



A NOTE FROM FINE ARTS

Welcome to our Fine Arts newsletter! Each month, we'll share a glimpse of the creativity happening across SDS, from what's happening onstage and in our music rooms to the work taking shape in our studios and gallery. We hope you enjoy this glimpse into the work, performances, and people that make our Fine Arts community so vibrant.

Sam Mitchell

FINE ARTS COORDINATOR

THIS MONTH

- 9/14- 4th grade residency
18 with Cecilia Ho
- 9/19 Treasure Island Set
Build



Bluffton Oyster 24'x38" Wet Felting By Cecilia Ho

Creating Intimacy in a Large Space

THIS MONTH: THE MILDRED HARRISON DENT FINE ARTS GALLERY

The Mildred Harrison Dent Fine Arts Gallery is a large space. Its high ceilings, expansive walls, and open floor plan allow visitors to experience artwork from considerable distances. That scale is one of the gallery's greatest strengths, but it also presents an interesting curatorial question: How can a large space create an intimate experience with art?

The answer often begins with distance. Large works establish an exhibition's visual character from across the room, while smaller works invite viewers to move closer. Texture

becomes visible, materials become recognizable, and details that disappear from twenty feet away become important from two feet away.

Cecilia Ho's current exhibition demonstrates this especially well. Her felted works range dramatically in scale, creating movement throughout the gallery. Because the Dent Gallery is part of the daily life of Spartanburg Day School, students encounter exhibitions repeatedly. A work may be noticed in passing one day and examined closely the next. Art is simply there, waiting to be noticed.

Sometimes a large space simply gives us more opportunities to create small moments.



EXHIBITIONS

FELT: Functional Beauty

Now on view in the Dent Gallery, *FELT: Functional Beauty* by Cecilia Ho explores wool through art, craft, and material science, alongside Ho's artist residency with 4th grade. On view now through October 15, 2026.

RECEPTION

October 6th

4:00-5:30

Work from every 4th grade student, made during Cecilia Ho's residency, will be on display for the reception.

Fine Arts Around Campus

BAND • THEATRE



BAND

Instruments in Hand!

5th-grade Beginner Band is officially underway! With instruments in hand, students are building strong fundamentals, learning to read music, and developing confidence as they learn to play together.

COMING UP

8-12 Grade Concert Band and US Jazz Band
Halloween Concert

October 28th, 6:30 pm • Stone Gym

[Sign up to bring food for the reception](#)

THEATRE

Casts are set!

Rehearsals are underway for two productions this fall. Griffin Theatre (7th–12th grade) is preparing *Treasure Island*, while Jr. Griffin Theatre (2nd–6th grade) cast is preparing *Willy Wonka Kids*. Both productions give students the opportunity to build performance skills, work as an ensemble, and experience live theatre.

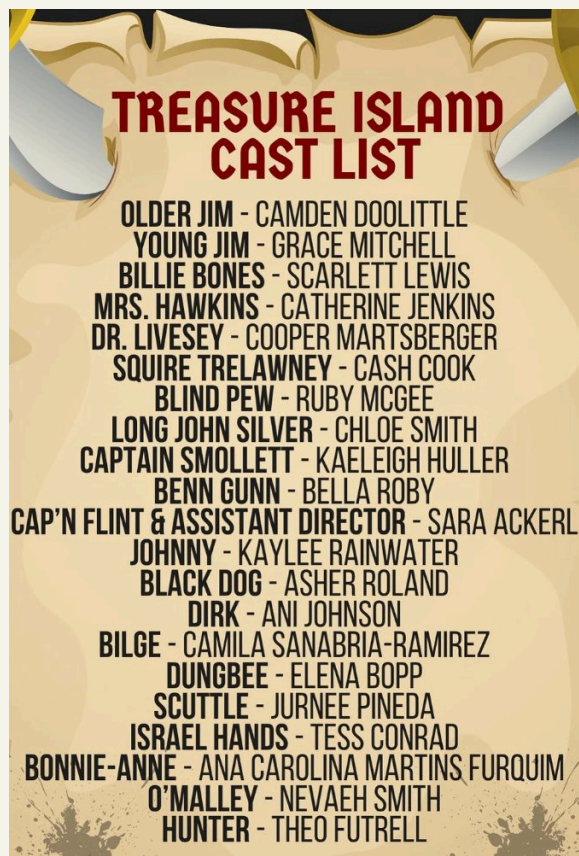
New this year: Griffin Theatre is adding weekend performances, including a Sunday Matinee!!

Tickets are free and will be available soon!

COMING UP

Treasure Island — Griffin Theatre

October 23 & 24, 6 pm; October 25, 2 pm • VMB Theatre





MUSIC

Keeping the Beat

Concerts are the part of music education families see, but fall is when the real work behind the scenes happens. Students are learning to read rhythm and pitch notation, match a pitch, hold their part alongside others, and keep a steady beat. These are the curricular nuts and bolts, practiced in short daily repetitions that make a grand finale possible later in the year.

COMING UP

Preschool Holiday Concert

December 11th, 9 am • Milliken Gym

Lower School Holiday Concert

December 18th, 9 am • Milliken Gym

VISUAL ARTS

Kilns firing

The kilns are firing, and 7th grade artists are pouring on the creativity! Their first clay project of the year, royal-inspired teapots, is almost ready for its grand reveal.

As they work, students are learning to balance form and function, considering how each artistic choice—from the shape of the handle to the angle of the spout— affects both the beauty and usefulness of the finished piece

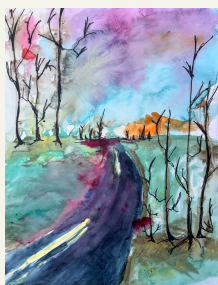
COMING UP

Cecilia Ho, 4th Grade Felting Residency

September 14–18 • Dent Studio 604



Three Works from the Spartanburg Day School Permanent Collection



Fall Ambiance

Sevi Smith '34

Year Inducted: 2026

Location: Ms. Clayton's Office



Rhythm

Evie Parker '30

Year Inducted: 2026

Location: MS Hallway



Ariadne

Juliette Schmitz '27

Year Inducted: 2026

Location: Milliken Lobby

NANCY CORBIN PERMANENT ART COLLECTION

Displayed throughout the halls of our entire campus, the Nancy Corbin Permanent Art Collection is ever-changing as new artwork is added each year. Starting in the 1980s, the collection was renamed in 2018 upon the retirement of our friend and colleague, Nancy Corbin, former Upper School art teacher and curator of the collection.

One work per division is accepted annually under the adjudication of the fine arts faculty. Original works or high-quality reproductions are on display at various locations throughout the campus.

NEXT MONTH

Feature ~ History of the Dent Endowment

Band ~ Halloween Concert and Band Traditions

Theatre ~ Behind the Scenes of Treasure Island

Music ~ Early Exposure to Instruments

Visual Arts ~ Wofford Professor Michael Webster Middle School Residency

FOLLOW ALONG

Follow us on Instagram for updates and day in the life moments from across the arts at SDS.

[@spartanburg_day_arts](https://www.instagram.com/spartanburg_day_arts)