



# CAMPERDOWN CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2015

## Tax Credits Good Deal for Students

Parents faced with a diagnosis of dyslexia and a child struggling to succeed look to Camperdown for a solution. But for many, the cost of tuition has been a roadblock to receiving the help their children need. The South Carolina state legislature passed a proviso in 2013 that changed all of that. Now taxpayers can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against their South Carolina income tax by making a donation to newly established non-profits, which turn those donations into scholarship tuition assistance. And the classrooms at Camperdown have filled up as a result. 31 new students have joined the Jaguar family in the 2014-2015 school year, but that doesn't tell the whole story. Children who come to

Camperdown with a low level of functional literacy often need more years at the school than families can afford. With this scholarship program, parents can make the financial commitment to keep their children at Camperdown for more years. This has led to a 70% decrease in the rate of attrition.

The future of this program, called the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children, will be decided by lawmakers in this legislative session. Originally designed as a way to help children with special needs attend the independent school of their choice, the program has only been approved as a proviso and needs to be signed into law. Equally



important is the need to raise the 8 million dollar annual cap that is the current ceiling for tax credit donations. Non-profits created to disburse the donations are called Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO's). Camperdown Academy works with the SFO, Palmetto Kids First. This SFO has raised almost twelve

New tax credits will be made available to donors starting July 1st if lawmakers renew the program. Every Camperdown student has written a personal note to legislators thanking them for their support, and every family at the school is hoping for a "yes" vote in 2015.

million dollars since the program began, and has provided scholarship funding to every student at Camperdown who requested assistance. Based on the need the SFO has identified across the state and the number of children on a waiting list for scholarship tuition assistance, Palmetto Kids First is advocating for the new cap to be set at 25 million dollars annually.

## STUDENT SUCCESS



*"Please know you change lives. Tanner began reading signs as we were riding down the road this week and it was the sweetest sound. Everyone who has seen him since school started can't believe the difference in his attitude and confidence and that he laughs so much."*

— Casey Hamilton

**Palmetto Kids FIRST**  
Scholarship Program, Inc.

*Thank you for your support and donations. The teachers at Camperdown help us learn in a different way which is easier for our brain. I appreciate what you have done for me.*  
Sincerely,  
Jack

THANK YOU

**Palmetto Kids FIRST**  
Scholarship Program, Inc.

*Thank you for your support of Camperdown. I am thankful because I would work so hard that I would cry at my old school and I don't do that now from Mandy*

THANK YOU

## IN THIS ISSUE

ALUMNI PRIDE.....2

UPCOMING EVENTS.....3

A PEEK INSIDE.....3

BECAUSE OF YOU.....4

February 26, 2015

## **SCHOOLS, PARENTS & TAXPAYERS ALL ACROSS SC CAN'T BE WRONG!!!**

**Dear SC Legislators:**

The *Educational Credit for Exceptional Need Children* (Proviso 1.80) has been a HUGE success. In just one year ...

- 103 independent schools all across SC have enrolled to participate.
- SC taxpayers have claimed \$14 million of SC tax credits.
- 2,000 “special needs” children have received a K-12 scholarship.

These are all schools, donors/taxpayers, and families in *YOUR* district.

Please support our legislative agenda calling for:

- 1) ***PERMANENT LAW, and to***
- 2) ***RAISE THE TAX CREDIT CAP TO \$25 MILLION***  
*(We see this much demand from “your” families already.)*

Our schools, families and SC taxpayers thank you for your support.

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