



CAMPERDOWN CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2016



Proviso Limbo

Tax credits for special needs education have made a huge difference for parents considering Camperdown. But the proviso that established the program underwent some big changes this summer that have led to uncertainty and a funding shortfall. For the first three years it existed, the proviso provided a \$10,000 scholarship to every Camperdown student who applied through Palmetto Kids First, a non-profit Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO). This year, all SFO's were eliminated in favor of a singular non-profit, Exceptional SC. This non-profit is overseen by the Department of Revenue and a five person volunteer board. And fundraising is down. The

\$8 million cap for donations was reached within weeks of July 1st last summer. This year, the new \$10 million cap stands at less than \$5 million raised through the end of September. **The result? Returning Camperdown students have received half of what they were awarded last year.** Exceptional SC has made clear their intention to award further scholarships this year as funding becomes available.

The tax credit that benefits donors can be utilized by both individuals and corporations. While the uncertainty created by this legislative change leaves parents wondering if they can afford the tuition, **the premise behind supporting families with exceptional educational needs is strong and deserves support.**

WHO CAN DONATE

Individuals + Corporations who pay SC income taxes

Donors are:

- Eligible to claim a **dollar for dollar credit on state income tax** liability;
- (or) Entitled to a tax credit against bank taxes imposed pursuant to Chapter 11, Title 12;
- Limited to a **maximum credit claim that is 60% of their one-year tax liability**;
- Not allowed to designate a specific student or school as beneficiary;
- Limited by a **first come, first served annual statewide cap of \$10 million.**

STUDENT SUCCESS



Durham McEntire

Durham is new to Camperdown, and started off the year telling his teacher "I can't read." But his confidence has grown, his reading ability has grown tremendously, and he can even write his name in cursive. Durham likes to spend his free time in class practicing handwriting. Durham's mom says the change is evident at home as well. "We truly have a new kid since starting Camperdown....joyful, kind, and content each and every day. There has not been one school day that resulted in a breakdown, not one. For this, we are beyond grateful."

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ALUMNI PRIDE

JASON FREDERICK '13

Jason Frederick is a senior at Greer Middle College High School. He wants to be a physical therapist and is trying to decide between attending Wofford or Winthrop. For his Senior Project, Jason is volunteering at Camperdown to learn about athletic coaching by helping with the soccer and basketball teams. As part of his experience, Jason will put together a basketball tournament later this winter.

CAM MCLEOD '09



Teacher Jimmi-Ann Muse was happy to run into alum Cam McLeod recently. Cam is in his senior year at

USC in Columbia majoring in Engineering, and plans to get his masters. He is using his entrepreneurial skills by managing retail properties and handling upkeep/maintenance while he finishes college.

ASHLYNN POWELL '09 AUSTIN POWELL '08

Ashlynn Powell is playing soccer for Presbyterian College and is majoring in Elementary Education. Her brother, Austin Powell, just graduated from Clemson this past May with a Civil Engineering Degree and is now in the Clemson MBA program.

Note from Mr. Dan



Dear Friends,

We're off to a great start this school year! 29 new students and 7 new faculty (meet our new teachers on page 4). Having room for a new student means another student has successfully completed our program. The beauty of Camperdown is that as a school of need, not of choice, we see students every year who no

longer need to be here. Cameron Daniels is one of those students. He was here for 2nd through 5th grades, and has just transitioned to Beck Academy. His Dad sent me a note saying Cameron had all A's on his progress report. Specifically, he mentioned that Cameron's teachers "all acknowledge his communication and personal advocacy skills set him apart from the other students!" These are the success stories that I am privileged to hear on a daily basis.

But we don't have space for all of the dyslexic students like Cameron, and that's why our Training and Outreach component is so important. We believe that many dyslexic students can be served in



a traditional classroom if the teacher at the head of the class has the proper training. On September 27th, Camperdown Academy partnered with EPS to provide an overview of their OG based reading program. More than 20 teachers and administrators came to our school for a session that better prepares them to have an impact on children they are serving in their classrooms **right now**. Keep checking our website for more training opportunities.

JAGUAR ATHLETICS

The Camperdown versus Sandhills rivalry has been going strong for more than 15 years. Camperdown competes with the Columbia school for dyslexic students



in athletic events ranging from volleyball, to soccer, to basketball. The winner receives a banner to display that highlights the win/loss record. Camperdown has had the banner for two years now, and a late September soccer match saw Camperdown win again with a score of 6-1.



UPCOMING EVENTS

• OCT •
26 – • OCT •
30

BOOK FAIR

Camperdown students learn to love reading and the annual book fair is always a big hit! Tutors will assist students in making appropriate choices and can share ideas with parents as well.

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TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES CHRISTMAS SHOP

Sustainable, eco-friendly trinkets will be available for students' holiday shopping. Every purchase supports the livelihood of those from communities throughout the developing world.

• DEC •
6

WALKING IN THE SHOES OF A DYSLEXIC

This evening event is for parents and professionals to participate in a simulation designed to show you how it feels to have a learning difference.

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

A Peek Inside

Miss Sara's C2 Class enjoyed the story *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* by Dr. Seuss. In the book, the King is tired of the same old weather patterns and wants something different to fall from the sky. So a magician creates oobleck which causes a mess when it falls on the kingdom. Students learned about being content with what they already have. They also made their own oobleck by mixing cornstarch, water, and a lot of green food coloring.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's A Group Science class with Miss Linda! Each student is using binoculars to view and learn about specific characteristics of birds that frequent the Camperdown campus. With the help of multiple bird feeders, the students are using their observation and recall skills to create and color their own field guide of feathered friends.



Science and Social Studies classes are working together to learn about the migration of monarch butterflies. This cross-curriculum study has students in Social Studies tracking migration patterns while learning about longitude, latitude, and how to connect with other cultures through shared responsibility for animals and the environment. In Science, students are carefully examining the monarch life cycle by raising larva that will morph into butterflies to be tagged and released for a trackable migration journey.

Because of You...

Thank you to the **Community Foundation of Greenville** for its recent gift to Camperdown. With a 50% match from a Camperdown Academy board member, the total gift was \$187,500 towards a new building. Camperdown was grateful to be a part of the Community Foundation's 60th Anniversary Celebration. This leadership gift will help build a strong foundation as Camperdown plans a capital campaign to provide for future growth.



Staff Spotlight

Welcome to the newest members of the Camperdown family! Dawnena Darnall, Becky Strange, and Karen Wood have joined the Tutorial staff. Our new content teachers are Matt Lyda in Math, Catherine Kaufmann in Literature, and Linda George in Science. Joining the MAD team (music, art, drama) is Eryn Chickey-Tillery.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS *Annual Fund Giving May 1 through August 31, 2016*

UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS

Anonymous
Sara Betts
Dan Blanch
Jeremy and Julie Bullinger
Pete and Norma Bylenga
Carolyn Cadieu
Keith Callahan
Myrtie Carter
Mike and Linda Cassels

Eryn Chickey-Tillery
Meg Coffey
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