



April 28, 2010

From the Principal's Desk –

CRCT Testing went very well and I look forward to seeing the results of the hard work and efforts put forth by the students and teachers. When the results come back, please plan to review them with your child. Discuss what went right and wrong. Be sure to praise the efforts and stress the success.

Thank you for providing the necessary residency verification documents. Although there may still be some questions that need to be answered, I am appreciative that most every family provided documents for review. So, thank you! Please be aware that the Board will require this verification annually from now on. Thanks for your understanding and support as we strive to maintain the level of education that you have come to expect.

Have you heard? There are new principals at Sarah Smith Elementary School. Yesterday, Margaret Ladisic served as Principal for a Day. On Monday, May 3, Alexa Graff will take over as Principal for a Day. These students are a part of the Principal for a Day activity purchased at the Foundation Auction in February. They will assume responsibilities, do teacher observations, tour the areas of the building not seen typically by students, conduct morning and afternoon announcements, carry out afternoon dismissal, and other "principal" duties. I look forward to the help of these outstanding students during Principal for a Day, 2010.

PLEASE remember: No left turns into or out of the driveways at either campus during arrival and dismissal hours. There have been complaints and near accidents. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Teacher of the Year is named –

Congratulations to Kelly Petrello, science specialist at Sarah Smith Elementary for being named the 2010 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Petrello was selected by her colleagues and will represent Sarah Smith in the Atlanta Public Schools Teacher of the Year events throughout the next school year! She is a wonderful representative of the quality of teachers at Sarah Smith Elementary.

Red Cross Blood Drive is next week –

The Sarah Smith Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, May 5, from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m. in the gym. If possible, please support this worthy event by donating blood.

A State of Georgia Winner –

The Sarah Smith PTA Reflections committee congratulates fifth grader Jared Hung for winning first place in the PTA's State level Reflections competition! His visual art piece, *Autumn Leaf*, will hang with the other State winners in the High Museum from August until November, 2010.

Leading to the State competition was the Council level competition, where our SRS artists swept the awards. The Council will announce the place each person won at their awards ceremony in May. Please congratulate the students listed below who placed at the Council level! Impressively, a large number of SRS students also had their art forwarded to the State level for judging. Their names are underlined: **LITERATURE:**

Kindergarten: Hadley Foust; 1st Grade: LaDania Dean; 2nd Grade: Soleil Golden and Abby Everett; 3rd Grade: Sherman Golden; 4th Grade: Min-Ji Kim and Brook Falcon; 5th Grade: Anna Eilen and Dhruv Chincholikar. **VISUAL ARTS:** Kindergarten: Sarah Shaver; 1st Grade: Alejandra Freyre; 2nd Grade: Catherine Sherling and Seo-Yeon Song; 3rd Grade: Maggie Dowlen and Micah Maclane; 4th Grade: Min-Ji Kim and Lark Izenson; 5th Grade: Kate Thomsen and Jared Hung; **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Kindergarten: Jackson Langley and Jacob Fleming; 1st Grade: Merritt Ellis and Gaines Wood; 2nd Grade: Blake Jones and Maya Kaplan; 3rd Grade: Maggie Dowlen and Nathan Kitts; 4th Grade: Jeffrey Wood; 5th Grade: Wells Maley and Brooks Langley.

Congratulations to all of our Sarah Smith artists! Thank you for participating in Reflections this year.

Paula Young Shelton visits the Intermediate Campus –

Paula Young Shelton, daughter of Civil Rights activist Andrew Young, will be visiting grades 3-5 and reading her book, Child of the Civil Rights Movement on Monday, May 3. The book highlights a child's unique perspective about an important chapter in America's history.

Fourth Grade Math Students to compete -

Two students from Sarah Smith Elementary will compete on Saturday, May 22, in the Georgia Regional 24 Math Challenge Competition at New Hope Elementary School in Henry County. Will Balish and Hugh Henson will represent our school. Alternates are Min-Ji Kim and Tyler Israel. Good luck to our students! Bejay Osby, fourth grade teacher will escort our students and serve as a Proctor for the competition. Thanks, Mr. Osby!

Class Placement Input for 2010-2011 –

The process of class placement is something taken very seriously. It is important to provide each student with a rich range of exposure to different styles of teachers from year to year. There are numerous factors that play into selecting each child's teacher. The staff and the principal are very prepared to make decisions about student placement. Parents interested in providing the school with information about their child which may assist us in placing him/her in a classroom are asked to do so via email or letter to the principal no later than May 14, 2010. **Please DO NOT request a teacher by name.** Only highlight for us the type of learning environment in which your child would be most successful from your perspective. **Please** do not ask the current teacher to name a teacher for next year. This is a very difficult position in which to put your child's teacher. So please offer your input independently of the current teacher.

The placement process continues well into the summer since new students continue to enroll and some current students may withdraw. The administrative team, in collaboration with teacher input, makes final placement decisions.

School Council Nominations –

Nominations will be taken for the Sarah Smith School Council May 3 – May 7, 2010. A parent representative will be elected to serve a two-year term replacing Hillary Yarmowich. Hillary has served the last two years and has done a fantastic job!

The purpose of the council is to bring schools and communities closer together in a spirit of cooperation to solve educational challenges, improve academic achievement, provide support, and share in decision making. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for the School Council, please send the name to the school office by Friday. Elections will be held Tuesday, May 11, during office hours. Please drop by and "vote" at either campus.

Your input is needed –

At Sarah Smith Elementary School, feedback from our parent community is crucial to the ongoing efforts to improve our instructional program and operations. To this end, the Sarah Smith School Council is conducting three surveys, over the next 12 months, to give you an opportunity to provide your thoughts and opinions. The first of the three surveys will focus on issues concerning Sarah Smith's Operations (the facilities, transportation and school spirit). Issues around school communications and curriculum will be addressed in subsequent surveys, next fall and next winter. Last Monday, April 26, you should have received an email about the survey. It is done on **Survey Monkey** and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. The deadline for completing the survey is Wednesday, May 5. So, please take a few moments and give us your feedback. It is very much appreciated. If you have any questions, you can contact any member of the Smith School Council (Brad Muckenfuss, Stacey McGrath, Hillary Yarmowich, Mary Lynn Jones, Sue Ellis, Christina Gray, or Sidney Baker) Thank you!

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming –

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3-7, 2010. Please take a few moments to thank the teacher(s) who are guiding your children down the road to educational success. It could be a phone call, email, personal note, or even a visit. Sarah Smith has the best teaching staff in Atlanta! They are very much appreciated!

Join us as we celebrate Bobbie Martin, Sarah Smith Primary Campus Secretary –

Bobbie Martin, one of the secretaries at the Primary Campus, will be retiring following this school year after 36+ years working in schools. Please join us on Sunday afternoon, May 23, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. at the Primary Campus auditorium as we celebrate Bobbie and her retirement. Tributes will be done at 3:00 p.m. All the best to Bobbie!

Translation Provided –

If you need a copy of any document received at home in a language other than English, please call 404-802-7580. Translation/interpreter and other related services also are available upon request. You may also contact Ms. Lina Zalewski, Sarah Smith Elementary ESOL teacher, at (404) 802-3850 or email at: zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Spanish

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Turkish:

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Chinese

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如有需要，可提供解释，翻译以及其它相关的服务。您也可以向 Ms. Lina Zalewski, ESOL Teacher at (404) 802-3850 or email at: zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us.