



February 24, 2010

## ***From the Principal's Desk –***

Our annual “three-way conferences” with parents, students, and teachers will be held between March 15 and March 26. During three-way conferences, the student, the parent and the teacher meet to discuss the child’s learning. Everyone has a role to play in the conference. The child demonstrates what they know as he/she shares accomplishments. The parents find out about their child’s learning, have opportunities to ask questions and express ideas, and demonstrate support for their child’s learning at school and at home. The teacher serves as a facilitator and supports the child and the parents by clarifying, elaborating, and responding to specific questions. Together is better when teachers see the parents with their child, and the parents see their child with the teacher. This interaction is so important as the child has the most significant adults in his/her life showing interest in his/her learning and making commitments to support him/her. Conference appointments will be coming home in a letter on Monday, March 8. Please return your confirmation to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

## ***Kindergarten Observations and New Student Registration –***

The 2010 Kindergarten class observations will begin in March. The classroom visits will be held March 2, March 9, and March 30 with two sessions each day. One is 8:30-9:30 a.m. followed by 9:30 -10:30 a.m. In the interest of our students, observations are by appointment only. Also, we cannot allow children to be included with the observations, as they can be a distraction to our students. Please call 404-802-3850 to make your reservations.

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](http://www.sarahsmithelementary.com) for registration requirements.

## ***Our students are amazing mathematicians –***

We were recently contacted by the Vice-President of the company who provides First In Math. She indicated that, as of February 12, 2010, our students have cumulatively solved over 1 million math problems on the First In Math website so far this school year. Approximately 1,011,744 math problems have been correctly solved by Sarah Smith students. That averages about 1,460 math problems per student and it’s only February. This is outstanding! Thanks to the Sarah Smith Education Foundation for funding this program for our students. Keep up the good work, kids!

## ***The fifth grade musical is set for March 17 and March 18 –***

Mr. Thompson and the talented fifth grade students will be presenting the annual fifth grade musical March 17 and 18, 7:00 p.m., in the “theater” (gym) at the Intermediate Campus. This year’s musical is entitled “*The Legacy Lives On!*” and will be a very entertaining program celebrating a school’s 58 year history. Look for ticket sales information to come home soon. Join us for the annual musical extravaganza!

## ***What an Amazing Evening –***

Just as expected, the Sarah Smith Education Foundation event last Friday night, “*SuperNova 2010*”, was spectacular! I heard many positive comments about the location, the food, the items up for bid, the band, and yes, even the teacher flash mob dance! I salute Tracey Noble, Elisabeth Pannell, Beth Young, and Erica Carter and the entire event committee for an outstanding job! The event continues to get better and better each year. Well done, Tracey, Elisabeth, Beth, Erica, and everyone who made contributions and bid on the great items. Another successful event and I salute the entire Sarah Smith community for such a wonderful occasion. It was “out of this world!” The students will certainly benefit from the special evening!

## ***Please check Lost and Found –***

The collection of lost coats and sweaters has begun to increase in our lost and found bin. Please monitor this closely. Also, please mark your child’s coats with his/her name in permanent marker. We hope to be able to return any found items to their rightful owners.

## ***Early Release Day is coming –***

Friday, March 12, will be an Early Release Day for students. They will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m., following the same order of dismissal as always. This will allow for Professional Development for the teachers in the afternoon. Please mark your calendars. The Smith After School program will be operating, as usual.

## ***Counselor's Corner from Leigh Mayerson, Guidance Counselor –***

One of our beliefs at Sarah Smith Elementary School is “individuals are unique and valuable and must be treated with equality, dignity, and respect.” To continue to cultivate and support this belief within our school's culture, I am going to begin to plan and implement anti-bias activities so that next school year, our school will receive an official designation as a “No Place for Hate” school. To accomplish this, we have to do two things:

1. Adopt and sign the “No Place for Hate” Promise:
  - I promise to do my best to treat everyone fairly.
  - I promise to do my best to be kind to everyone, even if they are not like me.
  - If I see someone being hurt or bullied, I will tell a teacher.
  - Everyone should be able to feel safe and happy in school.
  - I want our school to be No Place for Hate.
2. Choose and complete a minimum of three projects that align with the mission of No Place for Hate.

## ***Sarah Smith welcomes grandparents and special friends this Friday –***

This Friday is the annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day at Sarah Smith Elementary. We invite grandparents and special friends to come visit our campuses and see our school. The visit will be 8:30 – 9:15 a.m. at the Primary Campus and 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. at the Intermediate Campus. There is no organized program so visitors can sign in and report to the classrooms where special activities have been planned. Thanks to Katie Ferguson and the Grandparents Day Committee for their hard work in planning this special event.

## ***Verification of Residency -***

In order to begin planning for next year, a letter will be coming home to you next week asking your plans for the 2010-2011. Not only will we be asking your school plans for next year, we will also ask that you provide documented proof of residency to the school. 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 will be coming home next week 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.

## ***Spring School Picture Day is coming –***

The date for spring pictures is Wednesday, March 10. This is the time we take individual as well as class pictures. More information will be sent home soon. Please be on the lookout for school picture information.

## ***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](mailto: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](mailto: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 burda halledebilirsiniz. Veya direkman Kişisel Ms. Lina Zalewski, Sarah Smith Elementary ESOL Teacher at (404) 802-3850 or email at: [zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto: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](mailto:zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us).