

## **Edgefield County Vision Grant at Work at WEP**

The direction statement of the Edgefield County School District is “Creating world class citizens who are developing the thinking, personal and relational skills needed for continued success in a changing society”. Our community stakeholders identified honesty/integrity; initiative/self-direction; work ethic; collaboration; communication; and trustworthy/reliable as important characteristics that our students should possess for the business world. Students need to be taught these skills as early as possible. Mrs. Jenny Yonce, W. E. Parker Elementary School teacher, wants her students to be productive members of society one day. She believes they will need to develop strong personal and relational skills to do this.

Mrs. Yonce is very thankful for the Edgefield County Vision Grant! With the grant money that was given to her, she was able to buy Character First Curriculum for her classes. There are 22 character traits that are taught using fun and creative ways. Each character trait kit comes with multiple lessons, craft ideas, posters, and character cards for the students to keep. In the picture, her 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have just finished making their Honesty Lions, which is what their lesson was about. They thoroughly enjoyed the lesson and learned a lot about honesty.

The students will be taught one trait per month using the kit, which includes 3 hours of instruction. They will be taught one lesson per Monday, and the 4<sup>th</sup> week will be review. The students are involved in visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic activities to help them learn and retain the trait. It is a very fun way to learn how to have good character traits! All of the students are so excited on Mondays! They ask, “What are we going to make and learn today?” Mrs. Yonce added, “It is very rewarding to watch them grow into great citizens!”

Pictured: Left: Trevon Kinard. Top:Brayden Strom. Bottom: William Stringer & Makaylie Mathis.

