

the Buzz

Winter/Spring 2024



Highlights from
SCSDB Hornet's Nest



Walker Hall was decorated for 175 years with banners between its iconic pillars.

Celebrating 175 years

The campus-wide birthday kick-off celebration included special performances from the Cedar Springs Academy drum-line, the School for the Deaf middle school dance team, and SCSDB chorus. Students also showcased an original "175 Years of SCSDB" storytelling play.

Continued on page 4.

Ninja Hornets Robotics Team claims back-to-back national championships

Our middle school robotics team, the Ninja Hornets, won a second national championship at this year's VEX IQ Robotics Competition at the Tennessee School for the Deaf.

In addition to this being SCSDB's first back-to-back robotics national championship win, the team also

Continued on page 5.



From left to right: Toby Allen (8th grade), Carter Bryant (7th grade), Malakhi Monroe (8th grade), and Lucas Coates (6th grade)

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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.

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Alan Gaona-Lopez (senior),

Alasia Pifher (senior),

Kaylee Ellison (10th), and each school for photographs.



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South Carolina School
for the Deaf and the Blind

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Welcoming the season of Spring always signals the start of an incredibly busy time at SCSDB! We kick-off our annual IEP season (Individualized Education Program), standardized testing gets into full swing, and all of the excitement of spring break, field day, prom, and graduation looms.

Spring is also a time of new growth and rejuvenation. When visiting campus, you will notice the extensive pruning and tree removal of some of the majestic magnolias in front of Walker Hall. These trees are such a treasured part of the SCSDB landscape, and we are fiercely protective of them.

We noticed recently, that many of the trees seemed to be struggling. After consulting with the state arborist, he developed a plan to prune back some of the trees and to completely remove ones that were diseased. This was necessary to ensure that we have healthy, thriving magnolias for the next 175 years.

Our Board of Commissioners, the SCSDB Foundation Board of Trustees, administrative leadership, and all of our staff members are dedicated to engaging, empowering, and equipping our students of today. We want them to grow and mature to be as strong as the magnolias. They are the true heritage of SCSDB, and we are very proud of each student. Please join us in celebrating their growth and accomplishments.

With appreciation,


Jolene L. Madison
President, SCSDB



Congratulations to our 2023 SCSDB Pageant winners and participants!

Students competed under the stars in the areas of streetwear, formal wear, and interviews. Participants, pictured above from left to right, are:

Miss SCSDB Congeniality, Sierra Stefani (10th)

Runner-up, Bre Sharpe (9th)

Miss SCSDB representing the School for the Deaf, Dayana Orellana (10th)

Runner-up, Kaitland Davis (11th)

Miss SCSDB representing Cedar Springs Academy, Hailey Gundling (11th)

Miss SCSDB representing the School for the Blind, Destinee Hall (10th)

Mr. SCSDB representing the School for the Blind, Michael Clifton (10th)

Celebrating 175 years (continued from page 1)



Alan Gaona-Lopez (senior) and Alasia Pifher (senior) portray Reverend Newton Pinckney Walker and Martha Walker in the "175 Years of SCSDB" play led by students.



SCSD middle school students perform a dance led by artist-in-residence, Fred Reeves, also known as "Son of Ice."



Mi'Kai Robinson, Ja'Aleeyah Riley, Ca'Mayra Boulware, and DJ Peake perform on their drums.



The SCSDB Chorus performs "I Will Sing You the Stars," by Mark Burrows



From left to right: Carter Bryant (7th), Kamari Worthington (5th), Lor'reyal McClinton (8th), and Zeaveon Washington (7th) stand together wearing their 175 years T-shirts. The beanie hats shown were gifted to all students by the SC School for the Deaf Alumni Association and the SCSDB Foundation.

Ninja Hornets Robotics Team claims back-to-back national championships *(continued from page 1)*

set some National Institute for the Deaf (NTID) Regional STEM Center VEX IQ Robotic Competition records, including:

- First team to win back-to-back
- First team to jump from a mid-rank team to win it all
- First team of two to hit 100 points in skills challenge
- First team to win both the teamwork challenge and skills challenge

“Returning home second-time national champions, setting several new national records, and making history at SCSDB is HUGE,” explained Jessica Gribble, robotics head coach. “The Ninja Hornets pushed themselves beyond all obstacles, faced challenges with dignity, and represented their school well.”

VEX IQ is a robot construction system based on plastic, snap-together pieces specifically designed to build highly functional robots. In a VEX IQ Competition, teams of students are tasked with designing and building a robot to play with other teams in a game-based engineering challenge.

“I’ve never been prouder of our boys. Yes, we won again, but the moment I remember most was seeing Toby [robotics team member] sitting with the team from Kentucky and helping them fix their robot,” said Simon McConnell, coach. “Our boys showed that the NTID Regional STEM Center is about learning and helping others, more than winning, and I think that is a valuable lesson that everyone can benefit from.”

NTID Regional Stem Center is the first and largest technological college in the world for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The center’s mission is to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education initiatives and career awareness for students in middle and high school who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

“Our team had more experience this year, and we knew what to do,” said Toby Allen, eighth-grader and member of the robotics team. “I’m so excited about going to the Worlds again, and I know we can do better this time!”



Malakhi Monroe (8th) and Carter Bryant (7th) have serious looks on their faces, while they focus on the movement of their team’s robot on the grid.



The Ninja Hornets (SCSDB middle school robotics team) hold trophies for both the Robot Skills Challenge and the Teamwork Challenge.



The robotics team has some fun making new friends at the VEX IQ Robotic Competition.

CSA

Cedar Springs Academy



Mya Cornelius (10th) demonstrates her experiment by dropping a cup with a ball inside at the Science Fair.

CSA Science Fair

Students at Cedar Springs Academy showcased their creativity, curiosity, and innovative thinking at the Science Fair. Way to share your discoveries, Hornets!

Right: The elementary class stands in front of their experiments, testing pumpkins and ramp surfaces.

Below, left: Ca'Mayra Boulware (11th) presents her class's hypothesis.

Below, right: Mi'Kai Robinson (5th) shares the results of his class's balloon rockets experiment.





A drone's eye view

Staff from the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) visited CSA to teach students about robotics! Our students learned how to program and fly the drones, assemble a robot using the VEX IQ robotics kits, and program the CUE robot using an iPad.

Left: A group of students, teachers, and robotics instructors in CSA's gym.

Below, left: An instructor with AIDB crouches down and up to show the upwards movement of a programmed drone.

Below, middle: Teacher Cynthia Alibozek points to a flying drone as Luis Zuniga-Ocampo (8th) programs its movements on an iPad.

Below, right: Azael Cruz (8th) raises his hand to catch a drone as it lands.



Spartanburg Mayors' Walk and Roll

Some CSA high school students participated in the 18th annual Spartanburg Mayors' Walk and Roll in downtown Spartanburg. This annual event brings together community members, local leaders, and people with disabilities to showcase the importance of accessibility and inclusion in Spartanburg County.

Above, left: CSA students stand in front of downtown Spartanburg's "Love Where You Live" mural.

Above, right: Brandy Mezquite-Reyes (11th) and Elliot Germany (11th) walk with the group from Morgan Square to the Spartanburg Auditorium.

SCSB

School for the Blind



Destinee Hall (10th), Gerald Hughes (residential staff), and DJ Peake (11th) pose under the balloon arch.

Daaaance, dance the night away

Students show off their best moves at the School for the Blind's Annual Winter Dance. The festivities included a dancing competition with single, duo, and group dance-offs. Students and staff enjoyed hanging out and learning new moves.



Emily Hernandez (7th) and Ja'Aleeyah Riley (9th) hold hands and twirl in circles.



Noah Holley (senior) shows off his disco moves on the dance floor.



Kaitland Davis (11th) is in the groove!



Daniel Sanders (9th) and Bre Sharpe (9th) take a rest from dancing.



The Twelve Days of Blind School

The School for the Blind Winter Concert featured songs from many holiday traditions, including "Silent Night" sung in German. The chorus also had a special rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," instead calling it "The Twelve Days of Blind School." On the first day of blind school my teacher gave to me.... a very heavy CCTV!

Left: Lined up in two rows on the stage, the chorus is conducted by Dr. Carrie Page.



Left to right: Tyreece McCoy (senior), Landon Lipsey (senior), and Daniel Sanders (9th) sing the lowest notes from the back row.



Isabella Collins (8th) and Elaine Horton (8th) stand and sing along with the holiday tunes.



Leah Palma-Escobar (2nd) lifts her voice in song.

We've got some fast turkeys around here!

Students from the School for the Blind competed in the annual Turkey Trot before the Thanksgiving Break. There were many personal records. Landon Lipsey (senior) received a Hall of Fame trophy for competing in 14 Turkey Trots as a student. That's every Turkey Trot SCSB has ever held! Noah Holley (senior) received a Hall of Fame trophy for winning three Turkey Trots over the years.

Right: The girl's elementary and middle school winners Leah Palma-Escobar (2nd), Aaliyah Zimmerman (5th), Anmariah Myers (6th), and Melanie Payne (4th) stand on the track and hold their earned trophies.



Above, left to right: Madeline Key (residential staff) and Evan Gimmaka (10th) complete a lap around the track. Noah Holley (senior) and Principal Valerie Feiling celebrate his third Turkey Trot win. Melvin Fuentes-Gomez (7th) waits for his turn to race. Chayse Mole (6th) and Jahmarius Moss (5th) dance in the stands.

SCSD

School for the Deaf



President Jolene Madison presents Toby with a certificate for having his artwork chosen, while art teacher Chris Turner congratulates him.

Student's artwork chosen for holiday card

Toby Allen's (8th) impressive artwork was featured on this year's SCSDB holiday card! This art was created under the guidance of School for the Deaf art teacher, Chris Turner.

Toby was also recognized this year by the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for placing third in the Tiger Science Challenge, in the tallest tower category. There were over 250 entries from 20 different schools. Way to go Toby!

Left: Toby holds his certificate and artwork. The artwork has three Christmas trees inside of a snow globe.



Experiencing an annual Spartanburg holiday tradition

Students from across campus enjoyed experiencing the magic of Ballet Spartanburg's "The Nutcracker" at Converse University's Twichell Auditorium.



Zarannah Womick (3rd) works on her Nutcracker math activity before the show begins.



Rachel Hammett, elementary school teacher, gives instructions to her students as they wait for the performance to begin.



Reaching new heights

Shayna Unger and Scott Lehmann, the first Deaf Woman and Deaf American to summit Mount Everest, visited the School for the Deaf. These trailblazers reminded us that there are no boundaries when it comes to achieving our dreams

Left, first photo: Shayna Unger and Scott Lehmann asked students to discuss how cold they think it is on Everest mountain.

Left, second photo: Shayna Unger poses with Knightlyn Greene (3rd), who tried on some of her Everest gear.



Time flies when you're having fun

Elementary students at the School for the Deaf enjoyed some challenging 100-themed teamwork stations.

Left: Teacher Rachel Hammett dresses as a 100-year-old for the 100th day of school.

Below, left: Knightlyn Greene (3rd) and Zoe Smales-Craig (Kindergarten) work together to build a tower with 100 blocks.

Below, right: Jayden Porte (3rd) strings 100 beads on a necklace.



AAC

Applied Academic Center



Daniel Sanders (9th), Michael Clifton (10th), and Tyrek Capers (9th) at the Career and Technology Education showcase.



Field trip marks National CTE Month

A large group field trip to the South Carolina State CTE Showcase in Columbia in February marked National CTE (Career and Technology Education) Month for students in the Applied Academic Center.

Students were able to see what is happening in the other CTE centers across the state. They were also able to display what they are learning here at SCSDDB at AAC.

Top left: Alan Gaona-Lopez (senior) demonstrates welding.

Center: Students from other schools visit Brett Grayson's robotics display.

Bottom: Alasia Pifher (senior) sublimates an image on a ball cap and shows the finished product in a closeup.



FFA State Legislative Day

During National FFA Week, FFA chapters can meet with their local and state legislators and representatives to thank them for supporting Agriculture Education and the FFA. A brief ceremony on the State House Steps was held. The ceremony included the presentation of the FFA Week Proclamation & Joint Resolution to the State Officers and multiple guest speakers. Guest speakers included the Superintendent of Education and the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, among others.

SCSDB FFA also took a guided tour of the SC State House and learned about all the architecture and its vast history.

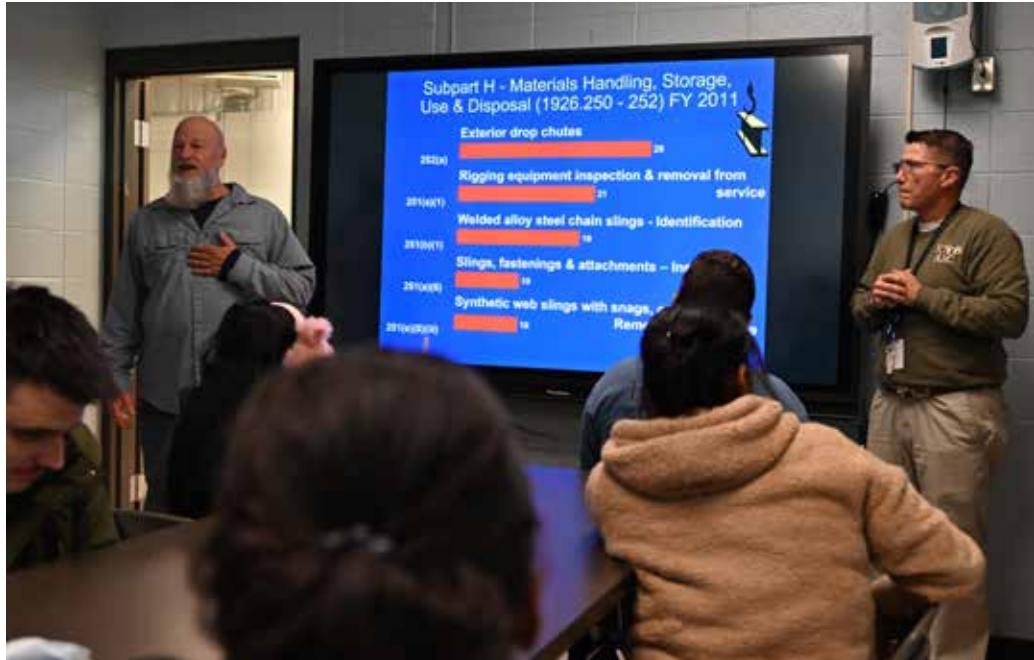
Right, top: India Hare (senior), Tyreece McCoy (senior), Landon Lipsey (senior), Piper Graham (10th), Noah Holley (senior), and Dacoron Horton (11th) at the State House in Columbia.



Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification underway

Eleven junior and senior students participated in OSHA 10-hour Safety Certification. This is one of three areas of certification students will earn while at SCSDB. Former instructor Johnny Breitenbach returned to AAC to teach this class.

Right, middle: Johnny Breitenbach explains the OSHA guidelines for materials handling, storage, use, and disposal to Tony Lee's class.



Right, bottom: Dominic Williams (11th), Kaitland Davis (11th), Brandy Mezquite-Reyes (11th), Aleena Hamlin (senior), Landon Lipsey (senior), Ed Germany (11th), Aaron Sease (11th), and Iris Hare (11th) learn about OSHA.



Library Cleveland Learning Resource Center



Isabella Collins (8th), Cailyn Campos (8th), Elaine Horton (8th), Mila Hovis (7th), and Ashton Jackson (5th) laugh during the presentation.

Author Kristin Smedley reads to classes

Author Kristin Smedley spent the morning of Feb. 20 reading to all the schools and also had individual group discussion with classes.

Kristin is a mother of two sons who are blind and has written several books documenting her journey. She is an advocate for all children with disabilities.

The SCSD Foundation bought each child a book to take home with them as well a book for each teacher for their classroom.



Right: Kristin reads her book to a group of students.



Friendship was the theme for students and staff making different crafts on Feb. 13, just before Valentine's Day. A Hot Chocolate Bar and grabbing a couple of cookies added to the fun with friends for over 100 students and 55 staff members.

Left: Director of Library Services Mary Diones, center, assists Leah Palma-Escobar (2nd) and Hayden Peterson (Pre-K) with glue sticks, cupcake liners, craft sticks, and plastic cups for their creations. Selena Berry (2nd) and Halleigh-Catherine McKinney (3rd) wear paper crowns with boppers.

Students in the Afterschool Program came to the library for a Paint and Popcorn Event on Jan. 25. The artwork is displayed in the library on a wall dedicated to students in the afterschool program.



Right: Noah Holley (senior) paints a mountainous landscape, his choice of canvases. Brian Starkey (10th) and Akeylah Howard (11th) display their art pieces.



Athletics

One spirit, one team, one WIN!

Both the girls and boys basketball teams traveled to the Georgia School for the Deaf for a basketball tournament in February. Congrats to the girls team and their coaches for winning 49-13!



The players stand on the court and pose for a group photo while holding basketballs in their hands.



After their big win, the girls basketball team cheers in the locker room.



Senior basketball players were recognized at the last home game of the season.

Right: Girls basketball coach Dee Stark with India Hare.

Below: Boys basketball coach Hillary Key with Alan Gaona-Lopez and Ellis Brown.



H-O-R-N-E-T-S... GO HORNETS!

The Special Olympics cheerleading squad traveled to Gaffney High School for their local competition!

Coach Aly Davis said, "The squad enjoyed watching basketball games and performing their routine which consisted of a cheer, chant, and a dance to music. They attempted a knee stand stunt for the first time ever this year and did it wonderfully in front of the crowd! There were two other cheerleading teams that competed in our division. The Hornets were very proud to earn 2nd place ribbons."

Left: The Special Olympics cheerleading squad proudly wears their green and white and wave pom-poms at their annual cheerleading competition at Gaffney High School.

Fine Arts

Teamwork makes the mixed-media artworks

Three School for the Blind students worked together to create two artworks for an art exhibit at the Reconstruction Era National Historic Park in Beaufort May 1 - July 1.

The theme of the exhibit is "The Year of Jubilee Has Come!" The art exhibit is sponsored by an organization called International Fiber Collaborative (IFC) Projects, in Ohio. Materials used to create the artworks were funded through SCsDB's Arts in Basic Curriculum partnership.

For generations, enslaved people across the South waited for the Year of Jubilee—an Old Testament tradition in which in a single year all the slaves would be freed and debts forgiven. Suddenly in 1863, that moment came to the Sea Islands of South Carolina. With President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the Year of Jubilee arrived. The Black men who joined the US Army in Beaufort County celebrated by having the phrase "The Year of Jubilee Has Come" stitched onto their battle flag—a reminder that they were fighting not just for their own freedom, but the freedom of millions.



Above: Using black Sharpie and colored crayons, Sophie Chapman (9th) and Bre Sharpe (9th) created a drawing that shows freed slaves celebrating reunions with family and friends. People are playing musical instruments, dancing, playing, and hugging one another. In the background, more people are watching the celebration from the windows of a house where food is being prepared for the celebration.

Left: Using crayons, black Sharpie, hot glue, white printing ink, colored string, and blue embroidery floss, Bre Sharp, Sophie Chapman, and Heilyin Sanchez (9th) created a sample battle flag with 13 stripes and 34 stars. The stripes are outlined with colored string, and the stars are printed in white ink with a dot of hot glue marking each star's location. The words "The Year of Jubilee Has Come!" have been stitched on the lower half of the flag and written in Braille along the middle right side, overlapping one of the white stripes.

Art spans seasons

Liz List and students from the School for the Blind collaboratively created one large and four small art pieces for the Cleveland Learning Resource Center, the SCsDB library.

Fifth and sixth grade students all had different tasks to do to make the four small scenes showing the bear in each season.

Seventh and eighth grade students also worked collaboratively on the larger canvas showing four seasons.

For this project, each student not only helped with the construction of the artwork, but each also had at least one object or idea that carries over from one season to the next.



Statewide Outreach Services

The Monarch: dynamic tactile display device wows teachers

Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and other professionals gathered in Orlando, FL, to participate in the first Monarch, a multi-line braille display device, training on Jan. 23 – 24.

A special “thank you” to the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind’s (AIDB) Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT) for their support in providing accommodations and registration for this event.

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH), Humanware, and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) partnered to bring the concept of a multi-line graphics and braille display to fruition. The idea of a multi-line braille display was first introduced in the early 2000s, but the refreshable braille was cost prohibitive.

The concept matured over the years, and the result is the Monarch which is capable of 10 lines of 32 cells of braille. Additionally, appropriately formatted tactile graphics can be displayed on the same unit which opens untold possibilities for future expansion. The unit is about the size of a standard laptop and is battery powered. It is an Android tablet, so it is built upon an operating system that continues to evolve. A TVI or student can plug the Monarch into a computer monitor or smartboard and everything the student is doing becomes visible to sighted teachers.



The Monarch device that Leslie, Susan, Nancy, and Erin each received along with technology training. Appropriately formatted tactile graphics can be displayed on the same unit which is capable of 10 lines of 32 cells of braille.



The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind’s (AIDB) Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT) made it possible for SCSSDB staff members to attend the premier training for the Monarch multi-line graphics and braille display in Orlando, FL. Left to right: Scott A. Falcone, SCSSDB division director of statewide outreach services; Leslie Borton, School for the Blind; Susan Mitchell, Cedar Springs Academy; and Nancy Irwin with her service dog Samwise, and Erin Jolly, both from outreach services statewide blind and visually impaired education.

APH is approaching the training for the Monarch differently from past products. The goal is to train professionals nationwide in each state so that TVIs are ready to support its use and train others once it comes to market. With the exciting and evolving partnership between SCSSDB and AIDB and their CATT program, SCSSDB was very fortunate to have four TVIs present, and these individuals now have a Monarch available to each of them.

From SCSSDB, Leslie Borton, School for the Blind; Susan Mitchell, Cedar Springs Academy; and Nancy Irwin and Erin Jolly, outreach services statewide blind and visually impaired education, attended and received training and a Monarch. Scott A. Falcone, SCSSDB division director of statewide outreach services, was also in attendance to witness the incredible technology training each of these individuals received.

In the future, large braille volumes may be reduced because textbooks can be formatted appropriately, and the electronic files can be sent to students, loaded on the Monarch, and readily available. While the need for paper braille will continue as long as the need for the printed word exists, the volume of embossed and printed material will likely decline. Braille production centers and braille transcribers are required until all printed materials comply with applicable laws.

Early Intervention completes full circle

The Ciccone family received Early Intervention (EI) services from SCSDB's division of outreach services. Their daughter Bevy has a profound hearing loss.

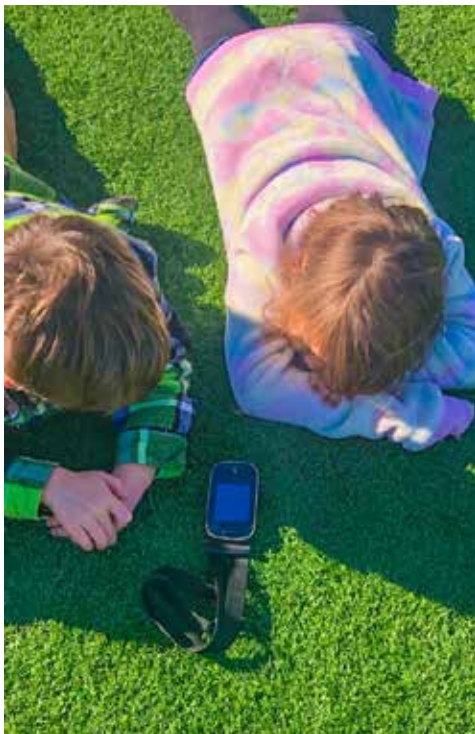
Bevy's mom, Katelynne (Kate) is a certified teacher who traveled to the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) conference in 2022 with their Family Trainer, Julia Wittschen-Price.

Kate was so inspired by her journey, she decided to pursue her master's degree in Deaf education. This year, Kate joined the SCSDB outreach team as a Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TDHH).

Kate said Bevy is such a strong self-advocate for her needs at school, particularly for the use of her FM System. Kate attributes this strength to their EI experience. On Feb. 22, Bevy attended her public school's "Career Day" as none other than a TDHH. Perhaps young Bevy will be able to join the outreach team one day!



Bevy and Kate Ciccone take a mother/daughter selfie photo when Bevy was ready for a dance performance, complete with matching pink lip gloss.



Bevy Ciccone advocates for herself by placing her FM microphone between her school peer and herself, so she can hear their voice.



Bevy Ciccone is dressed for a day on the job as an outreach services Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, complete with an ID badge.



The family celebrates Bevy's school award. Left to right: Father, Joe Ciccone; mother Kate; sister Delilah Grissom; with Bevy in the center.

Kelly's Kids scores Top 5

Johnnica Leath and Shannon Wright's Classroom 2, in the Kelly's Kids program, scored in the Top 5 of all the classrooms that were assessed in Quality Counts across Spartanburg County.

Quality Counts hosted "The Night of the Stars" at the Event Center at Cleveland Park on Feb. 26 to celebrate the accomplishments of quality programs in early childhood education centers. Kelly's Kids was assessed in March of last year.

Right: Congratulations to Johnnica Leath and Shannon Wright, pictured holding their certificates.



Two children will graduate from Kelly's Kids this month. Kristin Milner, principal, Statewide Early Childhood Education Services, said, "We wish them the best of luck in their future educational endeavors!"

Below, left: Kenzie Bartlett will be going to the School for the Blind. Right: Mila Smith will be going to Cedar Springs Academy.



SCSDB Foundation

Classroom libraries unlock literacy

A ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated an exciting literary achievement at SCSDB: campus-wide libraries designed to provide students with additional reading resources in accessible formats in their classrooms.

Through the generosity of 10 sponsors, \$48,000 was raised for the classroom libraries that include braille books, large print books, graphic novels, talking books, and other reading materials in adaptive formats to promote literacy for deaf/hard-of-hearing, blind/visually-impaired, and sensory multi-disabled students.

Before the implementation of the classroom libraries, 38% of SCSDB's early elementary students maintained their reading skills or showed growth following summer break. This year, 60% of early elementary students maintained their reading skills or showed growth following summer break.

Thank you to the sponsors of the classroom libraries: Aflac Charitable Foundation, Ball4Good, Believe in Reading, CW & Dorothy G. Love Foundation, Downtown Spartanburg Sertoma Club, Episcopal Church of the Advent, International Paper Foundation, South Carolina Ports Authority, Spartanburg County Foundation, and State Farm.

"We are thrilled to see the Libraries for Literacy program come to fruition at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind," said Sam Hook, executive director of the SCSDB Foundation. "By placing libraries in each classroom, students and teachers have these resources close at hand, and we hope these books help foster a love for reading and learning that knows no boundaries."



Emily Hernandez (7th) is interviewed by media about the classroom libraries.



Sponsors, faculty, and students attend the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Over \$82,000 raised
Annual fundraiser turns up the heat

Seven teams representing Spartanburg organizations showcased their signature chili recipes in an annual competition that supports SCSDb students. Through the teams’ fundraising efforts and event sponsorships, over \$82,000 was raised.

Congratulations to the following winners of the 14th Annual “So You Think You Can Cook” Chili Cook-off:

People’s Choice Award:	Best Table Presentation:	Judges Choice:	Golden Chili Award Winners:
1st Place: Smith Drug Company	1st Place: Smith Drug Company	1st Place: Dray Bar & Grill	(raised \$1,000+ dollars before noon on Saturday, Jan.20)
2nd Place: Bald Guy Barbeque	2nd Place: SCSDB	2nd Place: TD Bank	Bald Guy Barbecue Smith Drug Company Sodexo

SCSDB would like to thank the following event sponsors: Halliday, Schwartz & Company; Southern States Packaging Company (Presenting Sponsor); Stan and Paula Baker; WSPA Channel 7 (Media Sponsor); and Bomar Printing (Invitation Sponsor).



Upstate locals spend their Saturday evening enjoying chili and supporting the students at SCSDb.



Smith Drug Company's tailgate wins the Best Table Presentation Award.



SCSDB staff members turn up the competition with their chili recipe.



Dray Bar & Grill wins the coveted Judge's Choice Award with their Philly Chili.

Come out to play

"Come play with us" will be the American Sign Language phrase of the day as a new playground opens beside the School for the Deaf.

The SCSDb Foundation will formally recognize the donors who made this playground possible on April 10. The new playground will be declared to be officially open. The amazing place will give students structures for much imaginative play.

This special playground was made possible through the generosity of many individuals, foundations, and companies. The donors are listed below:

- Foundation for the Carolinas Long Leaf Fund
- Love Sisters Foundation
- The Estate of John F. Lomax
- The Estate of Phyllis B. DeLapp
- The Estate of Thomas Williams
- The Spartanburg County Foundation
- Wholespire

The playground is a product of KOMPAN, an internationally recognized company that specializes in natural playgrounds that shape healthier and happier communities globally by delivering play and fitness solutions.



Luna Murrell (1st), Nicholas Altamarino (Kindergarten), and Nykyta Landin (3rd) enjoy the new playground.

Residential Life

Hockey game

Our students loved cheering on the Greenville Swamp Rabbits at their hockey game against the Rapid City Rush!



The Swamp Rabbits Congratulate SCSDb on 175 years with a featured message on the Jumbotron. Manny Geronimo Marcos (9th), Alan Gaona-Lopez (senior), and Andres Benitez (senior) enjoy snacks. Daniel Sanders (9th) hugs Stomper, the Swamp Rabbits mascot.



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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**.