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SCCA Visits York Technical College



On February 5th, SCCA teachers **Ms. Crass** and **Ms. Ahmed** led students on a college tour of York Technical College!



Table of Contents

- [Event Highlights](#) 2
- [Field Trips](#) 7
- [B&N Book Fair](#) 8
- [Publix Math Day](#) 8
- [Club ORANGE](#) 9
- [Connexus Help](#) 10
- [State Testing](#) 11
- [Allegory Series](#) 13
- [H.S. English Tips](#) 16
- [Student Spotlight](#) 18
- [Art Spotlights](#) 19
- [Contact Us](#) 21
- [Important Dates](#) 21

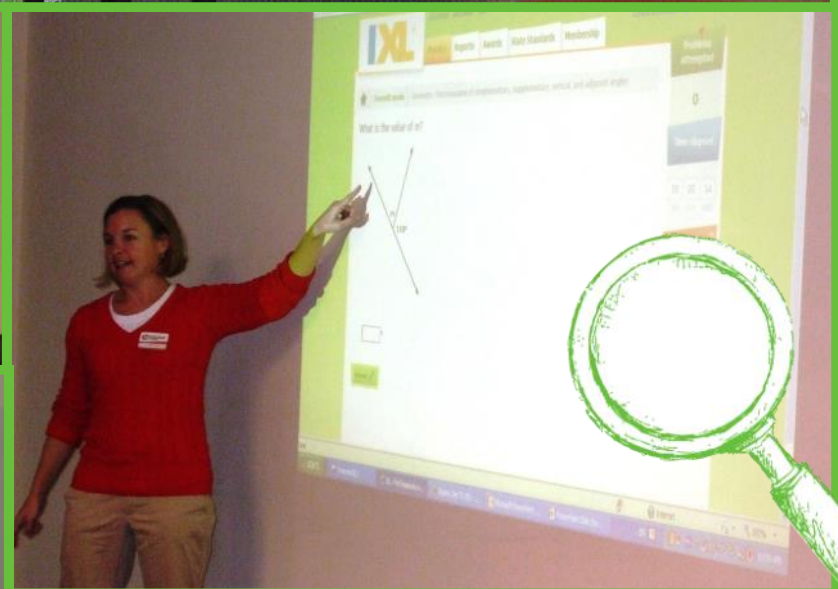
Important Dates

March 15th
Teacher
Workday

March 19-20th
PASS Writing
Testing

Continued on page 2...

7th Grade Learning Experience



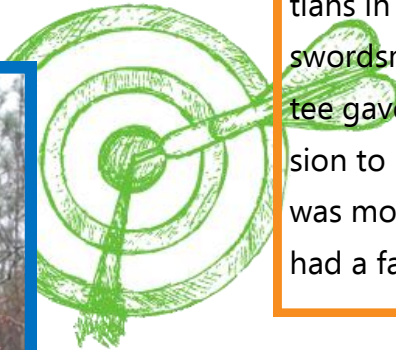
On February 13th, **Mr. Spaulding** and **Ms. Janus** held a 7th grade Learning Experience in the Columbia office. Students participated in activities centered around integrating technology into Social Studies and Math. They discussed how we use technology to solve real life problems!

Event Highlights: Battle of Aiken



February 22nd dawned cold and rainy. Would the Battle of Aiken go on? Would we be turned away due to weather conditions like last year? Although School Days at the Battle of Aiken was officially cancelled, thanks to the efforts of Kelly Hagen-Swart, South Carolina Connections Academy was granted admission! Presenters did come out of their warm tents to share their knowledge and love of history with the students, and valiantly went on despite the bone chilling cold and wet conditions.

Students learned about the role of Christians in the battle, Confederate money, and swordsmanship. The Battle of Aiken committee gave students wristbands for free admission to return on Sunday when the weather was more agreeable. Several did return and had a fabulous time!



Event Highlights: River's Bridge State Park

On February 2, 2013, South Carolina Connections Academy had the privilege of being invited to River's Bridge State Park to learn more about the role of the South in the War Between the States.

After a brief introduction to the site, students and coaches took a tour of the site. John White, Park Manager, explained the historical significance of the site. Next, we saw a lively reenactment of Martha Ayer Aldrich portrayed by Betty Jane Miller. Betty Jane Miller is a historian, was once an educator, and is a direct descendent of Martha Ayer Aldrich. This presentation was followed by a portrayal of Confederate Captain Ben Williams by Jerry Morris and Union Corporal Edwin Ellet by John White. The day was topped off by Robert E Lee portrayed by Al Stone.

Students still had time to wander the grounds and enjoy hiking and swinging between presentations. As well, reenactors were more than willing to answer any questions and to spend time talking to students.



Event Highlights: 4th Grade Unites!

Each month exciting events are held all across the state!

SCCA 4th graders came together for an awesome Learning Experience on February 8th. Fourth-grade teachers **Rachel Noyes**, **Jennifer Cooper**, and **Laura Osowski** hosted cross-curricular workstations that the students rotated between.



Enthusiastic students wrote poetry, made a tornado in a bottle, and showed off their math skills! Nearly 30 students joined in on the fun!



Event Highlights: 4th Grade Unites!

Be sure to check the message board to find events near you!



SCCA Field Trips

Are you looking for a chance to meet fellow SCCA students, Learning Coaches, and teachers? Check out the field trip message boards for scheduled trips in your region!

To access the Events Message Boards: click on the purple thumbtack on the top of your Connexus screen. Follow this path:

[Message Board](#) → [Schoolhouse—SCCA](#) → [School Events & Community Happenings](#)

Here you will find the 9 regions. Click on your region to find field trips. Re-member to RSVP for all field trips by webmailing the Community Coordinator for the specific region. Simply click on their name at the top of the thread to send webmail.

All students must have a signed permission form to attend field trips. These are also available on each region's page.



March Events

[Click Here](#) for a quick overview of SCCA Events happening around the state!

(Western Upstate)

March 7: Tour the Williamston Journal

(Lower Midlands)

March 7: Archeologist Dig at Silver Bluff Audubon Society

(Upper Midlands)

March 8: Visit the Dooley Planetarium

(Eastern Upstate)

March 14: Horseback Riding at Redbarn

(Upper Midlands)

March 15: Princess and the Pea performance

Check out the [Community Message Board](#)

For full details on each SCCA EVENT!



Barnes and Noble Book Fair & Publix Math Day

Publix[®]

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE[®]

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS

Two Learning Experiences in One Day! Thursday, March 7

Publix Math Day

10-12 (drop in)

Real-life math learning experience
for all elementary students

Locations:

Publix @ Woodruff
1750 Woodruff Rd
Greenville, SC 29607

Columbiana Station
150 Harbison Blvd.
Columbia, SC 29212

St. James Shopping Center
208 St. James Ave.
Goose Creek, SC 29445

Barnes & Noble Book Fair 2-5

Read alouds, mini lessons, and other fun
activities.

Locations:

The Shops at Greenridge
1125 Woodruff Rd
Greenville, sc 29607

Harbison Court
278-A Harbison Blvd
Columbia, SC 29212

Magnolia Mall
2701 David McLeod Blvd
Florence, SC 29501

The Market Common
3346 Reed St
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Northwoods Marketplace
7620 Rivers Ave.
Charleston, SC 29406

Club ORANGE

Club ORANGE: Parent Volunteers Needed!



Are you looking to get more involved with your Connections Academy school? Are you willing to help tell other families in your community about your experience? Join **Club ORANGE**, our volunteer program for Connections Academy **Caretakers**! Our exciting, nationwide club is free and open to all enrolled families.


Club ORANGE will provide you with tools and ideas to help spread the word about Connections Academy in your community, like putting up posters, posting on social media sites, and completing online reviews. Your initial membership kit will include a magnetic pin, a car magnet, posters, referral cards, and a **Club ORANGE** shopping bag. These fun items show school pride and help inform others about virtual learning. Also, stay tuned for details about the [Club ORANGE Corner](#), an online community where you can track your activities and earn points and badges for all your hard work.

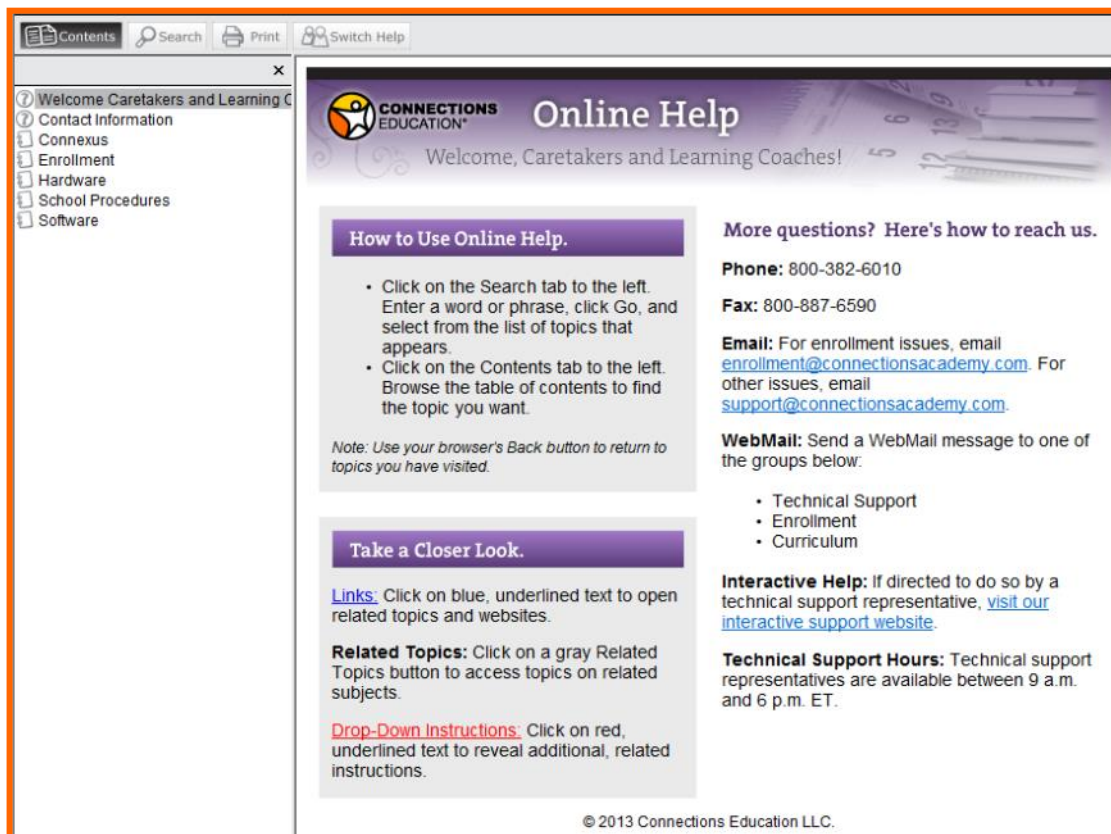
We are looking for dedicated, supportive parents who are eager to spread the word about your school! Is that you?

If so, then click [here](#) to join **Club ORANGE today!**

Get Answers to Your Connexus Questions with Online Help

Online Help is a vast database of step-by-step guidance, sample screenshots, links to video tutorials, and more to answer almost any “How do I...?” question about Connexus. By clicking on the orange question

mark  in your Connexus tool bar or below the lesson viewer of each course, Learning Coaches and students can find contact information and technical support hours on the first page.





Learning Coaches have access to different areas of Online Help based on their needs:

- Learning Coach Help
- Student Help (grades K-5)
- Enrollment Help
- Student Help (grades 6-12)

Students have access to their grade-specific version of the Online Help, too.



Examples of helpful content you will find in Online Help include: video tutorials about schedule types and when to run the Scheduler ; viewing your student's Grade Book ; how to record attendance; and, step-by-step guidance for viewing lesson completion progress and Transcripts.

Click on the Search tab to enter keywords or expand the table of contents to find answers to questions about commonly-used features in Connexus, hardware and software needs, or information about school procedures such as signing up for Clubs and Activities or Electives.

If you still have questions after looking at the guidance in Online Help, don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers or call Student Technical Support at 1-800-382-6010.

State Testing

State Testing Reminder

As a reminder, SCCA Student participation in state testing is **required**. As each test draws closer, more information will be available about where testing will take place.

If you have any questions regarding testing, your first point of contact is your homeroom teacher.

PASS Writing

March 19-20, 2013
(Grades 3-8)

HSAP

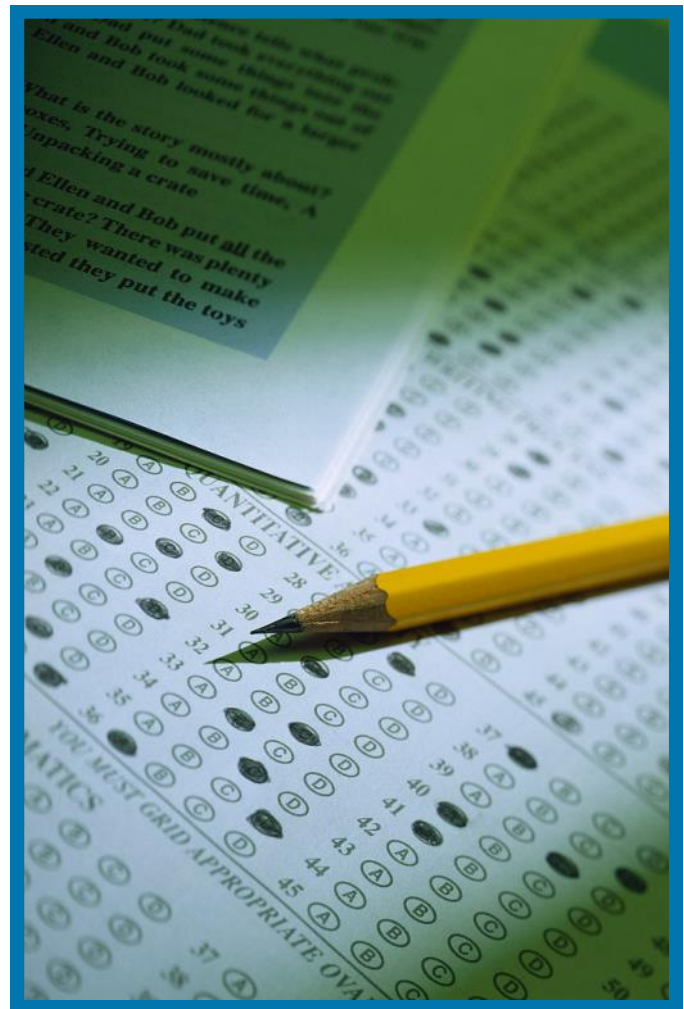
April 16-18, 2013
(All 10th graders
required;
Repeating 9th graders,
need-based;
10-12th graders,
need based)

PASS Subjects

May 7-10, 2013
(Grades 3-8)

EOC

May 22-24, 2013
(Grades 9-12)



State Testing

State Testing Registration


We have now opened registration for testing sites for Grades 3-8 for the PASS Writing Test (March 19-20) and the PASS Subject Tests (May 7-10). Registration is also open for the high school HSAP test; see the previous page for HSAP requirements.




Registration Instructions

Note: You must be logged in to the Caretaker / Learning Coach page (registration will not be available when logged in as a student). When registration is complete, be sure to click SAVE and FINISH!


PASS Writing Test

- Click on your student's DataView icon ()
- Click on the DataView **SCCA State Testing Registration: PASS Writing 2013**
- Follow the instructions to register for:
 - Testing Session (Morning or Afternoon)
 - Testing Site - Choose from 12 sites across the state

PASS Subject Tests

- Click on your student's DataView icon ()
- Click on the DataView called **SCCA PASS Subject Test Registration Spring 2013**
- Follow the instructions to register for:
 - Testing Session (Morning or Afternoon)
 - Testing Site - Choose from 12 sites across the state

HSAP Tests

- Click on your student's DataView icon ()
- Click **SCCA State Test Registration: Spring 2013 HSAP**.
- Read the information provided, and select your test location from the drop-down list.

Please register TODAY!

Allegory Series: Advice from SCCA Seniors

ALLEGORY SERIES: ADVICE FROM SCCA SENIORS

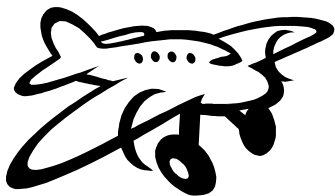
By Michelle Price, Secondary English Teacher

Becoming a senior at SCCA and graduating from high school is a major goal of all students (even if it seems very far in your future). Our current seniors have a lot of great advice to offer you, so we are introducing a new series of advice from them! But to make it more enjoyable, we are presenting it in allegory form! An allegory is similar to a fable or short story that includes symbolism and teaches a moral or a lesson. So even though you will be having fun reading a story, you will also be learning about ELA concepts and life lessons!

Have fun reading and learning!

Three Strangers in a Rainforest

By: Taylor Perkins

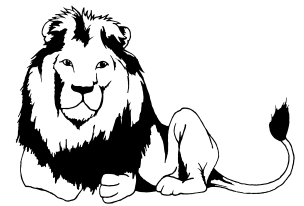


It had been twenty-four hours since the three strangers had landed in the middle of the Congo rainforest in Africa. They huddled

amongst the ruins of the chartered viewing plane that had crash-landed the day before. It was misty and humid in what seemed like a never-ending maze of greenery and strange creatures. They sat wordlessly amongst each other, still naively awaiting the return of their pilot who had promised to come back for them after finding help. Although nobody spoke it out loud – it wasn't necessary – everyone knew what had most likely happened to the young pilot. Trapped in the middle of a foreign rainforest, not knowing how many miles away from help they were, the trio were beginning to lapse into total fear and desperation. None of them knew what to do in survival situations, nor did they expect to be placed into one during a common, tourist activity.

Nightfall was approaching soon, and after their first experience with the nocturnal activities of the rainforest, they were all dread-

ing its arrival. The strange sound of unknown animals roaming in their proximity at night was terrifying. For the most part, they weren't aware of what kind of carnivores even lived in the Congo rainforest. What beasts were waiting for them in the dark? Tigers? Lions? Bears?



One of the two men in the trio stepped outside of their makeshift shelter and surveyed the sky for what seemed like the hundredth time that hour. His grey hair shone in the setting sun and he sighed when he didn't see any signs of help overhead. He thought back to his home in New York City where he worked as the CEO of a major corporation. The man was in his late forties and was, by most people's standards, detestable. His bank account was his heart and the money inside was the blood which gave him life. He had only come on this dreadful trip to the wilderness because his company was seeking expansion to third-world locations. It was not a task he enjoyed when he was a safe tourist, and certainly not one he enjoyed as an unwilling captive of nature. He unwillingly wandered further from their shelter to make sure nobody was around to offer help.

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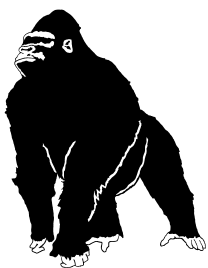
Allegory Series: Advice from SCCA Seniors

As he took one last look around before heading back, he noticed a tiny creature he couldn't make out that appeared seemingly lost. As he edged closer, he realized it looked like a tiny monkey. Perhaps, a baby gorilla? The tiny critter was trying to pry off a piece of bamboo from a small patch growing near the water. The greedy man scoffed at himself for being frightened at first, and then walked over to the baby ape. Realizing the trio could probably use more bamboo for their shelter anyway, he cruelly snatched the piece away from the infant who didn't seem to know to fear man. He muttered something about life not being fair then chastised himself for speaking to an animal at all before taking the remains of the bamboo for himself. He started off back towards the camp.



A few hours had passed when he realized he was officially lost. Panic began to set in, but he realized that if he could find his way back to shelter before the darkest part of night, he would be fine. As long as – he froze.

His bones couldn't make themselves move as he stood, rooted to the spot. He had just heard the most horrific snapping noise indicating a predator watching him. His heart nearly crashed out of his chest when he saw the most hideous sight: a group of large, savage-looking gorillas appearing out of the long grass before him. Anger was in their eyes and the largest male was ready for a fight. The greedy man made one single attempt to run before it was all over.



Meanwhile, the lone fe-

male of the trio tried to fall asleep back at shelter. She was beautiful, smart, and in her late twenties. Her worst nightmare had come true the second she became stranded in this pit of misery. The apathetic woman had never even thought twice about nature and wildlife and did not know what could possibly be lurking just outside. The woman wondered briefly, fleetingly, if this was her karmic comeuppance for never caring about the world around her. Many people in her town signed petitions, advocated, and protested for various causes and she always turned her nose up. She was comfortable with her own life and that's all that mattered. So she wondered if this was her retribution, but, of course, she wondered only for the passing of a second.



Almost asleep, she jerked awake violently at the sound of an earth-shattering scream. Before thinking, she ran outside of the shelter into the almost complete darkness of the forest. The act was not out of sympathy for the source of the shrieking, but out of some misguided hope that the scream meant people were around. People meant help. Before she could find out what the source of the screaming was, she found herself face-to-face with a group of savages – natives of the land. The uncontacted people of the forest viewed her as a threat and raised their primitive weapons to bring about her death. She fell on the ground and screamed for mercy, but the plea was not received. Moments away from her doom, she caught sight of a wild leopard scaling a tree.

Continued on next page

Allegory Series: Advice from SCCA Seniors



She knew if the leopard came down to ground-level, the tribe would scatter in fear. However, the leopard looked her in the eye, and turned its back on her, leaving her to her fate.

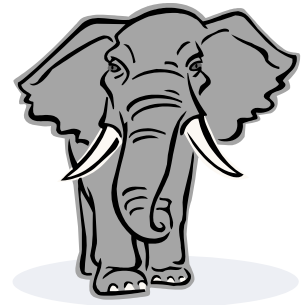
The next morning, the last surviving member of the trio came out of the shelter into the bright day. He was a humble man in his early twenties and met the rising sun with hope that he would be rescued. He gazed around himself at the scenery unfolding around him. There were beautiful, giant trees that seemed to be endlessly connected to each other, forever touching. The sounds of rising animals who had been slumbering in the night greeted his ears. Although he desperately wanted to be rescued, he was somehow at peace with the forest he had fallen into. He looked at a net lying on the ground in front of him that he had brought to the shelter. Just the day before he had rescued a trapped elephant from the contraption who was waiting at the mercy of poachers obviously nearby.



Soon, the man realized his survival-mates were missing and he ventured out full of concern to find them. He was scared, not for himself, but for them as he feared something horrible had befallen them.

He made his way into a clearing hours later and stood for a moment to collect himself and rest. Fear overtook him when he real-

ized the water puddle to his left was pulsing with some unseen force. The trees before him shook and the ground vibrated. Something colossal was coming. Fearing for his life, he contemplated running for a brief second before the most massively beautiful thing he had ever seen appeared from behind the covering of trees.



A giant herd of elephants marched on right past him. They were gentle, seeing his person but interpreting no threat from him. After a while of marveling their beauty, a thought came to him. He bravely and confidently ran forward to the leader of the herd with the intent to ride on his back. The elephant seemed to understand and bent forward, allowing access. Soon, the man was coolly finding his way through the forest on the back of nature's most wonderful creature. He glanced down and for a second he thought he saw a wound on the elephant's foot – the same place where he had cut the net from an elephant the day before. Within a few hours, the man found himself transported by the elephants to a wildlife sanctuary area where people were just a few feet away. When they told him they would rescue him, he responded that somebody beat them to it.

**Moral: Wildlife Conservation –
Respect nature and it will
respect you.**

High School English Tips

The Importance of Literacy by Jenny Dean, Secondary English Teacher



Did you know that reading and writing are extremely important? Did you know that the more you read, the better you write? Did you know that the more you write, the better you read? I want to share with you some of the interesting and important ideas about literacy in hopes of you making it a daily priority in your lives.

Richard (Dick) Allington is one of the leading minds in literacy research. In an article that he and Rachael Gabriel wrote last year, *Every Child, Every Day*, they focus on six elements of literacy that every child should experience **EVERY** day.

The following elements are taken directly from the article:

1. “Every child reads something he or she chooses.”

Allington and Gabriel point to research that proves that “students read more, understand more, and are more likely to continue reading when they have the opportunity to choose what they read.” This doesn’t mean that students should only read what they want to, but it does offer conclusive evidence that students should be reading for pleasure at some point during their day.

2. “Every child reads accurately.”

What does this mean? Well, they cite research that shows that students who read a text at 98% or higher accuracy will have a higher reading acceleration. If a student reads at below 90% accuracy, the research shows that students will not improve reading ability. This means that if a child is reading something way too hard for his/her reading level, the child will not increase in reading ability. It stresses the importance of matching students with texts that are very close to their reading levels. By doing this, they “solidify their word-recognition, decoding, and word-analysis skills.” This positively influences comprehension and enjoyment of reading.

3. “Every child reads something he or she understands.”

Reading comprehension (understanding what you’ve read) is the main goal of reading. Allington and Gabriel discuss the recent findings in neurological research by sharing the evidence that comprehension difficulties can be due to students’ brains being wired differently than others. To help struggling readers, a remediation emphasis on comprehension can help change the structure of one’s brain. They emphasize more authentic reading and less low-level worksheets.

4. “Every child writes about something personally meaningful.”

Composing (constructing something unique) is important for students, so they should always get the chance to write about something meaningful to them. Allington and Gabriel quote Cunningham and Cunningham to prove this point: “When students write about something they care about, they use conventions of spelling and grammar because it matters to them that their ideas are communicated, not because they will lose points or see red ink if they don’t.”

High School English Tips

5. “Every child talks with peers about reading and writing.”

When students are asked to analyze, comment, and compare (think about what they’ve read), comprehension and engagement with texts are improved. So, students should be talking together about what they read in LiveLessons and with family members. Just 10 minutes of daily literary conversation is proven to increase standardized test scores.

6. “Every child listens to a fluent adult read aloud.”

What can listening to a fluent adult read do for a child? It can do the following: increase fluency, comprehension skills, vocabulary, background knowledge, sense of story, awareness of genre, and awareness of text structure. Learning coaches and teachers are encouraged to read aloud to students (and not just kindergarten and 1st grade students). This is important at all ages (even high school).

I hope that you have learned some new things that you can focus on to improve literacy. If you would like to read this article, the web link is listed below in the citation.

Allington, R. L., & Gabriel, R. E. (2012). Every child, every day. *Reading: The Core Skill*, 69(6), 10-15.

Retrieved from <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar12/vol69/num06/Every-Child,-Every-Day.aspx>



Reading Food for Thought



Did you know that prisons across the country use 4th grade reading scores to project the number of prison cells that they’re going to need in the next ten years?

- 60% of our inmates are illiterate

-85% of juvenile offenders struggle with reading

-67% of American 4th graders can’t read at the 4th grade proficiency level (NAEP)

To read more about this, please see the citation below.

Cohen, S. (2010, Dec. 25). A 5\$ children's book vs. a \$47,000 jail cell: Choose one. *Forbes*,

Retrieved from <http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevecohen/2010/12/25/a-5-childrens-book-vs-a-47000-jail-cell-choose-one/>

High School Spotlight



The March High School Student Spotlight is
9th grader ***Rachael Pilot***.

Rachael answered a few questions about herself and her life at SCCA. Please join us in congratulating Rachael on being one of SCCA's best and brightest!

1. What do you enjoy most about SCCA?

I enjoy the LL because that gives me a chance to talk to my teachers and friends.

2. What hobbies or interests do you have?

My hobbies and interests are... Hanging out with my friends, singing (I LOVE to sing), writing and reading, and running.

3. What are your plans for after HS?

Move on to college. Graduate. Get a job. Make some money. Go to Australia. :)

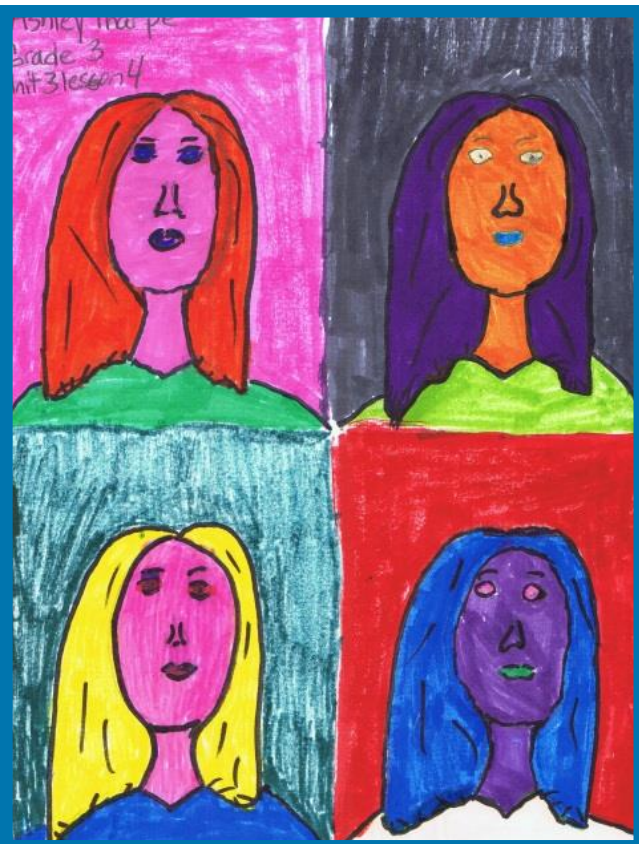
Art Spotlights



1st grader Greenleigh Sowers created this beautiful Duke A Heart of a pinch pot!



2nd grader Zoe McFarland's peaceful still-life composition!

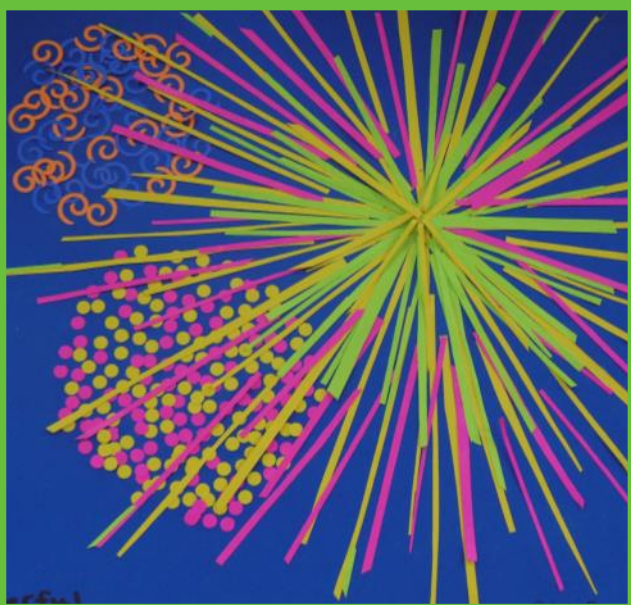


3rd grader Ashley Tharpe drew this fantastic Warhol-style self portrait!



4th grader Mahli Denton shares her exotic Egyptian profile!

Art Spotlights



5th grader Abigail Brighton shares warm and cool color abstract art!



7th grader Sara Wiatruck opens the door to an Interior Room Perspective!

Below are two wonderful pieces by **Kelsey Morgan Faucett**, 8th grade. Excellent Job!!



School Contact Information



SCCA Leadership Team

Allison Reaves

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High School Asst. Principal

David Potts

Freshman Academy Asst. Principal

Jennifer Selix

Elementary Principal

Kelly McNally

Middle School Asst. Principal

Angela Stephens

Elementary Asst. Principal

Nichole Adams

Director of Special Education

Kathryn Fuchs

Manager of School Counseling

Important Dates

March 15th

Teacher Workday

March 19-20

PASS Writing
(Grades 3-8)

SCCA Mission Statement:

“To maximize academic achievement for students in grades K-12 throughout the state of South Carolina who need options beyond the traditional classroom.”