

Experts say there could be 7 to 10 hurricanes this year.

STORY BELOW

Praise and worship music to celebrate 9th anniversary

PAGE 1B



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## A BLUE PRINT FOR SUCCESS



CHRISTINE ANDERSON/FOR THE TIMES  
The students, teachers and staff of Blue Print Leadership Academy celebrated the end of their summer enrichment camp with an awards ceremony recently. The camp encouraged students to develop leadership skills for school.

## Camp teaches kids to be leaders

BY CHRISTINE ANDERSON  
For the Times

Students in the Blue Print Leadership Academy's summer camp celebrated with an awards ceremony recently.

The kids took part in the enrichment camp that mixed tutoring in major school subjects, etiquette, and leadership skills with a healthy dose of fun.

The kids took swimming lessons at the YMCA and weekly field trips to places like the movies and the aquarium.

The entire program — from curriculum to trip planning — was written by the three teachers: Monna Blankenship, Dennis Britton and JaGanna Kinloch.

The camp is an extension of the BPLA after-school program that runs

during the school year in several county elementary schools.

The graduation ceremony at Georgetown High School began with the summer graduates playing a round of Family Feud.

The game had categories that helped them recall their favorite camp memories, lunches, teachers, leaders, and listed the 10 BPLA Principles for Success — attitude, respect, honesty, faith, courage, self-esteem, self-determination, accountability, education and leadership.

According to BPLA founder and president Ervin "Blue Print" Parker, the program, which is 10 years old, helps stimulate and motivate young men and women of Georgetown County.

He distributed awards of accomplishment to each of the 19 students who participated in this summer's pro-

## LEADERS

FROM PAGE 2A

"Our teachers and volunteers don't stop when their pay period stops," he said. "Their time and services are unlimited, unconditional."

One of those volunteers is Kelli Blankenship, a rising senior at South Carolina Virtual Charter High School. She tutors the kids and helps her mom, Monna, a teacher, with BPLA throughout the school year.

"My favorite part is working with the kids," she said. "This group of kids has been the best behaved that I have worked with. I've learned a lot about them personally."

Letha Martin's daughter, Brittney, took part in the summer program after her father signed her up.

The Martins are glad they did because the rising fourth-grader has learned a lot over the summer months.

"We received a gift that let her come," Letha said.

"I definitely will be signing her up again and putting her in the after-school program at Kensington Elementary School. She is very happy to get up and come to camp every day. She said [JaGanna Kinloch] has given her some very challenging math quizzes."

### BPLA's founder

BPLA was founded in 2001 by Parker, a former NFL linebacker.

The after-school program is three and a half hours long for four days a week at Kensington, Plantersville and McDonald elementary schools.

Each site has two teachers who are

gram.

"We are always willing to work and think outside the box," Parker said. "I'm more committed going into this next 10 years than I was even in the last 10 years."

He also announced plans to focus more on the students' health and nutrition, citing a study that ranked South Carolina eighth in the country for childhood obesity and diabetes.

There are plans for a charter school that he hopes to have opened for the 2012-2013 school year as well.

### Teachers, staff and volunteers

Parker expressed a great amount of gratitude to the teachers, staff and volunteers who make the camp and other programs possible.

See LEADERS, Page 2A

assisted by three high school juniors or seniors.

Students receive homework assistance, tutoring in math and reading, socialization skills and character education.

For Parker, the academy is a passion he plans to continue far into the future. "A passion is something you love that you would do for free," he said, encouraging the students to find something that they are passionate for and pursue it with all of their hearts.

The ceremony concluded with a luncheon donated by Chef Herb Linen, George's Restaurant, Domino's Pizza, autosurfpro.com, Meat Locker, and Szechuan Restaurant.

For more information on the Blue Print Leadership Academy, call (843) 545-8861 or visit [www.blueprintlead-ership.org](http://www.blueprintlead-ership.org).