



**October 28, 2009**

## ***From the Principal's Desk –***

Hola! The experience I had in attending the International Baccalaureate World Conference in Seville, Spain, was amazing! The theme of the conference was “*The IB: A Catalyst for Change.*” The speakers, topics, and activities of the conference reflected the fact that the IBO is a dynamic organization with schools all around the world, representing a variety of cultures. All three IB programs were represented.

The conference was an enriching experience. I came away with a better understanding of the need for global awareness of humans throughout the world. The 400 participants from 56 countries showed tremendous skills, experiences and competencies. I was involved in open communication with heads of schools from around the globe. I had individual conversations with Mr. Jeff Beard, IBO Director General; Carol Bellamy, President of the IBO Council of Foundation; and, Mr. Anthony Flatley, the Chair of the International Heads Representation Committee. They are aware of Sarah Smith Elementary and Atlanta Public Schools and our work as an IB school. From the conference, I also was reminded of the special reasons of why IB is so important to schools throughout the world, including: it's international and values-driven, has a quality continuum, is independent and student-centered, and encourages partnerships among parents and communities throughout the world.

The questions were asked: When referring to the employment requirements today...a high school diploma isn't as important anymore as it once was...everybody has one. Now what? We must get more. So what knowledge, dispositions, and skills are global? We, at Sarah Smith, are in pursuit of the answer to these questions as are other schools involved with IB. We want the knowledge to be deep, the dispositions to be truth-directed, and the skills to be current. We want our students to have full access to global knowledge. After all, the world is a small place today.

A quote taken from one of the speakers: “The overarching goal of a teacher is to light intellectual fires, to make the world of learning and ideas interesting and self-propelling; that is, to engender in students the desire to know more.” (Sarason).

With Karen Evans, principal of Brandon Elementary, I proudly presented one of the break-out sessions. The title of the presentation was “Changing a PYP school's culture through international-mindedness.” I hope to present to our faculty and the parents and share the work with you.

I would like to thank Sarah Smith Education Foundation for supporting my effort to attend the IB World Conference. It was a wonderful experience and I proudly represented Sarah Smith Elementary School on the international stage.

## ***Northside Neighborhoods Unite to Celebrate Atlanta Public School Success -***

APS is kicking off a series of neighborhood celebrations across the city, beginning with the northside schools, including Sarah Smith, Sutton Middle School, and North Atlanta High School. The first APS Neighborhood Celebration takes place **Saturday, November 21, 2:00 p.m., at North Atlanta High School.** Themed “All for All. One by One”, the celebration is part pep rally, part open house, and will include student performances, a “Parade of Schools”, school displays, a canned food drive, and even a few surprises. The event is free.

Tell you friends and neighbors that it's time to take a look at Atlanta Public Schools. Parents, prospective students, realtors, and school, civic, and business partners from the northside community are invited to experience what is happening at their neighborhood schools. Please plan to join us!

## ***Counselor's Corner from Leigh Mayerson -***

We are celebrating National Red Ribbon Week at Sarah Smith this week. The Red Ribbon Week campaign began as an effort to honor federal drug enforcement agent, Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who was killed in the line of duty in 1985 while working undercover investigating drug traffickers. In honor of his memory, friend began to wear red satin badges. Georgia has participated in a Red Ribbon Campaign since 1987. At Sarah Smith, we are off to an early start communicating to our students the ill effects of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs. This will help when faced with tough choices in the future. Along with wearing red ribbons, our largest activity to celebrate Red Ribbon Week is that our students will be planting red tulip bulbs, one for every student, to serve as a reminder of the hope that clean lives brings them. As the flowers bloom each spring, we will be reminded of the pledges we made this week during Red Ribbon Week.

## ***Who, What, WEAR, When and Why!! – The Physical Education Staff -***

Who: All Sarah Smith Elementary students, parents, and guardians

What: In Physical Education, SAFETY must come first, and for this reason, the moment has arrived. Footwear that is safe and appropriate for the demands placed on growing feet along with the demands that movement alone creates, should be attended to...all in relationship to SAFETY for all students.

WEAR: We are saying NO to the wearing of CROCS, flip flops, sandals, boots, and dress shoes for Physical Education classes in K-5.

When: To begin immediately.

Why: We have experienced, so far this year, broken bones, sprains, strains, blisters, bruises, lost and broken toe nails, flying footwear, etc. Please join us in our efforts and many thanks for your contributions.

## ***Spirit Day is Friday –***

Friday is this month's School Spirit Day. To acknowledge the holiday of Halloween, everyone is encouraged to wear orange and black (at the main campus). At the kindergarten campus, our students are invited to wear their costumes.

## ***Science and Social Studies Fairs Information –***

The Science and Social Studies Fairs are almost here. It's time for our students to show off their curiosity of the world and knowledge of science and world events. All fourth grade students must enter a project into one of the fairs this year. Third Grade and Fifth Grade students may enter the fairs if they choose to participate. Three projects will be chosen from each grade level to move on to the city and state competitions. Please refer to the Sarah Smith Fairs Handouts for more details. Projects are due in the gym on November 11. They will be judged on November 12, and viewing of the projects will be November 13. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Petrello, science specialist, at [kpetrello@atlantapublicschools.us](mailto:kpetrello@atlantapublicschools.us). Good luck to all!

## ***Reminders –***

Students are out of school on Tuesday, November 3, for a teacher professional development/workday.

Thanksgiving holidays are Wednesday, November 25, through Friday, November 27, 2009.

Read-A-Thon is November 4 – 18, 2009.

Book Fair is November 16 – 20.

Fidelity Bank Lion's Club Savings Account will be here 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. November 6 and November 20.

Science and Social Studies Fair are November 11 – 13, 2009.

## ***Walking For a Good Cause -***

On Sunday, October 18, Sarah Smith faculty, staff, parents, and students walked together in the AIDS Walk. Our goal was to raise at least \$500.00. To let you know, our school raised a total of \$1,038.00. Outstanding! Thank you for supporting the efforts! Thanks, also to Chaundra Yarbrough who served as our team captain. We sincerely appreciate your support!

## ***Translation Provided –***

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