, Drayton Hall Elementary, 5th grade

John Ryan Ottaviano, Fort Johnson Middle, 6th grade

Ben Haynes, Harbor View Elementary, 5th grade

Troy Rauchut, James B. Edwards Elementary, 5th grade

Cassandra Drollinger, Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science, 7th grade

Vansh Nagpal, Laing Middle School of Science & Technology, 8th grade
Auggie Mastrion, Moultrie Middle, 6th grade
Trenton Washington, Orange Grove Charter Middle, 6th grade
Dalton Muse, St Andrew's School of Math and Science, 5th grade
Emerson Medlin, Stiles Point Elementary, 5th grade

149 students from four different counties will participate in *Lowcountry SpellBound!* sponsored by the Post & Courier on March 9, 2017 at Charleston Southern University's Lightsey Chapel. The competition will begin at 6:30 p.m.

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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 several 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 led by associate superintendents. 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.