

AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STARS ATLANTA

After-School All-Stars Quarterly Newsletter *Spring 2009*

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Activities

Enrichment And Field Trips



The backbone of After-School All-Stars's success lies in its various field trips and enrichment activities. The kids at Turner Middle School had a chance to learn about entrepreneurship and law from business professors at Georgia State University. Likewise, they were taught about forensic science through a program called Cool Student Investigators, which allowed them to find out about ways to use evidence to determine how crimes can be solved. In addition, they went to Kiku's to dine on Japanese food and watched the "Race To Witch Mountain" at Regal Cinema. Moreover, the students of Harper-Archer had a feast at the Golden Corral and an additional feast at Piccadilly's. The Mustangs of Parks Middle School participated in a Chess Tournament while the gentlemen at the B.E.S.T. Academy participated in a cooking class called Mathemakitchen, which incorporates math lessons with cooking. Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School's students had a field trip at Metro Skates. Students from Brown had a great time at UniverSoul Circus while the Girl Scout troops of Coretta Scott King went to Rock Eagle to take part in activities like hiking, interacting with animals, rock climbing and canoeing. The schools celebrated the year with events such as Long Middle School's picnic at Stone Mountain and field day at Harper-Archer Middle School. Kudos to After-School All-Stars for another year of incredible service to the kids!

Community Service



Service-learning is a strong component of the After-School All-Stars program, as Brown Middle School and Turner Middle School have demonstrated this Spring. The students at Brown planted trees for their school while Turner's students packaged shoeboxes with items such as hygiene supplies and baby supplies, which were delivered to homeless women and children through a partnership with United Way. The shoeboxes were donated to agencies like Angel's House Children's Shelter and Community Welcome House Women's Shelter. The women and children who received the shoeboxes were grateful for the gifts they were given and so was Mother Nature for the trees that the kids from Brown Middle School planted.

Mother-Daughter Tee



On April 25, 2009 the ladies of Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy celebrated the memory of the dedicated humanitarian that their school was named after. The attendees dined on tea and delicious food while seeing a dance performance from Friendship Community Church. Moreover, Reverend Dr. Barbara L. King spoke about Coretta Scott King's struggles to promote equality and the Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy PTSA presented slides of King's valiant efforts to fight for freedom, peace, and quality. After-School All-Stars extends a special thanks to Communities In Schools of Atlanta for co-sponsoring the occasion and for various volunteers and vendors for helping to set up the event.

Spring Break Volunteers

For many college students, spring break is a time to take a break from school and get some relaxation at the beach. However, students from Panther Breakaway, a civic organization comprised of Georgia State University students, chose to volunteer at Harper-Archer Middle School for their spring break. Led by Samantha Shiver, a student leader of Panther Breakaway, along with Kelli Vincent, the Student Affairs Advisor of the Office of Civic Engagement at Georgia State University, the Panther Breakaway members tutored the After-School All-Stars kids in math and reading to prepare them for the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT). Moreover, the kids took part in a personal development workshop organized by the representatives of Georgia State University. Through this workshop the students learned about the value of settling disputes through compromise and dialogue, the value of seeing good qualities in all people, and various other life skills. Also, the volunteers assisted with the cooking class. The members of Panther truly enjoyed their experiences, as the students they tutored at Harper-Archer Middle School were engaged in the learning experiences that they received. Furthermore, the students of Georgia State University were privileged to see the kids grow as individuals.



Quotes About The Experience

“The students from GSU came into the school environment and not only had a wealth of information to share with the students, but also had an open heart as well. They shared life experiences and expressed to the students here how important and vital an education is.”

Salitha Westbrook, Site Coordinator of Harper-Archer Middle School

“Spending the week at Harper-Archer gave Georgia State University students the opportunity to reach out to the youth of Atlanta directly. The students there had a huge impact on the group, motivating Georgia State students to reach out more and become more active in the Atlanta community.”

Kelly Vincent, Student Affairs Advisor of Georgia State University’s Office of Civic Engagement

"Working with the students at Harper-Archer was a great experience. Even though we were only there a few days, we could feel the connection we built with the kids. I hope we were able to impact their lives as much as they impacted ours."

Samatha Shiver, Georgia State University Student And Site Leader of Panther Breakaway

Dogwood Festival

Who: Atlanta After-School All-Stars Kids

What: Performing for the Atlanta Dogwood Festival

When: Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 - 11:45 AM

Where: Piedmont Park

Why: Because It's Exciting

April 18, 2009 was a gorgeous day at the beautiful site of Piedmont Park. The sun was shining and the lovely grass provided a relaxing atmosphere for everybody that was in attendance at the park. So what was this marvelous day that got so many people pumped up? It was the Atlanta Dogwood Festival! The hip students from After-School All-Stars utilized their talents in front of a very eager audience at Piedmont Park by putting on some truly incredible performances. The students from Carson Middle School and King Middle School put on spectacular dance performances while the kids at Turner Middle School showcased their talents with chorus performances. The Harper-Archer Jaguars amazed the attendees of the Dogwood Festival with a marvelous STEP dance and chorus. And for the big finish, Brown Middle School aroused the audience's thirst for entertainment with an African Dance, along with a STEP show that highlighted the value of working hard to do well on the CRCT. Everybody was filled with excitement, as the displays of raw musical talent and dance performances were absolutely wonderful and the kids were very energetic! With all the fantastic performances that took place, it will be very exciting to see how the Dogwood Festival will turn out next year!



GSU Basketball Clinic

On Saturday, March 28, 2009 After-School All-Stars partnered with Georgia State University Athletics to hold a basketball clinic for After-School All-Stars kids. Students from all the schools participated in the basketball clinic, learning a variety of basketball techniques like lay-ups, rebounding, passing, dribbling, defense, as well as other basketball skills. The students were separated into different stations, each focusing on different drills, and then they rotated to other drills. The students received free T-shirts, snack bags, Vitamin Water, and other goodies. J.R. Henderson from the Lighthouse Foundation was the guest speaker for the event, and he spoke to the kids about the value of working hard to become successful in life and the importance of avoiding gangs, drugs, and violence. The event was a tremendous success, as the students all enjoyed themselves and so did we. There were a number of volunteers that helped out in setting up the event, including Georgia State University students from Circle K, the Sports Administration Club, Sports Medicine Club, the Welcome Center, and employees of Kraft and Nike. There was also an outpouring of donations such as water bottles, jump ropes, and towels, courtesy of Vitamin Water, as well as merchandise from Nike. Everybody gathered after the event to celebrate the wonderful day by dining on large pizzas at tremendously discounted prices, compliments of Domino's Pizza.



“Honorable” Mentions

Jr. Henderson from the Lighthouse Foundation



A native of Atlanta, JR Henderson is committed to empowering youth by giving them self-confidence, and inspiring perseverance and success in the lives of kids. He frequently serves as a keynote speaker and trainer for organizations. Several of these include: Children's Defense Fund, the Department of Family and Children Services, United Way, Project Grad, the Jane Fonda Foundation, Georgia Center for Working Families, Metro-Atlanta Youth Opportunities Initiative, Georgia Welfare County Association and the Coca-Cola Foundation. He has received many accolades and recognitions from organizations such as the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, NAACP, United Way, The National Heritage Foundation and many more. JR Henderson is the founder of National Lighthouse Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focuses on education and community development. Mr. Henderson currently holds degrees in Mathematics, Computer Science (from Paine College in Augusta, Georgia) and in International Studies (University of Notre Dame in Haiti and University of Johannesburg in South Africa). He is an advocate for lifelong education, and he is currently pursuing a degree in public administration from Central Michigan University.

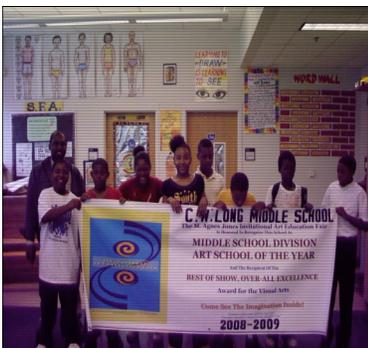
Michael Sechrist, Volunteer of After-School All-Stars



Michael Sechrist has been volunteering with After-School All-Stars for over a year at Brown Middle School and Parks Middle School. He started off volunteering at Parks, serving as a facilitator for recreational activities, and he actively recruited members of Greek Intersivity, a faith-based fraternity, to assist him with helping the kids participate in sports. In addition, Mr. Sechrist helped set up and organize a field day kickoff event at Parks Middle School. At Brown he tutored middle school students to help them prepare for the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). Prior to volunteering with After-School All-Stars, Michael was an administrative volunteer at the Task Force for the Homeless and he has worked actively with Greek organizations to promote service-learning. We truly appreciate all that he has done, for he is an asset to the kids we serve.

“My name is Michael Sechrist and I have lived in Atlanta my whole life. In my free time, I enjoy reading, music, and playing guitar. I am about to be a senior in college this fall at GA State University. I am a history major with a concentration in Pre-Education. I started volunteering at Brown last November, and went every Thursday. I really enjoyed getting to spend time with the students and feel I made a difference. After I graduate, I hope to go on to teaching. My experience at Brown Middle School has given me a new heart for Middle Schoolers!”

Long Middle School, Art Middle School of the Year



Long Middle School started its first year of participating in the After-School All-Stars program with a bang. Not only has the school provided its students a wide range of enrichment activities to participate in, but the After-School All-Stars Art Club has particularly gained recognition from Atlanta Public Schools. Under the able leadership of Mr. Martin Mensah, an art teacher at Crawford W. Long Middle School, the After-School All Stars Art Club was awarded Atlanta Public Schools District Overall Visual Art School of the Year in the middle school division. This award was presented at the 2009 Agnes M. Jones Invitational Art Education Fair of the Atlanta Public Schools, an event that recognizes creative achievements of students in all grade levels. One of the seventh grade students at Long Middle School, Nikena Brewton, was the third place winner in the individual best artist of the year in the middle school division. Mr. Tony Jones, the Site Coordinator of the After-School All-Stars program at Long Middle School, is truly blessed to have been involved in the After-School All-Stars program and expresses his utmost gratitude for the benefits the program has given to the kids that are served. ***“Thanks for bridging the GAP between the community and school and affording our students opportunities to experience things that they ordinarily would not get a chance to be involved in,”*** said Mr. Jones.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Our Mission

The After-School All-Stars mission is to develop children to their fullest potential, where they are critical thinkers, effective communicators, responsible citizens, technologically competitive, and active life-long learners better prepared for academic success.

Our goal is to offer quality, high performing programs with collaborative leadership where students will get better grades in conduct and school, more opportunities for academic and personal growth, and enhance peer relations and emotional adjustment.

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