



**November 24, 2009**

## ***From the Principal's Desk –***

With Thanksgiving this week, it's that time of year again when everyone is talking about those things for which we should be thankful. Writers write about it and moms and dads lecture their children on it.

Think about the joys and blessings in our lives. Let's come together as families and friends to express our appreciation. In humility, let us be grateful for our accomplishments and remember our children as special blessings.

Sometimes children forget to be thankful for the people and things in their lives. You can help them remember – and give them some writing practice – with a "thank-you bank."

First, have each child make the "bank" by decorating a small box. Explain that it will be a wonderful gift for special people in their lives. Ask them to think about things that they appreciate about the people they choose.

Over the next week, have your child write short thank-you notes on slips of paper and deposit them in the "bank." For example, "Thank you, Dad, for taking me to the ball game last Saturday."

The "bank" pays dividends that can't be measured in dollars! So, during this Thanksgiving season, encourage gratitude and build appreciation for the wonderful lives we have.

I want to thank you for sharing a part of your family with us. Your child has become an important part of the Sarah Smith family. On behalf of our staff, I extend a "**Happy Thanksgiving**" greeting to you. I thank you for your encouragement in providing a fine instructional program for the students. Especially, I thank you for guiding, helping, encouraging, and loving your child(ren). Without your involvement, our mission would be a most difficult one to attain. With your continued support, our vision becomes clearer for our kids.

## ***Great Books Atlanta –***

For the first time, the Great Books Foundation will be sponsoring a Great Books weekend featuring Shared Inquiry discussions between teachers and parents. Also included are cultural and educational opportunities to enrich and extend the discussions. The event is being held at the Piedmont Center near the school. As the host school for this event, I hope that many Sarah Smith parents will be able to attend and experience this wonderful opportunity. It will be a great way to see the methods the teachers are using with the students at Sarah Smith to promote shared inquiry discussions. The cost of the event is \$295.00. This includes participation in all Great Books Atlanta activities, books for discussion, a continental breakfast both days, and all tickets.

## ***On With The Show! -***

The Sarah Smith Drama Club proudly presents its Fall, 2009 production of "Fairytale Academy" by Michelle Van Loon. "Fairytale Academy" is a comedy that offers a glimpse into the imagination of Karen Smith, a young daydreamer who finds herself at a training school for fairytale characters. On her journey, the characters she encounters show her the importance of using imagination to find her own character.

Several fourth and fifth grade students have been working hard over the past several months to put on the Sarah Smith Drama Club's production. This is our third season and we are excited to invite all friends and family members in the Sarah Smith community to attend our performance on Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

## ***Science Fair Winners –***

This year's science fair was held on Thursday, November 12, and was one of the largest ever. The following students will be advancing to the Atlanta Public Schools SRT Fair. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ishan Ghosh and James Young, William Butler and Carson Reynolds, and Charlotte Hermann, Patrick Hanahan, and Hollis Midkiff. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Druv Chincholikar.

The students voted on their favorite projects as well. Winning the "Kid's Choice Awards" – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – "Soda and Mentos Car by Pierce Mastrion and Jake Anderson. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – "What Frozen Juice Mixes Taste the Best" by Alyssa Guthrie and Morgan Frankenthal.

### **Essay Winners Named –**

The Fort Peachtree Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently announced the results of their annual essay contest. Bridget Nabors, a fifth grade student in Mr. Montano's class, won first place and will continue on to the state level competition. Catherine Jackson, a fifth grade student in Ms. Payne's class, placed second in the competition. The topic of the essays was – *How you felt the day the "golden spike" was driven at Promontory Point, Utah, celebrating the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.*

Both students wrote the essay as a product to accompany their Junior Great Books story, *The Turquoise Horse*, in Mr. Firesheets' Challenge class in October.

### **Student Council Officers Elected –**

Congratulations to all our student council representatives who ran for President and Vice President of this year's Student Council. We appreciate the effort put into the campaigns and speeches.

Our newly elected President is Alyssa Guthrie and Vice President is Bennett Porson. We look forward to Alyssa and Bennett's leadership of our student council this year.

### **Welcome to New Faculty and Staff Members –**

Sarah Smith Elementary welcomes Margaret Gillogly as the new media specialist for the Primary Campus. Mrs. Gillogly joins us from Brandon Elementary where she served as Media Clerk. Welcome to Sparkle Spence, a PEC paraprofessional working with Mrs. Moore and Ms. Shelton.

### **Intermediate Campus Open House –**

The Sarah Smith Elementary School Intermediate Campus on Wieuca Road is near completion. The projected "move-in" date is Saturday, December 19, 2009. A Campus Open House for the Intermediate Campus as well as the Primary Campus for kindergarten students is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2009. Information will be sent home in December with specific times and directions of the Open House sessions.

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

There are many ways parents can show their children how much they are appreciated. Try the following ten ideas to show your kids how much you love and appreciate them.

- Acknowledge their efforts more than their results.
- Listen to them and repeat back to them what you heard them say.
- Tell them their feelings are okay.
- Find good things about them that are actually true and let them know often.
- Laugh at their jokes.
- Contribute to their collections.
- Hug them frequently but don't force a hug if they don't want one.
- Show up at their concerts, games, and events.
- Apologize when you have done something wrong.
- Thank them when they do nice things for you.

### **Translation Provided –**

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#### **Spanish**

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#### **Chinese**

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