

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 20**

Mid-term progress reports go home

**April 23—27**

Spring IA assessments—optional this school year

**April 28**

Adventist Education Sabbath

**April 29**

SAC Board of Education—Zoom/Skype

**May 7 –11**

Home & School—Teacher Appreciation Week

**May 24-27**

Academy Graduation Weekend

**May 25**

Last day of School  
Noon dismissal

**May 28**

Memorial Day holiday

**May 29-31**

Teacher post week

**May 31**

NAD Data Roll Up and Closing Reports due

**June 1**

Principal's post planning  
Principal summer schedules due to SACOE

**June 18—July 3**

SACOE summer PD initiatives



[www.saceducation.org](http://www.saceducation.org)



## From the Vice President for Education Kim Gaiter, EdS



South Atlantic Conference Celebrates

## Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

**Great education happens with professional people on the job.**

Dear SAC Education Team!

We appreciate you! Quality, standards-based Adventist Education happens each day in SAC because of you!

☞ **Thank you** for your commitment to Christ ; perseverance through successes and challenges, and dedication to the greatest work—Teaching our young people!

☞ **Thank you** for being willing to work long hours for modest pay and minimal status when you surely could be making more money with less stress and greater prestige.

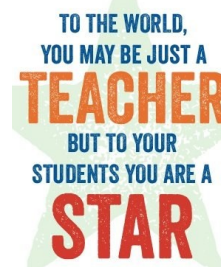
☞ **Thank you** for buying supplies when the school ran out of money and extending yourself far beyond your job description to help and mentor your students outside of the classroom.

☞ **Thank you** for trying to figure out every day how to manage the needs of so many children and for loving the ones who are hard to love because they make your days so difficult.

☞ **Thank you** for modeling patience, honesty, courage, perseverance, wisdom, responsibility, generosity, and a commitment to lifelong learning to the best of your ability each and every day in your classroom.

Remember, you are never more like Jesus than when you serve. There is no other profession that so directly shapes the world of tomorrow and the eternal destiny of so many—thanks for being a teacher in South Atlantic!

*From my heart to yours,  
Thank you for ministry in education!*





The Office of Education and the entire Administrative Council of the South Atlantic Conference echo the sentiments of Joseph Addison. We deeply appreciate those who are the administrative professionals and teachers on the front-lines of the battle of the Great Controversy. Thank you for all you are doing to spread the Good News to the students and their families each day. The highest praise will come from our Redeemer, who will lovingly place a crown on your head, glimmering with the bright jewels you have labored earnestly for on behalf of the kingdom.



Albany—ESJA



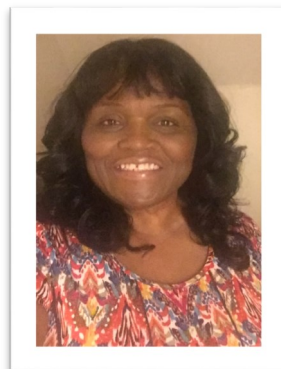
Atlanta



Atlanta—GAAA

**SAC Child Development Centers**

*Sorry. Images not available*



Augusta—ESS



Charlotte—BJA



Columbus—NBCA



Fayetteville—GFAA

## APPRECIATION MONTHS

"What sunshine is to flowers,  
smiles are to humanity. These are  
but trifles, to be sure; but, scat-  
tered along life's pathway, the good  
they do is inconceivable. No one is  
more cherished in this world than  
someone who lightens the burden  
of another."

—Joseph Addison



Jonesboro—AAIS



Lithonia—LAA



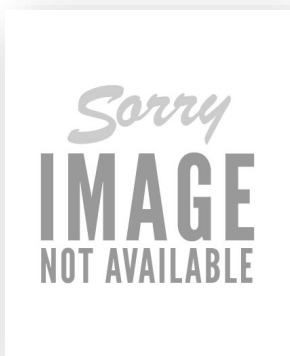
Macon—BJA



Pageland—NRACS



Raleigh—GCSJA



Savannah—RJA



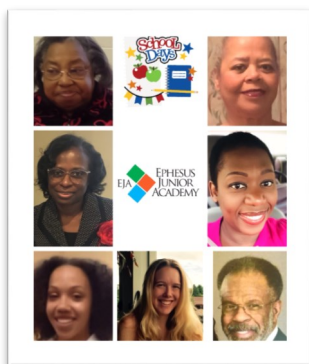
Stone Mountain—DAJA



Sumter—BJA



Whiteville—CAA



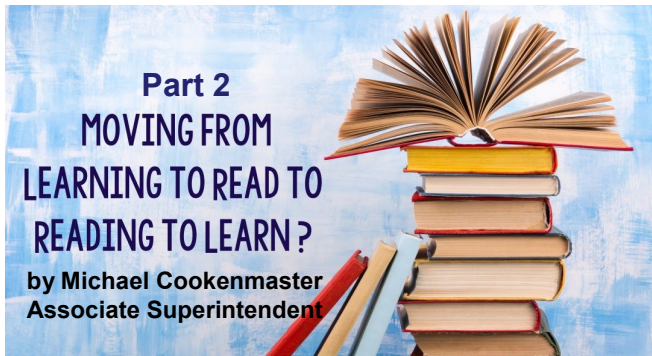
Winston-Salem—EJA



Winston-Salem —EELC

## Correction

In our last article we incorrectly reported on the new education theme for the Southern Union. The new Southern Union education theme is *Advance Greatness*.



In part one of *Moving from Learning to Read to Reading to Learn* we discussed RTI and MTSS, and examined the questions:

1. What is reading?
2. How do we learn to read?
3. How can parents most effectively help their children?

In this article we will discuss just-right-books and frequently asked parent questions.

## Just-right-books

First of all, just-right-books is not simply a K-2 teacher issue. It is a K-12 issue,. After all, regardless of the subject you teach, everyone is a reading teacher. A just-right book is one that a student is reading at their instructional reading level or one level below (independent level). In other words, they may be books that have high impact but low readability for the struggling student, or they may be high impact—high readability for the student above grade level.

But how does a teacher determine if the book is just-right? In all grades this is done by administering what is called a cold prompt. A cold reading prompt is a passage a student has not practiced with the teacher. It assesses: 1) accuracy rate; 2) fluency rate [(number of words read ÷ number of seconds read) X 60 = wpm]; 3) comprehension—literal, inferential, visual, critical, and creative; and 4) after second grade it measures a written response. The cold prompt determines if a child is able to move up, stay put, or move down a level. In grades K-1 a cold prompt should be

administered every six weeks. Beginning in grade 2, a cold prompt should be administered every quarter up to grade 8. In K-8 classrooms teachers are encouraged to use the Jerry-Johns IRI or the DRA2. If you have neither in your building, they may be purchased, or you may use the Reading A to Z Benchmark passages to obtain the same results. Regardless of the instrument, you will need to create the critical thinking comprehension questions to assess the student's metacognition for that level.

For students in high school, doing a cold prompt of grade level materials, using the same steps found for grades K-8, and working passages up to more complex text structures or down to less complex text structures, will help determine a high school student's reading level.

Another way to measure a just-right-book is to allow the child to read a favorite book. When I was in K-2 my favorite book was Maurice Sendak's, *Where the Wild Things Are*. After third grade, I enjoyed reading Josephine Cunnington Edward's, *Swift Arrow*. I could read these books over and over. The point is not that the child has read the book already. The point is instilling a love of reading.

Another strategy of using just-right-books is to echo read with your child, and the teacher or parent using their index finger to help the child track left-to-right with return sweep. This permits the child to read with you with support.

Finally, no matter what grade level the student is in, just-right-books are only just-right, if you are supporting the student with metacognitive questioning including: what, where, when, and how questions. Examples of these include:

1. **Literal**—What were Robert and George doing just before they were captured by the Indians?
2. **Inferential**—How do you know that George felt the day was a bad one?
3. **Visual**—Where would you put the building of the log cabin on the *Swift Arrow* timeline?
4. **Critical**—What do you think Josephine Cunnington Edwards is trying to help you understand in this chapter?
5. **Creative**—Can you tell me about a time when you were scared?



## Frequently Asked Parent Questions

Many parents of PK-1 students want to know when their child will begin to learn how to read. The answer is that most children learn to pre-read around age 2. They recognize symbols for McDonalds, Dairy Queen, etc. At ages 5-7 they begin to learn to decode print and develop the skill of answering questions. Remember, boys develop language processing skills more slowly, so be patient. The light bulbs often come on around March.

Another important question is, "How do I know if my child is an at-risk or struggling reader?" To answer this a teacher must know if the child recognizes all 26 letters and their corresponding sounds; does the child appear to enjoy reading; and/or are they struggling to master sight words, vocabulary, or content? If any of these are a concern, then make an appointment to see the parent to discuss whether additional supports in the home or school are necessary for the child to succeed, and start the RTI/REACH academic paperwork process to document strategies that you have implemented for five weeks and the student's achievement in those strategies.

Parents often want to know if phonics is important. And of course it is. Phonics is the ability to match sounds to their letter symbols. It is an important strategy to reading. Reading improves phonetic ability, and phonics improves reading. Children in grades K-2 need to master phonics from an onset/rime basis. As an example of a complex onset, /str/ always says the same thing. An example of a rime is /aigh/. When children learn to recognize and master the over 200 simple and complex onsets and rimes, they can decode almost any English word. Of course, there are some exceptions.

Parents are often concerned about dysgraphia—the confusion of letters. Many students confuse the letters /b/, /d/, /j/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /p/, and /q/. This will occur most-likely through the second grade. Simply redirect the child to the correct sound or proper letter direction. If it continues past grade two, then seek a scotopic test to see if the child is struggling with light or a dyslexia test to see if a child is struggling with making meaning of symbols. Neither has anything to do with a person's intelligence or aptitude.

Finally, parents are busy people. However, studies show that students who come from homes where

reading is valued do better. Ideally, parents should be encouraged to read with their child a minimum of 15-minutes each day. Taking advantage of natural reading situations, they will find their children want to engage. Younger children will love exploring the milk carton, the cereal box, license plates, and signs. Family worship is another natural reading situation where a child can learn to use the hymnal to track the rhythm and flow of words in music while keeping a cadence; reading from God's Holy Word is the best basal textbook of all.



## Growing the Village Ephesus Early Learning Center

At Ephesus Early Learning Center, "It takes a village..." is more than just a nice, catchy saying, it is the hinge point of their daily operations. They are a city set upon the hill cooperating with parents, the church, the elementary school and their broader community preparing little lambs to take their next steps in being good learners and citizens on this earth and in Heaven. The children are encouraged to grow and learn in a Christ-centered environment which is safe, nurturing, and filled with opportunities for exploration and discovery. The program is well rounded and provides opportunities for structured classroom activities while the children also have the freedom to learn through creative and independent activities.

In order to fuel both body and spirit a healthy helping of soul food is served, developing character and pointing the children to Jesus. In addition to feeding the soul, the center takes pride in serving a variety of healthful, wholesome meals to the children to complete the trans-disciplinary, integrated learning experience offered by Ephesus Early Learning Center.

At Ephesus, art is one of their favorite activities. Students enjoy drawing, cutting, pasting, and of course, painting. Another favorite activity is when Ms. Gloria Cain from the Winston- Salem Library reads to them. They are also learning the value of service through helping others by asking parents and friends to collect donations for those less fortunate.



The 2018 Spelling Bee and Science Exhibition were a tremendous hit. We wish to thank all our schools who participated. A special congratulations is in order to our 3-5 & 6-8 divisions first and second place individual winners, as well as those schools which took home trophies. Additionally, we wish to thank our schools who participated in the science exhibit. Your contribution and active participation made our event possible and a joy to experience.

We also wish to thank principals, Yvette Cooper and Cheryl McGee for helping to make our registration and set up process smooth on Saturday evening. Additionally, special thanks go to our judges: Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Fider, Mr. Howard, Ms. Mahone, Mrs. McGee, and Miss Stevenson.

Starting in 2019, the SACOE Conference-wide event's new theme will be *Festival Expo*. We will be featuring an art exposition using our newly suggested art curriculum as a guide; and a music festival on Sabbath featuring a combined grades 3-8 choir and featuring the academy choir. On Saturday night, we will do a type of "battle of the choirs," featuring individual schools who choose to sign up and participate. Sunday will feature the art and science expositions, and spelling bee. It will be a weekend long event. Students and chaperones arriving on Thursday evening, and students will practice their music on Friday. We want *all* SAC schools to participate and place on their calendar this spectacular

event. You, your students, and the families we serve will want to join in building these memories that will last a lifetime. Events such as these also help our students to feel connected to their fellow sister schools in our vast school district known as SAC.

Of course, we are putting together a team to help coordinate all the activities, so be prepared to be called to serve...but Jesus has done that already, hasn't He?

Thank you for all you do for Adventist Education!



**Adventist  
Accrediting  
Association**



Congratulations to Emanuel Junior Academy in Albany, GA, and Ephesus Junior Academy in Winston-Salem, NC for completing their school accreditation under the new digital NAD Accreditrac process. Much work went into the compiling of the reports and necessary digitized bodies of evidence, as well as hosting the visiting team for two days. Now the visiting committee reports are being sent to the Southern Union for review, and then off to the North American Division for final approval.

Regardless of the size of your school, kingdom building is actively occurring on our campuses throughout SAC. Thank you for your dedication to quality, standards-based Adventist education as we help our students *Grow Excellence!*