



CAMPERDOWN CONNECTION

JUNE 2017

Building Confident Learners Through Language Skills

A new addition to the Camperdown family is giving students a boost with their language skills. This year, Camperdown hired a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) to work alongside classroom teachers in an effort to more specifically target the weakest language skills associated with each child's dyslexic profile. Sarah Gledhill MSP, CCC-SLP began her career at the Wardlaw School in Atlanta, a program for children with dyslexia that places a heavy emphasis on language development. Her job at Camperdown is to collaborate and co-teach with content teachers in order to provide additional tools and strategies in the areas of receptive, expressive, and written language. Sarah's focus is on building strong speaking and listening skills to lay the foundation for the development of higher order language that is required to achieve academic success. She further collaborates with classroom teachers to build vocabulary, encourage oral language participation, develop better listening and processing skills, enhance critical thinking, and improve self-advocacy among the students.



Subtle differences in instruction have an impactful outcome. For example, asking a child to *explain* what they know rather than asking them if they understand (resulting in a 'yes' or 'no' answer) not only helps strengthen the expressive/written component, but serves as a reinforcement of their receptive skills. The co-teaching approach allows content teachers to help children master material, while the SLP can focus on assisting the process in which students learn the information. Having a second set of eyes and ears that are keenly tailored to listen for, and remediate, the foundation of language basics will further help to ensure children are receiving the strong, individualized instruction needed to produce confident learners.

STUDENT SUCCESS



PAYTON EPPS, Student of the Year

Payton Epps is the Student of the Year for 2016-2017. She is pictured here with her extended family who surprised her at the Awards Day ceremony. Payton is one of those students who tries hard, doesn't give up, and is a role model for her peers. Her tutor describes her as "tireless". Congratulations Payton!

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Note from Mr. Dan

ALUMNI PRIDE

CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT '07



After leaving Camperdown, Christian graduated from Riverside High before moving on to Greenville Tech for his degree. He is now working at Returnable Packaging Resource

in Greenville. Mr. Jeremy and Mr. Stephen were happy to see him when he came by for a visit in February.

CHARLIE STONE '10

Charlie Stone left Camperdown Academy and went to Greenville High before heading north to Cornell University for college. He is a senior double-majoring in Animal Science and Entomology and is back from a recent trip studying in Africa. He stopped by Camperdown in May to say hello to some of his favorite teachers.



Dear Friends,
We celebrated Sunday Funday this year out on our new property. Despite the crazy wind, we had more than 300 current and former students and their families join us to take a peek at the future site of our school. In the past month, Verdae Properties has started clearing for the new road that will extend from

Laurens Road down to the future Swamp Rabbit Trail and our school (visit www.camperdown.org for more details). Everywhere I go, people ask me “when will you start building?” The answer is really simple but not what most people want to hear: ***we will build when we meet our campaign goal of 5 million dollars.*** I would like to put a shovel in the ground today! Too many children need a seat in a classroom and too many teachers need access to our training for us to wait. If you haven’t yet made a pledge to the campaign, call me! I’d love to talk about how you can partner with us so we can start turning dirt.

I’d like to thank the IFMA, International Facilities Management Association, for choosing Camperdown and our campaign to benefit from their annual golf tournament. We took some Star Group students out to thank the participants and take a few swings on the practice green.



JAGUAR ATHLETICS

The Jaguar competitive sports program wrapped up the school year with a banquet that filled the Big Room. More than 120 people attended to celebrate the success of the athletic program and the 5 different sports seasons. The following students were awarded the MVP honor for their respective sport: Tennis, Andrew Wise; Basketball, Anderson Jones and London Rhodes; Soccer, Andrew Ross; Volleyball, Emma Kromer; Golf, Clifton Schmitt.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• AUG •
21

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
(and the solar eclipse)!
It's a full school day so that students can learn about and safely view the solar eclipse.

• SEPT •
14

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
Meet the teachers and see your child's classroom. Evening event, adults only please.

For all events, please visit www.camperdown.org for more information.

Pirate Day!

A Peek Inside

Part of the fun that makes Camperdown a family? Dress Down Day! During the Wednesday morning assembly, students help choose what dress theme they want for Thursday. Choices include crazy hair day, twins day, pirate day, Star Wars day, and the ever-popular pajama day. Even the teachers participate in the dress down fun. The tradition helps foster camaraderie and school spirit among staff and students.



M Group science class has a new class pet! When a mouse decided to visit Mrs. Linda's room, the class decided it would help relocate the mouse outside. But the whiskered rodent won their hearts and the next day a special container made an appearance so that Mr. Mouse (he was named "Timothy") would have a place to call his own. The students had to research how to care for their new friend and make sure that whiskers had a place to call home for the summer.

Mrs. Margaret's D Group social studies students took a hands-on approach to learning about the pilgrims and their voyage to the new world. Rather than trying to describe the conditions, students had to craft ships that helped them visualize how cramped they were and what living conditions must have been like.



Because of You...

Parent giving to the Annual Fund this year was amazing.

Seventy-two families donated a total of \$70,305.25 to help close the gap between what tuition covers and what it actually costs to operate the school (salaries, insurance, curriculum, traffic cop, etc.). When parent giving is combined with total Annual Fund giving, there is a \$40,000 increase in giving over last year! A big Hip, Hip, Hooray to our parent campaign chairs, Al and Traci Willimon, for their commitment to this vital annual effort. Their creativity and leadership in the ThanksGIVING challenge helped close this gap and ensure continued excellence in the education of dyslexic children.



Staff Spotlight: Christine Smith

Congratulations to our 2016-17 Teacher of the Year - Christine Smith! In addition to being one of our dedicated and skilled tutors, Christine is known among the Camperdown staff as our “assistive technology guru.” Tutors and content teachers rely on her for recommendations of appropriate apps and software and hardware tools that can assist students in achieving success inside and outside of the classroom. Christine also generously shares her expertise with parents and the community. She led a well-attended Assistive Technology (AT) seminar for Camperdown’s Lecture Series in May. One parent participant captured the unanimous praise of her session: “Thank you...for an informative evening. Your presentation was engaging, especially with all the hands-on opportunities to try out the AT!!...WOW, there is so much out there that I was totally unaware of.”

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL FUND DONORS *January 1 through April 30, 2017*

Jaguar Society Leadership Giving

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■ 501 Howell Road ■ Greenville, SC 29615 ■ 864.244.8899 ■ Camperdown.org