

# Winter 2022

# the Buzz



Highlights from  
the Hornet's Nest

## Family finds educational home

At a crossroads of providing the best education for their children, Billy and Vicki Raleigh brought their family to tour SCSDb on the way to a vacation in the mountains.

Two of the Raleigh's daughters, Ava Laurence and

Victoria Claire, almost immediately announced, "This is our school." The whole family shared a gut instinct and knew they had found where they needed to be. Vicki said that everyone at SCSDb was so welcoming, and the small classes with individualized attention in the School for the Deaf was a breath of fresh air.

So, the family of seven moved from Waycross, GA, to Spartanburg for the 2017-2018 school year. Then, came the pandemic and a return to the homeschooling of their younger years. Everyone is happy to have Victoria Claire and Ava Laurence back on campus as day students in the School for the Deaf, as well as William who is now a day student in the School for the Blind, for the 2021-2022 year.

Vicki said, "We're just a family – nothing special. We are just so blessed in how we got to be parents." That is a really short summary of how a married couple who wanted a family, decided on the route of adoption, and chose to embrace four, unrelated, children



Left to right: Ava Laurence, William, and Victoria Claire Raleigh

***"SCSDb doesn't offer a one-size-fits-all. All three of our children's needs are met."***

with special needs. The Raleigh's fourth child is Sophie who attends Oakbrook Preparatory School in Spartanburg. Sophie is celebrating her brand-new bone-anchored hearing aid. Vicki's training and experience as a speech-language pathologist surely helped her children gain the language they were each missing in different ways.

A special part of the family is "Mimi," Charlotte Wiggins, Vicki's mother and the vital grandmother that "they couldn't do it without." Vicki wanted children close in age, and these four certainly are with a seventh grader, an eighth grader, and two ninth graders.

Billy and Vicki got training to homeschool the children they adopted, found support for the girls, including instructors for the deaf, but reached the point of their children needing more community and time with peers. They had no experience with specialized schools and didn't want to sacrifice a high standard

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Ca'mayra Boulware proudly presents gingerbread houses made by her CSA Explore class and other food service classes at AAC.

Distributed to the parents of students currently enrolled at SCSDB, parents of students receiving outreach services, and the SCSDB Board of Commissioners

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South Carolina School  
for the Deaf and the Blind

## Dear Friends,

We are so excited to bring the Buzz...Highlights from the Hornet's Nest to you. **Parent and community involvement** is so important to the success of our students and our school. We want to make sure that all of our SCSDB families, those with students on campus and those with students served through outreach services, keep abreast of events, celebrations, and initiatives at SCSDB. SCSDB truly is a special place to be, and this publication is intended to highlight all of the things that make SCSDB thrive.

SCSDB offers a full continuum of services for students through campus programming, local school districts, and early intervention. **We are one SCSDB** -- meeting the individual needs of students at whatever level of support is needed. We welcome parents, districts, and community members to visit us and learn more about what SCSDB offers!

As we continue to embrace the possibilities, we also look forward to actionable outcomes: **encouraging, engaging, and empowering our students** while equipping them for success! Thank you for your support as we take this journey together!

Sincerely,



Jolene L. Madison  
President, SCSDB

## New principal sets vision with staff

New Principal Lauren Prochak envisions "one" SC School for the Blind; one mission; one team; one school -- with the vision further defined in collaboration with the entire staff.

Staff has aligned their focus around state standards. Teachers collaborate to discuss priority standards, curriculum planning, instructional strategies, alignment with IEP goals, and classroom assessments.

Lauren reports that she and other staff members are working with the Department of Education Services to refine long range plans as well as individual lessons. The Expanded Core Curriculum, assistive technology, tactile graphics, and accessibility are infused into instruction to provide students with a comprehensive learning experience.

School and classroom environments have been, and will continue to be, enhanced and updated to maximize student access to academic materials and content. Total school input determined creative art displays throughout.



School for the Deaf student Andres Benitez creates a DNA model.



SCSDB names new president

In late spring of 2021, Jolene Madison was selected by the Board of Commissioners as the new president of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB). An SCSDB employee for seven years, Jolene previously served as the director of education programs and special education services.

Jolene has 25 years of experience in the field of special education. She began her career as a teacher serving students with behavioral difficulties, autism, and learning disabilities in Greenville County Schools and Lexington-Richland School District 5. Jolene has held several school and district administrative roles including assistant principal and overseeing programs for students with hearing loss, vision loss, and orthopedic impairments in Greenville County.

The Madison family moved to the Dobson House on campus over the summer. "It is a blessing to live on our beautiful campus," said Jolene. "We enjoy seeing



President Jolene Madison drops by the art classroom in Walker Hall and encourages Sylvia Walters, School for the Deaf student, in her choices of vivid colors to paint the letter "S."

the students return on Sundays and look forward to upcoming campus events."

Family finds educational home ... continued from front page

of total education – academically, socially, and emotionally. There were obstacles to a nearby Florida school that they never ending up touring.

"The teachers and staff at SCSDB love and care for and care about our children," Vicki said. "They offer great support and are easy to contact," she added. "SCSDB doesn't offer a one-size-fits-all. All three of our children's needs are met. The greatest reward in working with children is to see the lightbulb come on and for children to be successful and proud of themselves. I worry about my family, of course, but they are not the same worries as five years ago. There was more fear for us in not making the move for our children than in doing it. We are a family who loves being together in our home. We are also a family who loves the educational home of SCSDB for three of our four children," Vicki asserted.

COVID-19 update

Since the initial shut-down of schools across South Carolina in March 2020, SCSDB has initiated precautions and cleaning protocols to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. While many districts remained virtual during the 2020-2021 school year, SCSDB was able to safely reopen our doors on the first day of school to provide in-person learning for our students. Our commitment to providing exemplary instruction in the most appropriate format for our learners continues today.

Our students have been tremendous self-advocates during this time. President Jolene Madison said, "I have received emails from several students asking about sports and on-campus activities. While we continue to limit these activities to reduce the risk of exposure and spread of COVID, our students have demonstrated grace and understanding. We are monitoring the variants of this virus and making informed decisions based on data, DHEC, and CDC guidelines. It is our hope that we will begin to see a return to more typical operations, including sports and extracurricular events, this spring."

Residential Life

Contributed by LaTarsha Durrah, Kenna McLarty, and Alesha Mohrmann

Residential life staff tailor activities to changing seasons

Students who reside in the Herbert Center painted their own miniature pumpkins with a variety of creative designs during Arts & Crafts night Oct. 12.

Some of the students who created artistic pumpkins were Chelsea Best, Brandon Forrest, Angelina Gonzalez, and Ja'Aleeyah Riley.

Evening bike rides around campus to savor the fall breezes and autumn leaves brought smiles to the girls like Ryleigh Rabon who reside in Henderson Hall. Antiwan Tate offered the bike rides during recreation time. Even some staff members like Frances Gentry couldn't pass up the opportunity to get a little exercise in!

When there were rainy spells and the days got cooler, indoor activities were popular. Through a partnership with Papa John's, students and staff in the Herbert Center had a "Pizza-rific" time! An afternoon of music, dancing, and eating pizza was enjoyed by all. Students included Chelsea Best, Brandy Mezquite-Reyes, Rushanti Smith, and Sierra Stefani.

A snack and bedtime stories made a fun reason for the girls in Henderson Hall to lounge in their PJs while they sat quietly and watched staff sign a story to them. Sonja Conyers and Ann Riddle signed "I'll Wait, Mr. Panda." Girls enjoying the evening included Terah Allen and Azaria Chalk.

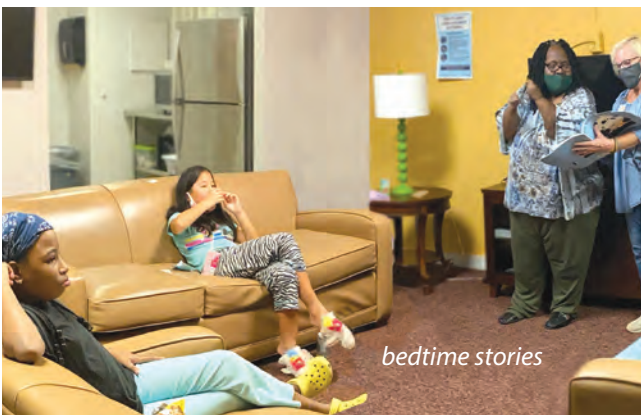
Choices of new and sometimes competitive activities have been offered during recreation time in the Voss Gym for the students who are visually impaired and reside in Hall Dorm. Michael Clifton had a ball riding the foot-controlled EZ Roller scooters. Games of corn-hole made students take their best shots again and again.



Chelsea Best



Sierra Stefani



bedtime stories



Michael Clifton

Ryleigh Rabon



# AAC Applied Academic Center

Contributed by Taylor Carvajal, Angela Collier, Galena Gaw, Lori Seymour, and Cherie Winkler



Ty Stevenson prints T-shirts created by the graphic design students for SCSDB staff members.

## Pennell Printing born at Applied Academic Center

Students in the **Applied Academic Center's (AAC) work-based learning program** are bringing their designs to life using screen printing equipment and other print methods in our school-based enterprise, Pennell Printing.

When **Graphic Communication** was added to the AAC's programs, a needs assessment based off of curriculum standards was performed. Screen printing equipment and materials were identified as necessary. Through grants provided by PowerEd, the Truist Foundation, and the SCSDB Foundation, they were obtained.

The AAC has made it a practice to support school functions by printing and making T-shirts and other promotional items designed and created by students. They even hosted a holiday pop-up shop where staff could purchase coffee cups, tumblers, ornaments, cards, neckties, coasters, shirts, bags, and more.

## Variety of pumpkins fill AAC's patch

Lori Seymour and Taylor Carvajal's 3rd period **CSA Transition Class** created adorable pumpkins using a roll of toilet paper, fabric, ribbons, and a stick for each one.

Each student independently made a pumpkin following step-by-step instructions, then was assigned one step in the process of creating the pumpkins in an assembly line. To practice customer service skills, the class delivered their fabric-covered pumpkins to individuals across campus.

The **AAC Food Service** students learned through the art of carving pumpkins, expressing creativity through art, productivity, and time management during the month of October. The students' pumpkins were displayed in Trades II and viewed by our friendly little campus trick-or-treaters. The students had an awesome time creating their very own masterpiece that was also judged in a contest. There were winners from each school: CSA- Brandy Mezquite-Reyes; School for the Deaf- Faith Glover; and School for the Blind- Khyron Darville.



School for the Blind student Khyron Darville



School for the Deaf elementary school 1st place winners in Reading Fair



Staff and CSA students work the Buzz Coffee Shoppe

## Reading is "fun!"-damental

The **Accelerated Reader program** was promoted by our campus library with a variety of activities during the first few weeks of the 2021-2022 school year.

Students were given the opportunity to create bookmarks, play book bingo, check-out books, read, and take Accelerated Reader tests. The culminating activity was an Accelerated Reader Kick-off party where the students browsed different booths and participated in a variety of activities such as playing word and reading games, making crafts, and eating snacks. Students really enjoyed playing word scrabble, eating frogs (chocolate, of course) and cake, and receiving small literacy-related prizes.

Judges had a very difficult time selecting our winners in the **Reading Fair**. Thank you to all the

teachers and students that participated. The following projects placed in the competition:

### Elementary

1st Place – "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"

**Preschool – 1st Grade, Rachel Hammett and Stephanie Gosnell** (School for the Deaf)

2nd Place – "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"

**Kindergarten – 1st Grade, McKaylia Waddell** (Cedar Springs Academy)

### Middle School

1st Place – "Smile"

**Ri'Kaiya Rodgers, 8th Grade, School for the Deaf** (Melinda Scarbro)

2nd Place – "Kaiju Girl Caramelise"

**Jasper Womick, 8th Grade, School for the Deaf** (Melinda Scarbro)

Also, thank you to our judges, Jennifer Scruggs and Pam Boggs.

## Students build resumes hands-on, cup-by-cup, via algorithm

In Taylor Carvajal's **Employability classes**, students have been studying hard, creating resumes, and honing important skills such as communication and safety while working on class projects.

During hands-on time, students learned how to properly wipe down surfaces and spot clean floors. They worked installing LED lights and light covers. Everyone did a great job, and all are enjoying the new classroom lights!

Food service students served hot beverages with a smile at their **Buzz Coffee Shoppe**, during fall and holiday openings. Flavored coffees, teas, and hot chocolate were available for staff to purchase.

At the fall event, these students honored the SCSDB maintenance department by gifting them with pumpkin pies they baked. Students also created centerpieces and decorated tables with pride.

Confections and baked goods were also sold at the December opening. The class mission is: "Brewing Success One Cup at A Time."

**Computer Science Week** brought a challenge to all AAC students Dec. 6-9 to write an algorithm for making a cup of hot chocolate. These step-by-step instructions were evaluated for the best from each class period and celebrated with real cups of hot chocolate in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) lab. Several unplugged (no technology required) activities were also available to teachers for their classes.



## Cedar Springs Academy students learn geography, math via professional football

Students in Cynthia Braun’s middle and high school classes have been learning fascinating facts about the United States and its geography through National Football League (NFL) team locations.

The football theme has been applied, as well, to math concepts as they examined the teams’ wins and losses. Two of the classes took a virtual field trip to the NFL Hall of Fame where they learned about inertia and the different types of forces.

# CSA Cedar Springs Academy

Contributed by Elizabeth Baird, Cynthia Braun, Sarah Davis, Beth Goodenough, McKaylia Waddell, Addie Watson, and Jamy Zirkle

Brianna Oliphant, as the Grinch, signs her sadness, acknowledging that her actions have ruined everyone’s holiday cheer.



## Grinch “almost” steals Christmas

Students and teachers transformed, before Thanksgiving, many areas of CSA into a Christmas wonderland to film a movie starring amazing student actors Brianna Oliphant and DJ Peake.

Brianna played a modern-day Grinch and D.J. was a curious student in the adaptation of the popular holiday classic written by teacher **Addie Watson**, “How the Grinch Almost Stole Our Christmas Celebration.” The video production has plenty of drama, comedy, and even music!

CSA teachers, associate teachers, and other staff guided creative student activities and put many personal skills to work. **Cynthia Braun** took on the role of the main teacher in the film, and **Jane Enabore**, on top of organizing the ASL narration for the film, provided beautiful ASL to articulate the Grinch’s thoughts.

The film follows the school days of the Grinch leading up to the school’s Friday Christmas celebration. **The Grinch, disgusted with the holiday cheer** being shared throughout the halls of CSA, comes up with a plan to ruin the celebration for everyone in the building. She puts her plan into action and leaves the school feeling defeated. Will this truly be the Grinch’s win? Only one way to find out.

Watch the video! <https://youtu.be/3Gy0289z1L8>

## Class delves into holiday traditions

McKaylia Waddell’s class made their own holiday fun in December while learning about **traditions that families may have, their classroom traditions, and more about each other.**

They completed many activities that related to their **Unique Learning System (ULS curriculum)** Holiday lessons. As a class they made gingerbread houses, painted ornaments, and decorated a tree for their classroom. Students also had the chance to meet the Grinch!

## Veterans Day speaker explains medals, uniforms

SCSDB’s Regina Hamilton, AV media specialist, visited with CSA students on Veterans Day, spoke about her time in the military, and brought interesting visual aids.

She brought three of the medals she received: **Army Achievement Medal** for serving as a team member of the Troop Support Command Mobile Television Production Team for the Combat Deception Device videotape series;

**Good Conduct Medal** for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity in active Federal Military Service; and **Army Commendation Medal** for exceptional meritorious service as AVSCOM Team Chief.

Regina and her team made training videos for the service, and she also worked on a top-secret project. She was classified as a sharp shooter and still is. Regina also brought different uniforms that were military issued and explained where and when you would wear each uniform. She showed the students her favorite cap that she still wears when it is really cold outside. **Regina said that she was impressed with the students’ questions.**

We are thankful for Regina’s service and proud to have her here at SCSDB.



Clockwise, top to bottom: Halleigh McKinney hangs a Christmas ornament.  
Ja’Aleeyah Riley decorates a pumpkin.  
IT staff member Regina Hamilton poses with a class after her Veterans Day presentation.  
Cynthia Braun’s classes study geography and math through football.



# School for the Blind

Contributed by Lauren Prochak

## Special events punctuate fall, winter

Staff strived to engage students in creative learning by punctuating the fall semester with special events and activities for holidays and the school's usual annual events.

Students created decorations and artwork hung around the school during **Spirit Week**, although Homecoming was cancelled.

Stations including "pin the stinger on the hornet," trivia & games, cane etiquette, cookie decorating, and a cane obstacle course were all part of the **White Cane Day** celebration. Reading the proclamation for the day was part of the festivities.

All students and staff met around the flagpole to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and hear a student speak, as part of the **Veterans Day** observance planned by the School for the Blind's instructional events committee. A student from our high school who takes American Sign Language used ASL to sign the pledge of allegiance. Students rotated stations that included learning about the "fallen table," flag folding, and reflection writing.

The **Croft Fire Department** visited after the annual **Turkey Trot** to share with students about their jobs and let them explore some of their equipment. A s'more snack was also enjoyed, and students learned how Principal Prochak defines a perfect marshmallow.

High school student **Aleena Hamlin** spent a week at **Space Camp** and was appointed Commander for Mission 1. She worked with other attendees to make and launch rockets and repair ships.

*Cheering on one another and taking turns around the track on a chilly day marked the **Turkey Trot** put together by our agency events committee. All participating students and staff received a trophy.*



Top to bottom: Staff and students participate in the White Cane Day obstacle course.

Students India Hare and Brian Starkey are building cell models in science.

Teacher Michelle Daly delivers Heilyin Sanchez the "Right Up" prize for the week. The cup has her name in print and braille.

## Making it a good day, every day

"When one of us is having a bad day, we know that we can remind each other to have a positive outlook," said student Brookelynn Raulerson. "We keep each other in check," she added. Brookelynn said that having a positive school culture has improved her perspective and that of her peers.

Students are learning "the 3 Rs": to be "**Respectful, Responsible, and Ready for Success.**" They are reminded to treat themselves and others with respect. "We are responsible for our learning, behavior, and space. We work every day to improve our academics, independence, and positive relationships," said Principal Lauren Prochak.

Being written up on a positive "**Right Up**" note is a goal for students who demonstrate the 3 Rs. These notes are read on the morning announcements, and the subject of one "Right Up" is drawn each week to choose a prize. Staff have reported that this has had a positive influence on student behavior, motivation, and self-confidence.

Students, family members, and staff write "**Shout Out**" cards for staff members who they appreciate. These are also read on morning announcements and displayed near the School for the Blind's cafeteria.

The school has a weekly **quote** read on morning announcements and displayed. **Students' favorite quotes** were shared during October's Spirit Week.

Earning all As and Bs during the second 9-weeks of grading put students on the Honor Roll and/or the **Principal's Honor Roll**, and they got to celebrate at a party just for them!

## Staff, students navigate interaction beyond campus

The School for the Blind's **School Improvement Council (SIC)** consists of staff, students, parents, and community members. This year's SIC goal is parent communication and partnerships. The SIC is providing feedback on strengths, gaps, and opportunities, and also setting a collective vision for the School for the Blind's future.

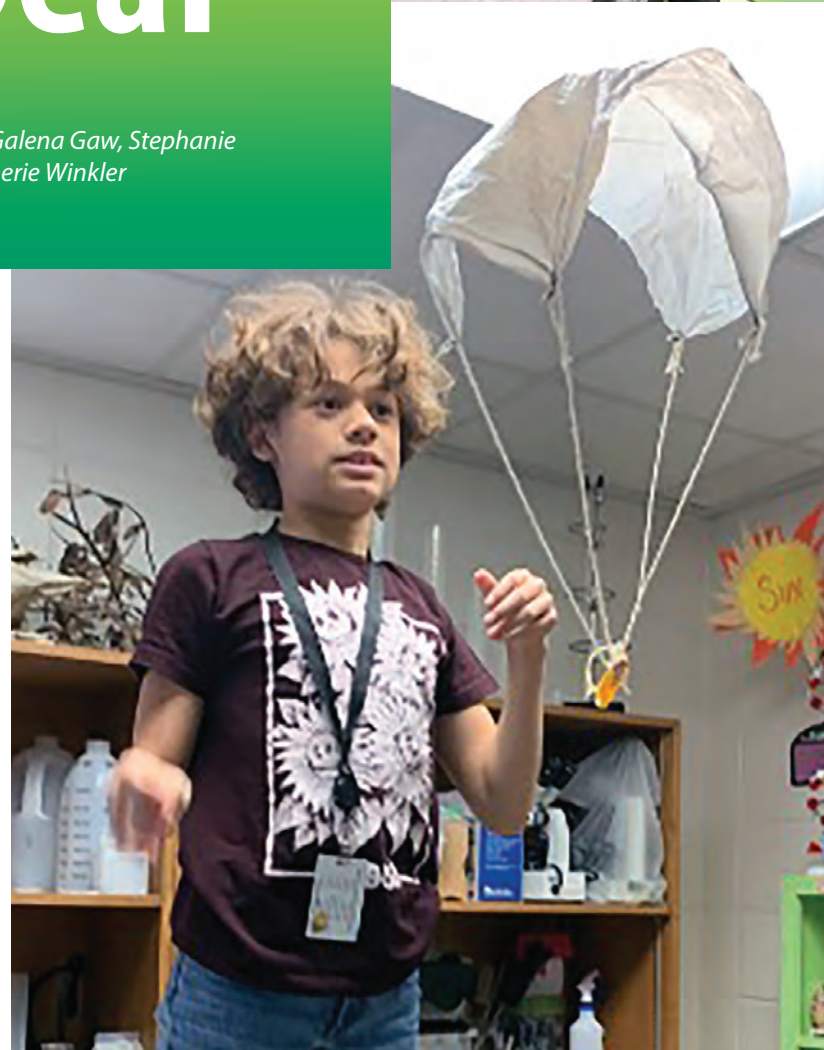
The SCSB partnered with a class at **Spartanburg Day School (SDS)** who were reading "A Miracle Worker." A group of School for the Deaf and School for the Blind juniors and seniors met over Zoom to develop a presentation for SDS. Students shared about braille, American Sign Language, athletics, accessibility, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, and how to interact with someone who is deaf and/or blind. Students focused on ways we are different, and ways we are all the same.





# School for the Deaf

Contributed by Lesley Aycock, Galena Gaw, Stephanie Gosnell, Jessica Gribble, and Cherie Winkler



## T-E-A-M grows students' love of Science

As students in Jessica Gribble's classes are more and more immersed in **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)** activities, their appreciation of science is growing.

Students learn how to explore and to seek answers through **hands-on experiences**. Parachutes were tested, as students studied force and motion. DNA models were created, after learning about DNA structure. Students made LED flashlights, as they gained knowledge about electricity.

## "Murder Mystery on the Night Train" game creates literary detectives

Playing a murder mystery game helped students in four levels of English develop inferencing skills, practice drawing conclusions, ask questions, identify conflicts, and practice their reading comprehension skills.

The objective of the game for students in Lesley Aycock's Essentials of English I, II, III, and English ACCESS 4 classes was to **find the killer of Reid Muzik, a famous pianist**. Students had to hunt down the murder weapon, read interviews, develop possible motives, and work together to decipher clues found on and near the body. Students were able to combine everything they had learned about Reid, the suspects on the train, and analyze clues to find the killer.

After playing the game, classes watched "**Murder on the Orient Express**." While watching the movie, they stopped viewing several times in order to discuss how the movie was different from the game they had played. They also talked about possible motives for the different characters and researched the Orient Express to learn more about the train.

*Left page, clockwise: Eden Sanderson reads to some friends.*

*Dacorian Horton creates a DNA model in science class.*

*Logan Hollar tests his parachute to see the effect air resistance has on motion and speed.*

*Toby Allen shows off his homemade LED flashlight.*

*Right: Alan Gaona-Lopez makes a pinata ornament from Mexico at the library's "Holidays Around the World" event.*

## School subjects might be more fun "down on the farm"

Elementary school teacher Stephanie Gosnell said, "Here in our class room, 'Down on the Farm,' we learn colors, shapes, math, vocabulary, and reading through play."

Building with **colorful math manipulatives** such as 3-D wooden blocks, helps students learn colors and shapes. This encourages the love of math using critical thinking skills. "We use play dough and cookie cutters not only to learn colors and shapes, but we practice vocabulary while using a **tactile sensory system**," she explained.

Stephanie noted, "**Our class loves books**. Students take picture walks and practice reading with friends. Every day, we take trips through our imagination during time in dramatic play centers."

## Students work up an appetite for bruschetta

Making that toasted Italian bread appetizer with delicious toppings known as bruschetta put students to the test of **following directions** and drove home some important lessons.

The importance of **reading all of the directions before starting** an activity, game, or cooking was learned, as students in Lesley Aycock's Essentials of English I & II class spent the week reading different recipes, game instructions, worksheets, and direction activities.

To practice and to show off their ability to follow directions, the class read a **bruschetta recipe** and when students were given a mixed-up version of the recipe, they had to put the recipe in the correct order before they could make bruschetta. Every student was able to correctly sequence the recipe before showing off their cooking skills.





Art brings life to basic curriculum

**Artist in Residence** Carter Boucher joined students virtually to work on several projects. Students from the School for the Blind created three-dimensional masks with papier-mache' and students from the School for the Deaf worked on using grids to create artwork.

**An American Sign Language live performance of "A Christmas Carol"** brought a fresh experience of Dickens' words to the audience of middle and high school students from all schools.

The animated signing of the two teachers from the Charleston County School for the Arts was voiced for our visually impaired students. Social distancing was practiced in Pulliam Auditorium for this Nov. 30 event.

**A model of Fort Moultrie**, the historic site in Charleston, was created by 8th grade students at the School for the Blind. They learned about South Carolina history in social studies class. The landmark was made out of palmetto logs, and that is the origin of our state's nickname – the Palmetto State.

The SCSDb Foundation was awarded \$5,000 from AFL to purchase a **Glowforge machine (3-D laser printer)** for School for the Deaf's Chris Turner's art students to use. He plans to use it to teach the students technology and business skills. AFL is a telecommunications corporation whose USA headquarters is located in Duncan. They give grants for STEAM education.



# Fine Arts

Contributed by Josh Padgett and Chris Turner



Clockwise: School for the Deaf students in Chris Turner's art class; left to right - School for the Blind students William Raleigh, Jessica Lindsay, Zacchaeus Reaves, and Destiny Hall with their model of Fort Moultrie; School for the Deaf student Ava Laurence Raleigh with Carter Boucher; ASL performance of "A Christmas Carol;" School for the Blind students Lonna Pelton and Aleena Hamlin show ornaments made for Lions Club members cut out of wood by a Glowforge machine.





# Statewide Outreach Services

Contributed by Kelly Birmingham,  
Jill Ischinger, and Lynda Schott

## Statewide Deaf, Hard of Hearing Education connects students

Successfully connecting students in projects small and large to assist others and promote self-advocacy has Statewide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education staff planning new challenges.

Two students in the Upstate are reading Derrick Coleman Jr.'s memoir and doing a book study with each other. Derrick is a professional football player who is Deaf.

Many of the students around the state are working on learning about their own hearing loss and how to interpret an audiogram. They will graph their hearing loss on a **digital audiogram** that shows speech sounds so they can have a visual representation of what sounds they hear and don't hear. Later, this information will be used for self-advocacy practice. The students will be able to tell someone about their type and degree of hearing loss and describe the educational implications.

**Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** are working together to connect some students around the state, so that they can collaborate via Zoom meetings with their peers on various projects.

## Early Intervention-American Sign Language courses build language, communication for all

Courses are designed to implement families' and children's vocabulary, in order to build the foundation of children's language acquisition and communicative bonds with their caregivers, families, grandparents, parents and sibling(s).

**Early Intervention-American Sign Language** courses, (EIASL), are bilingual American Sign Language (ASL) and English courses (Level 1 – 4) provided directly to families and children, who are either deaf or hard of hearing and whose ages are from 0 to 5. Families and children are served by SCSDb's Early Intervention outreach services, and these services are DHHS Part C eligible through SC's BabyNet program.

Early Intervention's Visual Language: **American Sign Language for Families and Children**, (EIASL), began as a pilot program in October 2020, with a goal to teach families ASL at the earliest age possible. The program has flourished with more than 40 Early Intervention families signing up quarterly.

Courses are for eight weeks and are offered four times a year. Meetings are either "face-to-face" at one of our outreach centers or in our virtual classroom via videoconferencing for an hour. Moodle courses are also provided to families.

To learn more and to sign up, please email: [outreach-eiasl@scsdb.org](mailto:outreach-eiasl@scsdb.org)

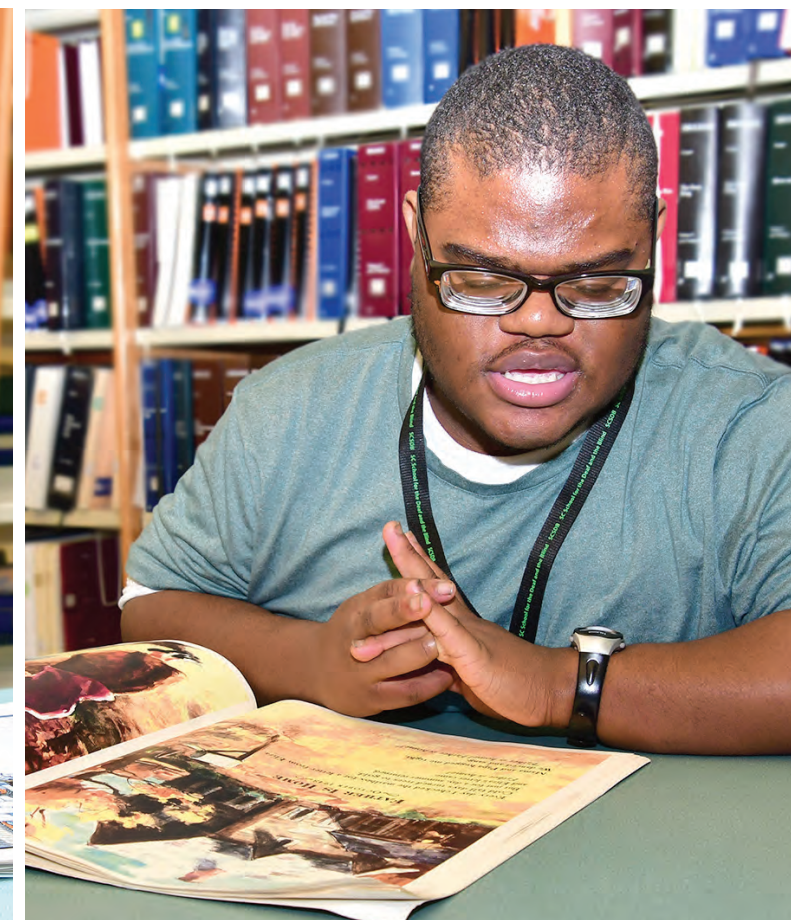
## Instructional Materials Center gets braille, large print to students

The Statewide Instructional Materials Center (IMC) is located in Spartanburg on the campus of SCSDb and **provides braille and large print textbooks** to students on campus and throughout South Carolina.

Each spring, teachers of students with legal blindness across the state request braille or large print textbooks for their students for the following school year. IMC staff work diligently during the summer to make sure these **students have their textbooks in the specialized format when school starts.**

Textbook orders are filled from existing stock housed in the IMC or purchased from a vendor with copies available. **Large print textbooks**, either not in our stock or available to purchase elsewhere, **are made on site** in the IMC. Braille textbooks, not in stock or available from a vendor, are transcribed by one of 18 certified braille transcribers in **SCSDb's Braille Production Center** in Greenwood.

When congress passed in 1879 "The Federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind," the Federal Quota Program of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) was a way to offer **free textbooks and other hands-on instructional materials** to students who were blind. The IMC uses South Carolina's allotted funds from "The Act" to fulfill requests from teachers of visually impaired students for the wide variety of equipment and materials APH now offers.



Reading opens doors of the minds and imaginations of these CSA students because the accessible formats they need are available. Melanie Gomez reads braille and DJ Peake with large print.



Spartanburg Lions continue Christmas luncheon tradition

In 1934, the height of the Great Depression, the Spartanburg Lions Club and the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind started a tradition that kicks-off the holiday season.

On December 6, 2021, the **Spartanburg Lions Club** and the **Southside Lions Club** gathered again to honor this Christmas luncheon tradition.

Contributions of Lions Clubs throughout the year were celebrated. These include:

- providing an **annual Christmas party**, with pizza, where a gift is presented to each student
- supplying **matching funds** to get grants from the Lions Club International Foundation
- The Spartanburg Lions Club holds a **golf tournament** each year to raise funds for the school.
- The Spartanburg Lions Club has a **booth at the Piedmont Interstate Fair**, and all funds raised are donated to the school.
- The Lions Clubs of SC raised over \$100,000 for the **new playground at the School for the Blind**.
- Last year, they raised matching funds to buy **Braille Embossers and Ruby Handheld Magnifiers**.

With the outstanding support from **Sodexo**, the **School’s food provider**, a delicious meal of fried chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, and salad was served to over 95 guests. This is the same menu as the one enjoyed in 1934. Because of COVID, the guests were shown a video of the SCSDb chorus singing a medley of Christmas songs. While not as exciting as having the students present, the spirit of Christmas filled the hearts of those in attendance. The guests also received Christmas ornaments made by our students.

The Foundation extends a **special thank you to the Lions** that participated in this year’s annual Christmas luncheon. We look forward to seeing them again next year when we celebrate the 88th annual Christmas luncheon.

Left to right: School for the Blind students Aryeona Freeman with a Ruby Handheld Magnifier, and Bri’Asia Costanza enjoying the playground.



Foundation hosts 12th Annual So You Think You Can Cook Chili Cook-Off

One of the largest annual fundraisers to benefit our students always keeps things spicy!

The SCSDb Foundation hosted the **12th Annual Chili Cook-Off Jan. 29**.

Since the beginning of this event, **the Foundation has raised over \$820,000** for the benefit of our students. Over 300 guests enjoyed the chili and fellowship this year at the Country Club of Spartanburg. The Co-Chairwomen for the event were Laura Montgomery and Judy Wilson. Both women serve on the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

This year, because of COVID, the guests had the option of picking up their chili through a **drive-through or coming inside** and having their chili with their friends and other guests. The guests also got a chance to vote on the best table decorations of the six teams participating in this year’s event.

Historically, each team would prepare their own chili and the guests would be able to sample each chili. Since COVID made us change that arrangement, each team prepared chili that was judged by a panel of four judges. The winning chili recipe was prepared by the **Country Club of Spartanburg** for everyone to enjoy. This year the **winning chili** came from the **Spartan Waste** team. **Sodexo**, the School’s food service provider, won the **People’s Choice Award**.



SCSDb Foundation



Contributed by Weslie Higdon and Sam Hook





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## We want to meet your family!

SCSDB campus programs are always accepting applications for new students.

• Application information can be found at <https://www.scsdb.org/Page/1543>

Please contact **Mindy Connolly: 864-577-7565 or 1-888-447-2732** or

**mconnolly@scsdb.org**, for more information about the application and enrollment process.



Come and see what SCSDB can do for you in your area of the state! The **SCSDB division of outreach services** provides a menu of options for parents, families, and the professionals who serve them that include and are not limited to, specialized early intervention services, school district educational services, sign language interpreting, and ASL classes! For more information on our statewide outreach services available in your area, please contact **Scott A. Falcone: sfalcone@scsdb.org or 1-800-984-4357**.