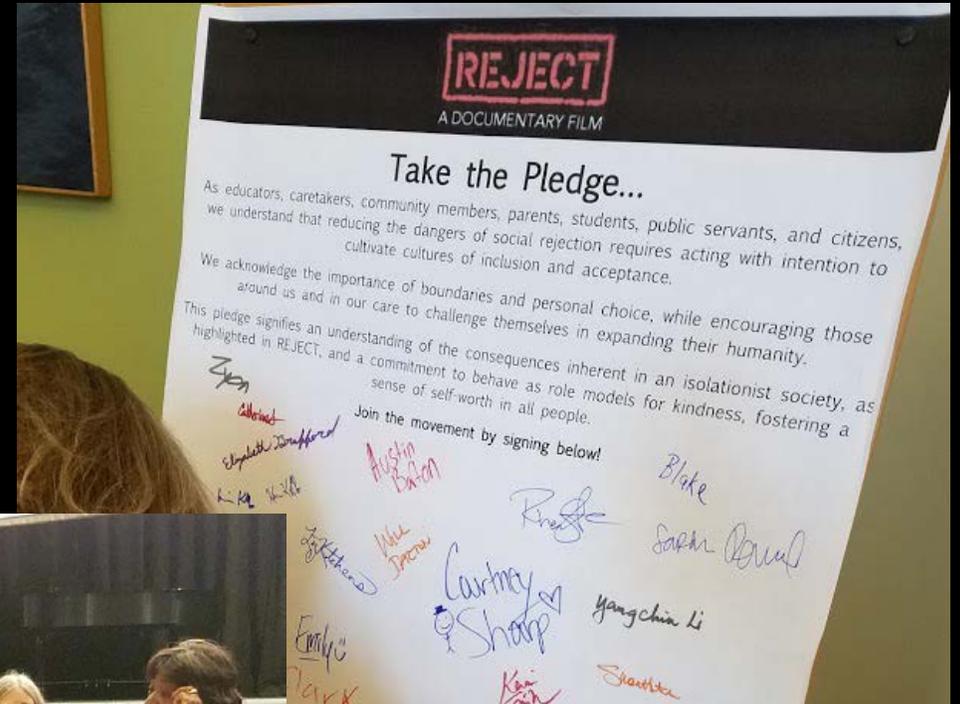


DRS Works Against Bullying

Last year, students in the Davidson River School Rebound Program partnered with Brevard College to showcase the film REJECT, a documentary video on bullying and social isolation:

<http://rejectfilm.com/official-trailer/>.

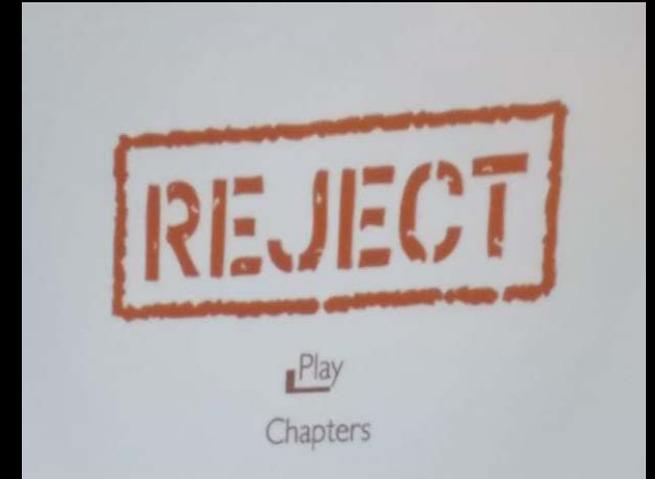
The film delves into the physiological impact on the brain when people are bullied/rejected and elaborates on the social/emotional impacts. Jeremy Gibbs, Sheila Mooney, Alice Wellborn, and Janna Laughridge were part of the discussion panel.



DRS Works Against Bullying

On November 7, Davidson River presented the film at the North Carolina Association of Alternative Educators (NCAAE) Conference and hosted the director of the film for a panel discussion with Jess Webb and student Alex Padilla. Alex, an 11th grader at DRS, spoke to the audience in support of the film.

It was a powerful and effective discussion of the damage people feel when they are bullied and rejected. Davidson River plans to further the fight against bullying and its harmful effects through professional development and viewings of the film with its students. Davidson River Taiko also performed at the NCAAE conference that day.



DRS Grant Award



Expect for things to get a bit “squirrely” at Davidson River School this year. Jennifer Speckman recently was awarded a grant from the North Carolina Arboretum to classify squirrel populations in the area. Her students will work with science students in Noelle Fehn's classes who are in their second year of a grant from the Arboretum to track bird populations and migration. Congratulations to these grant winners!

New Mural at Davidson River

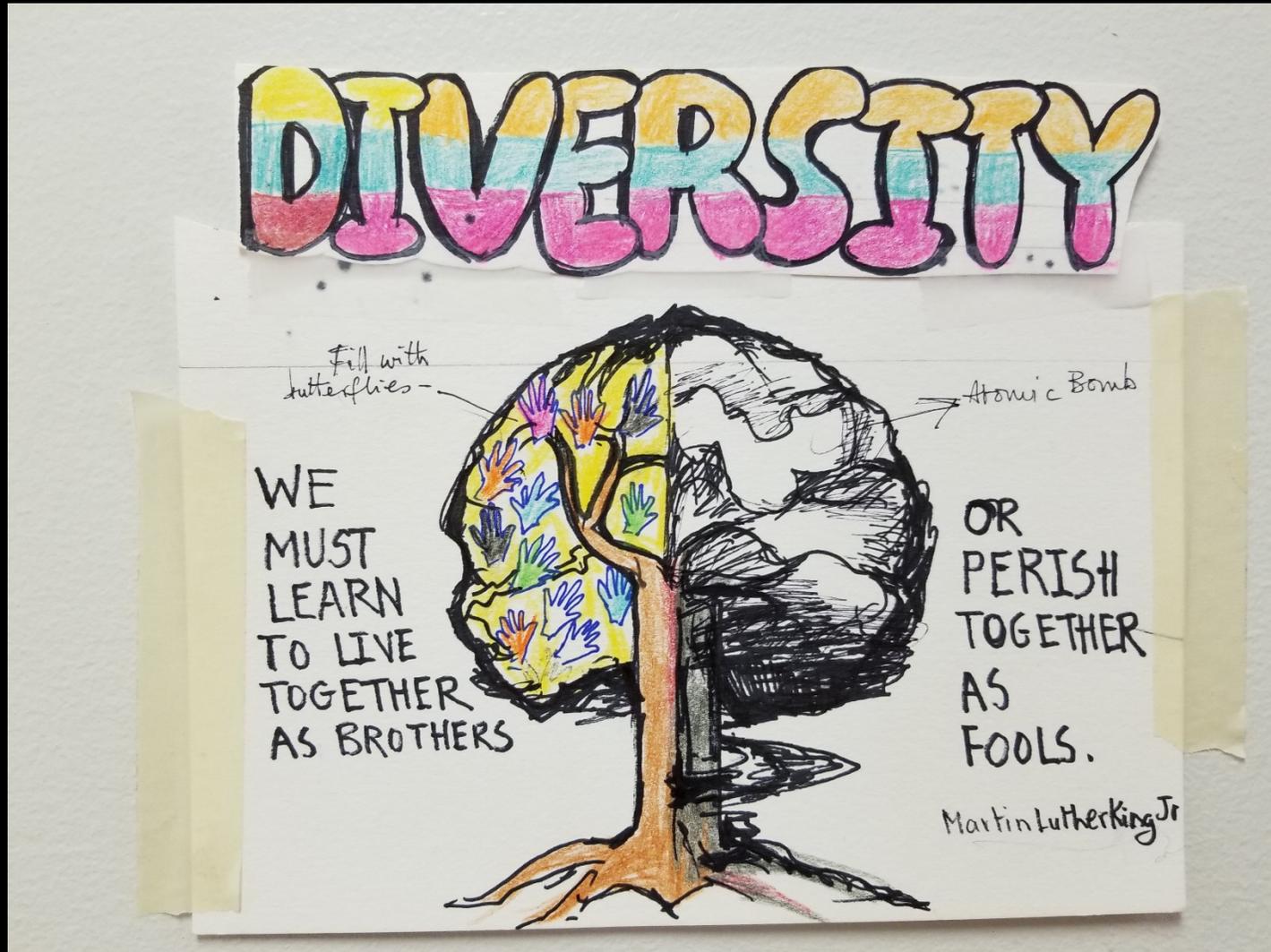
Davidson River School is proud of its newest school-wide project, a new mural that emphasizes diversity and tolerance. The students and staff worked collaboratively to design and paint the mural during the week of December 4 under the direction of artist-in-residence Nachin Bone. The residency was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Peterman and is a great addition to the building.



New Mural at Davidson River

<https://twitter.com/TransylvaniaSch/status/937732750697746432>

New Mural at Davidson River



Leaders Are Those Who Lead

Like many districts, Alamance County Schools had a problem with drivers passing stopped school buses when kids were getting off them, so they recently installed longer stop arms signs on 25 of their buses. In a local news story, Robert Geyer, President of Bus Safety Solutions and inventor of the longer stop arms, was asked about the effectiveness of these arms.

In his interview, he pointed to Transylvania County Schools, where all 35 of our buses have the arms. On the day passed buses were counted, the number of drivers who went around stopped buses went down from 16 to 2, in just two years. Congratulations to the TCS Transportation Department for leading the way in school bus safety.



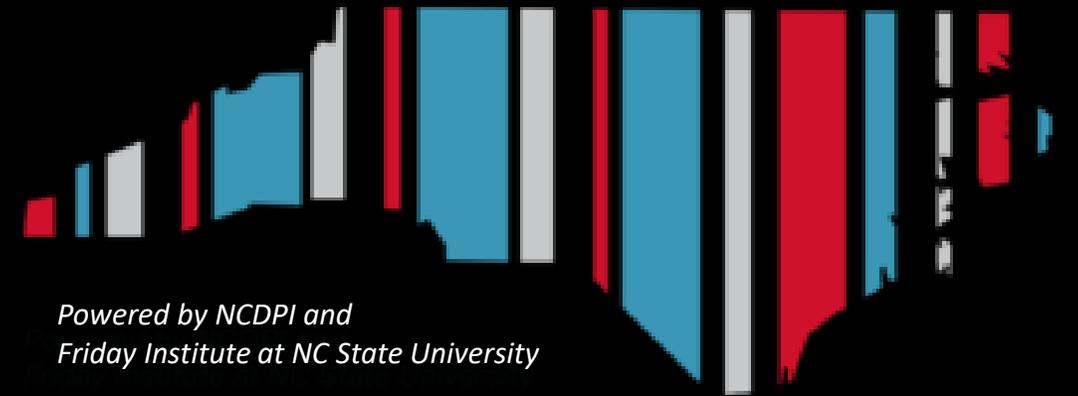
Digital Learning Showcase Grant

The State Board of Education has approved a Digital Learning Initiative Showcase Grant for Transylvania County Schools in the amount of \$40,874.68. This was a competitive grant process. The grant will allow us to showcase highly effective practices for digital teaching and learning.

The ***TCS Step It Up Showcase*** will also provide professional learning for other schools in our region through a demonstration model.

In receiving the grant, consideration was given to districts and charter schools aligning work to the NC Digital Learning Competencies and one or more of the following: micro-credentialing, personalized learning, digital literacy skills for students, or innovative partnerships with Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs).

NORTH CAROLINA
DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVE



Digital Learning Showcase Grant

The showcase will take place at Brevard High School on June 13. Transylvania educators who are interested in presenting at the showcase may submit a proposal by January 12, 2018 (link shared with staff).



Selected presenters will receive a \$300 stipend, as well as an all-expense paid trip to the NCTIES Technology in Education Conference in Raleigh. Congratulations to Cathy Zandecki and Vera Cubero for developing and submitting a winning grant.

BMS Wins Robotics Regionals

On December 2, Brevard Middle School's First Lego League Robotics Team competed at the regional qualifier in Cherokee. Teams were judged on the performance of their robot, its mechanical design and use of effective coding, their teamwork, and on their project.

The BMS team invented an alarm to help prevent frozen pipes. Out of the nearly fifty teams present, Brevard Middle was named the overall champion based on their outstanding performance in the previously mentioned categories. They are moving on to the state tournament on January 20 in Greensboro.

Congratulations to the BMS Robotics Team and teacher Justin Ausburn!



TCSEF Mini-Grant Applications

The Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation has again made \$18,000 available for grants to TCS teachers, out of nearly \$23,000 given to classrooms and alumni. We appreciate very much their fundraising efforts with the annual Taste of Transylvania and the work of the Grants Committee, which evaluates upwards of 50 proposals each year.

The Grants Committee made their recommendations for the following projects to be funded in 2018-19, with all these due for completion between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. The amounts they were granted are listed here and will be sent to schools for the projects to get started.



Stephanie Ramsey	RHS	2018-19 I	\$980.95	\$980.95	Anatomical Models for Learning
Jessica Whitmire	BHS	2018-19 NN	\$1,183.00	\$1,183.00	The Right Tools for the Job
Hale Durant	BHS	2018-19 JJ	\$557.15	\$557.15	Microscopes and Microscope Cameras for Veterinary Assisting and Science Courses
Sarah Rhymer	BHS	2018-19 II	\$652.00	\$652.00	Portable Poultry Netting
Kristi Clark	PFE	2018-19 F	\$300.00	\$300.00	Main Street, PFE: a Hands on Economics Project for 2nd Graders
Amy Schoenacher	RHS	2018-19 W	\$236.83	\$236.83	It's the Little Things
Katrina D Ronneburger	BHS	2018-19 LL	\$648.15	\$648.15	Frame a Dragon
Arami Bolick-Moore	DRS	2018-19 UU	\$139.80	\$139.80	Using Gaming Technology to Engage At-Risk Students
Heather McNeely	RHS	2018-19 SS	\$798.00	\$798.00	Growing the community
Jennifer Speckman	DRS	2018-19 X	\$816.55	\$715.05	Yearbook Supplies
Deanna Campbell	BES	2018-19 E	\$800.00	\$800.00	Muddy Sneakers
Kimberly Moore	TCH	2018-19 GG	\$551.98	\$551.98	Real World STEM Challenges
Jeanne DeJong	BES	2018-19 H	\$270.37	\$270.37	Tinker Thinkers Toolbox
Kimberly Moore	TCH	2018-19 DD	\$425.86	\$425.86	Cue the Robots!
Jessica Webb and Mandy Blake	DRS	2018-19 TT	\$430.98	\$430.98	Encouraging a Sense of Community at DRS
Lisa M. Pauer	BES	2018-19 U	\$500.00	\$500.00	World Peace Game Facilitator Training
Noelle Fehn	DRS	2018-19 M	\$660.00	\$660.00	Aquaponics Garden Kit

Elizabeth Ballard	RMS	2018-19 RR	\$335.58	\$335.58	Hand Tools for Art
Carrie Norris	BHS	2018-19 K	\$1,260.00	\$760.00	SLIDE into High School! Every MINUTE Counts!!!
Elizabeth Ballard	TCH	2018-19 FF	\$522.69	\$522.69	Makey-Makeys for Makers
Alyse Hollingsworth	BES	2018-19 MM	\$599.96	\$599.96	Buzzing Around BES with Bee-Bots
Hayley Leland	BES	2018-19 B	\$670.01	\$670.01	Growing Plants and Young Minds!
Ashley Dickson	BMS	2018-19 BB	\$349.56	\$349.56	When Reading Gets Real!!
Renee Compton and Michelle Ridenour	BES	2018-19 Y	\$355.25	\$355.25	Tisket a TASKet
Hayley Leland	BES	2018-19 C	\$538.02	\$538.02	Creation Stations
Amy Schoenacher/Sarah Justice	RHS	2018-19 L	\$712.00	\$712.00	Chihuly
Carol Martin	BES	2018-19 O	\$460.81	\$460.81	It Just Makes Sense
Leigh Hyett	BES	2018-19 HH	\$1,231.20	\$615.60	Leveling the Playing Field
Linda Carrillo	RMS	2018-19 J	\$600.00	\$600.00	The W.A.Y. (The World Around You)
Peggy Bayne	RES	2018-19 EE	\$795.00	\$795.00	Bright Star Touring Theatre Summer Tour
Sean Parrish	BHS	2018-19 QQ	\$1,008.23	\$600.00	Gallery Frames and Pedestals
Barbie Higdon	RES	2018-19 CC	\$456.12	\$228.00	Pedaling Our Way to Better Focus and Learning

Outstanding WIOA Business Partner Award

Congratulations to Transylvania County Schools Career & Technical Education Department for being named as an Outstanding WIOA Business Partner at the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board Recognition Luncheon on December 7 at the Blue Ridge Community College Conference Center.

Transylvania County Schools CTE was nominated by Jason Chappell, NCWorks Director, for outstanding use of career center services through Blue Ridge Community College and the NCWorks Career Center.

