



February 23, 2015

Hello Sarah Smith Community -

Our annual “student-lead conferences” with parents, students, and teachers will be held between March 16 and April 3. During three-way conferences, the student, the parent and the teacher meet to discuss the child’s learning. Everyone has a role to play in the conference. The child demonstrates what they know as he/she shares accomplishments. The parents find out about their child’s learning, have opportunities to ask questions and express ideas, and demonstrate support for their child’s learning at school and at home. The teacher serves as a facilitator and supports the child and the parents by clarifying, elaborating, and responding to specific questions. It is good when teachers see the parents with their child, and the parents see their child with the teacher. This interaction is very important as the child has the most significant adults in the child’s life showing interest in their learning and making commitments to support them. Conference appointments will be made via *Sign-Up Genius*, so please watch for an invitation from the teacher.

Yearly Census Verification for 2015-2016 –

Atlanta Public Schools requires parents/guardians to review census information and verify residency each year. On February 25, 2015 parents/guardians will receive a packet of information requiring verification of the census data for each child. Additionally, there is a requirement to provide an Affidavit of Residency along with documents proving residency. This information must be provided for all children (including siblings) and it is due back to your child’s teacher on March 13, 2015.

Remind 101

Just a friendly reminder...have you signed-up for text messages via the SRS Emergency texting service? In order to register, simply follow this link <http://www.remind101.com/join/srsem> and enter your cell phone number. You will automatically be added to the list. So far 678 people have subscribed. This service will ONLY be used to notify parents of emergencies.

Mardi Gras Celebration –

The French department’s annual Mardi Gras Celebration will be held on February 24, 2015. Everyone is anticipating a great deal of fun for the students and teachers. Thanks to all the parent volunteers who have volunteered to assist with the celebration. Congratulations to fifth grader Asanta Thorpe for designing this year’s Mardi Gras t-shirt!

Did You Know –

Without the tremendous support of the Sarah Smith Educational Foundation (SSEF), Sarah Smith would not be able to provide teachers with the appropriate training to be approved as an International Baccalaureate (IB) school? Each school year, the SSEF budgets approximately \$27,000 for teachers who receive training for the IB program. Thank you so much SSEF!

Staff Feature –

Each month, two staff members are randomly selected to be profiled in The Anchor. This gives readers an opportunity to know a little bit about our wonderful faculty and staff members.

Joshua Fleming – Music Teacher

Birthplace/Hometown – Kannapolis, North Carolina (just outside of Charlotte)

Education – Bachelors Music Education from Johnson C. Smith University

Hobbies, Family, Interests – LOVES music, spending time with his family, reading. Mr. Fleming has two daughters!

Claim to Fame – Opened for a Patti LaBelle Concert in 2006 (played the keyboard). Auditioned and gained a spot to perform for the Apollo Show.

Favorite Quote – “Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance, you must keep moving.” Albert Einstein

Krista Kaczay - EIP Teacher

Birthplace/Hometown – Sandusky, OH

Education – Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University

Hobbies, Family, Interests – Mrs. Kaczay has a daughter, Sophia, who is a first grader at Sarah Smith and a son, William, who is two. She loves saving money with coupons!

Claim to Fame – Her hometown, Sandusky, Ohio was featured as a Jeopardy game show question recently.

Favorite Quote – “The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.”

Your Principal,

Ken Proctor, Ed.D.