

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 | ISSUE 77

IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School



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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



RE-ACCREDITATION 2023

On November 7th-9th, we will have our accreditation visit from the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). We will be visited by an accreditation chair, vice-chair, and committee members from peer schools selected by SAIS. This will be the final stage of our five year re-accreditation with SAIS, the premier independent school accrediting body in the Southeast. We have also added a dual accreditation with Cognia, a national accrediting body for both public and private schools in the United States. While not essential to our mission and standards of excellence, Cognia accreditation does provide us with a national recognition and additional resources through our meeting of the high standards of SAIS and adding a membership in Cognia.

To achieve our re-accreditation with SAIS, we first had to meet the standards and indicators set by SAIS. These were presented to the Chair of the Accreditation Team, Mrs. Kim Jones, Assistant Head of School for Academics Upper School Division Head at St. Paul Christian School in Nashville, Tennessee, in May during the Accreditation Pre-Visit. The feedback we received at this time was positive and helpful. The final stage is the completion of our Self-Study, which will be sent to the Accreditation Team ahead of their visit. The team will discuss the goals of the Self-Study with us during their visit and provide us with a report following the visit on our Self-Study and the Standards and Indicators of institutional excellence, with commendations and recommendations. This report will help guide us on our self-improvement as a school over the next five years.

Our Self-Study is derived from the Strategic Plan that we developed last winter and spring. The Self-Study is in its final stages, since most of the development of each of the goals was made last year simultaneously with the development of the Strategic Plan. I look forward to updating the community on this process in the coming weeks. I am excited about our Self-Study and our Strategic Plan, which capture the hopes we have for our school's improvement over the next five years.

Blessings,
Frank Sawyer

A CELEBRATION OF LOWER SCHOOL ART IN 2022-2023

By Art Teacher Aidan Cooke

For the school year of 2022-2023, Lower School art students focused on expanding their understanding of the elements of art into specialized themes for each grade. Routines were reinforced and there was an overarching goal to build community and family between the students through creative thinking and the making of art. Again, this was done with a cross-curricular approach that weaves in other subjects such as math, science, social studies, and the English language arts. This was done with the hopes that their creativity can be a tool that will help them be successful in all areas of their life, no matter where their lives take them.

At the beginning of the year, all grades started off with learning how to draw self-portraits. Simple paper, crayons, and pencils were used, but the main idea was to really look at what most people have in terms of features and body parts, and that people exist somewhere and are not floating around in space. Although, some students chose to draw themselves as astronauts floating around in outer space, which really highlighted some out-of-the-box, creative thinking and good humor on the student's part. This project served to emphasize, in a nuanced way, the things that make us human. It showed how we're alike and how we're different and that even though we have differences, those differences should be celebrated. The self-portraits were then arranged around the words "We Are Mead Hall" outside the cafeteria to serve as a reminder to the students that we are a strong community of good, quality people.



Last school year, 5K students were given the opportunity to take art, so these students started with a blank slate. The first grade students were also starting with a blank slate as 5K students did not have art during the 2021-2022 school year. So, 5K and first grade were kept together for the most part in their art focus and projects. Their main focus was learning the elements of art and the routines of the art classroom. Their specialized focus was on color and later in the year, line and pattern. The "Mouse Paint" project from the previous year made a return and we learned about the color wheel and about how to mix colors such as brown. 5K, first grade and second grade also read the book *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. With this book we learned about the art process and what we do when we are scared to begin, or are frustrated by mistakes or failure. The students made their own marks by creating dots with abstract lines, patterns and shapes. The results were displayed coming out of a paint brush on the wall outside the cafeteria, the color and lines dazzling in their brilliance.

Later on in the year, 5K students learned about jellyfish and even watched some real ones on the live camera at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The students learned about what types of jellyfish they could find in South Carolina waters and in the surrounding coast lines. Then we made watercolor resist paintings of a jellyfish that they drew with crayon. They also learned about hot and cool colors, as the jellyfish was painted with warm colors and the ocean was painted with cool colors, the wax in their crayon drawings resisting the water in the paint so that their drawings stood out in a bright way. During Family Day, the jellyfish could be seen floating among paintings of impressionistic ocean sunsets inspired by the artist Monet and made by the third graders.



In the second semester, first grade learned about the Lunar New Year and made rabbit sculptures as 2023 is the year of the rabbit. At the end of the year, first grade read the book *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni. From there, they looked at different types of fish and then drew their own. This drawing was then transferred over to a foam printing plate and they printed their fish onto the paper using red ink. Once all the fish were printed, they were cut out and arranged on the wall outside the gym to resemble a large red fish. In the book we read, *Swimmy* was a little black fish who lost his family so he searched the whole ocean for a new one. When he found another school of little red fish, they were scared of being eaten, so Swimmy had the idea that they could all come together to form one big fish and Swimmy could be the "eye". This project again emphasized the themes of family and community among the students.



Second grade students only needed reminding of the elements of art that they learned in the previous year and so these topics could be expanded into their grade's specialized focus of landscapes. We first looked at famous landscapes done by the Masters, but we paid attention to foreground, middle ground and background in each painting. They also learned about atmospheric perspective, where things that are closer to us are bigger on the paper and have more detail. Things that are farther away are smaller on the paper and less detailed. They then drew their own landscapes complete with trees, mountains, farm houses, and animals. Individual creativity was encouraged with their landscapes so there were some alien invasions in the background, as well as a peaceful giraffe munching on some leaves in another picture. From there, second grade students looked at some specific artists who made famous landscapes and created art that was inspired by their works. They looked at the Canadian artist Ted Harrison and the culture, landscape, and animals associated with the Yukon. They also looked at the famous prints of the Japanese printmaker, Hokusai, and created a painting inspired by his "Great Wave off Kanagawa" print. These landscape projects had the added benefit of connecting the second grade students to the larger world and their cultures.

Both third grade and fourth grade students learned about value by creating value scales on a feather shaped paper. The students reviewed the color wheel and each student was assigned a color that they then used to create a value scale, exploring tints and shades of that color. These feather shapes were then cut out and arranged to make two large angel wings that were hung on the wall outside the gym for the Christmas program. This created a fun opportunity for parents and students to take pictures in front of them and pretend that they had wings. Both grades learned about murals and how art can invite an entire community to play.

Third grade then focused on their grade's specialized theme of people and portraits. They created another self-portrait, but this portrait was focused on the face and correct facial proportion. After looking at famous self-portraits, third grade students practiced drawing themselves in their sketchbooks, making sure to look at themselves in the mirror for reference. After drawing their portraits on nice paper, the students painted them with paint that they mixed to match their skin tone. The results were a stunning family portrait of our unique students.

Fourth grade's specialized focus after value was on form. The big fourth grade project is a challenging one and one that is quickly becoming a rite of passage for fourth grade students. This is the Claes Oldenburg giant food sculpture project. These students really took their time this year in drawing out their plans for these sculptures and then building them using newspaper, aluminum foil, and lots, and lots of tape. The highlights of the year were cherries, an M & M, a hamburger, a giant donut, a plate of pancakes, a bag of chips, and a taco. This sculptural feast really sparks the imagination and delights all that look upon it. Fourth grade students really come away from this project with a sense of pride that all their hard work really paid off in creating something grand and exceptional.

The school year of 2022-2023 was a great year filled with projects that reinforced the foundational topics of the elements of art, as well as expanded these topics into specialized themes for each grade. These projects not only enriched their lives, but also fostered the ideals of hard work, dedication, creativity, family and community, local and beyond into the world. They learned different tools that they can take with them as they learn and grow. They discovered that through art, the world can be made into whatever they wish it to be. They can create a world that is as beautiful and diverse as them.



LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

TESTING

Next week, students in third - eighth grades will take the Educational Records Bureau's Comprehensive Testing Program (ERB/CTP). This online standardized test is given to our students each year in the Fall. The results from the CTP provide one measure of the effectiveness of our curriculum and its application in the classroom. The CTP allows Mead Hall to:

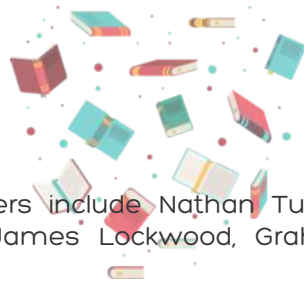
- Compare our performance as a school with independent school averages and with national averages
- Identify areas for improvement in our core curriculum
- Compare grade level actual performance to grade level expected performance
- Screen for learning challenges in individual students

Nationally normed testing is important for our school because it provides an external standard by which we measure our performance to schools across the nation who take the same test. We use these results along with many other factors to determine the overall health and success of the Mead Hall program.

See you at school,
Joanne



BIRTHDAY BOOKCLUB



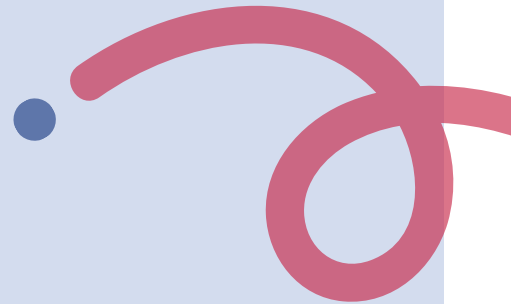
Our August Birthday Book Club members include Nathan Tucker, James Reynolds, Benjamin Reynolds, James Lockwood, Graham Bolen, Meyer Grande, and Bennett Derr

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.



MAKE-UP WORK

If your child is out of school for sickness or travel, you can expect make-up work to be available in the office the day after the child misses school. Faculty need 24 hours to gather and provide the information for you.



STC PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Families on the St. Thaddeus campus will have a parent/teacher conference day on Monday, October 16. **There will be no school for students in PS - 4th grades.** Teachers will share a sign-up list for time slots during the school day to schedule a conference to discuss academic and social/behavioral progress. Standardized testing results will also be discussed for third and 4th grade students. Students on the APC will have regularly scheduled classes.





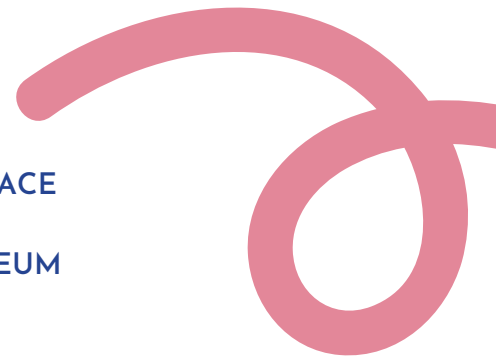
TEACHER FEATURE

Kathleen Johnson received her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education at Washington State University and her Masters Degree in Educational Leadership at Heritage University. This is her 12th year in education, and she is excited to be jumping into 2nd grade at Mead Hall! Mrs. Johnson was born and raised in Richland, WA. She met her husband Mark through match.com and was married in 2012. They moved to Aiken last November when her husband accepted a job at SRNS. Mrs. Johnson loves to travel, hike, and spend time with family and friends. She has two beautiful yorkies named, Fendi, & Fausti.

LOWER SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER

- 11-15 STANDARDIZED TESTING GRADES 3-4
- 12 FIELD TRIP 2ND GRADE - AIKEN TROLLEY TOUR
- 14 FIELD TRIP 2ND GRADE - AIKEN TROLLEY TOUR
- 18-22 MAKE-UP STANDARDIZED TESTING
- 19 LOWER SCHOOL PICTURES - WILSON STUDIO
- 27 SEE YOU AT THE POLE/ PINWHEELS (PEONIES) FOR PEACE
- 25-01 PTO FALL BOOK FAIR AT STC
- 29 FIELD TRIP - FOURTH GRADE TO AUGUSTA CANAL/MUSEUM



OCTOBER

- 1-31 STC SPOOKY TO BE HUNGRY
- 1 MEAD HALL SUNDAY WITH PTO PANCAKE BREAKFAST & FINAL DAY OF BOOK FAIR
- 5 FIELD TRIP 2ND GRADE TO AUDUBON RESERVE
- 5 FIELD TRIP 1ST GRADE TO RPSEC
- 5 WALK, RIDE, ROLL TO SCHOOL - 3RD/4TH GRADE EVENT (APC TO STC)
- 6 END OF QTR. 1
- 6 CHICK-FIL-A DAY
- 9-13 FALL BREAK





MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

SPORTSMANSHIP

This week, we have been sharing videos regarding positive sportsmanship to all upper school students. This is a new requirement from the South Carolina Independent School Association, SCISA. Students, parents, coaches, and administrators are reminded to set examples of good sportsmanship at all athletic events. We are all encouraged to cheer for our athletes and athletic teams while refraining from cheering against our opponents.

Unfortunately, myriad instances of the exact opposite frequently appear on social media sites, and on games we watch via standard television services! In such an environment, it is even more incumbent upon us to establish clear expectations for our students, athletes, and spectators. We all have a role to play in encouraging and modeling appropriate behavior at athletic events.

Go Panthers,

Mike Buck



MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

On the APC campus, while we do not set aside a day for conferences at the end of the first quarter, parents are encouraged to set up individual conferences as needed with their child's teachers. Please take advantage of the FACTS student information system to monitor your child's grades and attendance.



STANDARDIZED TESTING

Next week, 5th-8th grade students will be taking the Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP) produced by the Educational Records Bureau (ERB). This standardized test is used by many independent schools around the country. Teachers will use the data gathered to help identify students' academic strengths as well as their needs. There is no specific academic preparation necessary before testing; however, we do ask that you make sure children get ample rest, a healthy breakfast, and arrive on time to school during testing week. Students will use their school-issued Chromebooks for testing. Please make sure your child has charged and packed his or her Chromebook each day.

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER

- 11-15 Standardized Testing Grades 5-8
- 14 College Night, 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm @ James Brown Arena
- 18-22 Make-up Standardized Testing
- 20 Upper School Pictures - Wilson Studio (in Auditorium)
- 21 Senior Pictures - Wilson Studio (in Auditorium)
- 22 Homecoming Volleyball Game and Dance
- 27 See You at the Pole
- 25-01 PTO Fall Book Fair at STC

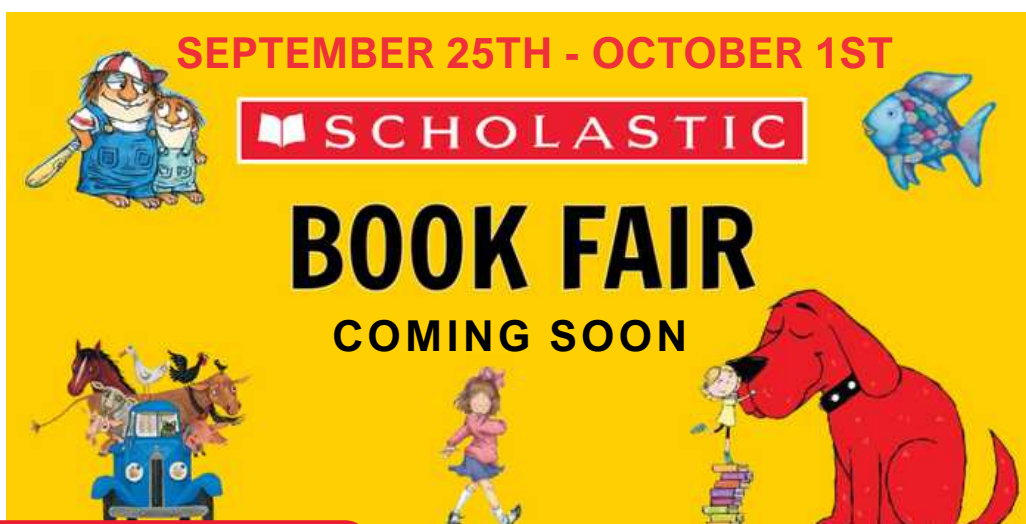
OCTOBER

- 1-31 STC Spooky to Be Hungry
- 1 Mead Hall Sunday with PTO Pancake Breakfast & final Day of Book Fair
- 6 End of Qtr. 1
- 6 Chick-fil-A Day
- 9-13 Fall Break - No School
- 17 PSAT (9th and 10th Grade)
- 18 PSAT (8th Grade)
- 19 PSAT (11th Grade)
- 20 Q1 Report Cards Available in FACTS

PTO NEWS

PTO FALL 2023 EVENT CALENDAR

September 25 - October 1 - Book Fair
October 1st - Mead Hall Sunday/ Pancake Breakfast
October 5th - Bike to School Day for 3rd and 4th grade
October 6th - Chick Fila Day
October 27th Great Pumpkin Walk STC
October 28th - Fall Festival/ MH Band Bake Sale
November 17th - Chick Fila Day
December 10th - Aiken Christmas Parade



[MORE INFO](#)

SCHOOL STORE

School Store September 11th - 15th
Open: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Afternoons by Appointment -
MHStore@meadhallschool.org



School Spirit

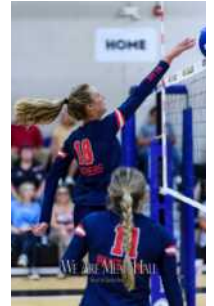
Coming Soon - We are finalizing the design of our 2023 Spirit Shirt and look forward to sharing that with you soon! Spirit Shirts will be sold by pre-order and available in sizes 3T - A2XL. Be on the lookout soon for an email with a pre-order form as well as In The Loop.



Volleyball

The Varsity Girls Volleyball team picked up another win this past week against South Aiken Baptist in straight sets. Our Varsity girls are now 2-2 so far this season. These young ladies continue to work hard and to build their team chemistry. Our girls upcoming schedule is Thursday September 7th at home versus Curtis Baptist at 6:30pm and Tuesday September 12 at Northside Christian at 5:00pm.

The Middle School Girls A team picked up a victory this past week against South Aiken Baptist but ended up losing their game to St. Mary's on the Hill, which brings their record to 2-5. Our girls are getting better and better and they are building their confidence. Our girls next match is versus Curtis Baptist on Thursday September 7th at 5:30pm. They also have games on Monday September 11th at Odell Weeks against Tall Pines at 4:15pm, Wednesday September 13th at St. Mary's of Aiken at 5:30pm, and Thursday September 14th at Westminster of Augusta at 4:30pm. The Middle School B team is still showing some improvement and are battling hard every game. Unfortunately they lost their game this week against St. Mary's on the Hill but they look to bounce back in their upcoming game on Thursday September 7th against Curtis Baptist at 4:30pm. They also have a game on Wednesday September 13th versus St. Mary's of Aiken at 4:30pm.



Golf

The middle school golf team was victorious on Tuesday, September 5th, playing 2 matches at 2 different golf courses. The A Team, consisting of Everett Stanley, Zoey Meldrum, Graham Wilson, Ford Simons and Ethan Woods played at Houndslake against Augusta Christian and St. Mary's of Augusta. Everett Stanley was the medalist of the match amongst all the schools, with the low score of 37 (1 over par). Zoey Meldrum shot the team second lowest score of (42), followed by Graham Wilson (43), Ford Simon (46) and Ethan Woods (50). Mead Hall won the match with a team total of 168 over Augusta Christian (184) and St. Mary's of Augusta (195). At the same time, the B team battled at Aiken Golf Club against St. Mary's of Aiken and Tall Pines Academy. Lowest scorer of the team was a 5th grader, Zadia Meldrum (48), followed by Mason Wilhelm (50), Zella Meldrum (51), Grice Wyatt (52) and Ryder Hayes (52). The B team finished second with a team total of (201) behind St. Mary's of Aiken (194).

We have a great young team with a lot of depth heading into this fall season, and we are excited about what we can accomplish this season. Their next golf match is on Tuesday September 12th at the Aiken Golf Club at 4:00pm.

Tennis

Tennis started their season off this week with an exciting game against Horse Creek Academy. The boys played a tough match. The team was missing Landon so everyone stepped up and played a spot higher. Jalen, Hunter, and Nicholas played singles and Charles and Aiden teamed up to play doubles. We lost very close matches but we are proud of how the boys competed.

Our next matchup is Tuesday 9/12 for both girls and boys versus Augusta Christian at Newman Tennis Center at 4:30pm.

Cross Country



Cross Country had their first meet last week and everyone that participated in the meet finished their course and had good timing. They participated in their first SCISA meet this week and they also have a meet on Thursday September 7th at South Aiken Baptist at 5:30pm at Boyd Pond Park. Next Wednesday September 13th they will be running in the Aiken Invitational at Generations Park at 6:00pm.

Swimming

Our Swim Team have their first swim meet which is a home meet on Saturday September 9th at our Panther Invitational. Meet Start: 2:30 PM | Warmups 1:00 PM. Location: USC Aiken Natatorium, 488 Scholar Loop, Aiken, SC 29803.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need a Panther Club Volunteer Coordinator. Please contact Becky Marks: 803-645-1623



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EUCHARIST SERVICES
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6th, 2023

10:00AM VIMEO
7:45AM SERVICE BULLETIN
10:00AM SERVICE BULLETIN

Rite I Eucharist no music 7:45 AM
Rite II Eucharist with Music 10:00 AM

Please join us for Sunday services. You may also attend virtually at the VIMEO link above. For those watching at home, the bulletin can be found at the SERVICE BULLETIN link above.

***CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** Confirmation in the Episcopal Church confirms the promises of baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Bishop Daniel Richards will preside over Confirmation Sunday at St. Thaddeus Church on Sunday, November 19. Confirmation classes will begin on September 17th and will run for six weeks. They will be held during the formation hour. To sign-up please email the church office at stthad@stthaddeus.org or drop by the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

Drop In Class has resumed and we are reading "The Echo Within: Finding Your True Calling." by Robert Benson. Meet in the Small parlor in the Stevenson-McClelland Bldg. Led by Kathie Fowler

Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am-9:45am - The group meets in the large Parlor (cafeteria) in the Stevenson-McClelland Bldg. Led by Gibert Kennedy

The Wednesday Bible Study Group has reconvened. The Group meets at 9:30 am - 10:50 am in the sitting room of the Cornish Building. Led by Burt Tiffany

ST. THADDEUS CAMPUS 803.644.1122

AIKEN PREP CAMPUS 803.648.3223

