



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Pierce Terrace Elementary Kicks Off Month of the Military Child with Celebration

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — Pierce Terrace Elementary School launched the Month of the Military Child with a celebration on April 1, bringing together students, parents, staff, and community members to honor military-connected children. Attendees wore purple, the official color of the month, or school colors to show support for military families.

Soldiers from B Co 3-34 BN, 165th BDE greeted students as they arrived, opening car doors and offering smiles and encouragement. Their presence ensured a safe arrival and underscored the connection between service members and the community.

“April is a time to celebrate our military children, and we have many activities planned,” said Kris Albrecht, a school official. “Today was a great start with a strong community event.”



Sir Purr is leading the way with energy and excitement as students and staff followed in support of military-connected families.

The program began on the school's front lawn, where Principal Robert Battey opened with remarks about the sacrifices and experiences of military children. The 282nd Army Band from Fort Jackson performed the National Anthem, setting a patriotic tone.

Fort Jackson Garrison Commander Col. Timothy Hickman, the keynote speaker, addressed the crowd with a presentation aimed at the young audience. He shared relatable stories with humor, connecting with the students and highlighting military life's challenges and joys.

Carolina Panthers mascot Sir Purr also attended, adding excitement to the event. After the speeches, the 282nd Army Band played as students and staff marched in a parade around the school grounds, joined by Sir Purr. Cheers and laughter filled the air during the walk.

Following the parade, the Pierce Terrace Elementary PTA provided popsicles for students, who relaxed with classmates and took photos with Sir Purr, who also signed autographs.

The celebration at Pierce Terrace Elementary was a meaningful way to launch the Month of the Military Child. The event highlighted the resilience of military-connected students and kicked off a month of recognition with support from Fort Jackson leaders, the PTA, and community figures like Sir Purr.

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