

August 2009

## Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer vacation. Our children and teachers are off to a great start and are very excited to be back at school.

The PTA has been hard at work planning activities, events, and programs to make your children's elementary experience the best it can be. We truly appreciate the hard work, dedication and support of the countless volunteers who work so hard to make Sarah R. Smith the wonderful school community it is. Please take a moment to read this newsletter and discover all the exciting things happening at SRS.

There are many ways to get involved - both inside the classroom and out, at the school and in our community, during the day and at night. The PTA appreciates everyone's time and talents. Please look for opportunities to get involved in your child's educational experience through the Star Charts posted during the Grade Level Orientations and by joining the PTA. **Sarah Smith needs you!**

Angie Chesin and Katherine Reed, PTA Co-Presidents



### PTA Meeting

Make plans to attend the first PTA meeting of the year on Tuesday, August 18 at 7pm at the Main Campus. At this meeting there will be updates from the PTA, SSEF, School Council and Dr. Baker will introduce the faculty and staff. Following the program, you will have the opportunity to meet with the "Specials" teachers.

### Grade Level Orientations

In an effort to provide ample time for teachers and parents to discuss the classroom experience, curriculum and answer questions, each grade level will host individual orientations (See **Mark Your Calendar** for dates and times). Challenge teachers (grades 2-5) will meet with parents after the respective grade level orientation. Orientations will take place at the Main Campus for grades 1-5, and at the Annex for parents of kindergarteners. This is an open house for parents and teachers - if at all possible, please do not bring children.

### New Parent Coffee

Thursday, August 20 at 9:15am, Main Campus Auditorium. Dr. Baker will speak to new parents, introduce members of the administration, representatives from the PTA and Sarah Smith Education Foundation. Dr Baker will also be available to answer questions. A light breakfast will be served. Questions: Helen Hanahan, [helen70@comcast.net](mailto:helen70@comcast.net) or Lisa Hermann, [hermannl@yahoo.com](mailto:hermannl@yahoo.com)



## Mark Your Calendar

### August 18

- Room Parent Meeting, 9am
- PTA Meeting, 7pm

### August 19

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, 6:30pm
- School Night for Scouting, 6:30pm

### August 20

- New Parent Coffee, 9:15am
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Orientation, 6:30pm

### August 24

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, 6:30pm
- Girl Scout Meeting, 7pm

### August 25

- PTA Committee Chair Orientation, 9am
- Kindergarten Orientation, 6:30pm

### August 26

- Early Release, 11:30am dismissal
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Orientation, 6:30pm

### August 27

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Orientation, 6:30pm

### September 3

- School Tour, 9:30am

### September 7

- Labor Day Holiday

### September 15

- Reflections Volunteer Meeting, 9am

Save the Date!  
**Parent Teacher Social**

Thursday, Sept 17  
6:30 pm

**MAGGIANO'S**  
LITTLE ITALY

Details to follow...

# Support Sarah Smith



## SSEF Annual Campaign

The Sarah Smith Education Foundation (SSEF) needs your support! The SSEF is a not-for-profit organization that helps ensure our children receive a high caliber education offered by some of the most highly skilled educators in Georgia. The SSEF funds programs that go above-and-beyond the standard APS curriculum, making our school special. Just some of these include purchase of all Junior Great Books reading program materials, Everyday Math supplemental materials, teacher/staff training, and supporting the IB program. Please click on the youtube link below or visit youtube and search "Sarah Smith Education Foundation 2009." You'll be receiving more information about the Annual Campaign in the weeks to come.

Link to video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFmSF0XC\\_nQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFmSF0XC_nQ)

**SSEF 2009-2010 Annual Campaign Co-Chairs:** Sherron and Andy Berg, Ashley and Mark Preisinger

## SSEF 2009-2010 Board Members

Allison O'Sullivan (Chairman), Lisa Dwyer (President), Amy Henning (Vice Chairman), Brigitte Peck (Vice President), Stephanie Midkiff (Communications), Susie Stovin (Secretary), Jennifer and Glen Mitchell (Treasurers), Nicole Bogard (At-large), Beth Hoffman (At-large), Maggie Johns (Curriculum Liaison), Dr. Sid Baker (Principal), Abby McKinnon (Instructional Specialist)

## Sarah Smith PTA Needs YOU!

There is no better way to know what is happening at your child's school than by joining the Sarah Smith PTA! Our goal is 100% parent and teacher participation/membership! The PTA works hard to organize, fund and support extracurricular activities and programs to ensure that all Sarah Smith students have the best possible elementary school experience.

Becoming a member of the PTA includes membership to the GA and National PTA. In addition, members will receive a packet that includes the school directory, a PTA car decal, and a "Joey" card (free kid's meal) from Outback Steakhouse. These proceeds also help fund events like Bingo, Skate, and Movie nights. To join, simply complete the form (in the folder you received at COL), attach your payment of \$30, and return via your child's book bag. Checks should be made payable to Sarah Smith PTA. Join today! Questions? contact Cynthia Harris at [mrwade8@comcast.net](mailto:mrwade8@comcast.net)



Are you planning on attending the Atlanta Ballet's Nutcracker this year? If so, purchase your special price tickets **before September 30<sup>th</sup>** and earn 20% back for Sarah Smith. You must purchase tickets via the direct link found on the home page of the school website, [www.sarahsmithelementary.com](http://www.sarahsmithelementary.com) Questions: Contact Stacey Barnes, [staceyswardbarnes@mac.com](mailto:staceyswardbarnes@mac.com)

## Here are 3 simple ways to earn money for SRS this year:



1. Swipe your **Publix Key Chain Card** at any local Publix when you shop for groceries. Cards will be distributed this week.



2. Clip and save **BoxTops for Education**. The next BoxTop Bonanza collection day is September 23<sup>rd</sup>



3. **Georgia Natural Gas:** Register your new or existing account at [www.trueblueschools.com](http://www.trueblueschools.com)

Want to learn more? Please read the Retail Bonus flyer going home this week for a full description of the SRS Retail Bonus program. Questions? Contact Cheryl Niekamp, [niekamp@comcast.net](mailto:niekamp@comcast.net).

## Dine-In Cash Back

Earn \$\$ for SRS just by going out to dinner!

Aug 19 – Domino's  
Aug 26 – Outback

Check out the PTA/SSEF section of the website for all the details and full restaurant calendar





### Stay Informed about all things Sarah Smith:

- Read the notes, flyers and letters sent home in your child's homework folder every day
- Visit your child's teacher website (links found in the Faculty/Staff section of the website)
- Sign up to receive email blasts at [SarahSmithElementary.com](http://SarahSmithElementary.com)
- Read the Super Star Newsletter which is posted to the website each month (hard copy sent home in August). A direct link to the newsletter will be sent via email blast.
- Read Dr Baker's monthly newsletter sent home in your child's homework folder
- Visit [SarahSmithElementary.com](http://SarahSmithElementary.com) **Important note:** A new school website is in development! Funded by the PTA and SSEF, the new site will feature improved navigation and allow us to manage and update content more efficiently. We know how important it is for families to quickly and easily obtain information about everything that is going on at SRS. The new and improved website should launch in late October. Stay tuned for more details...

## Volunteers Needed at the Main Campus!

### Welcome Desk

The Sarah Smith Welcome Desk is the first stop for anyone who is entering the school. The purpose of the Welcome desk is to be a support system to the front office staff and help with tasks such as answering phones, taking messages, signing in guests, and delivering forgotten lunches and homework. It also serves as a safety measure to prevent anyone from entering the school that doesn't belong there. There are three shifts to staff at the desk: 7:55-10am, 10am-12:15pm, and 12:15-2:15pm. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Lisa Glazman at 404-812-0305 or Sarah Callaghan at 404-256-2114.

### School Store

Tuesday's and Friday's from 7:30am-8:00am. Anyone interested can either e-mail Janis Day at [janisday@bellsouth.net](mailto:janisday@bellsouth.net) or Shilpa Patel at [shilpa0202@comcast.net](mailto:shilpa0202@comcast.net).

**Reflections Arts Competition:** Students - reveal your inner artist! Reflections is an arts competition sponsored by the PTA. Winning entries at the school level proceed to the Council level, and those winners will move through State and National competitions. The Sarah Smith 2009 competition will ask for submissions in only three categories: Visual Arts, Photography, and Literature. Detailed information will be presented in classrooms the week of September 21, and the due date for all entries is Wednesday, October 21. Please mark your calendars also for the Artists' Reception and Awards Ceremony on October 29 for Reflections participants and their families. Details still to come about a special shopping day at Binders! **Class Representative meeting is September 15 at 9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. Reps are still needed in every grade level for almost every teacher.**

Need more information? Contact Mary Virginia Coffman at 404-467-4167, [mvcoffman@mindspring.com](mailto:mvcoffman@mindspring.com) or Mary Kelly Cunningham at 404-948-1209, [marykellycunningham@hotmail.com](mailto:marykellycunningham@hotmail.com).

## Join us for a Labor Day Family Picnic at Chastain Park!



**Who:** Slow Food Atlanta & Chastain Conservancy invite families from the six feeder elementary schools, Sutton Middle School, and North Atlanta High School

**Why:** To Build Community and Raise Awareness about opportunities to improve nutrition for our children in Atlanta Public Schools by encouraging Congress to pass a better Child Nutrition Act.

**When:** Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2009, from 11:30 – 1:30

**Where:** Chastain Park, next to the American Legion Hall (bottom of the park on Powers Ferry Rd)

**What else:** Carpooling and walking are *strongly encouraged*. Limited parking available at the American Legion, 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served; Additional parking at the Red Lot on Powers Ferry (shuttles will be available; tips appreciated) BYOB (Bring Your Own **Blanket** - alcohol not permitted)

Contact: Stacey Dougan ([stacey.dougan@gmail.com](mailto:stacey.dougan@gmail.com))

**Sarah Smith After School Programs** Interested in after school childcare or extracurricular activities?  
Log onto: [www.smithafterschool.com](http://www.smithafterschool.com) Contact: Kim Bishop, 404.433.6126



An International  
Baccalaureate  
World School

# 2009-2010 Super Star Supporters



Our Superstar Supporters provide financial support to many areas of our PTA or Sarah Smith Education Foundation budget. Please thank them for the generous support of our children, teachers, & programs.

## Five Star: \$2500 - \$4999 (Partners in Education)

Ed Castro Landscape - [www.edcastro.com](http://www.edcastro.com)  
Publix at Chastain Square - [www.publix.com](http://www.publix.com)

## Four Star: \$1000 - \$2499 (Partners in Education)

Batteries Plus	Ethridge & Miller, CPA	Outback Steakhouse
Binders Art Supplies and Frames	Goldberg's Bagel Co.	The Gym at Peachtree Presbyterian
Castle Painting	Learning Express	Sikes Paper Company
Chick-Fil-A at Chastain Square	Nancy G's Café & Bistro	<a href="http://www.exist2inspireproductions.com">www.exist2inspireproductions.com</a>
Diane Douglass Photography	Northside Hospital	Yogurberry
Domino's Pizza – Buckhead		

If you know of a business who would like to partner with Sarah Smith or want more information about our Super Star Supporters program, contact Debbie Shores, [debbie\\_shores@yahoo.com](mailto:debbie_shores@yahoo.com).

## Contact Us



### Main Campus

Principal: Dr. Sidney Baker  
370 Old Ivy Road, Atlanta, GA 30342  
404.802.3850 fax: 404.842.3046

### Kindergarten Annex

Administrator: Tommy Usher  
4100 Roswell Rd, Atlanta, GA 30342  
404.256.3317



**PTA Co-Presidents:** Angie Chesin and Katherine Reed  
**SSEF Chairman:** Allison O'Sullivan **SSEF President:** Lisa Dwyer

Newsletter submissions: Kim Patton, [kimspencerpatton@comcast.net](mailto:kimspencerpatton@comcast.net)

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