



From the Principal's Desk –

A friend of mine shared this story with me and I wanted to pass it along to you.

As one reflects upon the fall season, one could compare the growing of pumpkins to raising children. Conditions have to be "just right" in that both need attention and care throughout the growth period. Lots of caring must be in the process for both so that growth is indeed possible.

Pumpkins and children are exposed to a number of difficulties. The weather isn't always ideal just as growing up isn't always easy. There are constant challenges along the way. Both, in their early stages, are dependent upon others for their very survival. Without weeding, the pumpkins could be overrun by weeds, while without parental guidance and help, children don't learn values and traditions that will subsequently help them through life's difficult times.

Finally, pumpkins and children come in all shapes and sizes. Some are small, some are big, and many are just in-between. Some have their flaws and shortcomings, but the most amazing thing is that each one is valuable. What we can learn from this whole experience is that no matter the size, shape, or condition of the pumpkin or child, each one is valued.

I am very excited to represent Sarah Smith Elementary and Atlanta Public Schools at the 2009 International Baccalaureate World Conference in Seville, Spain, October 9-16, 2009. I will be presenting at the conference, along with Karen Evans of Brandon Elementary. We will be sharing the stories of our schools and how IB supports our students not only in elementary school, but in life as well.

The IB evaluation team was able to complete our visit, even with the closing of school on the second day of the visit. Many commendations were offered by the team. Some recommendations will also be included in the report and we will strive to make our school even stronger as an IB World School. Thank you to all parents who participated in the visit. Everyone's support is very much appreciated!

A few dates to remember: Hands On Atlanta – October 3 // Walk to School Day – October 7 // Fall Break for Students – October 12-13 // Fall Festival and Fun Run – October 17 // School Picture Day – October 21 // Reflections entries deadline – October 21 // Orange and Black Spirit Day – October 30

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.

If you have not yet received your credentials, please drop by the school and sign for them. This will be a great resource for you to receive notices from APS and from Sarah Smith as well.

Parent-Teacher Conference Weeks are Coming –

Fall parent-teacher conferences will be held schoolwide October 14-28. The purpose of parent-teacher conferences is to have a better understanding between parents and teachers so we can better work together to help your child succeed and to keep you informed of how your child is doing in school. Letters informing you of your conference appointment will be sent home Wednesday, October 7. You might like to do some pre-conference planning by preparing some questions pertaining to your child and his/her performance in school. First quarter report cards will be distributed during the conference.

You're Invited -

Audrey Sofianos, principal of Sutton Middle Schools is hosting an informational evening for elementary school parents on Thursday, October 8, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the home of Denise Spiegl, 1280 Westminster Walk 30327. Administrators, teachers, and current Sutton parents will be on-hand to provide some insight and answer questions on life after elementary school. RSVP to Leigh Darby at leighdarby@comcast.net.

They represented us well –

On Friday, Cori Williams and Zachary Flash, fifth grade students at Sarah Smith Elementary, represented Sarah Smith as well as Atlanta Public Schools, at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast at the Omni Hotel. Cori and Zachary brought greetings to the business community in French (Zachary) and in English (Cori). They did a fantastic job and made us proud! Thanks to their parents and to Mrs. Allyson Hage, French teacher, for attending as well.

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. Good luck to all!

Parent Enrichment Workshop –

Atlanta Public Schools is hosting a workshop for parents of PreK – 5th Grade children in the Atlanta Public Schools Program for Exceptional Children (PEC). It will be at the Center for Learning and Leadership (130 Trinity Avenue) on Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

President Carter and author David Rubel to sign books –

Children and adults alike are invited to discover the rewarding power of charity with a book signing from President Jimmy Carter and David Rubel, author of If I Had a Hammer: Building Homes and Hope with Habitat for Humanity at the Carter Presidential Library on October 15, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Books will be available on sale in the museum gift shop for \$19.99. Other books by President Carter will be on sale and available for signing as well. For more information, contact Molly Parrish at parrish.molly@gmail.com.

Gifted Testing Update –

The procedures for fall testing for the gifted program (Challenge) have changed. Atlanta Public Schools is only testing students for Challenge that are in fourth grade with qualifying ITBS scores. All other grades and parent requests will be done in the spring. Since this is a change from past referrals/testing windows, it was important that everyone knows the change. Thank you.

Walking For a Good Cause -

Did you know that over 30,000 people in Georgia are infected with HIV, but a third don't even know it? Did you know that half of the new HIV infections are among our youth? Did you know that AIDS cases among women have more than tripled?

Again this year, Sarah Smith Elementary School has a registered team to walk in this year's AIDS Walk Atlanta to help raise money to prevent the spread of HIV and support those agencies fighting this disease.

On Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m. at Piedmont Park, Sarah Smith faculty, staff, parents, and students will be walking together. Our goal is to raise at least \$500.00. Chaundra Yarbrough is serving as our team captain. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to this great cause, we would appreciate your support. Checks can be made payable to AIDS Walk Atlanta or AWA and returned to your child's homeroom teacher. We sincerely appreciate your support! And, if you'd like to join us in the walk, please let Mrs. Yarbrough know at cyarbrough@atlantapublicschools.us. We'd love to have parents and students join the team!

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

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.