



Sixth-grade winner Hannah Nelson models the created fashion design from Ms. Colegrove's class.

Fashion show walks green lifestyles down the runway

By Caroline Evans

Students and faculty at Waccamaw Intermediate School in Pawleys Island have embraced what it means to “go green.”

On Feb. 3, the school hosted a “Gators Go Green” night, which was sponsored by Fisher Recycling. The purpose of the event was to educate students and their families about how to reduce, reuse and recycle at home, school and work.

The night of fun included education stations, games and free pizza, but the highlight of the night was the Green Fashion Show. More than 25 different fashions were modeled, but these outfits weren’t your everyday styles. Each outfit was uniquely created by students and teachers using 100 percent recyclable materials.

In the weeks leading up to the fashion show, students educated themselves on what materials are recyclable and which ones weren’t, like glue, tape and thread, while creating the designs. The end result was a wide array of groovy outfits that the students modeled with flair and pride.

According to Nicole Zeller, a fifth-grade teacher at WIS, students used items like plastic bags, Capri Sun pouches, cardboard, plastic bottles, coffee filters, newspapers and bottle tops to make their outfits. “Students even made accessories, such as golf bags,



Models from Miss Cuiba's sixth-grade class walk the runway at “Gators Go Green” at Waccamaw Intermediate School. Each outfit is made with 100 percent recyclable materials.

surfboards, jewelry and pocket books to accompany their outfits,” she said.

And it wasn’t just their wear that was green. Beautiful Salon & Spa provided make-up and hair styling using TIGI Love, Peace and the Planet hair products.

Education stations were set up at the event to educate attendees about the importance of going green and were sponsored by Fisher Recycling, Santee Cooper Green Power, MyEco, YMCA, Georgetown County Environmental Services and Waste Zero.

Students also collected used plastic bags before the event and created a “Wall of Change” that included a pledge banner. Students signed the banner to promise to

make a difference in the green movement in the community.

“I learned recycling is very important for the environment,” said Chase Skinner, a fourth-grader, after the event. “Everyone now thinks the Earth is important because of the fashion show.”

The go green efforts at WIS haven’t stopped, said Zeller. “We are collecting plastic grocery bags to recycle, and we have recycling bins in every classroom and posted throughout the school,” she said. “Many students, staff and community members truly learned a lot from this experience. I am noticing students look for the recycle symbol on products ... and am hearing talk about the environment from students.”

And WIS also took part in Teach My People’s School and Street Sweep on Feb. 18. Teach MY People and the Waccamaw area schools have partnered with Kristen Brown’s MY ECO InterACTION curriculum, which advocates the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling. “Change happens but not without leadership, movement and common goals. MYECO InterACTION teaches children to be leaders through curriculum ideas that inspire action-centered learning,” said Kristen Brown of MY ECO in a press release. Waccamaw Elementary, middle and high schools also participated in the sweep. ♻️