



May 19, 2010

From the Principal's Desk –

Last spring, a very difficult decision was made...that of changing the very successful Time Travelers program, which had been in place for many years, to something more current and appropriate for our current situation. The International Travelers Program was born with a vision of international exposure of cultures and countries from around the world. Our first stop was Japan. Last week, our students "visited" Japan and the experiences they encountered created such excitement. It far outshined the vision set forth last spring. The co-chairs of the parent volunteer committee which planned and organized the week were Elizabeth Dowlen and Lisa Hermann. Never will there be enough words to thank these two volunteer mothers as well as the many others who helped make last week so special for our students. Your time and commitment to the International Travelers program is greatly appreciated. You've set the standard of future travels very high, but the students came away with such great exposure and learning, we know that the future "visits" will be so very exciting. Our next stop...Italy. Be sure to sign up to be a part of the International Travelers planning team. Ciao!

Did you see the new Peace Poles located at each of our campuses? The Peace Poles were dedicated as a part of the International Travelers parade last Friday and represent our school's commitment to promoting peace in our school, community, and world. Thanks to Jane Zoellick for her leadership in making our Peace Pole dedication possible. Thanks, also, to Michael Ladisic and Mike O'Sullivan for their help in erecting the poles at both campuses. This important symbol of peace will serve as a reminder each time we see it.

I would like to take this opportunity to express to all the parents, staff, and students of Sarah Smith my deepest appreciation for such a successful year. So many honors and recognitions came our way this year and we are very proud to be a part of such a wonderful school.

Thank you to Angie Chesin and Katherine Reed for leading a very successful and effective PTA. This has been a great year for our school community!

Thanks to Allison O'Sullivan, Lisa Dwyer, and the entire Foundation board for such a successful beginning. The Foundation will be around for many years to come, supporting the school programs and activities in such positive ways. We could not offer the programs we do without Foundation support.

Thank you to Brad Muckenfuss, Hillary Yarmowich, and Sue Ellis. These representatives on the Smith School Council have served for two years and their term has come to an end. I sincerely appreciate their hard work and their support of the school.

Congratulations to Bobbie Martin on her retirement.

I wish the very best to Jaime Wolfe, Lina Zalewski, Cliff Chestnutt, Erika Embry, Ashley Elliot, and Kara Pridgen as they move into new chapters of their lives. Thanks to them for all they have done to impact the lives of our students.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer! Celebration of Learning will be Friday, August 6, at the Intermediate Campus from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. and at the Primary Campus from 10:00-11:30 a.m. School starts on Monday, August 9, 2010.

Reminders –

- ✓ Moving? To help balance class placement for next year, please let us know as soon as possible if your child will not be returning to Smith in the fall.
- ✓ If your child has any medication at school, please pick it up by Tuesday, May 25.
- ✓ Return all library books and other school property.
- ✓ Send in a stamped, self-addressed envelope in order for your child's report card to be mailed to you.
- ✓ Be sure you have provided the school with all proof of residency documents in order for the student to be placed on a class roster in the fall.
- ✓ Mark your calendars for the Celebration of Learning events on Friday, August 6. See times above.
- ✓ First Day of school, Monday, August 9, 2010.

PLEASE check Lost and Found –

Has your child misplaced a jacket, lunchbox, sweater, or other clothing item? The Lost and Found bins are full. Please come by and check for items that may belong to your child. All items remaining at the close of school will be donated to a charity.

Good Bye to our “Seniors” –

One of the most exciting times in a child’s life is the completion of elementary school. This is a milestone occasion and our students deserve a special program marking this event. On Tuesday, May 25, at 11:00 a.m., we will be holding the promotional exercises for our fifth grade students. A reception will follow the ceremony. The final “farewell walk” will also be arranged as the students walk the halls of Sarah Smith Elementary for the last time. During this memorable experience, the students of kindergarten through fourth grade will be lining the hallways with signs and banners wishing our fifth grade students the best in middle school. The farewell walk will begin around 11:45 a.m. This will be a very special day for “history-making” group of students!

Summer Reading Lists –

The summer reading lists for all grades will be posted on the school’s website this year. Please check the website for recommendations made by the teachers. Also, encourage your child to use Junior Great Book strategies and hold JGB book discussions with pieces of literature being read in the summer. Have them tell you about JGB inquiry.

CRCT Test results -

Student CRCT Scores have not arrived as of the time the newsletter is being printed. If they arrive prior to the mailing of the report cards, we will try to make sure the scores are included. If not, I will ask that an email blast be sent to parents notifying you of the arrival of the scores. Then you would be able to drop by the Intermediate Campus office between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and pick up your child’s scores. The preliminary results look good!

Summer Renovations To Take Place at the Primary Campus –

The Primary Campus will be undergoing some major renovations this summer. The campus will be closed June 1 until mid-to-late July for HVAC and flooring replacements. The office at the Intermediate Campus will be open all summer. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. daily.

School Council Parent Representative –

Lisa Dwyer was elected to serve a two-year term replacing Hillary Yarmowich. Hillary has served the last two years and has done a fantastic job!

Your Input is Appreciated –

Thank you to all who responded to the survey request sponsored by the local School Council. Much good information was collected and will be analyzed. The second of three surveys will be out to you in late fall. Your time and input is greatly appreciated as we continue to try to make Sarah Smith Elementary the best school possible.

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

This Sunday, May 23, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. at the Primary Campus auditorium, will be the retirement reception for Bobbie Martin. You are invited to come by and wish Ms. Martin well on her retirement. If you are aware of former students and families who may know Ms. Martin, please let them know of this event. Join us on this very special occasion as we acknowledge a wonderful employee who will be missed!

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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Chinese

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