

Fall 2023 the Buzz



Highlights from
SCSDB Hornet's Nest



Dr. Adeyanju Okungbowa, Ph.D., science education, and teacher at the School for the Blind, leads chemistry students in an experiment in the new science lab.

New science lab invites exploration, discovery

With a vision to empower our students and expand their horizons, our new science lab serves as a hub of scientific exploration and innovation. Our students will now have the opportunity to engage in hands-on experiments, learn about the wonders of the natural world, and develop a deep appreciation for the sciences. Learn more on page 8.



**"We are SCSDB!"
video premiere**

Scan the QR code to learn
what makes our school
stand out!

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Distributed to the parents of students currently enrolled at SCSDb, parents of students receiving outreach services, the SCSDb Board of Commissioners, and the SCSDb Foundation Board of Trustees.

Editor:
Dorothy Bevill

Editor/Photographer:
Logen Belmont

Graphics Manager/Photographer
Jeannie Harmon

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www.scsdb.org
864-585-7777 • 1-888-447-2732
info@scsdb.org

355 Cedar Springs Road,
Spartanburg, SC 29302-4699

 South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind

Dear Friends,

When the Reverend Newton Pinckney Walker recognized that children in SC who were deaf did not have access to appropriate instruction, he decided to do something about it. He researched deaf education and, in January of 1849, opened a school in Spartanburg and began providing quality school programming for five students who were deaf. Five years later, he followed suit by establishing a program as well for students who were blind. I wonder if he knew that his legacy would still be going strong nearly 175 years later. I wonder if he realized that he was paving the way for access, empowerment, and equity.

As we celebrated SCSDb's Homecoming this fall, I was grateful for the incredible visionaries who paved the way for us to engage, empower, and equip students for success. It is wonderful to welcome back old faces, even as we continue to embrace a new generation. We will be celebrating our 175th anniversary, beginning in January 2024. 175 years of service. 175 years of meeting the needs of students across South Carolina. Thank you for being part of our past, our present, and our future.

With gratitude,


Jolene L. Madison
President, SCSDb



Jolene Madison and Le'Tesha Gray give out cookies to students during Spirit Week.

Congratulations to our 2023 Homecoming Court and winners!

Cedar Springs Academy

Homecoming Queen: Jai'anna Jenkins
Homecoming King: Guillian Sanchez-Hernandez
Homecoming Princess: Reece Huggins

School for the Deaf

Homecoming Queen: Victoria Raleigh
Homecoming King: Andres Benitez
Homecoming Princess: Zoe Smales-Craig

School for the Blind

Homecoming Queen: India Hare
Homecoming King: Noah Holley
Homecoming Prince: Hayden Peterson



The Homecoming winners and principals are recognized at the football game on Oct. 7.

AAC

Applied Academic Center



Yellow mums were one of many plants for sale at the AAC Fall Sale.



Exploring the corn maze like pros

Michael Clifton and other students from AAC walk through a corn maze on a field trip to Stewart Farms in Enoree.

Equipped for education

AAC has some new equipment for students to learn trade skills with.

Bottom left: Tony Lee teaches Carlos Caudillo how to drive the new forklift simulator.

Bottom right: Pennell Printing lab has two new embroidery machines, giving students another trade skill to learn.



The pick of the patch



Emmanuel Geronimo Marcos and Robert Wofford wear their football jerseys and lend a hand at the public plant sale.



Tyreece McCoy and Landon Lipsey represent the School for the Blind at the AAC Fall Sale.

We're not winging it over here!



Felipe Canabal-Martinez measures wood for his birdhouse project in carpentry class.



Pictured left to right: Akeylah Howard, Cindy Watson (math substitute teacher at the School for the Blind), Aleena Hamlin, Andy Breitenbach (carpentry teacher), and Iris Hare proudly present their completed birdhouse projects.

CSA

Cedar Springs Academy



CSA seniors, Jai'anna Jenkins and Guillian Sanchez-Hernandez, are crowned as their school's Homecoming Queen and King.

Baristas educate their palates

Students in Tessa Whitson's class became intrigued with coffee while preparing it to sell on The Sunshine Cart, their student-run business. Because the students were so intrigued, they were given the opportunity to participate in a coffee tasting. They learned that tasting coffee is a whole sensory experience.



Guillian Sanchez-Hernandez enjoys a drink of coffee with Tessa Whitson.



Noah Berg takes a spoonful of sugar with his coffee.

Math, science, and geography were incorporated into this dynamic lesson while students gathered helpful product knowledge. Now, if a patron of The Sunshine Cart asks, "What do you recommend?", these students might recommend the coffee with (or possibly without) the sugar and cream.



Jennifer Jaime-Cruz sips from a straw.



Tessa Whitson helps student Jai'anna Jenkins try some coffee.



Never Forget

Cynthia Alibozek's class raised the flag to half-staff in honor of 9/11. Luis Ocampo and Jakai' Coakley are learning how to hoist the flag.

Excited to learn

In a fun activity, Trinity Wilkins places tokens on a paper with Occupational Therapist Dawn Ellington. Students love learning new skills at Cedar Springs Academy. Our dedicated team of occupational therapists work with students daily, fostering their independence and helping them improve motor skills, balance, and coordination. And, they make it fun!



CSA has Hornet pride!

Brandy Mezquite-Reyes and Elliot Germany show off their school pride on Green Out Day.

SCSB

School for the Blind



The Homecoming Court representing the School for the Blind stands together during the pep rally in Voss Gym. India Hare and Noah Holley are crowned Homecoming Queen and King.

College prep lab science available on our campus

The School for the Blind staff is so grateful for the opportunity to offer chemistry, a high school lab science, to School for the Blind students.

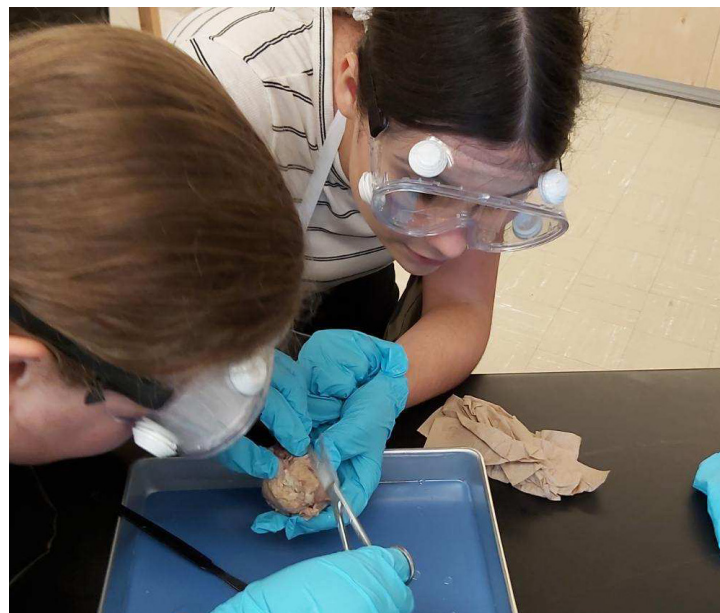
This course offering will allow students to earn a lab science that counts towards requirements to go to a 4-year college. The lab will be open to students in other high school science courses as well as other grades. Students are required to pass a lab safety unit course before completing lab activities and working hands-on with equipment.

"The science lab would not be possible without the help from the SCSDB Foundation and their efforts to secure donors to support students' enriched learning experiences and environment," said Principal Valerie Feiling. The Foundation's support allows students to have access to specific lab tools and resources that are prepared for people with visual impairments. Students use lab equipment such as talking lab quests, talking thermometer, and liquid level indicator devices.

In addition, SCSDB Assistive Technology Specialist Allison Tracy worked with the high school students to identify which magnifiers assist in viewing content or lab items more effectively to complete the lab activities. The Foundation and School for the Blind hosted a ribbon cutting on Oct. 18 to officially open the science lab and show appreciation for the partners that made this opportunity possible.

Above: Piper Graham begins the cow eye dissection experiment.

Bottom: Michael Clifton and Zacchaeus Reaves work as a team.



Spirit Week

Top left: Homecoming Prince Hayden Peterson is escorted by Principal Valerie Feiling.

Top right: The 4K class at the School for the Blind got all dressed up for Decades Day. Pictured left to right: Leah Palma-Escobar and Gerson Barahona Mejia stand in front of Jacob King.

Bottom left: Allison Tracy and Jennifer Guy dress to represent their favorite decade.

Bottom right: Emily Hernandez wears an Aaliyah T-shirt for Celebrity Day.



White Cane Day

Left: Tony Merriweather talks to high school students about the importance of using your white cane and being proud of who you are.

Right: Tyreece McCoy goes through the white cane obstacle course blindfolded.

SCSD School for the Deaf

Victoria Raleigh and Andres Benitez are crowned Homecoming Queen and King, representing the School for the Deaf at the school-wide pep rally.



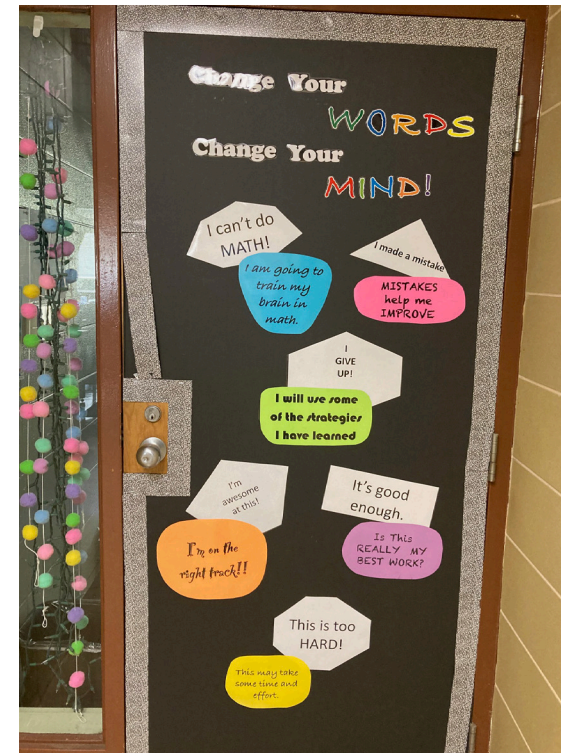
Spirit Week

Counterclockwise from left: Lots of students and teachers on the elementary hall dress up as Barbie for Celebrity Day.

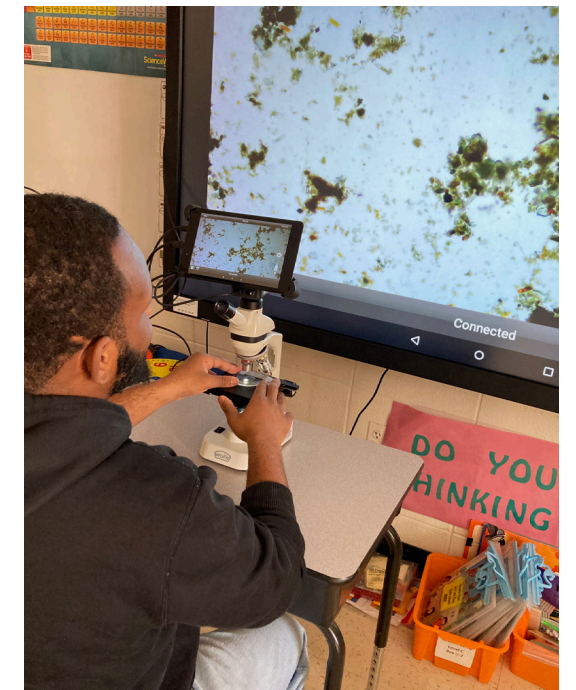
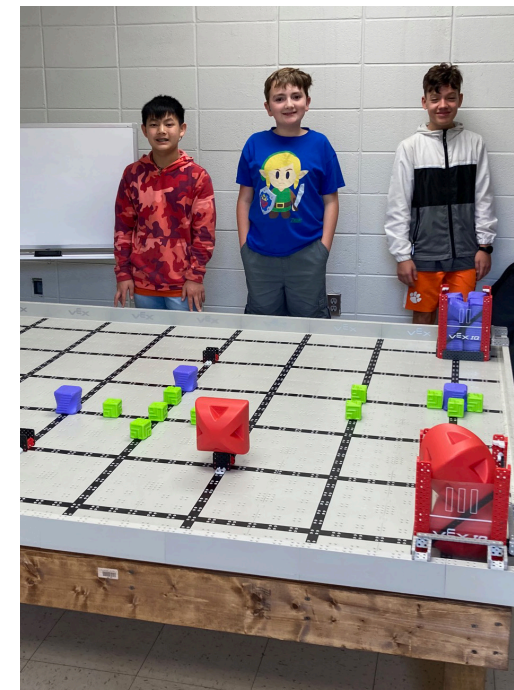
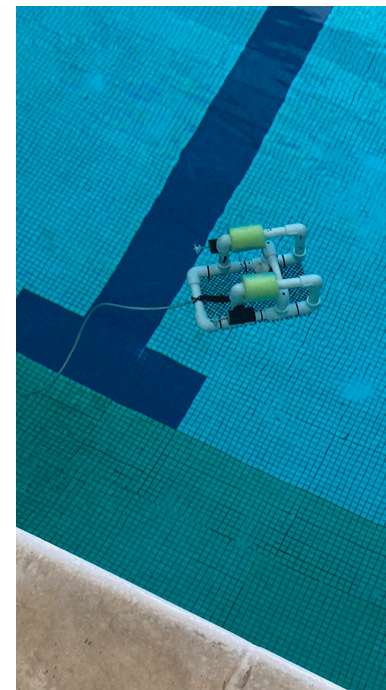
Christy Kincheloe takes us back 175 years in her Martha Walker attire.

Zoe Smales-Craig and Eden Sanderson dress up as their favorite Disney characters for Celebrity Day.

We have Courage for Charlee! Teachers from the School for the Deaf wear purple for Mucopolysaccharidoses (MPS) and Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP), in honor of Jessica Gribble's daughter Charlee Rae.



The School for the Deaf began the academic year embracing a "Growth Mindset." School staff and students believe that we each have the potential to accomplish great things. Teachers posted messages in the halls and on their doors to remind everyone there is nothing we cannot do if we put our minds to it.



The STEM program now includes both drone and underwater vehicles! Simon McConnell, middle school math teacher, worked with Alabama Institute for the Deaf and the Blind's STEM project to learn how to build and operate an underwater vehicle. These vehicles will be added to the Middle School STEM Robotics Competition Team's projects. Students will learn how to program and operate both drones and underwater vehicles and compete in regional competitions in 2024. The pictured team (Toby Allen, Lucas Coates, and Carter Bryant) is already preparing! A big thanks to SCSD's maintenance department for building the team a practice table. Go Ninja Hornets!

Senior Marquel Latimore uses a microscope magnification device to analyze a water sample taken from a nearby creek. He learned there are many organisms living in the water and how important it is to make sure one doesn't drink the water. He used his scientific inquiry skills guided by science teacher, Jessica Gribble, to identify and classify the organisms.

Library Cleveland Learning Resource Center



With help from Mary Diones, the new director of library services, Emily Hernandez feels glitter before adding it to her artwork.



“Just make a mark and see where it takes you.”

Peter H. Reynolds’s storybook “The Dot” is placed on a table in the library. This book is what started the celebration of International Dot Day.

The best stories are found within the pages of a book

Bottom left: High school students from the School for the Blind visit the Scholastic Book Fair.

Bottom right: The cardboard cutout for the Scholastic Book Fair encourages students to make today epic.



Athletics

Introducing our Fall Teams ...



Volleyball

Left to right: Assistant Coach Crystal Imig, Ron'Ziya Boyd, Dayana Orellana, A'She-Rah Jeter, Ryleigh Rabon, Kimberly Juan Santiago, Lor'reyel McClinton, Azaria Chalk, Coach Jessica Creech



Girls Goalball

Front row, left to right: Coach Mary Lister, Piper Graham, Ca'mayra Boulware, Melanie Gomez, Assistant Coach Sara Brownlee

Back row: Iris Hare, Ellie Horton, Aleena Hamlin, India Hare



Football

Left to right, front row: Ivan Kariuki, Marquel Latimore, Alan Gaona-Lopez, Ellis Brown, Joshua Perkins, Christian Washington. Middle row: Jasper Womick, Emmanuel Geronimo Marcos, Malakhi Monroe, Traeveon Jones, Wyatt Harvell. Back row: Tyreece McCoy, Seven Franklin, Dacorian Horton, Andres Benitez, Coach Mike Sims, Assistant Coach Kris Guy, Assistant Coach Carl Duke



Special Olympics Volleyball

Front row, left to right: Tristan Bradley, DJ Peake, Jonathan Perez-Gomez, Sierra Stefani, Ca'Mayra Boulware

Back row: Brandy Mezquite-Reyes, Elliott Germany, Jakai Coakley, Luis Zuniga-Ocampo



Boys Goalball

Front row, left to right: Coach Tony Merriweather, Tazmin Hill, Michael Clifton, Manager Noah Holley, Assistant Coach Gerald Hughes

Back row: Tomier Sanders, Landon Lipsey, Tyreece McCoy

Fine Arts



Performing for the community

Above: The SCSDB choir performs two songs for members of the Rotary Club of Spartanburg at the Piedmont Club on Oct. 10.



Left: Members of the choir wait in the lobby of the Piedmont Club before their performance begins. Right: Heilyin Sanchez is all smiles during the choir's resounding performance.

New sculpture spotted on campus!

Left: Fine Arts Director, Josh Padgett, stands with the ASL "I Love You" sculpture that has now been installed outside of Walker Hall.



Right: This sculpture is a smaller version of the ones installed in downtown Spartanburg and Columbia. In collaboration with artist-in-residence, Bob Doster, the sculpture features hands of fine arts students, school staff, and community members.



Celebrating 175 years

Plans to celebrate SCSDB's 175th anniversary are already underway. Students from all three schools have been working on large 175 signs that will be installed at the main gate, to kick-off the school's 175th year.

This 175 project was in collaboration with ARTS Access South Carolina, Arts in Basic Curriculum, and artist-in-residence, Carter Boucher.

Right: Jonathan Perez-Gomez primes wood with white paint.



Bottom left: Logan Hollar works on the number representing the School for the Deaf.

Bottom right: Elementary student, Eden Sanderson, paints the School for the Deaf's number yellow.



Residential Life



Ryleigh Rabon cooks up a gourmet meal in her dorm's kitchen.

Statewide Outreach Services

Kelly's Kids expands service, enrollment potential

Kelly's Kids has opened an additional classroom which allows the program to now serve 16 children!

In their partnership with Spartanburg County Early Head Start, Kelly's Kids can now go outside the border of Spartanburg County to serve children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing or blind/visually impaired.

To date, there are two children who are blind/visually impaired enrolled; five children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing enrolled; three children who are siblings of a child who is deaf/hard-of-hearing; and one child who is a child of a deaf adult (CODA). Out of these children, five of the families of these children are planning to complete an application to SCSDBI!

Kristin Milner, principal, Statewide Early Childhood Education Services, said that Kelly's Kids has hired two new teachers: Shea Brewton and Jacqueline Booker. "We are looking forward to a great year," she exclaimed.



Up, up, and away we go

That's all folks! Left: Akeylah Howard, Iris Hare, and India Hare enjoy a night at the Piedmont Interstate Fair.

Bottom left: Josh Perkins and Malakhi Monroe give a "thumbs up" while on a ride at the fair.

Bottom right: Seven Franklin chooses the blue-raspberry flavor at a slushy machine.



Top: Kenzie Bartlett is feeling the coolness of the paint while painting the colors of a fire for Fire Prevention Week.

Middle: Keonna Rector is rolling-out play dough on the table.

Bottom: De'Naza Harrington is helping the class transition outside with a walkie-talkie and a notebook.

SCSDB Foundation

Ready to roll

The SCSDB Foundation hosted funders at a ribbon cutting ceremony, celebrating the school's newly renovated bowling alley.

The SCSDB bowling alley, a cherished and historic facility on campus, has served as a hub for recreation, socialization, and team-building. The two-lane bowling alley was installed in the 1970s and has been enjoyed by generations of SCSDB students, both during school hours and for after-school activities.

Martha and Dave Edwards stepped up to the line and made a very generous donation to cover the entire cost of the new equipment, so now students are once again ready to roll.

"The success of this project would not have been possible without the outstanding support of Martha and Dave Edwards," said Sam Hook, executive director of the SCSDB Foundation. "The Edward's generosity has not only preserved the bowling alley's rich history but also enhanced its accessibility and functionality for our students."

Top: Bowling balls are lined up and ready for students to use. A glow-in-the-dark mural was painted onto the wall by students, staff, and artist-in-residence Carter Boucher.

Bottom: Martha and Dave Edwards, along with students and faculty, cut the ceremonial ribbon at the grand opening of the newly renovated bowling alley on campus.



Tournament reaches goal

The Bobby Dobson Memorial Aim High & Let 'em Fly Sporting Clay Tournament raised over \$40,000 this year.

With 27 participating teams, the Aim High event was held on Friday, Aug. 25 at the Cleghorn Gun Club in Rutherfordton, NC. The event drew outdoor enthusiasts from across the region, and teams engaged in competitive clay shooting at various stations, each designed to challenge and entertain shooters of all skill levels.

This annual event was named in memory of the late Bobby Dobson, longtime member of the Board of Commissioners, and supporter of the school, and to date, has raised over \$330,000.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1st place: John Dunbar and Chatt Gilmore

2nd place: Drew Middlebrooks and Michael Baggett (as part of Orbis Corporation's team)

The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation would also like to thank the following event sponsors: Southern States Packaging Company and Tricor Construction.



Left: The Aim High and Let 'em Fly banner, including event sponsors, welcomes teams to the 11th annual fundraising event.



Right: First-place winners (left to right) Chatt Gilmore and John Dunbar stand with Foundation executive director, Sam Hook (middle).



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We want to meet your family!

SCSDB campus programs are always accepting applications for new students. Our online application can be accessed at www.scsdb.org/apply. Please contact **Michaela Wilson** at 864-577-7565 or mwilson@scsdb.org for more information about the application and enrollment process and/or to schedule a campus tour.

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** at sfalcone@scsdb.org or 1-800-984-4357.



*Scan the QR code
to apply today!*