

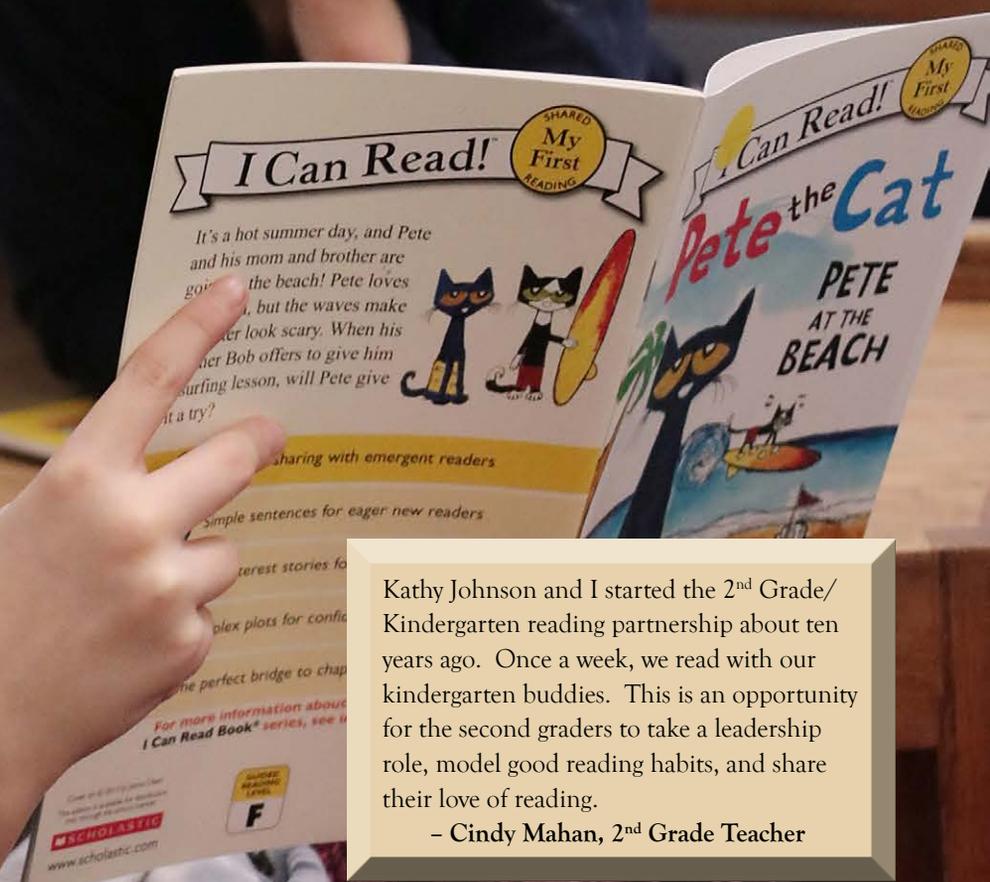
# Learning Together

You've heard the adage that "it takes a village to raise a child." Saint George's School is that village where clusters of smaller communities—individual grades or classes—come together to help support, encourage, and nurture one another. Each division does not stand alone, for our strength comes from uniting together to live out our mission of inspiring scholars, athletes, and artists to serve and lead others.

– Kathy Johnson, Lower School Principal

## Older and Younger Students Can Teach Each Other a Lot

2nd graders enjoy reading to kindergarten students



Kathy Johnson and I started the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade/Kindergarten reading partnership about ten years ago. Once a week, we read with our kindergarten buddies. This is an opportunity for the second graders to take a leadership role, model good reading habits, and share their love of reading.

– Cindy Mahan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher



**Reading in the Kindergarten room**

What strikes me the most about these cross-divisional activities is that when presented with an exciting new learning opportunity or challenge, no matter the age or grade, our students will respond with engagement and persistence.

– Denie Inman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher



**Middle School art students paint a mural with the Kindergarten class**



**K-2 readers**

I love pairing Lower School students with MS/US artists. Lower School students always look forward to working with the “big kids,” and it allows each younger child to get one-on-one individualized instruction. This is ideal for challenging skills that need extra supervision or

attention that I am unable to give to every child simultaneously.

It’s a perfect opportunity for the older students to share their knowledge and skills as well. For example, my ceramics students had to teach the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders about the properties and “rules” of clay before helping them make their projects. One of the best ways to learn and retain information is to have to teach it to someone else. It requires that you really understand the concepts you are teaching. And it’s wonderful seeing some older students that are quieter or more reserved in class open up and participate with their younger buddies.

– Jennifer Davenport, Art & Ceramics Teacher



**10th grade students help 3rd graders with a ceramics project**

These interactions give students a chance to remember how much fun school is. In the upper grades, sometimes school work feels like doing laundry... you just have to do it. It is great to be reminded how joyful the process of learning can be.

– Russell Werkman, Upper School Principal



**Kindergarten and 5th grade gather leaves for a science project**

Eight- and nine-year-olds are naturally very welcoming and have no trouble filling conversations. However, it's great to watch the Upper School students arrive shy and maybe a bit cynical, and see how quickly they shed that veneer to get up to their elbows in pumpkin guts, calculate circumference, and just laugh and learn together.

Many of the seniors in the Spanish class had participated in pumpkin math and pumpkin carving in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade themselves. As I walked around the room, conversations and reminiscing were creating a bridge between divisions and experiences.

- Denie Inman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher.



**3rd grade pumpkin carving with a little guidance from 12th grade friends**



**5th grade reading buddies visit the 1st grade classroom**

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are our reading buddies. Almost every week, they come up to our classroom and are paired up with a 1st grader to read books together. The 1st graders really look forward to this time; I think they love the one-to-one attention. I love that the students get to know each other, which builds a stronger sense of community. The 5th graders also help us assemble our life size "human bodies" drawings in the spring.

- Julianne Clark, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher



**13-year seniors introduce the Kindergarten class at the Dragon Dance**



**K-12 bonding over pumpkin guts**

The K-12 Dragon Dance is a beloved tradition at Saint George' School. Gathering the youngest to the oldest students together to celebrate the start of the new school year builds a sense of community between students, teachers, and parents. Each grade proudly adds their red banner to the tail of the serpentine dragon, which is led by the seniors under the dragon's head. The seniors welcome the littlest dragons and wish them well on their educational journey, noting that the kindergartners will one day graduate from that same spot—the platform on Graduation Lawn.

- Kathy Johnson, Lower School Principal

One of Rachel Hildie's 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade math classes was able to come help the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders each create a graph on the computer. This was taking skills we'd already learned—data collection and graphing—and combining them with new technology. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders had their data all collected and needed help entering their information into Excel. This is an advanced concept that is difficult for me to do with a class on my own. I was worried the older students would try to do too much, but they were incredible teachers, and were very much part of the exploration and problem solving process. My 3<sup>rd</sup> graders said that was their favorite activity of the year so far, and many of them went on to use their newfound graphing and technical skills on their Science Fair projects.

– Denie Inman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher.

**11th graders act as math tutors for 2nd graders**



**Kindergarten Pilgrims welcome 12th grade “Indian Buddies” to their annual Thanksgiving meal**

“When I do these multi-age activities, I always see high levels of engagement from everyone. My favorite part is watching new friendships begin to form. Lower School kids get so excited to see their older friends walking across campus or sitting in the theater for an all-school assembly, and they run over to get a high-five or a hug. It’s just another reason I love being part of the Saint George’s family.”

– Jennifer Davenport, Art & Ceramics Teacher