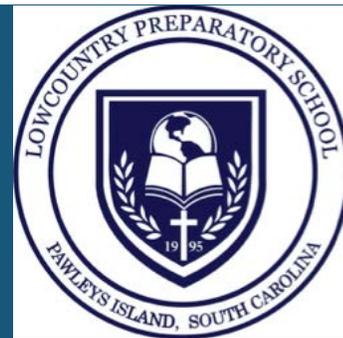


Monthly Report to Parents

January 2017



Cutoff date: January 31, 2017

January 2017, Volume 13

Lowcountry Establishes the Sessions Award

Mrs. Wendy Sessions, our Business Manager since Academic Year 2008-09, passed away unexpectedly over the Christmas holiday. Reverend Tommy Barnhill led the memorial service on January 2, 2017. The packed chapel, overflow room, and parking lot at Goldfinch's Beach Chapel testified to the high esteem in which she was held, not only within the school community but also well beyond.

In his remarks, Reverend Barnhill cited the trait for which Wendy will long be remembered, namely her selfless service to others. He noted as a compelling example Mrs. Sessions' recent visit to the emergency room for an operation. Immediately after the operation and still at the hospital, she borrowed a cell phone in order to ensure that payroll was processed for her colleagues at school—typical of her.

A second memorial service took place on January 6, 2017 at school.



Reverend Clay Millener, Assistant Rector at All Saints Church and father of Alexander and Davi in the Lower School, led the service. Father Millener reminded us of the comforting words of Jesus, namely, "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." At the conclusion of the memorial service, Ms. Kay Little led students and guests in singing *Amazing Grace*.

Head of School Scott Gibson III has announced the establishment of the Sessions Award to be given annually to that member of the school community "who goes the extra mile in consistently providing selfless service to others."

"The award will serve to salute the memory of Wendy, a person of great character, and to remind members of our community that we should follow her compelling example of taking care of those around us," said Gibson.

Board Chair Woofie McClary remembered Mrs. Sessions as, "an extremely loyal employee who could always be counted upon, year after year. Her work with the school's finances was critical, and she always came through for us."

The Sessions family has invited friends to donate to the Sessions Memorial Foundation at South Atlantic Bank, 10970 Ocean Highway, Pawleys Island, SC in lieu of sending flowers.

MS/US Honor Roll Published

Middle and Upper School Director Suber has published the honor rolls for the first semester. Results follow:

A Honor Roll: (12th) Haven Busbee, Coleman Lucas, Emory McClary, Ansley Peace, Caroline Warren; (11th) Brian Duggan, Josie Mangialardo, Andy Williams; (10th) Blake Errico, Peyton Little, Chetna Patel, Molly Rumph; (9th) James Thurlow; (8th) Georgia Beacham, Olivia Collins; (7th) Anne-Hackett Little, Gates Prosser, Cameron Tedrow; (6th) David Allen, Gabrielle Bohan, Venus Demello, Molly Lonon, and Brandon Mercado.

A/B Honor Roll: (12th) Hannah Fesperman, Brice Landstreet, Oluwasean Olatunji, Emerson Pate, Sophia Razzi, Gavin Zhou; (11th) Rayce Gibson, Rayne Malkasian, Julian Mathis, Peter Thurlow, Ben Verville; (10th) Kaitlin Bellune, Chloe Mashburn, Joey Ray, MiLin Zhang; (9th) Colton Beebe, Gentry Miller; (8th) Brooke Ashton, Ross Cox, Pierceson Lee, Harry Oxner, Lanee Patton, Thomas Prosser, Elizabeth Stedman; (7th) Lillian Antonelli, March Chapman, Jalayah Mickel, Billy Ray, Payton Wolfe; and (6th) Ella Speir.

Nice work—keep it up through second semester!



Mathis Family Hosts French Exchange Student

Aymeric Behaegel, our French exchange student, was scheduled to arrive in Myrtle Beach on the regular Delta flight from Atlanta during the late evening of January 6, 2017. However, the flight was cancelled due to poor weather. A connecting flight would not be available until that Sunday. That's when Mr. and Mrs. Mathis took charge.

They contacted the airline's International Headquarters, explained the circumstances, and requested Aymeric be placed on the next flight to Charleston. Deciding delayed departure. At approximately 3:00 AM on Saturday, the Mathis family greeted Aymeric at the airport in Charleston. That is called going the extra mile—thank you Mathis Family!



Once home, Julian and Aymeric identified shared passions, namely computers and computer games. They built a fully programmable semi-autonomous robot together, which is on display in the Upper School. Also, Aymeric saw some of our local culture during a trip to the Hammock Shops where he met Mr. Marvin, a well known hammock maker.

The Mathis family has also shown Aymeric the great outdoors with a weekend day trip to the nearby Black River. There they enjoyed some kayaking and a look at the pristine wilderness of South Carolina.

Three more French exchange students arrive in early February. All four students will then return to France in early March.

LPS Mathematicians Compete at SCISA Math Meet

Upper School mathematics teacher Mr. Ben Tanoff led two student teams in competition on January 17, 2017 at the SCISA Math Meet.

The first team placed fifth out of 25, the second team placed seventh out of 25. Gavin Zhou individually placed second in the state (out of 105) for the second year in a row. Chetna Patel was also recognized for being a “high point scorer” for her team.

Congratulations to all student participants, including Chetna Patel, Yiping Dong, Linda Zhang, John Kong, Josie Mangialardo, Sophia Razzi, Coleman Lucas, Caroline Warren, Emory McClary, and Gavin Zhou!



LPS Wins SCISA Regional Spelling Bee

LPS hosted the South Carolina Independent School Association Regional Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 and finished first overall, with six students heading to the state finals. A total of nine schools competed. Representing our school were third graders Maisie Davis and Ashley O’Neal; fourth graders Nolan Bohan and Emma Rusnak; fifth graders Ben Hall and Dale Sankum; sixth graders David Allen and Brandon Mercado; seventh graders Anne-Hackett Little and Cameron Tedrow; and eighth graders Thomas Prosser and Olivia Collins.

Heading to the SCISA State Spelling Bee will be Emma Rusnak, Maisie Davis, Ashley O’Neal, Brandon Mercado, Cameron Tedrow, and Olivia Collins. The event is scheduled for February 15, 2017 in Kingstree.

In related news, Emma Rusnak and Cameron Tedrow will attend the Sun News Spelling Bee at St. James High School on March 11, 2017. This is the qualifying Bee for the Scripps National Spelling Bee held outside of Washington, DC (and featured on ESPN). Olivia Collins was named as Tedrow’s alternate.



School	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	total	rank	WINNERS
Christiana Academy	2	2	2	2	18	5 th	Jack Myrtle Myles Clayton
Christiana Academy	2	4	6	8	30	4 th	Emily Adams Ethan Penick
Christiana Academy	6	2	2	2	12	3 rd	Maisie Davis Ashley O'Neal
Country Christian	2	2	4	2	18	6 th	Brandon Mercado Max McCaul
Divina Christian	8	2	2	2	18	7 th	Brandon Tedrow Cameron Tedrow
Georgetown	2	2	4	7	15	8 th	Olivia Collins Eli Goldschmidt
Lowcountry Prep	2	2	4	12	60		
Lee De Haven	10	2	2	2	20		
Waldenburger	2	2	2	2	12		

IT Upgrade Underway

A generous family has opted to fund an IT upgrade designed to ensure reliable wireless access to the portables. The upgrade also includes replacement of the school’s dated firewall.

This upgrade responds nicely to findings by AdvancED’s External Review in March 2016, as well as results of October’s Parent Satisfaction Survey and Workplace Satisfaction Survey.

Mrs. Diane Gibson teaches art in the portables. “This upgrade is welcome news. My students and I send our thanks to the kind donor. We are eager to upgrade instruction through regular access to the Internet,” she said.

Mock Quiz Bowl

Ms. Maggie Dunlap took the initiative to lead Middle and Upper School students in a mock quiz bowl on January 24, 2017.

By the end of the competition, Josie Buffington, Peyton Little, Georgia Beacham, and Brandon Mercado had earned first place prizes, with Blake Errico, David Allen, Ella Spier, and Sara Charlton earning second place recognition. In third place were Gigi Bohan, Sophia Razzi, Olivia Collins, and Thomas Prosser. The Middle School Most Valuable Player was Olivia Collins, while Blake Errico was the Upper School Most Valuable Player.

Parents Meg Lonon, Courtney Colvin, and Shari Mathis kindly provided snacks. Dr. Kristin Bohan purchased a set of buzzers for use by the students. Thank you, as always, for being engaged parents supporting the education of our students!



Yiping Dong Submits Winning Design for 5K

With her marlin depicted as just crossing the finish line, Yiping Dong won first prize in the contest to design the logo for the Marlin 5 K race. The race is scheduled for February 25, 2017 at 9 AM and will start and end right here on campus.

Runners up included Joey Ray whose design featured a brightly colored running shoe and Linda Zhang whose design also featured a marlin.

“Our art teacher’s contest dovetailed nicely with our upcoming run. Who better to design the logo than one of our own students?,” asked Head of School Scott Gibson III. “Come to think of it, this constitutes a good example of horizontal integration of curriculum by our art teacher,” he added.



New Faces in the Hallways

With our rolling admissions, new students are welcome at any time during the school year. During the month of January, we welcomed five new families.

In the Lower School, Delaney Williams joined us in K-3, while Millier Johanning-Burch became the newest member of the K-5 class with Mrs. Kristi Rhoades. We enrolled two new students in the third grade, including Ella Pearl Campbell and James Graham.

Across the street in the Upper School, Albert Miller joined us. He has a reputation for a keen intellect and a fine golf swing. Coach Lutz is eager to speak with him about golfing in the spring.

“Word continues to get out about the high quality of our program,” said Assistant Head of School for Admissions Jamie Prosser. “News about our remarkable early decision college placement—Brown, W&L, and NYU, for example—and high scholarship dollars has created a buzz. Also, the relative safety of the school is well received among prospective parents.”

Welcome aboard, new students; we are happy to have you with us!



Dunlap Admitted to Grad School at Middlebury College

Ms. Maggie Dunlap, Upper School Spanish teacher, has been accepted to Middlebury College for graduate school. She plans to hone her Spanish skills there at what is arguably the best college in the nation for modern languages, earning a Masters in Spanish over four consecutive six-week summer sessions.

Living in El Salvador as a teenager contributed to Dunlap’s development of near-native language skills. Dunlap continued to use her second-language as an ESL teacher at Sewanee and, more recently, as a volunteer translator at the Smith Medical Clinic in Pawleys Island.

“This marks a tremendous opportunity to hone my language skills and to earn a master’s degree in a subject I love,” said Dunlap.

LaBruce Pursues SCISA Master Teacher Status

Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Bernie LaBruce has been nominated as this year’s candidate for the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) Master Teacher. If she earns the title, she will be our fourth Master Teacher, with the school adding one teacher (our maximum authorized) each academic year over the past two years. Adding one teacher per year is one of our goals listed in Strategic Plan 2020.

Standing by ready to assist LaBruce are SCISA Master Teachers David Suber, Janet Kelly, and Flo Killen.

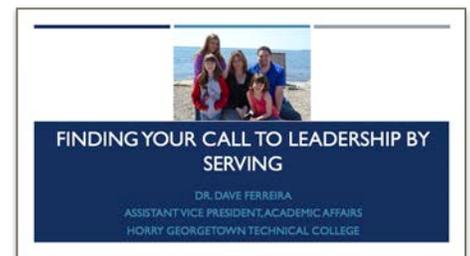
“I have watched my colleagues earn Master Teacher status, and I recognize that the process is long and involves real effort. I’m up for it. SCISA does a tremendous job continuously improving its teachers for the welfare of our students—everybody wins,” observed LaBruce.



Dr. Ferreira Shares Life Lessons with Students

Dr. Dave Ferreira, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at Horry Georgetown Technical College, participated as a member of our Distinguished Speaker Series on Friday, January 27, 2017. Dr. Ferrerira has spent 11 years in higher education. Prior to his placement at HGTC, he served as Dean of Academic Resources & Assessment at Broward College in Florida. Before that, he was an administrator at Three Rivers Community College in Connecticut.

In his presentation, “Finding Your Call to Leadership by Serving,” Dr. Ferreira noted the positive influence of his mother and his father upon his life. He also described the seven pillars of servant leadership, stressing that success in life comes not from serving oneself but from serving others. Finally, he emphasized the critical nature of good character, without which real leadership is not possible.



CCU's Coach Joe Moglia to Address Students

Coastal Carolina University's winning football coach Joe Moglia is scheduled to address students at assembly on February 9, 2017 at noon.

Moglia's appointment at CCU was ironically met with a fair amount of opposition initially. However, in his very first season, he earned recognition as the 2012 Big South Conference Coach of the Year as a result of the team's 2012 Big South Conference Championship. It's been more of the same ever since.

Moglia has met great success elsewhere beyond football. For example, he previously served as the Chief Executive Office of TD Ameritrade.

The students hope to hear the lessons he has learned on his way up and how he has successfully handled adversity, such as the skepticism he quickly overcame as CCU's new head coach.



Parents Commit to Fund Security Upgrade

Several generous Lower School families have committed to a joint gift to the Annual Fund restricted to the installation a state-of-the-art security system. It includes magnetic entrance locks for the Lower School, Middle and Upper School, and the gym. Also included are surveillance cameras providing coverage of all buildings, as well as the soccer field. Installation is set to begin in the near term.

"This restricted gift to the Annual Fund provides our school the sort of security that parents have been demanding," said Head of School Scott Gibson III. "It also helps put us in full compliance with AdvancED's high standards for accreditation—got to love parents who give from the heart and make big improvements like this possible. The school's velocity seems to be picking up—this is part of it," added Gibson.

"The magnetic locks will take some getting used to by teachers and parents, alike" said Lower School Office Manager Gina Augustino. "However, the effort will be well worth it. The safety of our students is paramount. Also, what a joy to work with parents who solve problems—makes us a real team," she added.

More Progress on Advanced STEM Certification

Over the past month, STEM teachers have completed three more Indicators, thereby increasing the percentage of Indicators completed to 55 percent with 60 percent of our available time elapsed. The effectiveness of our weekly STEM meetings, however, suggests that in future months the percentage of completed Indicators will exceed the percentage of time elapsed.

"Three Indicators completed in one month—clear evidence that our new weekly meetings are accelerating progress," claimed Head of School Gibson III. "We'll get there. Our STEM teachers are focused, and AdvancED is always ready to help." he added.

