

CAMPERDOWN CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2017

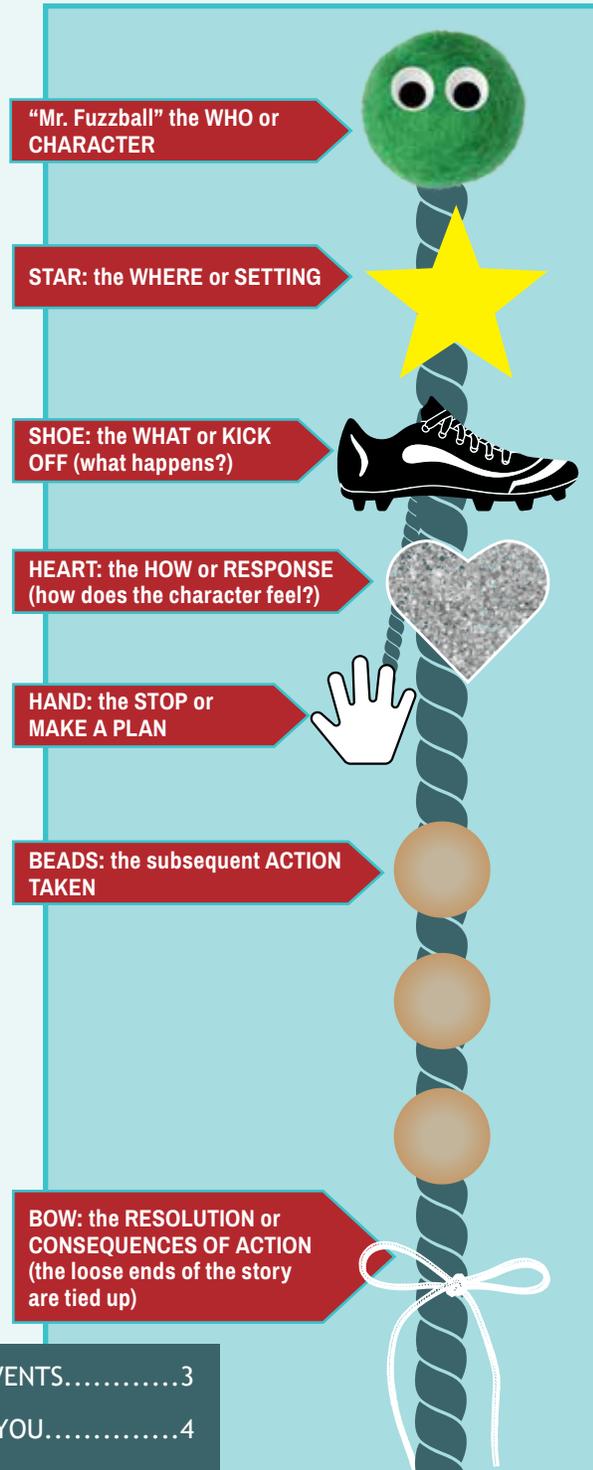
How a , , and Help Students Tell a Story

Even before paper and pencil existed, stories were passed from generation to generation. The ability to “tell a tale” has less to do with reading, and more to do with understanding, organizing, and expressing a sequence of thoughts. With the assistance of a visual and tactile teaching aid called the Story Grammar Marker (SGM), teachers are able to help the dyslexic brain make sense of a critical skill.



As students work their way down the braided rope, the items they touch and see represent the different elements of a story and provide a linear way of organizing multiple pieces of information. (see sidebar)

Literature teacher Catherine Kaufmann had her Am Group children each make their own SGM. She says that the students’ ability to recall and re-tell a story with the tool has been amazing. “They don’t leave out pertinent information anymore or struggle with the sequence of events when they use their SGM as a visual prompt.” As the stories they are exposed to increase in complexity, students learn to manipulate their braided rope and go back to revisit additional actions, feelings, and consequences. This allows them to dive deeper into the narrative to not only comprehend the stories better, but to further expand their ability to verbalize what they understand.



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Note from Mr. Dan



Dear Friends,

A recent news article claiming “scientists may have found a cause of dyslexia” has made its way to my inbox many times over the past few days. The research focuses on light receptor cells in the human eye with the premise that this potential cause for dyslexia has to do with confusing mirror images sent to

the brain. “Dyslexic people make so-called ‘mirror errors’ in reading...” says Guy Ropars, co-author of the study.

I wish dyslexia were that simple! It is exciting to see science making inroads into the “why” some have dyslexia, but their explanation of “what” dyslexia is oversimplifies the learning difference. It is true, letter reversals can be an early indication of dyslexia; but what I see in our students is a complex struggle processing the phonological component of language. This results in difficulty with decoding, accuracy, and fluency, which in turn impacts comprehension. Can all this be due to light receptors in the eye? Maybe! But until science and technology come together with a united cause and cure, I remain grateful for our teachers and their approach to teaching our dyslexic kiddos that leads to such successful outcomes.

ALUMNI PRIDE

REBECCA RODRIGUEZ '11

Rebecca is a junior at Anderson University studying Human Resource Management. She attended high school at Shannon Forest Christian School. Rebecca spent some time at Camperdown this summer helping put together the I Am...Camperdown video series featuring alumni talking about their dyslexia.



JASON STURM '14

Jason is a senior at Oakbrook Preparatory School in Spartanburg. He has taken many AP courses throughout high school and is planning to study engineering in college. In October, he became an Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project was building picnic tables for the Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve. Congratulations to Jason on this huge accomplishment!



Volleyball & Soccer

JAGUAR ATHLETICS

Fall sports are off to a great start! The soccer team has won three of the four games played so far against middle school teams. The volleyball team has had multiple games go beyond regulation scoring due to competitive play. Many on the volleyball team have sought out local clinics to attend in an effort to boost their skill level even further. Basketball season is right around the corner. Go Jaguars!





UPCOMING EVENTS



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Informative session on available supports for the dyslexic learner.



SANTA SHOP

Students can enjoy holiday gift shopping in the Big Room.



LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

A presentation on boosting language development and central auditory processing disorder.

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

A Peek Inside

TANGRAMS

Rebecca Shaw's math students in Am, Star, and D Groups love the new Tangram Master game that uses geometric shapes which fit together like puzzle pieces. Beyond the kinesthetic and visual-spatial benefits, the game is simply a fun way to train the brain to think logically. The science of logical thought helps students make the eventual transition from doing math with numbers to doing math with variables.

BUTTERFLIES

A cross-curricular science and social studies project is contributing to the conservation of endangered Monarch butterflies. Several groups grew Monarch and Gulf fritillary butterflies from larvae (caterpillars) and released them once they were full grown. While they were growing, students drew diagrams of each life cycle stage and learned about food choices and migration patterns and how to identify the gender of adult Monarchs from wing markings. Am Group student Garyn said the best part was after the butterfly emerged it had to pump its wings several times before it could fly off.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Daniel Wagner, Am Group

Daniel is new to Camperdown this year. The Am Group student was previously homeschooled, and he had to work hard to adapt to the organizational routine and classroom structure of Camperdown. Daniel's tutor, Dana Newell, says his attitude about school is wonderful, and he is doing great with new skills like cursive handwriting.



Because of You...

Thanks to Durham McEntire's parents, Amber and Ben McEntire, for donating all of the mulch necessary to make the playgrounds at Camperdown safe and enjoyable! A big truck from Hensons' Mulch and More (the family company), drove down to the lower field and spread the generous donation around the swingset and other play structures.

A big thank you also to the Charity Ball Board of The Rose Ball for choosing Camperdown Academy as one of its recipients of the 2017 event. Camperdown was honored to be in attendance at a check presentation ceremony in October. The contribution will go towards the capital campaign and help meet the five million dollar goal for the new school.



Staff Spotlight: Chris Smith

Chris Smith moved from Maine to South Carolina in 2015, bringing her considerable teaching experience with her to the tutorial department. In addition to tutoring, her role is expanding this year as she steps into middle school content classrooms as a Critical Thinking Instructional Coach. Chris' role is to collaborate with teachers to provide additional tools for students such as questioning techniques, visual teaching aids, technology assistance, and alternative assessment approaches. The long term goal is to support both teachers and students by bringing new and innovative ideas to the classroom that will help students engage with the curriculum and further develop critical thinking skills necessary for long-term educational success.

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