

# Access SC SDB

Embrace the Possibilities — Access the Future SC School for the Deaf and the Blind

## Fun Activities Inspire Students to Read

Reading festivals, fairs, and parties are all part of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind's reading initiative. The goal is to make reading a fun activity that students enjoy.

Students can earn prizes and attend pizza parties for meeting their reading goals. They can swap books from home for new books at the red "Read Box" in the school library.

Students have read recipes and information about other countries in preparation for the International Festival. They've competed for awards at a unique Reading Fair that's just like a Science Fair with display boards to promote books.

In the coming months, students can look forward to a Gingerbread Celebration and a Spelling Bee. There's also a birthday party for Dr. Seuss complete with birthday cake and tall red and white hats. To finish up a great year of reading, there's even a summer reading party where students can pick a book to take home, read, and keep.

"Success in life is often determined by reading ability," said Dr. Page McCraw, director of curriculum and instruction. "We want to help students see how fun reading can be and, ultimately, to make it an on-going part of their lives. That's why we're calling our new reading initiative 'Read for Your Life.'"



*Ari'Yanna Smith enjoys reading at the School for the Blind.*



## School for the Deaf Selected To Participate in National Research on Reading

Our School for the Deaf has been selected to participate in a national research project to improve reading in deaf and hard of hearing children. Researchers from Georgia State University will gather data on 360 children nationwide, including 17 SC School for the Deaf students.

The research will help educators better understand the way deaf and hard of hearing students learn. The data gathered will be used to create educational models with a goal of improving reading skills from kindergarten to second grade nationwide.

The research is part of a \$10 million grant to Georgia State University from the National Center for Special Education Research of the Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the US Department of Education.

*The International Fair was one of many fun activities designed to encourage reading. Kaneesha Sampson worked on the Czech exhibit with other members of Lesley Aycock's class. The class won second place for their hard work.*



# Students Say Thank You on Veterans Day



*Collin Melba helped present a student-made flag to U.S. army Sgt. Scott Melba.*

*Students said thank you to veterans with a banner and "Go USA" signs.*



*Author Sheila Ingle told the story of Kate Barry, a Revolutionary War heroine.*

*Students signed the national anthem.*

## School Improvement Meetings Now Online

Now parents can join School Improvement Council meetings online. We also provide teleconferencing for those who would like to attend the meeting at our Columbia Outreach Center. To access the meetings, go to [www.scsdb.org/SchoolImprovementCouncil](http://www.scsdb.org/SchoolImprovementCouncil).

## Our School is Pure Gold!

Twelve years of gold level recognition – that's an accomplishment few schools can claim! We're proud to have been named a Palmetto Gold School for 12 straight years.

The SC Department of Education first awarded the recognition to the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind in 2002. Ever since then, our performance on the State School Report Card has merited the award. The award recognizes excellent academic achievement.



*All smiles and a thumbs up! From left are Ford Scarborough, Sasha Patrick, Daniel Martin, and Joshua Perkins.*

## Welcome to Access SCSDB!

Dear Friend,

We've named our new reading initiative "Read for Your Life." We chose the name because reading is essential to academic achievement, good jobs, and quality of life.

We're encouraging students to read every day in every way – from Internet sites to recipes to food labels. Our goal is to make reading a lifestyle students will continue long beyond their school years.

You can help us teach the value of reading. If you are a parent, take advantage of every opportunity to read with your child. Encourage your child to read signs as you travel and labels as you shop. Mail letters to your child and ask them to write back. Include your child as you browse the Internet for vacation ideas and as you read the instructions for a new appliance.

If you are a professional serving our students, look for ways to incorporate reading into your work. Reading can be a part of fine arts, physical education, and after-school programs as well as the traditional academic classes. Use materials that naturally interest students and find creative ways to make reading fun.

We invite everyone to help with our reading activities. We invite you to come read with our students. Donations of new books, prizes, and healthy party foods are always welcome.

Help us give our students the gift of reading and all of the benefits it brings to life.

Sincerely,

*Maggie*

Margaret Park  
President, SCSDB

*"Maggie" Park has 22 years' experience in special education positions including teacher, program director, principal, division director, adjunct professor, and administrator. She was the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind's first National Board certified teacher.*



*Margaret Park  
SCSDB President*

## Coming Up at SCSDB!

- 12/20** **Holiday Programs in Schools**  
**School Improvement Council**  
11 a.m., Swearingen Center, SCSDB Campus
- 1/17-20** **Adventures in Braille**  
SCSDB Campus
- 2/6** **SC Regional Braille Challenge**  
SC Commission for the Blind, Columbia
- 2/14** **School Improvement Council**  
11 a.m., Swearingen Center, SCSDB Campus
- 3/7** **Vision Summit**  
10 a.m., SC Archives and History Center, Columbia

Please see our full calendar at [www.scsdb.org](http://www.scsdb.org). For more information on events or any of the articles in this publication, please contact us at [info@scsdb.org](mailto:info@scsdb.org) or toll-free at 1-888-447-2732.



## SCSDB Gold Stars!

Special Olympics medals were awarded in bocce doubles to **Alexus Blandshaw** and **Devon Carter**, silver; **Ther Tee Vang** and **Jason Harmon**, silver; and **Jacyln Breakfield** and **Brandy Reyes**, bronze.



The **girls goalball team** finished third and the **boys team** finished fourth at a recent regional goalball tournament in Atlanta.



Anna Milligan serves the ball during a goalball competition. Goalball is played with a ball that has a bell in it so athletes can hear it and follow the ball. All players wear blindfolds to level the competition among players who are visually impaired and blind.

Students receiving art awards at the Piedmont Interstate Fair included: **Gerson Baires** first place; **Zeria Parker** second place; and **Jasper Womick** third place.



The **Little Hornets Soccer Team** finished the season as undefeated champs! Special congratulations to **Andrew Bibbs**, **Tyrelle Stevenson**, **Jacob Scarborough**, **Ford Scarborough**, and **Daniel Martin** for scoring goals.



## Flag Football Team Wins Gold

The flag football team won gold at the Special Olympics Fall Games in Greenville. Left to right: **Coach Joe Johnson**, **Hakeem Green**, **Dominique Dotson**, **Curtis Sparkman**, **Kadiedra Hay**, **Maya Patterson**, **Charnaye Brown**, and **Coach Aly Nagy**.

## International Festival Winners Announced

The winners of this year's International Festival were:

1st Place	Italy
2nd Place	Czech Republic
3rd Place	Nigeria
Honorable Mention	United States
Honorable Mention	Ghana

**Chris Turner's** Classes, Art Department  
**Lesley Aycok's** Class, Cedar Springs Academy  
**Christy Wagner's** Class, Deaf Elementary  
**Vicki Banks' Class**, School for the Blind  
**Josh Padgett's** Students, Art Department, and  
**Kathy Goodwin's** Class, School for the Blind

## Students Name Shark

The state museum's 43-foot-long shark has been named "Finn" by the students in **Taylor Carvajal's** class. The museum asked our students to select their top 10 shark names. Museum volunteers narrowed the list to five, which were posted on the museum's website for public voting. Congratulations to (left to right) **Shane Aikens**, **Kelsey McDougald**, **Keilyn Bello**, **Taylor Carvajal**, **Christina Schlierholz**, **Kaitlin Wilson**, **Emily Guyton**, and **Salve De Gorostiza**. Not pictured: **Horace Lott**.



Lineman LeAndrew Watson (#44) makes a lead block for running back Fernandez Johnson (#11) against the tough defense of the Georgia Tigers.

Left to right: School for the Deaf YMCA soccer team members **Ta'Nayia Moates**, **Alasia Pifher**, **Khyiana Tate**, **Tyrelle Stevenson**, **Alexis Strother-Egleston**, and **Faith Glover**.



# Welcome New Students!

## School for the Blind

Jordan Carnes of Seneca  
Caleb DeBari of Myrtle Beach  
Michael Duffell-Hoffman of Lancaster  
Aryeona Freeman of Walterboro  
Makayla Greeley of Pauline  
Anna Milligan of Rock Hill  
Allyssa Owens of Hamer  
Mark Skawinski of Irmo

## School for the Deaf

Xavier Adams of Georgetown  
Andres Benitez of Newberry  
Carter Bryant of Spartanburg  
Linda Buckendahl of Spartanburg  
Yasmeen Crute of Orangeburg  
Ka Lyn Dean of Bluffton  
Kaylee Ellison of Gray Court  
Ella Kovaleva of Inman  
Lor'reyel McClinton of Chester  
Kevin McRae of Rock Hill  
Joel Peterson of Spartanburg  
Raymi Robles of Spartanburg  
Kyhiana Tate of Spartanburg  
Christian Washington of Conway  
LeAndrew Watson of Seabrook

## Cedar Springs Academy

Cami Cordeiro of Spartanburg  
A'She-Rah Jeter of Greer  
Brianna Oliphant of Edgefield  
DeJuan Peake of Union  
Alex Rivera-Hernandez of Greenville  
Rebecca Rogers of Moore  
Miracle Smith of Roebuck  
Eric Yesse of Chesnee



\*The students listed had enrolled at the publication deadline. New enrollees are welcome year-round.

Homecoming Court Crowned - President Maggie Park, far right, announced Homecoming royalty.  
Front row from left: Princess Ron 'Ziya Boyd, Princess Hunter Marshall, and Princess Mya Cornelius.  
Second row from left: King Lawrence Black, Queen Chassidy Kelly, King Christopher Jackson,  
Queen Alexis Tab, King Raekwon Alston, and Queen Sydney Paige Simons.



## Therapy Dog Training

The dog training class has great benefits. In the photo, **Allyssa Owens** takes a few minutes to pet "Jesse." Through a partnership with Dogs for Autism, our Applied Academics program is training therapy dogs to assist children with autism.







## Graduate Receives Statewide Employment Achievement Award

**Buck Woodall** never expected to have such a great job – much less receive a statewide award from the Governor.

The 2009 graduate was recognized for his work at Firehouse Subs and presented the Employment Achievement Award for Small Business last spring. He was selected from applications across the state by the Governor's Committee on Employment of

People with Disabilities.

"We always knew Buck would be successful," said Beth Goodenough, one of Buck's former teachers. "He has energy, drive, and a super attitude."

Buck's family relocated to Spartanburg from Ulmer, SC so that he could attend the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. As a student, Buck was part of the

Working WHEELs (We Help Educate for Employment Life Skills) Program. A cooperative effort with Wofford College, the program provided food service training in a real work environment.

Buck travels to the Firehouse Subs in Boiling Spring by bus. His work responsibilities include refilling the ice machine, cleaning tables, taking out trash, and sweeping the parking lot. He generates extra business by serving as the restaurant's mascot "Sparky." In this role, he wears a Dalmatian costume and a fireman's coat. Passersby see him dancing and twirling a sign in front of the store and turn in to eat at the restaurant.

As the recipient of the Cedar Springs Academy's Most Outstanding Student Award in 2009, Buck was recognized for good citizenship as well as his success in school. Buck is still a good citizen volunteering at the Whitney Fire Department, Music on Main, and his church.

Buck was supported by SC Vocational Rehabilitation in obtaining his job and initial training. Omar Ghorbani, owner of the Firehouse Subs store, commends Buck for his dependability and for inspiring his co-workers.

## Fun Jobs Pay Off at Cedar Springs Academy

Students earn pay checks, deposit them in the bank, and pay their monthly bills through a simulated work program at the Cedar Springs Academy. Through a unique real-world model, students work throughout the school and in their own businesses to develop the skills they will need in the future. Once the simulated monthly bills are paid, students can save their money or buy small items in the various classrooms.

Students businesses include cooking, gardening, candle making, and soap making. Other student jobs include cleaning the dining room, delivering mail, and washing windows. Students go on to practice their work skills at Wofford College through a community partnership.

*It's Pay Day! Ther Tee Vang is all smiles after receiving his first pay check of the year.*



*Aravia Johnson plucks a tomato off a vine planted by students.*



*Curtis Sparkman shows off the cookies he decorated.*





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South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind  
355 Cedar Springs Road - Spartanburg, SC 29302

Non-Profit Organization  
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Spartanburg, SC 29306

## Embracing the Possibilities

The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind works with parents and professionals to help identify and develop each student's highest potential. Together with local school districts, we strive to match children who are deaf or blind with the best educational options to meet their individual needs.

Options available through the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind include:

- Early intervention programs for infants and toddlers
- PreK-12 education programs on the main campus in Spartanburg (residential and day)
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local school districts statewide
- Mainstreaming opportunities with Spartanburg area school districts
- Summer Camps for children ages 6-14
- A wide variety of accessibility services

All services are available at no cost to families.

## Contact Us!

### SCSDB Main Campus - Spartanburg

1-888-447-2732 Voice/TTY  
(864) 585-7711 Voice/TTY  
355 Cedar Springs Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
[www.scsdb.org](http://www.scsdb.org)  
[info@scsdb.org](mailto:info@scsdb.org)

### Statewide Division of Outreach Services

1-800-984-4357 Voice/TTY  
(803) 896-9848 Fax  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 120, Saluda Building  
Columbia, SC 29210



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### SCSDB is Accredited by:

- *AdvancEd/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement*
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- *SC Department of Education*

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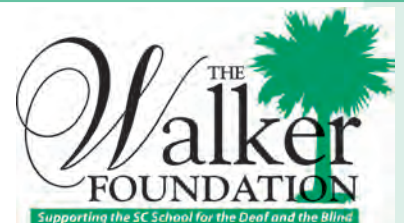
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