

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 | ISSUE 84

# IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School



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## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



### SAIS ACCREDITATION VISIT NEXT WEEK

Last week ended with a lot of fun for our students, with our Pumpkin Wall, PS-5 fall parties, a Halloween dance for 5th-8th grades, a lock-in for upper school, and finally our Fall Festival. I want to thank all of our teachers, staff, and parents who contributed to the success of all of these events. Our PTO created a wonderful Fall Festival and it was a great day to celebrate the new playground and thank the donors who made this dream a reality.

Next week we will have our Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) Accreditation Visit, which I last wrote about in the September 8th issue of In the Loop. Every five years we are re-accredited by SAIS, the leading independent school association in the Southeast. We will also earn a dual accreditation with Cognia, which accredits public and private schools throughout the nation. The accreditation visit is the culmination of this process that we have been engaged in over the past year. We will welcome a five member accreditation team from SAIS member schools, listed below, who will visit from November 7th-9th and review Mead Hall for re-accreditation.

Our responses and evidence for the meeting of the standards of SAIS were submitted last spring and reviewed by the chair of the accreditation team during the pre-visit in May. This fall we completed our self-improvement plan for the next five years with the submission of our Self-Study Report. During the Accreditation Visit, the Accreditation Team will review our school through stakeholder meetings and classroom visits. The stakeholders with whom the team will meet include trustees, administration, faculty, students, parents, and alumni. Two weeks after the visit, the team will provide us with a report addressing the standards and the self-study report. I am looking forward to the feedback in this report because it will help inform us and help us to thoughtfully make improvements to our school over the next five years.

Our self-study consists of five key goals selected from among the twelve goals of the Strategic Plan that we developed last year and was introduced to the school community by the Strategic Planning Chair, Dr. Lynn Caravello, in the January 26th issue of In the Loop. The Strategic Plan is printed below and it will be featured in the Annual Report that you will receive in a few weeks.

Blessings,  
Frank Sawyer

## 2023 Mead Hall Accreditation Team

### **Kim Jones**

*Chair*

*Assistant Head of School for Academics; Upper School Division Head*

St. Paul Christian Academy

Nashville, TN

### **Kelley Black**

*Academic Dean and Associate Head of School*

St. Andrew's-Sewanee School

Sewanee, TN

### **Sybil Blakeney**

*Lower School Director*

Palisades Episcopal School

Charlotte, NC

### **Ms. Elizabeth Kiehne**

*Business Manager*

St. George's Episcopal School

San Antonio, TX

### **Mr. Jeff Stachura**

*Middle School Director*

Athens Academy

Athens, GA

## Mead Hall Episcopal School Strategic Plan 2023 -2028

The Strategic Plan 2023-2028 addresses goals in the areas of facilities, institutional advancement, finances, school community, and curricular programs & support services.

### **Facilities**

**Goal 1:** Establish a Board Facilities Committee that will review the Master Campus Facility Plan on an annual basis.

**Goal 2:** Increase the facilities budget to address maintenance and expansion.

### **Institutional Advancement:**

**Goal 3:** Develop and implement a comprehensive financial development plan to include the Annual Fund, Capital Campaign, Mead Hall Endowment and specific needs.

**Goal 4:** Advance school community involvement by building stronger relationships with parents and alumni.

Finance and Budget

**Goal 5:** Perform a formal annual cost benefit analysis of financial resources.

**Goal 6:** Accelerate retirement of Aiken Prep Campus mortgages.

### **School Community:**

**Goal 7:** Articulate and embody a unified school identity.

**Goal 8:** Recruit and retain highly qualified and diverse students with attention to critical grade transitions.

**Goal 9:** Recruit and retain highly qualified and diverse faculty and staff through competitive compensation, benefits, support and professional development.

### **Curricular Programs and Support Services:**

**Goal 10:** Evaluate curriculum annually to ensure excellence in a transforming world.

**Goal 11:** Offer programs and support services to improve character development and life skills.

**Goal 12:** Hire a student assistance counselor to implement programs and support services for students.





# LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

## FALL FESTIVITIES

We had a wonderful week on the STC campus. In addition to working diligently on the school curriculum, students also celebrated Fall parties on Friday and the Fall Festival on Saturday. Our fun extended off campus as well. PK students walked to Trinity on Laurens to share poems and songs with the residents, and fourth grade students went on a three mile nature hike in Aiken State Park and made a giant spider web!

I would like to thank the many parents who contributed treats and who planned and executed parties for each grade to enjoy. Also, I would like to thank the PTO for providing a wonderful community-wide event for all to enjoy on Saturday morning. racy in our Mead Hall students as well.

See you at school!

Joanne





# SPOOKY TO BE HUNGRY

Thank you for sending your children with contributions to the Spooky to be Hungry food drive last month. Sharing out of our abundance with those experiencing food insecurity is a great way for children to learn the character trait of generosity.



LOST & FOUND



We will be taking all unclaimed and unlabeled lost and found items to ACTS or our Mead Hall school store on November 17th. The lost and found is located in the main office should you need to check for anything prior to November 17th.

## SCHOOL PICTURES

School picture orders are due on November 8. You may place orders online or by returning the form and payment to school.

If you are dissatisfied with your child's school picture, please contact Terrie Lehi in the main office and she will arrange for a retake. Makeup and retake pictures will be taken on November 8.



## DON'T FORGET



Chick-fil-A orders must be submitted by November 8. Place your child's order through the FACTS family portal

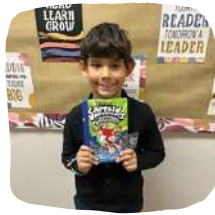




# ACCELERATED READER



The 1st Quarter students who have the most Accelerated Reader points in their class. Maggie Wood, Henry Reynolds, Xander Rajoy, Hoyt Fielder, Blaire Ballantyne, Cam Baisch, Grayson Cloessner, Lukas Chartier, and Kensie Ravenel.

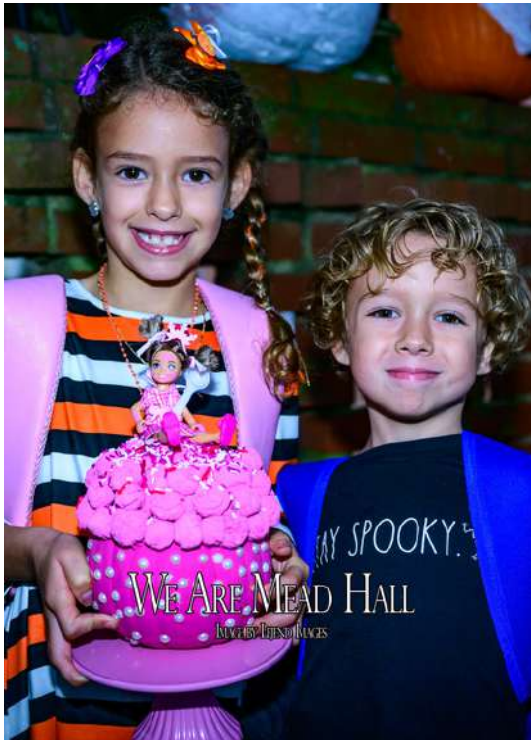


# LOWER SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

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## NOVEMBER

- 3 FIELD TRIP PK AND 4TH GRADE TO HITCHCOCK WOODS
- 8 MAKE-UP/RETAKE PICTURES (APC AUDITORIUM)
- 7-9 ACCREDITATION VISIT
- 13 FIELD TRIP 3RD GRADE TO RPSEC
- 17 STC SCIENCE DAY
- 17 FIELD TRIP 4TH GRADE TO HOPELAND GARDENS
- 17 PTO CHICK-FIL-A AT STC AND APC
- 20-24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (NO SCHOOL)
- 28 FIELD TRIP K TO TOM SAWYER CHRISTMAS TREE FARM







# MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

## THERMAL ENERGY LAB

At Mead Hall, students not only learn about science, they actually DO science!

Our students in the 7th grade science lab recently used thermal energy to observe phase changes from solid to liquid and back to solid. They learned about the melting point and freezing point of individual substances. The more we can engage students with the material, the greater the likelihood they will retain the information. We are truly developing higher order thinking skills in our students.



## SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for  
Mead Hall's Annual Junior Symposium!

**SEVERAL COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ON CAMPUS TO ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS!**

**Who:** Required for Juniors.

**(Sophomores and Freshmen are welcome to attend.)**

**Where:** APC Auditorium

**When:** Thursday, February 1, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm

For more information, contact Dr. Pontoo at: [fpontoo@meadhallschool.org](mailto:fpontoo@meadhallschool.org)

## 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Essay and Creative Arts Contest

Aiken Technical College and the University of South Carolina Aiken will present the annual community-wide celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the University of South Carolina Aiken Convocation Center. The celebration is a time to reflect on the past and focus on the future of humanity. Dr. King's legacy has taught us to commit ourselves to service by serving each other and those in our communities.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Steering Committee, in conjunction with University of South Carolina Aiken and Aiken Technical College, is inviting all Aiken County students to submit an original poster or written essay that draws on their experience to respond to the following questions:

**-For Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade creative arts poster contest: "What does the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day mean to you?"**

**-For 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade essay contest: What did Dr. King mean by the quote "For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are."?**

Successful entries will answer the question and refer specifically to personal experiences and observations.

<b>Essay Categories:</b>	Middle School (up to 1,000 words) High School (up to 1,500 words)
<b>Creative Arts Posters Categories:</b>	Kindergarten-2 <sup>nd</sup> grades 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades
<b>Eligibility:</b>	Must be a student attending a public, private or home school in Aiken County.
<b>Prizes:</b>	– First place winners will receive a grand prize – Special floor seating for all finalists and their parents/guardians (limit 2 per finalist) at community-wide celebration – Creative Arts will be displayed during the program
<b>Deadline:</b>	Monday, November 20, 2023 Winners will be announced on or before December 8, 2023

School entries should be submitted to the teacher, who will then forward them to the District Office or the Main Office of the school if private. If a home-schooled student, entries should be delivered to the Student Life Office at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

For more information, please contact Ahmed Samaha, Vice Chancellor of Student Engagement and Belonging, at the University of South Carolina Aiken, at 803-641-3411 or [ahmeds@usca.edu](mailto:ahmeds@usca.edu).



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COLLEGE

MONTANA  
STATE UNIVERSITY



THE CITADEL



NORWICH  
UNIVERSITY™



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

### **Brown, Katie**

St. Andrews University  
Presbyterian College

### **Bryce, Michael Dean**

Norwich University  
University of North Georgia

### **Garrison, Peter**

Presbyterian College  
Montana State University

### **Hamrick, Jack Thomas**

The Citadel

### **Massie, Anne Fenton**

Gardner-Webb University  
Auburn University

### **Merritt, Robin**

Beacon College  
Southern Wesleyan University

### **Stanley, Abbegale**

University of Alabama  
Auburn University

### **Timmons, James**

The Citadel

# MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

## NOVEMBER

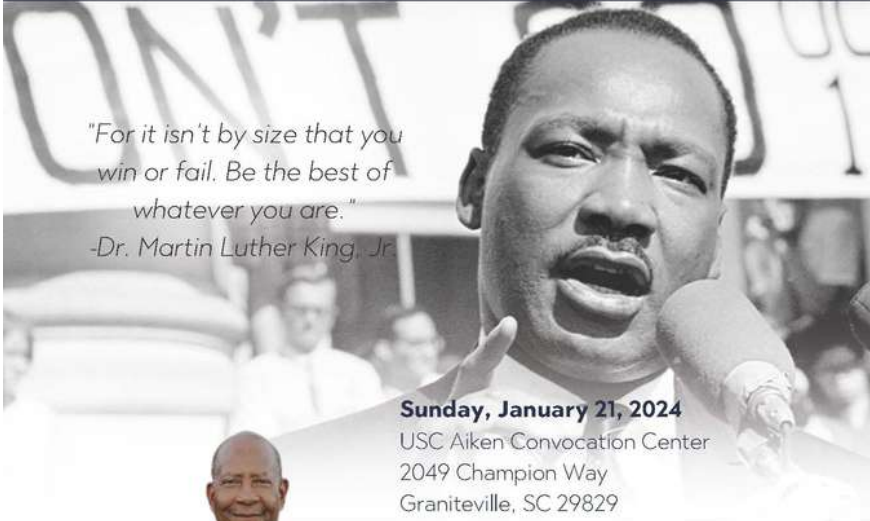
- 3 5th Grade Art Block Classes Switch
- 8 Make-up Pictures (Auditorium)
- 7-9 Accreditation Visit
- 15 APC One Table Thanksgiving Lunch - chapel included
- 17 PTO Chick-Fil-A
- 20-24 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

## DECEMBER

- 3 Aiken Jaycees' Christmas Parade (Mead Hall Float)
- 6 VirtualSC Exams (8:30 AM in conference room)
- 6 Christmas Band Concert, 6pm
- 6 Christmas Craft Party, 7pm, in APC Dining Room (Yearbook Fundraiser)
- 13 Lessons & Carols Chapel K/LS & MS/US
- 15 Midterm Exams
- 18-19 Midterm Exams
- 19 End of Quarter 2/Last Day of Class (Half-Day)
- 19 Drama Christmas Performance 6:30 pm at Aiken Community Theater
- 20-23 Christmas Break

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.


COMMUNITY CELEBRATION 2024



*"For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are."  
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**Sunday, January 21, 2024**  
USC Aiken Convocation Center  
2049 Champion Way  
Graniteville, SC 29829


Doors open at 2:30 p.m.  
Event starts at 3 p.m.  
*This event is free and open to the public.*




**Keynote Speaker: Mr. Alex English**  
University of South Carolina Board of Trustees,  
Business Leader, Retired Coach, and  
Retired NBA Player

**Sponsorships are available. For more information, please call (803) 641-3448 or email [maryd@usca.edu](mailto:maryd@usca.edu).**

Presented by:



AIKEN  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Aiken  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA





# SMUGMUG LINKS ARE HERE

Follow the links below to see the SmugMug Galleries. Thank you Larry Johnson for the wonderful pictures capturing these activities.

[Pumpkin Wall and STC Carline Gallery Link](#)

[Fall Festival and STC Playground Ribbon Cutting](#)

## GET READY MEAD HALL FAMILIES!

We Are Launching This Year's Yearbook Fundraiser Next Week!



ORIGINAL DEANO TOTE BAG

40% OF YOUR PURCHASE PRICE WILL GO DIRECTLY TO FUND THIS YEAR'S YEARBOOK!



BAGETTE MARKET TOTE



PLEASURE CHEST SOFT COOLER



PACKIN' HEAT MAKEUP BAG

THESE MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

STARTING NOV 8TH YOU CAN ORDER THESE FOUR BAGS FROM SCOUT IN THE NEW SOUTH CAROLINA PRINT!



SCOUT.



# SCHOOL STORE

**OPEN**

School Store Hours:

School Store Hours for the week of Nov 6th - 10th  
Open: Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri at 8:00 a.m.  
Closed: Thursday, 11/9

Afternoons available by appointment -  
[MHStore@meadhallschool.org](mailto:MHStore@meadhallschool.org)



To our Mead Hall Families,

On behalf of our PTO, we want to thank you for the support you show to our school. Our events and fundraisers would not be successful without you. Mead Hall School is truly a special place because of our families and faculty. We look forward to growing our PTO connections and hope to offer a gateway for our families to feel involved. Thank you for following us on our PTO Facebook page and reading our weekly updates In the Loop. Please stay tuned for more events coming your way. We are Mead Hall!

Kindly,  
Mead Hall PTO



The ADDA Christmas Parade is Sunday, December 3rd from 2-3pm.

Mead Hall PTO will build, decorate, and have a float in the parade (led by the talented Diana LaLuz). Students and parents are welcome to ride but there will be limited space! Look out for a sign up genius coming soon!

## Ordering is **LIVE NOW**



### PTO FUNDRAISER NOVEMBER 17TH

SANDWICH \$6    8 COUNT FRIED NUGGETS \$5    COOKIE \$2  
\*\*NO SUBSTITUTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE MENU\*\*

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#### HOW TO ORDER

**ORDER BY  
NOV. 8TH**  
NO LATE ORDERS

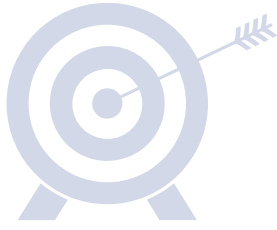
LOG INTO **FACTS FAMILY PORTAL**  
CLICK **STUDENT** FROM LEFT MENU  
CLICK **LUNCH** FROM DROP DOWN MENU  
CLICK **+CREATE WEB ORDER** AT TOP OF SCREEN  
CLICK YOUR CHILD'S **NAME**  
CLICK **LUNCH ITEMS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH**  
CHOOSE THE QUANTITY OF ITEMS FOR YOUR CHILD  
**REPEAT** FOR ADDITIONAL CHILDREN  
**SUBMIT AND PAY** FOR ORDER

**ONLINE  
ORDERS  
ONLY!**



# Archery

Registration for Archery at Mead Hall has begun. For our 4th grade students the signup form will be available in your child's homeroom class and for the Upper Campus signup will be via email to Coach Amy her email is [amypizio@yahoo.com](mailto:amypizio@yahoo.com). Please include full name, grade, and shirt size. The first practice will be Monday November 6th after school at the Prep Gym. Practices are Monday through Thursday. Practices end between 4:45 and 5:00.



## Practice schedules:

- 4th Grade-Mondays
- 5th and 6th Grades-Tuesdays
- 7th and 8th Grades- Wednesdays
- High School- Thursdays
- 5th through 12th grades can also practice on any other days except for Mondays.

For more information and questions contact Coach Pizio 803-270-2254 or Coach Nichols 803-215-4255.



## TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS

Mead Hall *Presenting Sponsor*



*Panther Pride!*



Mead Hall *Presenting Sponsor*

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*Development*  
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*Go Panthers!*

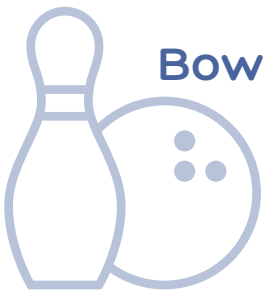


[Click here for more information on becoming a presenting sponsor!](#)



## Cross Country

Cross Country competed in their final meet of the season this past Saturday at the SCISA State Championship at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia, SC. Mac Lawson had an outstanding meet and earned 5th place. Congratulations to the Cross Country Team and Coaches for a great season.



## Bowling

Our 1st practice was on Wednesday, November 1st. Practices are only on Wednesdays. We will occasionally have Monday practices for extra work but those are optional and not required. ALL practices take place at Northside Lanes (175 Georgia Ave, North Augusta, SC). We do our best to get students over to the bowling alley by parent carpools. We DO NOT provide a ride back to Aiken once practice is over. PARENTS will have to pick up their student from North Augusta. Practices run from 4 pm to 5 pm. We normally have approximately 4/5 SCISA matches (home & in Columbia) (grades 6-12). Middle school can take part in the AAMSL (grades 5-8) with local matches in Augusta. All dates are still TBD.

SCISA State Meets are Monday February 5 (Team) & Monday, February 12 (Individual) both in Sumter, SC.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Becky Marks at [aikenbrass@aol.com](mailto:aikenbrass@aol.com) for more info.



## Basketball

Coaches will continue to give the players their practice schedule. Varsity Boys have a Scrimmage/Practice on Friday November 10th at 5:00pm at Briarwood Academy 4859 Thomson Highway Warrenton, GA 30828..





## EUCCHARIST SERVICES

**Rite I Eucharist no music 7:45 AM**  
**Rite II Eucharist with Contemporary Music 9:00 AM**  
**Rite II Eucharist with Traditional Music 11:15 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 by clicking here [SERVICE BULLETIN](#).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

Catechesis of the Good Shephard has resumed and starts at 10:00am  
Upstairs in the Stevenson-McClelland Bldg.  
Drop In Class starts at 10:15am - 11am and meets in the Small parlor  
in the Stevenson-McClelland Bldg. We are currently reading  
"The Echo Within: Finding Your True Calling." by Robert Benson  
Led by Kathie Fowler  
Adult Sunday School Class starts at 10:15am - 11am and meets in the Large  
parlor (cafeteria) in the Stevenson-McClelland Bldg.  
Led by Gibert Kennedy  
The Wednesday Bible Study Group meets from 9:30 am - 10:50 am  
in the sitting room of the Cornish Bldg.  
Led by Burt Tiffany

ST. THADDEUS CAMPUS 803.644.1122

AIKEN PREP CAMPUS 803.648.3223

