



March 31, 2010

From the Principal's Desk –

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe that there are just over six weeks of school left in this year. Where has time gone?

Testing time is quickly approaching and we feel very confident that our students will be prepared. The Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) which will be administered in Grades 1-5 April 20-29. Students and teachers have been preparing for this all year. But, we must remember...achieving begins with believing that we *can* achieve. When we help our children develop a positive self-image, we give them the foundation they need to take on challenges, give their best, and resist negative peer pressure. From my readings, I have identified the top four ways to build authentic self-esteem:

1. **Give credit where credit is due.** Unwarranted praise will seem insincere to your child, but recognition for a job well done or a positive show of character will be a great motivator.
2. **Don't just say it; show it!** Be interested when your child tells you about his/her day. Display best work, photos, and awards. Your child needs to see that you are proud of him/her – whether or not others see him/her as a “champion.”
3. **Try new things together.** Help your child become comfortable with challenges and unfamiliar situations.
4. **Support goal-setting.** What needs improvement? Help your child set goals, and be flexible about adjusting them together as needed. Your child will appreciate the confidence in him/her that your support implies.

Are you proud of your child? Of course you are! Do you believe in his/her abilities? Of course you do! So, continue to create in him/her authentic self-esteem.

And, as a parent, you can help your child prepare both mentally and physically for a test by ensuring that he/she:

- Gets plenty of sleep the night before.
- Has a good breakfast.
- Knows that you think that he/she will do well on the test.
- Knows that you feel that the test is important.
- Is encouraged to follow directions and avoid “careless mistakes”.

Your positive role as a parent will have a great effect on your child's test results as well as his/her self-esteem.

On another note, I continue to notice cars putting other cars in very dangerous situations. **PLEASE REMEMBER: NO LEFT TURN** into or out of the schools' driveways during arrival (7:30 – 8:00 a.m.) or dismissal (2:15 – 3:00 p.m.). It has been noticed that some are not observing this safety expectation. It becomes a VERY dangerous situation for others. This expectation applies to BOTH campuses. So, PLEASE follow our safety rules in order to make our families and community safe.

Kindergarten and New Student Registration –

New Student Registration for 2010-2011 will be held as follows at the Primary Campus:

- Last names A-M, Thursday, April 15
- Last names N-Z, Friday, April 16
- Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Please visit our website at www.sarahsmithelementary.com for registration requirements.

Mr. Blackwell's Class Celebrates Norooz –

Norooz, the Iranian new-year holiday, is celebrated on the first day of spring. This year, Mr. Blackwell's fourth grade class had the opportunity to experience Norooz. Students researched and wrote about the holiday, watched a Norooz video message from President Obama, listened to a story concerning the holiday, and had the chance to color eggs which is a traditional part of the Norooz celebration. Our international-minded students enjoyed experiencing a culture of which most of them knew very little. The event ended with a discussion regarding the importance of learning about other cultures, especially those with whom we may have conflicts or disagreements. Thanks to Ashley Elliot and Roya Memar for helping make this event possible!

Drama Club Is Looking for Handy and Artistic Parents –

The Drama Club is getting ready to perform “Alice Through the Looking Glass.” We would love to find some parents/friends who are handy and artistic and would be willing to lend their skills in building a set and painting a background for the production. If you are interested, please send an email to Terry Abromitis at tabromitis@atlanta.k12.ga.us. The performance is April 29, 2010. Thanks for your help in making this drama production outstanding!

Class Placement Input for 2010-2011 –

With Spring's arrival, thoughts begin to turn to summer and even to class placement for students for next year. During this time, teachers are being asked for recommendations and input. 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 from 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.

Please check Lost and Found –

The collection of lost coats and sweaters continues to increase in our lost and found bin. Please monitor this closely. Items not claimed will be donated to charity.

Verification of Residency -

As you are aware, the Atlanta Public Schools is reviewing school attendance zones to ensure optimum utilization of facilities on the north side of the city. Therefore, we need to confirm the current primary, bona fide residence address for all our students at our school. It is time for all families enrolled at Sarah Smith to prove residency again.

In order to attend Sarah Smith, the child must reside on the property within our attendance zone boundaries. A letter stating the required documents came home last month in your child's bookbag. Please follow the requirements and provide the documents on or before May 1, 2010. If you have more than one child attending Sarah Smith, please note each child's name on the documents and we will make copies for each child's file. Copies will be made and the original documents returned to you. If you have a fifth grader who will be attending Sutton Middle School, information on residence requirements are forthcoming. For questions, contact Kathy Johnson, office assistant at the Intermediate Campus, at 404-802-3880.

Congratulations to...

- Neil Thompson and the 5th Grade Students for an outstanding musical production on March 17-18.
- Dhruv Chincholikar for winning First Place in the Atlanta Public Schools One Fair!
- The Sarah Smith Odyssey of the Mind team for winning regionals and advancing to state competition.
- The Future Problem Solvers participants as well as the 5th grade team for receiving 3rd place for their action plan!

**Spring Break
April 5-9, 2010**



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

Si usted necesita una copia de este documento en un idioma otro que el inglés, por favor llame al número siguiente: 404-802-7580. Interpretaciones/traducción y otros servicios relacionados están disponibles bajo petición. También usted puede contactar Ms. Lina Zalewski, Sarah Smith Elementary ESOL teacher, at (404) 802-3850 or email at: zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

Turkish:

Bu dokumentasyonun kopyasını başka bir dilde ihtiyacınız varsa lütfen bu numarayı arayın: 404-802-7580. Tercümanlık ve başka tür ihtiyaçlarınız burada halledebilirsiniz. Veya direkman Kişisel Ms. Lina Zalewski, Sarah Smith Elementary ESOL Teacher at (404) 802-3850 or email at: zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

Chinese

如果您需要一份此文件的外语（非英语）翻译，请致电：404-802-7580

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.