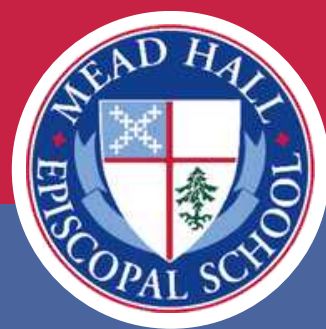


MAY 12, 2023 | ISSUE 68

# IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[Lower School News](#)

[Middle & Upper School News](#)

[PTO & School Store](#)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



We are continuing our preparation for re-accreditation with the Southern Association of Independent Schools. Most recently we submitted the evidence that we meet the standards of accreditation set by SAIS. This will be reviewed by the chair and vice-chair of the accreditation committee appointed to us by SAIS when they make the pre-visit to Mead Hall on Monday. We are delighted to have as our accreditation chair, Kim Jones, Assistant Head of School for Academics and Upper School Division Head at St. Paul's Christian School in Nashville, Tennessee, and Elizabeth Kiehne, Business Manager at Saint George's Episcopal School in San Antonio, Texas. The remainder of the committee will be appointed by SAIS after the pre-visit, in preparation for the accreditation visit in November.

The second half of our preparation for accreditation is the school self-study, which we will submit to SAIS in the fall ahead of the visit. The self-study is a detailed reflection on the school in three to five areas of improvement with a goal for each. Our self-study will be derived from the five year strategic plan that we have developed over the past few months, which is included below. The self-study is essential in providing a thorough reflection on our mission and areas for improvement. The accreditation committee will review our self-study and provide us with valuable feedback in their report. The accreditation process both confirms our educational and institutional excellence while guiding us as we strive to improve and thrive.

We are also delighted to add a dual accreditation with Cognia. The high standards required by SAIS are recognized as sufficient by Cognia, which allows us to have their accreditation as well without a separate accreditation process. Cognia accredits both public school districts and private schools, bringing to us an accreditation that is recognized by the Department of Education as well as additional educational and institutional resources. Cognia was formerly called AdvancED, and originally in the Southeast, Cognia/AdvancED was the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Locally, St. Mary's and the other Catholic parochial schools have their accreditation with Cognia. Mead Hall had dual accreditation with SACS several years ago, but during the period of the merger and acquisition of SACS, we only maintained SAIS accreditation. While SAIS is recognized as the premier accrediting association for independent schools in the Southeast, Cognia adds an additional accreditation that further affirms that we meet nationally recognized standards of academic and institutional excellence.

I am grateful for the process of accreditation, which strengthens and enriches us as an independent school, and I am excited about the next five years of Mead Hall's life as we strive to meet goals that will make a significant difference for our students in the years to come.

Blessings and peace,

Frank Sawyer



[Mead Hall Episcopal School  
Strategic Plan 2023 -2028](#)

---

---

## MEAD HALL BRICK FUNDRAISER

Commemorate this school year with an engraved brick for our St. Thaddeus campus courtyard. The deadline for our third brick order is June 16, 2023.

Engrave a brick to honor or remember current or former students, faculty, staff, or parishioners, or engrave a brick to mark graduation or other special occasions. Bricks can be purchased electronically via a [link](#) on the Mead Hall Website or with a check and printed order form turned into either school office.

Proceeds from the brick fundraiser support renovations of the playing field on the St. Thaddeus campus.





# LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

## FAMILY DAY

Family Day was a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing on the lower school campus. Parents, grandparents, and family friends enjoyed classroom experiences, art, and music performances from students in preschool through fourth grade. Between sessions, the weather was perfect for guests to enjoy coffee and treats as they visited with one another in the cafeteria or outside in the courtyard.



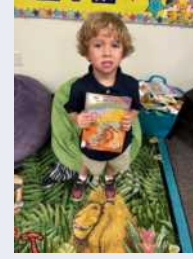
# MAY & JULY BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB

Our May Birthday Book Club members include Ella Kucharski, a Emmett Rajoy, Jenks Doolittle, Charlotte Hall, Henry Reynolds, and Banks Andrew



Our July Birthday Book Club members include Burck Meyer, George Larsen, Madelyn Yapoujian, Jack Trivepiece, Max Lancer, and Carson Smith.

These students enjoyed picking out a title from our new book selection in the library. After reading the book they donated the book to our library for other students to enjoy! We are thankful to these students for their generous donations.



## LAST DAYS OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

Please note the following information concerning the last days of school

**Monday, May 22** is a regular day of school with yearbook distribution. Students wear regular uniforms.

**Tuesday, May 23** is a regular day of school with end of year parties (Homeroom teachers will provide details for each class). Students wear regular uniforms.

**Wednesday, May 24** is a half day with noon dismissal. Students arrive in the carline or at morning care; PS, PK, and K students will leave with parents after Closing Exercises; 1st - 4th grade students leave in the carline at noon. There is no extended care. 1st - 4th grade students will enjoy field day activities and should wear shorts, T-Shirts with sleeves, and sneakers.

**Thursday, May 25** is the day for 1st - 4th grade Closing Exercises. Students should arrive 30 minutes before their program. Homeroom teachers will designate a drop off location for your child. Parents and guests may then park and find a seat in the sanctuary for the program. Students will leave with families after Closing Exercises. See additional details below.

## MORE FAMILY DAY FUN



# CLOSING EXERCISES SCHEDULE

Closing Exercises will be held in the sanctuary on Wednesday, May 24 for students in PS, PK and Kindergarten, and on Thursday, May 25 for students in 1st - 4th grades.

PS, PK, and Kindergarten students should wear their best regular uniform - khaki bottoms and red or blue polo shirt. Lower School students should wear "Spring Formal" uniforms which include long khaki pants for boys and plaid skirts or jumpers for girls along with red or blue polo shirts.

Parents, grandparents, and other guests are welcome to attend Closing Exercises and can enjoy a popsicle treat and a time of fellowship with students in the churchyard after the program.

Closing Exercises - St. Thaddeus Sanctuary			
Wednesday, May 24		Thursday, May 25	
Time	Grade	Time	Grade
8:30	3K	8:30	1
10:00	4K	9:30	2
11:00	5K	10:30	3 and 4

## LOWER SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

### MAY

- 15 FIELD TRIP 4TH GRADE 100 POINT AR CLUB TO FLANIGANS
- 16 FIELD TRIP 3RD GRADE 100 POINT AR CLUB TO FLANIGANS
- 18 1ST/2ND GRADE AR PARTIES DURING LUNCH
- 22 STC SENIOR WALK AT 8:30-8:45
- 22 FIELD TRIP PK TO FLANIGANS
- 23 K/LS END OF YEAR PARTIES (NO DRESS DOWN)
- 24 FIELD TRIP PK TO SPLASH PAD
- 24 K CLOSING EXERCISES
  - PS 8:30
  - PK 10:00
  - K 11:30
- 24 LS FIELD DAY (ATHLETIC CLOTHES - SHORTS AND T-SHIRT)
- 24 END OF 4TH QUARTER - NOON DISMISSAL (NO EXTENDED CARE)
- 25 CLOSING EXERCISES
  - 8:30 AM 1ST GRADE
  - 9:30 AM 2ND GRADE
  - 10:30 AM 3RD & 4TH GRADE





## MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

### TREE DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF MR. RICKETTS

On Wednesday morning Father Joseph led a brief service of dedication for a new Crepe Myrtle tree on the Aiken Prep Campus. The tree, which will have white blooms, is located inside the half-circular drive on Florence and will be visible from car line. It was planted by Mead Hall junior, Esther Marks, as part of a wider effort to beautify the campus by the Environmental Club. A plaque will be installed in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Gary Ricketts, who taught math at Mead Hall for 1 ½ years before his death last year. Mr. Ricketts had a significant impact in a short period of time on his students, who benefited from his expertise and ability to explain the complexities of algebra and geometry in a way that his students could truly understand. Mrs. Carolyn Ricketts was glad to join us and grateful that we have remembered her late husband in this way.



### COMBINED CHAPEL CLOSES THE CHAPEL YEAR FOR 1ST-12TH GRADES



On Wednesday this week, Lower, Middle and Upper School had their final chapel of the year in a Combined Chapel. This chapel service celebrated the Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles in wind and fire, and the Christian Church is born. We were delighted to have a student as our speaker, 7th grader Marilynn Washington, who shared with us about the gifts of the Spirit and how these gifts help us in our daily lives. We are thankful for the spiritual and moral leadership of our students at chapel and in the life of our school.



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



# *Arein Delariarte*

**Class of 2023**



*"Arein is truly the definition of a stellar student!"* Even in first grade, Mrs. Sokolik could see her potential, adding, "She was a bright spot in my classroom." In turn, Arein says Mrs. Sokolik "played an important role in my school career. Without her, I don't think I would be where I am today." Eleven years later, Arein chose Mrs. Sokolik to mentor her senior project. Mrs. Wiseman writes, "Arein works hard at her studies, but she also worked hard at being a leader." Mrs. Beadles agrees. Whether in the classroom or in Interact, "Arein shows dedication to the project at hand." This dedication is matched by "an enthusiastic laugh and smile," adds Ms. Rogan.

Mr. Fraley says Arein displays a "fierce pursuit of superbness" that extends to her extracurriculars. She has qualified for the finals of Declamation every year since grade 5, winning twice, and he calls her recitation in 2023 "compelling...suitable for the Globe Theatre." Arein played number one for most of her six years on the Panther's varsity tennis team, where she was runner up at state. Coach Grant tells of one memorable match when she faced North Augusta's number one boy – and thrashed him. Arein started at Mead Hall in 4K and has a long list of memories like falling into a huge puddle in grade 5 in her chapel uniform, "Just Dance" in Computer Science, and "Meat Mountain" in Anatomy. Mr. Nichols says, "Arein dove right in with scalpel in hand to explore the cat. As each layer of the cat was revealed I kept hearing 'Oh, this is so cool!'" But Arein's favorite memory might be capturing a gold bar every year, and she would like to be remembered as "a Gold Bars legend!"

Looking back, Arein says she will miss "the inside jokes, the sports, the trips, the people, and the food." Plus, "Mead Hall has allowed me to multitask effectively and to become a more confident public speaker and leader." She plans to major in a STEM- or medical-related field at the College of Charleston, where she also hopes to compete on the tennis team. As Dr. Pontoo proclaims, this well-rounded student "is ready for the world!"





## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



# Virginia Quinn

## Class of 2023



*"Virginia has high standards for herself and others."* says Mrs. Nowlin, "with a great sense of humor and a hearty laugh." But Mrs. Nowlin's highest accolades are for Virginia's "skill in drawing... using the richest of colors...with a wonderful attention to detail." Commenting on one of Virginia's works, Mrs. Nowlin observes, "I think she put down color better than Matisse!" Mrs. Dickey writes, "Virginia could teach a master class in perseverance and dedication" and adds that her dedication to improvement led her to become one of the best writers Mrs. Dickey has seen. "An outstanding student and a dedicated horsewoman," says Mrs. Beadles. And teachers agree she is a genuinely nice person. "Always polite, considerate, and respectful," says Mr. Head, "with a contagious laugh that makes people feel at ease," adds Ms. Rogan. Virginia herself wants to be remembered not for her accomplishments, but "in a positive way...as a kind friend."

Virginia's accomplishments since arriving in 7th grade include winning the SCISA 3A Cross-County State Championship. According to Coach Grant, "Virginia looks so mild mannered, but a transformation occurs as she steps onto that track. She is very competitive." She amazed Mrs. Wiseman "with her dedication to running, even when no one else was running with her." It's no surprise to learn that cross-county is one of Virginia's favorite memories, along with "Everything in AP Art!" Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Nowlin, who "always has a crazy story to tell and cares about her students." And when she wasn't studying or drawing or running, Virginia could be found on horseback, polo mallet in hand.

Virginia closes by saying, "Mead Hall shaped me to be a better writer and shaped me academically in a positive way." She'll miss Gold Bars and Mountain Madness, but she is looking forward to attending Berry College where she has signed to run for the Viking track and field and cross-country teams. An animal lover, she plans to major in Animal Science on the pre vet track. We are confident that her perseverance and talent will carry her far!







## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



*Jason Leonard*

**Class of 2023**



*"Jason is the young man who will look you in the eye and tell the truth."* observes Mr. Fraley. "He is authentic, composed, laconic...a T.S. Eliot poem that conveys much meaning with only the most necessary words." Father Joseph concurs, saying, "Very little upsets his equanimity or disturbs his chill." Because of that, "He often provides ballast for the senior class." In an essay, Jason reflected, "I believe that peace and quiet can be some of the best things to relax yourself when you are stressed, and I am typically calm about things when I am talking to others." But although he is known to many teachers for his quiet demeanor, he also shows a sense of humor. Commenting on his arrival at Mead Hall, Mrs. Wiseman says, "In a short time his sarcasm appeared, and we knew he would do just fine!" Jason himself says, "I want people to remember my witty comments."

Jason came to Mead Hall as a junior. "I know it must have been a difficult transition, but he handled it very well," notes Mr. Head, and Mrs. Dickey was "glad to see how he tackled finding his way here." In fact, Mrs. Wiseman says, "We were grateful for his outside perspective on our Mead Hall traditions and idiosyncrasies." Jason has fond memories of Carowinds – "I hadn't gone on too many rollercoasters, and I loved the thrilling ones there." – and of Gonzalo, a transfer student from Spain who "was a funny guy." His most memorable teacher was Ms. Rogan, "because she always found a way to be happy." His favorite activity outside school? "Sleeping." He even focused his senior project on, "The Importance of Sleeping."

Jason appreciates his short time at Mead Hall, saying it "made me more social," and he will miss the school lunches. All through high school he enjoyed chemistry - a favorite story involves the chemistry show his AP Chem class put on for the lower school using exploding balloons filled with hydrogen - so it is no surprise that his future involves studying chemistry at Wofford College. We are certain that Jason's equanimity, sense of humor, and willingness to challenge himself will take him far!



# MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

## May

- 17-19 APC Final Exams (Half days for all APC students - dismissed at 12:00)
- 19 MS dismissed at 10:15, no Extended Care provided
- 19 US Cookout (6:00 PM)
- 22 Senior Walk at STC (8:15 AM)  
Graduation Practice (after Senior Walk)
- 22 Full Day for MS (US will dismiss at 12:50)
- 22 Interact Celebration for Ms. Beadles @ 12:50
- 23 9th-11th Grade: USC College Tour Field Trip (8:30-2:00)
- 23 Full Day for MS with Yearbook Celebration at 2:30
- 23 Full Day for HS with Yearbook Celebration at 2:00 (Last Day for HS students)
- 23 Senior Dinner (6:00 PM)
- 24 Half Day and Last Day (MS end at 12:00 PM)
- 25 Closing Exercises (in Sanctuary)  
5th-7th Grade (1:30 PM)  
Upper School (3:00 PM)  
8th Grade (5:00 PM)
- 26 Graduation (10:00 AM in Sanctuary)

## Final Exam Schedule

\*\*Please reference the email sent on 5/2 with further details. Any student needing to stay after 12:00 on Wednesday 5/17 and Thursday 5/18 or after 10:15 on Friday 5/19 must fill out a permission form attached to the email from 5/2.

\*\*\*Aiken Prep Campus will close at 12:00 on Friday 5/19, THERE WILL BE NO AFTERCARE PROVIDED ON THIS DAY!

<b>Exam Bell Schedule</b>	
Homeroom	8:30
Exam Block 1	8:45-10:15
Break*	10:15-10:30
Exam Block 2	10:30-12:00
Dismissal & Car Line	12:00 - 12:15

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Exam	6 Green	6 Gold	7 Green	7 Gold	8th grade
Wed 5/17 Block 1	Science	Literature	ELA	Science	ELA
Wed 5/17 Block 2	ELA	Science	Science	History	History
Thurs 5/18 Block 1	Math	History	Literature	Literature	Spanish
Thurs 5/18 Block 2	History	Math	History	ELA	Math
Fri 5/19 Block 1	Literature	ELA	Math	Math	Science
Fri 5/19 Block 2	none	none	none	none	none

### UPPER SCHOOL

Wed 5/17 Block 1	English
Wed 5/17 Block 2	US Spanish 1-4, Latin*, & Government**
Thurs 5/18 Block 1	Science
Thurs 5/18 Block 2	US Math
Fri 5/19 Block 1	Social Studies
Fri 5/19 Block 2	Religion / Electives / Conflicts / Make-up exams



## SCHOOL STORE

School Store Hours for May 15th - 19th  
Open Monday and Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.  
Closed Wednesday - Friday for exams

Please email  
[MHStore@meadhallschool.org](mailto:MHStore@meadhallschool.org)  
for appointment.

\*School Store Summer Hours:  
The School Store will be closed May  
29th - June 9th for Inventory and  
restocking  
Please check the school website weekly  
for updated summer hours

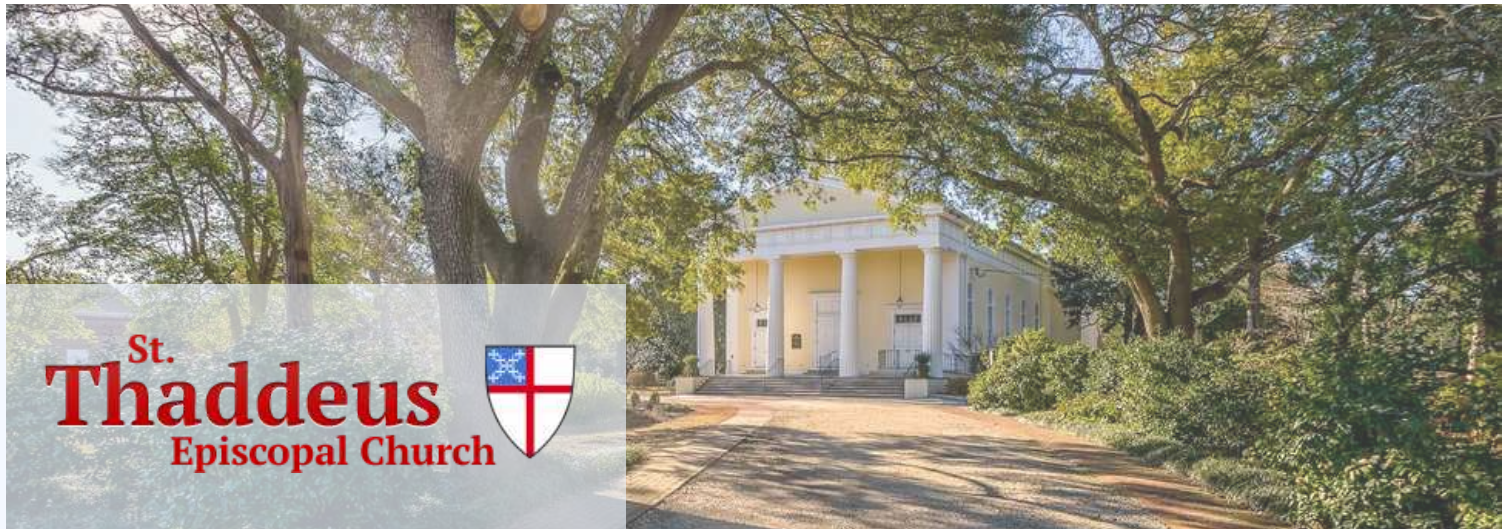


---

## SUPPLY PACKS

The School Store will once again offer the option to pre-purchase your classroom supplies! Order forms will be available at closing ceremonies and will be sent via email to our current and incoming families. Supply packs are available for grades 3K - 12th. No need to go to crowded stores and wait in line, let us shop for you! Supply packs will be waiting for you in your child's classroom on meet the teacher day. Stay tuned for more information..





### SERVICE TIMES

**SUNDAY 7:45 A.M.** - Rite I (No Music)  
**9:00 A.M.** - CONTEMPORARY SERVICE  
**11:15 A.M.** - TRADITIONAL SERVICE **WEDNESDAY 9:30 A.M.** BIBLE STUDY  
**11:00 A.M.** - SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL

Please join us for Sunday services. You may also attend virtually at the [VIMEO link](#). For those watching at home, the bulletin can be found at the [SERVICE BULLETIN link](#) above, and on the [St. Thaddeus website](#).

### PENTECOST:

Sunday May 28th is Pentecost. Remember to wear red! There will be incense at the 11:15am service.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE: As of June 1st Sunday services will be at 7:45am and 10:00am. Wednesday Eucharist will be at 11:00am in the chapel. The office will be open in June from 9:00am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday and 9:00am-1:00pm on Fridays. In July the office will be open from 9:00am-1:00pm Monday-Friday.

### CHILDCARE:

Beginning Easter Sunday free childcare will be available in the nursery in the Cornish Building Sunday mornings 8:45am-12:45pm for infants and small children (6 weeks to 6 years old).

### GRADUATE SUNDAY:

On Sunday May 28th we will recognize and pray for our graduating seniors. If you or someone you know should be recognized, please contact the church office.

---

ST. THADDEUS CAMPUS 803.644.1122

AIKEN PREP CAMPUS 803.648.3223

