



# CAMPERDOWN CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2015

## Tax Credits Good Deal for Students

Parents faced with a diagnosis of dyslexia and a child struggling to succeed look to Camperdown for a solution. But for many, the cost of tuition has been a roadblock to receiving the help their children need. The South Carolina state legislature passed a proviso in 2013 that changed all of that. Now taxpayers can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against their South Carolina income tax by making a donation to newly established non-profits, which turn those donations into scholarship tuition assistance. And the classrooms at Camperdown have filled up as a result. 31 new students have joined the Jaguar family in the 2014-2015 school year, but that doesn't tell the whole story. Children who come to

Camperdown with a low level of functional literacy often need more years at the school than families can afford. With this scholarship program, parents can make the financial commitment to keep their children at Camperdown for more years. This has led to a 70% decrease in the rate of attrition.

The future of this program, called the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children, will be decided by lawmakers in this legislative session. Originally designed as a way to help children with special needs attend the independent school of their choice, the program has only been approved as a proviso and needs to be signed into law. Equally



important is the need to raise the 8 million dollar annual cap that is the current ceiling for tax credit donations. Non-profits created to disburse the donations are called Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO's). Camperdown Academy works with the SFO, Palmetto Kids First. This SFO has raised almost twelve

million dollars since the program began, and has provided scholarship funding to every student at Camperdown who requested assistance. Based on the need the SFO has identified across the state and the number of children on a waiting list for scholarship tuition assistance, Palmetto Kids First is advocating for the new cap to be set at 25 million dollars annually.

**Palmetto Kids FIRST**  
Scholarship Program, Inc.  
*Thank you for your support and donations. The teachers at Camperdown help us learn in a different way which is easier for our brain. I appreciate what you have done for me.*  
Sincerely,  
*Jack*  
THANK YOU

**Palmetto Kids FIRST**  
Scholarship Program, Inc.  
*Thank you for your support of Camperdown. I am thankful because I would work so hard that I would cry at my old school and I don't do that now from.*  
Mandy  
THANK YOU

## STUDENT SUCCESS



**"Please know you change lives. Tanner began reading signs as we were riding down the road this week and it was the sweetest sound. Everyone who has seen him since school started can't believe the difference in his attitude and confidence and that he laughs so much."**

— Casey Hamilton

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# ALUMNI PRIDE

## ERIKA ROBINSON, 2005

*Erika is in her senior year at the Manhattan School of Music and will graduate this spring. She will be performing a solo with her choral group at The Kennedy Center prior to graduation. She also has a job working for New Amsterdam Records.*

## RYAN GRANDY, 1999

*Ryan graduated from Clemson with a Business Management degree, and is now Finance Manager for Rush Enterprises in Oklahoma City overseeing multiple dealerships. He is getting married in July!*

## JACK HIPP, 2007

*Jack just finished his first term of college at Savannah College of Art and Design with a perfect 4.0.*

*"Thank you, thank you for giving him such a stellar foundation and believing that he could do great things."*

*Karen Hipp*

# Note from Mr. Dan



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our new tri-annual newsletter. As the title says, this piece is meant to help you stay connected, re-connect, or maybe connect for the first time with all that is taking place at Camperdown. I am especially excited about our Alumni Pride section. I hear back from parents of former students on a regular basis as they share exciting stories about success that our alumni are achieving in college classrooms and executive boardrooms across the country. Just last week, we were excited to hear how Greg Coggins (2007) is a senior at the Citadel and already has an internship lined up right after graduation. His mom says she feels like Camperdown made the difference for him. That is our goal! Changing the lives of our dyslexic students by focusing on their strengths and teaching them how to overcome their areas of weakness is why Camperdown exists. We want to hear from more of our alumni so that we can celebrate their success and share tips on "life after Camperdown" with our current families. Please shoot me an email and share your story...dblanch@camperdown.org.

This past fall, I attended the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) Annual Reading, Literacy and Learning Conference in San Diego. I had the privilege to present at this meeting on various topics including Challenges Associated with School Leadership. As I spoke with heads of schools from all over the country, I was quickly reminded that the strong support network here at Camperdown of committed teachers, parents, and donors makes my leadership role easy. I thank you for that support and for your commitment to our success in continuing to provide excellence in the education of dyslexic students.

# Spotlight on Staff:

Congratulations to Suzanna Greer on receiving her Fellow credential from the Academy of Orton-Gillingham (OG) Practitioners and Educators. This is the highest level of certification available and represents hours of learning and research on the part of Mrs. Greer. The OG Academy certifies Fellows to train others in the OG Approach, a teaching philosophy that uses multi-sensory strategies to build success in literacy for students with dyslexia. Mrs. Greer is Director of Language Development Tutorial at Camperdown. She has a Bachelors degree in History, a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, plus fourteen years of teaching experience in the classroom.







## A Peek Inside

Student council members visited the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) near the Greenville Health System campus to see how money they donated is being used. Student Council officers for the 2014-2015 school year are: Luke Shriver, President; Alex Stokes, Treasurer; and Matthew Woznick, Secretary. Representatives are: Carson Rogers, 7th grade; Connor Jones, 6th grade; Campbell Altman, 5th grade; Watson Roberts, 4th grade; Payton Epps, 4th grade; Gracie Smith, 3rd grade; Thomas Turner, 1st & 2nd grades.

A new Math Lab class has been added to complement the regularly scheduled math period everyday for students in A through D groups. The Math Lab is designed to reinforce concepts being taught in math class by utilizing repetition and fact memorization. Short term memory deficits can be common among students struggling with dyslexia, and the opportunity to provide

additional class time will increase retention. The Math Lab class has purchased 14 iPads to give students more interactive and customized ways to practice what they are learning.

.....  
Former Clemson football stand-out Tajh Boyd visited Camperdown Academy students for a school wide assembly. Boyd talked about college football, his transition to the NFL, and how setting a goal can often mean a long road



## JAGUAR ATHLETICS

For the first time, Camperdown has both a boys and girls middle school basketball team. A competitive schedule has up to 11 games being played from November thru February. The season will end with the annual Faculty-Student game which the whole student body attends. Kudos to Coach Jimmy Tillery, Coach Jeremy Bullinger, and Coach Keri Kimbrough for all of their hard work. Tennis season is right around the corner.



filled with obstacles and hard work. Students were able to ask Tajh questions, and then either choose to receive a pass from the football player or get his autograph.

.....  
Fun with toilet paper! Mrs. Jimmi-Ann Muse had art students get creative as they celebrated winter by creating custom versions of Frosty and Olaf.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

*A great opportunity for students to invite family and friends to take a tour and see what a Camperdown school day is all about. The afternoon open house will include a chance to see art projects, student presentations, and meet teachers.*



## SUNDAY FUNDAY

*Join us on the field as we share lunch together and enjoy fun and games as a Camperdown family. Current families and alumni are welcome to attend.*



## "CAMPERDOWN CANTEEN"

*You don't want to miss the annual auction gala at the Downtown Airport Hangar. This year's event is set in the 1940's complete with themed décor, music, and wonderful auction items.*

For all events, please visit [www.camperdown.org](http://www.camperdown.org) for more information

# Because of You...

## CAMPERDOWN STUDENTS EXPLORE SCIENCE, MATH, ENGINEERING, AND ART THROUGH 3D PRINTING

Students have been enjoying creating and printing on their new 3D printer. The 3D printer was made possible through a generous donation from LMI Aerospace. Former parent, Michael Schliesman, was instrumental in helping to secure the grant through his company. Science teacher, Jeremy Bullinger, utilized teacher training funds and traveled to New York for an intensive one-day training session in October to learn how to use the technology. He then conducted an in-house training session for other Camperdown teachers. The goal is to improve student engagement in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. The cross-curriculum applications of the 3D printer tie in well with the Orton-Gillingham multi-sensory approach to learning. Science and math classes will work on the design process, and art classes then have the opportunity to finish the printed objects by buffing and painting. Many finished pieces have



been utilized by social studies classes such as contour maps and models of a ziggurat. The printer has also produced stencils for art and an ocarina for music.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

*Annual Fund Donations (July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014)*

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