

# 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

## ***From the Principal's Desk –***

Another exciting year at Sarah Smith Elementary has begun! I would like to thank all the parent volunteers who helped get the year started. All of you mean so much to us and your assistance with everything from Celebration of Learning to classrooms is very much appreciated!

The first weeks of the Kindergarten Campus have been nothing less than exciting! Tommy Usher has worked extremely hard as Program Administrator to make sure the students and teachers are cared for. The teachers and paraprofessionals are showing the new students all about “big school.” At the main campus, it seems we’ve been in school for months. The students and teachers are hard at work teaching and learning. Dr. Hamilton, Dr. McKinnon, Mrs. Harron, Mr. Johnston, and the entire faculty and staff have worked hard to make smooth the bumps along the way. Hats off to everyone!

Please remember to support the PTA and the Sarah Smith Education Foundation. Your children benefit tremendously from the efforts of these two organizations.

Our school continues to grow! We have a student enrollment of 931. But, even with the increased enrollment, quality instruction is our number one goal. We will continue to strive for the standards of excellence you expect.

The new campus at 4141 Wieuca is well underway. Excitement is growing as we see our new Intermediate Campus (for grades 3-5) take shape. We are told we’re ahead of schedule and look forward to moving into the space in December. More information to come!

I want to thank Tracie White, Elizabeth Thomason, and all the volunteers who assisted with our bus routes during the first week of school. Things are moving smoothly now and this would not have happened without their support and input. Millions of thanks!

I hope that you found the grade level orientation sessions helpful and informative. If you have ways that we could make this important event better, please feel free to offer them. Your input is appreciated.

We welcome our new families to Sarah Smith Elementary. To those who have joined us for the first time this year, we hope you find this place to be as special as the rest of us do and that you will support us and get involved with us. You are a valuable member of our “family”. Welcome aboard!

Do you like the new newsletter mast? The newsletter is now called “The Anchor” and a special thanks to Elizabeth Sheehan for designing it. She incorporated our new school logo and it looks GREAT! Thanks, Elizabeth!

## ***Campus Parent Portal Credentials –***

Beginning this year, you can keep track of your child’s class schedule and attendance records by accessing the Campus Portal for Parents (CCP). Additionally, CCP enables you to verify and update household information, including your email address, home address and telephone numbers. All APS parents and/or guardians with students in grades K-12 have access to the tool.

Many of you received your credentials during your grade level orientation, and, if you didn’t, please drop by the school and sign for your credentials. This will be a great resource for you to receive notices from APS and from Sarah Smith as well.

## ***Sarah Smith Elementary Recognized Internationally –***

In the 2009-2010 IB Sourcebook, the resource manual for all International Baccalaureate schools worldwide, Sarah Smith Elementary is featured. The article discusses the implementation schoolwide of the Junior Great Books program at our school. A copy of the article can be found on our website at [www.sarahsmithelementary.com](http://www.sarahsmithelementary.com).

## ***Time for Lunch Eat-In: Join us for a Labor Day Family Picnic at Chastain Park***

Slow Food Atlanta and the Chastain Conservancy invite families from the six feeder elementary schools, Sutton Middle, and North Atlanta High to Chastain Park, on Monday, September 7, from 11:00 – 2:00 for a family picnic. The goal is to build community and raise awareness about opportunities to provide healthier school lunches and innovative school programs for our children through the passage of a better Child Nutrition Act. For more information, contact Stacey Dougan at [stacey.dougan@gmail.com](mailto:stacey.dougan@gmail.com).

### ***Walking to School –***

We are very happy to see parents walking their children to and from school each day. This is a sign of a true neighborhood school. But, to remind you of the safety expectations revolving around this, you are asked to retrieve your child from the auditorium after the walkers have been dismissed. You should not retrieve a child from the classroom or hallway as this creates a very dangerous situation for us as well as an interruption for the teachers in charge. Remember that dismissal is very busy and students are boarding buses, preparing for carpool, and reporting for the after school program, all within a matter of minutes. Your help is needed in allowing the walkers to remain supervised by reporting to the auditorium to pick them up. That way, we know the right person picked up the child at the end of the day. Safety comes first and your help is needed and appreciated. (PLEASE display your carpool number **large and bold** on your front windshield or dashboard. It helps the line move quicker and smoother. Make sure your child knows his/her number. THANKS!)

### ***From Jason Johnston, IB Coordinator –***

Hello and welcome back to an exciting year. Sarah Smith will be hosting a team of three IB volunteers on September 21 and 22. The team will be evaluating our progress in implementing the Primary Years Program as an IB World School. This marks a very important milestone in our school's history.

As part of the evaluation, Sarah Smith conducted a self-study over the past year. Faculty, staff, and parents were participants in this process. The result of the self-study is located on the website (<http://teacherweb.com/GA/SarahSmith/johnston/>) Please visit so you can see our progress and five-year action plan for implementing the PYP. Check often on the website for other information pertaining to IB and our work.

### ***Mark Your Calendars – September Events***

September 9 – Mid-quarter progress reports go home

September 10 – ESOL Parent Meeting, 8:15 a.m., Media Center

September 11 – Sutton Middle School “Blues and BBQ”

September 17 – Sarah Smith Teacher/Parent Social at Maggiano's

September 18 – Family Bingo Night

September 21-22 – IB Evaluation Visit

September 23 – Box Tops for Education Bonanza (Save 'em)

September 23 – Smith School Council

September 25 – School Spirit Day

September 25 – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Movie Night, 7:00 p.m., Gym

September 25 – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Skate Night, 6:30 p.m., Peachtree Presbyterian Church

### ***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) 802-3860 or email at: [zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us)

#### **Spanish**

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#### **Turkish:**

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#### **Chinese**

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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) 802-3860 or email at: [zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:zalewskil@atlanta.k12.ga.us).