

THE ANCHOR



The vision of Sarah Smith Elementary is a community where learning is a passion, excellence is achieved, and dreams are realized.

An International Baccalaureate World School

January 27, 2010

From the Principal's Desk –

Happy New Year! 2010 is off to a great start at Sarah Smith Elementary School. We are now settled (for the most part) into the new Intermediate Campus. I want to thank everyone for their help, patience, and understanding during the move and as we establish routines and procedures for the new location. The students are very proud of the new building and are helping to take care of it, right from the start. The teachers are enjoying their classrooms and the spaces at both campuses. The Primary Campus is also settled in. The kindergarten students transitioned well and the teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents did a great job of making the move smooth and easy for the students. There will be challenges ahead as we make this “two campus” structure the best it can be. There are so many opportunities for us to seize with this division. And, we look forward to making the experience for the students exciting and educational.

Haiti is a country that has entered the minds of people around the world. Events like this have ways of uniting people. I must say that the Sarah Smith community, once again, has truly impressed me with the outreach it gives toward those in need.

Students, parents, and staff members alike have created projects and activities for the earthquake relief efforts. The final totals are not in yet, but so far, our students have raised over \$ 2,000.00. Organizations like CARE and Red Cross appreciate such support! Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Beta Club collection effort. We want to keep the people of Haiti in our thoughts during this devastating time.

Wow! This has been an incredible show of our IB attitudes, particularly compassion.

The Japan America Society of Georgia Junior Ambassadors Program –

This year, our International Travelers Program will be taking our students to Japan. Our campuses will become representative of Japan with activities and events in May. An opportunity has come our way for students who are 10 and 11 years old. The 22nd annual Asian-Pacific Children's Conference will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, July 16-27. The Japan America Society of Georgia will be selecting four students from Georgia to join more than 300 other “Junior Ambassadors” from around the world for two weeks of culture and language exchange, home stays, sightseeing, and sporting events. If you are interested in this opportunity for your child, the application form is available at the Intermediate Campus. For more information, contact Dr. Abby McKinnon, Instructional Specialist (404-802-3880). The deadline for submission of the application is February 3, but it's not a difficult process, if interested. Good luck! It would be a great experience for a Sarah Smith student.

Carpool and Safety Reminders –

Your patience is very much appreciated as we have tried to establish safe and orderly procedures for carpool during arrival and dismissal. **PLEASE** clearly display your carpool number on your windshield or on a sign no smaller than 8.5” x 11”. Make the number BOLD and easily read from several car-lengths away. Teach your child his/her carpool number. Even if the teachers on duty know you, your child, and your car, having your carpool number displayed clearly is very important to the process. If you need a carpool number, please contact the school office and we will assign one to you.

At the new Intermediate Campus, it is EXTREMELY important to cross Wieuca Road ONLY at the driveway where the crossing guard is located. Until all the signage and crosswalks have been completed, crossing at the stairway is very dangerous. Please do not cross Wieuca Road anywhere except the driveway entrance where the crossing guard is standing. Also, please do not drop your child off anywhere except in the designated carpool drop area where teachers are on duty to assist. It has been noticed that students are being dropped off in the parking lot and even on Wieuca Road so the parent can avoid the carpool line. This cannot happen. **PLEASE** follow the established procedures in order for the safety of the students to be maintained. The staff on duty will direct you through the carpool lanes and signal when it's safe to load/unload children. Remember: when cars are moving, students aren't. When students are moving, cars aren't. And, buses get priority. The carpool and bus lanes get very busy, as you know. Thank you!

Winners for our school! Congratulations! –

Carson Scholar – Dhruv Chincholikar

Spelling Bee – Molly Sikes

National Geography Bee – Chase Whitlow

Census Jobs Available –

Temporary, part-time jobs that offer good pay with flexible hours are being offered by the U.S. Census Bureau. For more details, call 404-348-2160 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Only Three Weeks Away –

SuperNova 2010, the special event organized by and in support of the Sarah Smith Education Foundation, is only about three weeks away. Remember that this benefit is the main fundraising event of the year. The money raised supports every classroom and every child in our school. The SSEF pays for most of the “above and beyond” academics the school offers. Examples are Junior Great Books, International Travelers, science labs for both campuses, Everyday Math games and manipulatives, and much more! The evening’s theme *SuperNova 2010* indicates a stellar event benefitting the stars of Sarah Smith Elementary, our children. Remember to mark your calendars for February 19, from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. at the Mason Murer Art Gallery. A special thanks to the event chairpersons – Tracy Noble, Elizabeth Pannell, Erica Carter, and Beth Young. They are doing an outstanding job! Thanks, also to all the corporate sponsors of the evening. This special event will be the best ever! Invitations went home last week. Replies are due back February 5. It will be an evening of fun for the students of Sarah Smith. Please plan to attend.

Counselor’s Corner from Leigh Mayerson, Guidance Counselor –

There are many ways parents can encourage their children to follow the IB Attitude and Learner Profile characteristics such as showing care and empathy, at this time, to the people of Haiti:

1. Customers may donate by adding to their grocery totals at Publix and Kroger.
2. Text HAITI to “90999” and a donation of \$10.00 will be given automatically to the Red Cross to help with relief efforts. This will be charged to your cell phone bill.
3. The Atlanta-based food bank, Hosea Feed the Hungry, will deliver non-perishable food, clothes, vitamins, pain relievers, and antibiotic cream to Savannah’s Christian Revival Center, which hosts monthly mission trips to Haiti. (404) 755-3353
4. The organization, Hope for Haiti, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of Haiti, particularly children, is accepting donations. (239) 434-7183
5. The Decatur non-profit organization, Medshare International, is collecting medical supplies and equipment from individuals at their Decatur warehouse for Haiti. (770) 882-6840
6. UNICEF: helps children in humanitarian crisis. (212) 326-7000
7. CARE: Atlanta-based humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. (800)422-7385
8. Habitat for Humanity International: Georgia-based organization has been providing housing solutions in Haiti for 26 years. (800) 422-4828

February 1-5 is National School Counselors Week. All parents of Sarah Smith students are invited to celebrate this week with Mr. Mayerson at the Primary Campus on Thursday, February 4, from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Please drop by for coffee and light refreshments and learn about the Guidance and Counseling Program.

Infinite Campus Gradebook Now Available to Parents –

Now, in addition to your child’s attendance, you can view his/her grades as well. The Student Grade Book via the Parent Portal is now available to parents.

When parents log into the CPP, they will have access to a web link which provides step-by-step instructions for navigating to student grades. Teachers will update their gradebooks by Wednesday of each week.

If you did not receive your log-in credentials during your child’s grade level orientation in the fall, please come by the Primary Campus and sign for them.

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 dokümantasyonun 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.