



**SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE of
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
OFFICE of Education**



**Continually growing
the Kingdom with a
focus on Excellence**

February 21, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 19
School Improvement
Planning Day—**No school**

February 26—March 2
SAC Disaster Awareness
Week

March 4
K-12 Board of Education

March 9
Third Quarter ends (45
days)

March 11
Daylight Savings Time

March 12
School Improvement
Planning Day—**No School**

March 18
Annual Conference-wide
Spelling (Orangeburg, SC)

March 19-23
Spring Week of Prayer

March 29
2018-19 School Budgets
due to SACED

March 29—April 1
Oakwood Alumni Weekend

April 2—6
Spring Break

April 9
Classes Resume

April 20
Interim Reports Go Home

April 23-27
Spring IA Tests (optional)

April 28
Adventist Education
Sabbath



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What's Love Got To Do With It?

by Kim M. Gaiter, EdS, Vice President for Education

Normally, Valentine's Day is filled with acts of kindness and love. But on this past Valentine's Day, our hearts were broken as we learned of the horrific massacre of innocent students at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, by a former student, Nikolas Cruz. The images of the students and teachers running for their lives from the high school, and the heart-wrenching tears of parents trying to make sense of the tragic deaths of their children will remain etched in my brain.

What would possess this young man to return to his former school and inflict the unspeakable act of gunning down students and teachers? We know the short and correct answer is, the devil. I don't know that we will ever be able to give a rational answer for this senseless and devastating act of violence. People who hurt, hurt people—here's what we know: the 19-year old Nikolas was mentally ill, depressed, grief-stricken, a loner, and obsessed with guns. These were all flashing, red lights—warning signs. And now, a flood of questions arise, such as, "What if " and "Why?"

Where do we go from here? Well, the students in Parkland are not waiting for schools and lawmakers. They are raising their urgent voices and demanding that gun control laws be changed, especially as relates to assault weapons laws in this country. I am so proud of them and support their marches and demonstrations.

As I think about our students, there are students in our schools who are hurting inside. As educators, let's be more attentive to the lives and spirit of our students. Let's make sure that they know that they are loved and valued. Let's take time to stop and actually *TALK* with our students. Whatever we are doing, we *CAN* do more.

To keep your students in a safe harbor, teachers, administrators and school boards must be intentional. Here are a few steps you can take at the local level:

**"There's no such thing as a perfect teacher,
but if you work hard, love your students and
are always learning, you're pretty close."**

-Vicki Davis @coolcatteacher

- Build professionally intimate relationships with students and families.
- Build relationships with local emergency personnel and civic leaders
- Actively monitor all access points to your school, keeping all exterior doors locked and using a monitor to see who you are permitting into your building.
- Use print screens to block glass doors so you can see out, but those on the outside cannot see into the building.



Pooh Bear's friend, Eeyore, tends to walk around dragging a dark cloud around with him, or having to stop and pick up his tail which is constantly falling off. If I asked Eeyore why principals go to Principals' Council in Atlanta he may respond, "They are having fun without me," or "They never tell me what they do."

Eeyore may be partly right. Taking a line from *Eeyore's Gloomy Book of Sayings*,



If you are not going to bother to give me an explanation for why [we are] doing this thing, then why should [we] bother to do this thing at all?"

Okay, Eeyore, here's the explanation for why principals go away to Principals' Council. In SAC we are working to build all our employees based on their gifts and their fit within the organization.

This is very important. For when researchers have studied school-level effectiveness, the number one greatest influence is having an effective leader at the helm.

At our last principals' council SAC principals discussed proposed Conference education handbook changes. They voted recommendations to the K-12 Board of Education, and they will be sharing those with you during faculty meetings over the next several weeks. In addition, they came to learn.

But what do principals need to learn? After all, they are supposed to be the instructional leaders, coaches, mentors, and gurus in the building, right? Actually, most principals will admit that

while they are supposed to be all those things, there are a few things they do very well, and other things they don't. do so well

Using the book *Strengths-based Leadership*, the principals looked at their own strengths and weaknesses. They also discovered a powerful message: If we stop trying to be everything, we can focus on our gifts and talents and surround ourselves with people who can fill our deficits. We no longer have to be the jack of all trades and mediocre at everything.



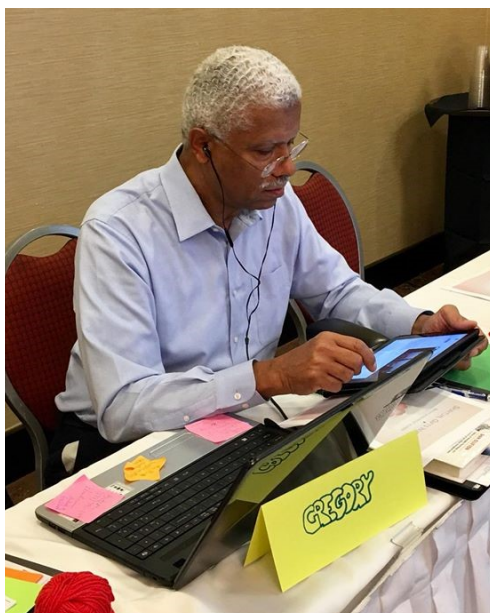
When we embrace the principles of strengths-based leadership and the truth that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, we will create a fervent army of evangelists who can be empowered to take Adventist education in SAC to an entirely new level. In other words, the principals were learning how they can Pick Up the Pace.

Over the course of two days the principals were responsible for leading out in worship, discussions, integrated learning, and hands-on activities.

The following are snapshots of our last meeting:



Thomasa Henry, Principal in Macon, GA co-presents on the Strength-based leadership topic: Career Application



Greg Hollier, from Pageland, SC, prepares to co-present with Regrick Howard, principal in Sumter, SC on the strength-based leadership topic: Applications in Relationships.



Judith Darden, principal in Columbus, GA, co-presented Career Applications with Thomasa Henry. She is coaching her group on how to make "Nacho Ordinary Cheese" featured in last month's SACOE



Betty Bailey, principal in Winston-Salem, NC, works to create a self-portrait using pictures and words from magazine articles to represent who she is as a strength-based leader.



Angie Mahone, principal in Charlotte, NC, enjoys the good fellowship and learning...and a little crème brûlée.

