



# CAMPERDOWN CONNECTION

JUNE 2015

## Math-U-See + Math Lab = Measurable Results

It is widely understood that dyslexia leads to difficulty with language-based tasks like reading and writing, but many

in early elementary grades, but as they are introduced to multistep computations they may lack the skills necessary to produce organized, efficient output. The math department at Camperdown recognized this need and began teaching math using the Math-U-See program two years ago. This method of teaching dovetails with the multi-sensory Orton-Gillingham approach used throughout the school day by emphasizing “build it, write it, say it, teach it back.” Rebecca

Shaw, chair of the math department, says “Math-U-See is so visual and tactile that they understand the processes now, but we were still seeing room for

improvement with basic fact mastery. One period a day of math was not enough.”

This year an additional math lab class period was added to the schedule for Am, Star, and D Group students. The math lab is strictly designed to increase fact fluency and reinforce math vocabulary. Camperdown invested in thirteen iPads that the students utilize daily as they work through an app that tracks individualized practice sessions. **The results have been phenomenal!** In the fall of 2012, nine out of eleven students in Am Group were scoring below average in math. (as measured by the GMADE test). By spring of 2015, only three of seventeen in Am Group were scoring below average in math. Fact fluency rates dramatically increased as well, with some classes seeing as much as a two minute average improvement on timed tests from just fall to winter alone. Parents who are transitioning their children say that

admissions directors at other schools are commenting on the dramatic improvement in math scores they are seeing from Camperdown children. Head of School, Dan Blanch, is pleased with all of the feedback. “We are going to analyze testing results over the summer and continue to tweak the math lab classes to

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make sure we are addressing the areas of greatest need. The first-year results are amazing and we are excited that students are responding so well to the math program.”

dyslexic students also struggle with math. Children with slower processing speeds or executive-function problems are often no different from their peers in math proficiency

## STUDENT SUCCESS



**Teachers and staff recently voted Emma Kromer “Student of the Year.” Described by teachers as “always engaged and always giving her best,” Emma puts in the extra effort to excel in the classroom and does it with a winning attitude. This was Emma’s 5th year at Camperdown Academy.**

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# ALUMNI PRIDE

## REBECCA RODRIGUEZ, '11

*Rebecca has been accepted to Furman, Anderson, Winthrop, and USC Upstate. She is planning on attending college at Anderson University this fall.*

## NICKY D'ONOFRIO, '09

*Nicky is a senior in high school and has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship to a college in Wisconsin.*

## SAM HIXON, '03

*Sam is a recent college graduate who is planning to attend the Police Academy. He stopped by the school when he was in town for a visit.*



Jimmi-Ann Muse, Sam Hixon, Sherrill Livernois

# Note from Mr. Dan



Dear Friends,

It has been a busy few months at Camperdown. We had a great Sunday Funday celebration with more than 300 people gathering for BBQ and hot air balloon rides!



A light drizzle kept the balloon from flying that evening, but everyone had a good time visiting with teachers and alumni. The hot air balloon rides were rescheduled and students had a blast taking tethered rides on the lower field. A student-led Sunday Funday fundraiser brought in money to re-mulch playgrounds, purchase athletic equipment, and support our scholarship fund.

Four years ago, Camperdown became the first accredited Orton-Gillingham (OG) school in the country to offer a “brain-training” program as an optional track for students. Since then our Cognitive Classroom has grown and is attracting attention from not only families of potential students around the country but also other educators. Recently a group of professionals from Virginia and West Virginia spent several days touring our school and meeting with our Cognitive Classroom teachers about the Arrowsmith program and its potential to re-train the brain in areas where a cognitive deficit exists. We are sending another teacher to Canada this summer for training so that we can continue to support the program. The exercises that Cognitive Classroom students participate in are like “mental olympics.” With all that researchers are learning about brain elasticity, we are excited about the



results these students are producing in their academic classes due to their participation in this program.

## JAGUAR ATHLETICS

The Camperdown Jaguar Tennis Team did a great job this season! This was the largest tennis team the school has ever had and players' skills ranged from beginner to advanced. The team won two matches this season and played schools from across the Upstate and Western North Carolina. Congratulations to Andrew Ross, Andrew Wise, Ryan Sease, Connor Jones, Luke Shriver, Skyler Moorhouse, Carson Rogers, Sam Cooter, Grace Corbett, Alexander Hoverath, Mica Bailey, Anderson Jones, Andrew Smith, and Carson Roth.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

• AUG •  
**16**

## NEW PARENT SOCIAL

*Each year, Camperdown Academy hosts the New Parent Social so that families new to Camperdown, or who joined us during the last school year, can meet staff and other parents before school begins. Invitations will be mailed the first week of August with event details.*

• AUG •  
**18**

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

*Welcome back students! This first day of school is a half day with dismissal at 12:30pm. The first full day of school will be Wednesday, August 19th.*

• SEPT •  
**10**

## BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

*This Open House is an opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher(s) in a group setting and walk through a mock schedule of the school day.*

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

## A Peek Inside

Jimmy Tillery's Am Group social studies class put together a musical to highlight what they learned about a study of the Revolutionary War. The production was titled *The King's Musical*, and the children acted out the tyranny of the British officers and the unfair taxation that was placed on the people in America. The final act was a battle scene on King's Mountain. Songs from the musical included "God Save the King" and "This Land Is Your Land."

E Group literature students in Diana Carey's class have been studying the book *Treasure Island*. After reading the book, each student chose one pirate to research and write a paper about. The children dressed up like their pirate and then gave a 3 minute oral presentation in front of the class.

M Group science class has been studying the physics of

rocket propulsion. They are learning about the various forms of energy, the nature of combustion, and the concepts of force, velocity, and acceleration. Students experimented with building matchbox rockets. They also built several kinds of matchstick structures to observe different combustion scenarios.

The owner of Liz Daly Designs of Greenville taught a joint art class with teacher Jimmi-Ann Muse on how to make slumped glass pendant ornaments. Liz's son, Tyler, is in D Group.

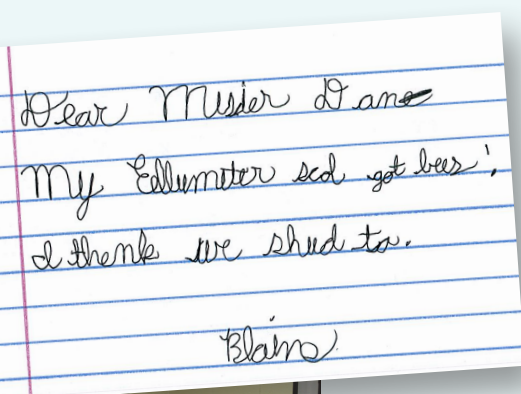
He and his classmates glued bits of stained glass together to design necklace charms for Mother's Day gifts. The glass creations were placed in a kiln and "slumped" together to form a disc.





# Because of You...

Am Group student, Blaine Eller, recently wrote a letter to Mr. Dan telling him how her friend had gotten a beehive for her elementary school.



Thanks to the efforts of Blaine's parents, Dan and Laura, and the generosity of The Bee Cause Project, Camperdown Academy now has a honeybee observation hive in Mr. Jeremy's science classroom. The goal of this donation is to stimulate curiosity in young people about the importance of honeybees and learn about their care and well-being by observing the hive and its activities. Representatives from The Bee Cause Project came to the school and suited up Blaine and her little brother to help with installation. A hive with more than 6,000 bees was placed into an outer wall of the science classroom, allowing for freedom of movement outside and easy viewing through a clear glass case inside. Students have loved watching the bees build honeycombs and work together to keep the hive growing. As part of The Bee Cause Project, Camperdown Academy's student council will be able to sell honey in future years to support further honeybee hive expansions in other schools around the country.



## Spotlight on Staff:

Science teachers David Brame and Jeremy Bullinger attended the Southern Star Astronomy Conference this spring. Presenters included an astrophotographer, a historian, and the professor of astronomy from the University of Tennessee. Several demonstrations the teachers observed will be implemented into the science curriculum including how to demonstrate impact craters, build paper and foam rockets, and how to create a comet.



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