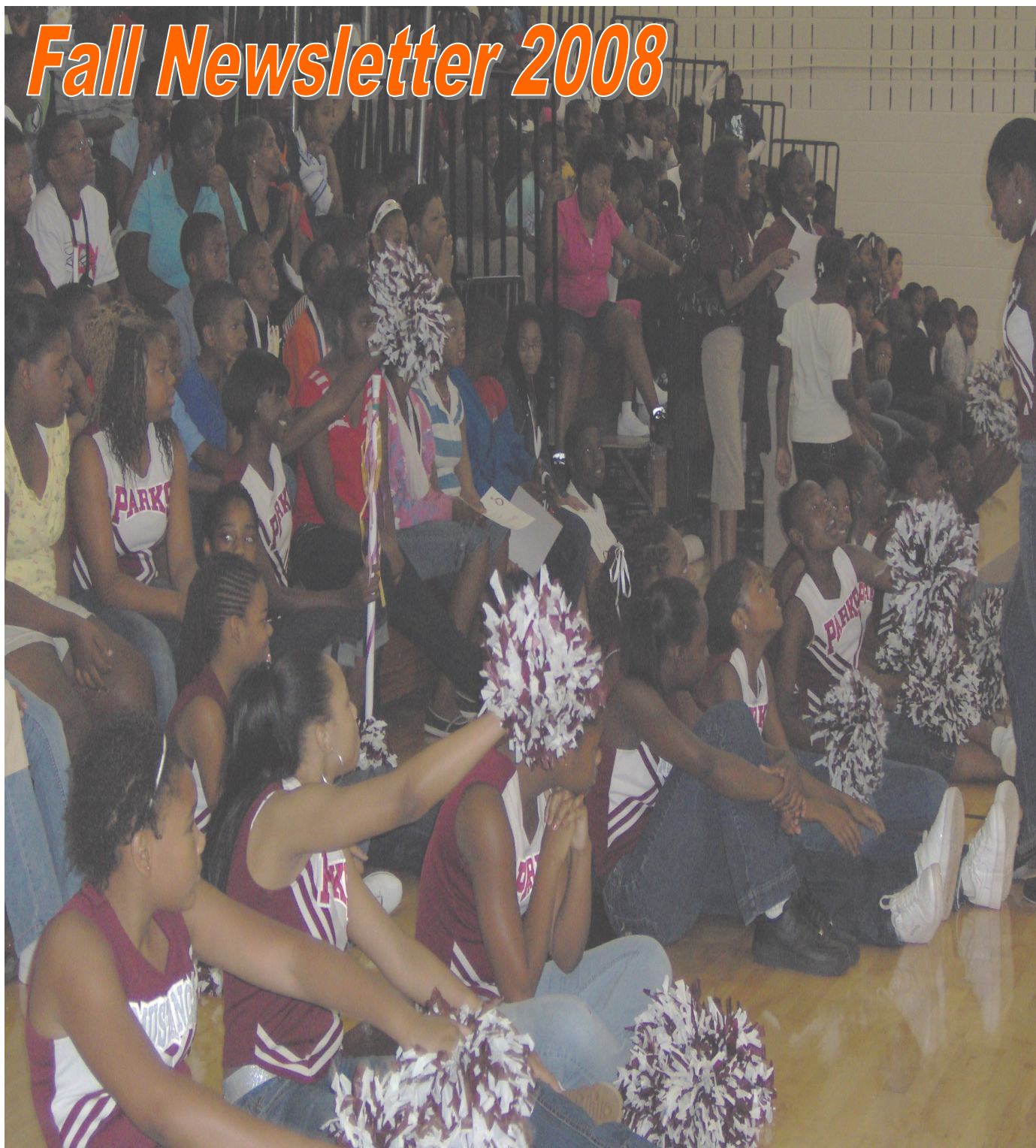


Fall Newsletter 2008



WHAT'S INSIDE

Activities.....	2
Special Events.....	4
Giving Back.....	5
Meet The Staff.....	6
Supporters.....	7

**AFTER-SCHOOL
ALL-STARS
ATLANTA**

Activities

All-Stars Kick-Offs

The schools served by Atlanta After-School All-Stars are getting ready for another year of excitement. The Mighty Mustangs of Parks Middle School kicked off the year with a series of field day activities such as rope climbing, balloon pumping, and basketball tossing, while Harper-Archer Middle School kicked off the year with basketball. This year is also the year that Atlanta After-School All-Stars has been introduced to a program called KidTrax, which is a tool that will help the schools evaluate their programs. Moreover, this year the schools are working in stronger collaboration with each other, in addition to the collaboration they've built with Georgia State University over the years. Starting January, the After-School All-Stars program will be expanding its operations with programs in Turner Middle School and Long Middle School. There is a lot to look forward to.



Field Trips

Field trips play an integral role in the learning experiences for participants of the After-School All-Stars program. This Fall, the ladies of Coretta Scott King went to the Ferst Center for the Arts to watch the musical group Arrested Development play music based on African-American History. Students from Coretta Scott King and Harper-Archer participated in a program called Dialog In The Dark, a journey in which the students went through darkened galleries to experience what it is like to rely less on the sense of sight and more on the non-visual senses. Also, Carson Middle School went on a field trip to the Auburn Avenue Library to see different styles of clothing that African-American women wore throughout 1887-1950. Students from Harper-Archer Middle School went to The High Museum of Art and received tickets to go to Disney On Ice. The students from Parks Middle School went on field trips to Clark Atlanta University and the Federal Reserve Bank, while Brown Middle School students went to Metro Skates. Many of the schools got a chance to see the Urban Nutcracker. Overall, the kids had a spectacular time at all of the field trips.



Enrichment

After-School All-Stars has always provided enrichment activities for the students that it serves, and this Fall, the program has been bigger than ever. Participants of After-School All-Stars had an opportunity to participate in clinics like nutrition, martial arts, and cosmetology. Furthermore, Volunteers from Bank of America taught financial literacy classes on checking and savings at King Middle School and Brown through a program called Operation HOPE. After-School All-Stars has partnered with Dark Horse Comics to help students at Carson, King, and B.E.S.T. create their own comic books, focusing on a theme of creating a better world. Other activities included robotics, dance, and poetry. Also, the students from Carson Middle School participated in a competition sponsored by Nintendo in which they played Nintendo Wii games to win prizes. Students at Brown also had a video game competition, though this one involved playing Dance Dance Revolution. Likewise, Parks Middle School competed in a chess tournament against Long Middle School, in which the Mighty Mustangs placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. With two new schools joining the After-School All-Stars family in the spring, the possibilities for enrichment are endless!



Activities Continued

Cultural Exchange

After-School All-Stars strives to expose its students to unique experiences, and this month provided participants of the program a “cultural exchange.” Students from Lincoln House School, a school in South Korea, came to America to experience a unique cultural enrichment opportunity, so After-School All-Stars was ready to oblige. They put on Korean dance performances in front of the Mighty Mustangs of Parks Middle School, including a traditional Korean dance and modern style. Furthermore, a South American dance routine and musical performances with a violin and flute took place. Likewise, students from Parks Middle School put on a cheerleading performance to show the students from Lincoln House School, as the students have not seen cheerleading in Korea. Everybody took time to reflect on this wonderful learning experience, as students from both schools ate together and pursued an international penpal experience for when the students return to South Korea. Both sets of students are looking forward to continuing their extraordinary friendships.



Rock The Vote

With elections taking place this Fall, After-School All-Stars took an active role in motivating parents of students to become politically active in advocating for policymakers to increase funding for after-school programs. The staff of Parks Middle School hosted a voter registration drive for parents. In addition, Carson Middle School engaged its students in the National Student Mock Elections, a program in which the students learned about voting for individual candidates for President, Congress, and some other political positions. The other schools also participated in the mock elections. Moreover, an event called the Afterschool Rally, which was co-organized by the Georgia Afterschool Investment Council and the Georgia Parent Teacher Association, took place at the Georgia State Capitol Building. Being a key provider of after-school programs for middle school students, After-School All-Stars attended this event. During this event, parents, students, and teachers voiced their support for increased funding toward after-school programs. A speech was delivered by House of Representatives member Howard Maxwell, who supports after-school programs because funds allocated to them result in less money allocated toward incarceration and teen childbearing costs, while graduation rates will rise. Another reason why Howard Maxwell supports after-school programs is because they allow students to learn valuable life skills through various enrichment activities.



Special Events

Lights On

Celebrations

This Fall After-School All-Stars participated in Lights On Afterschool, an event in which all the schools celebrated the success of after-school programs. Last year it took place in Brown Middle School, and students from each of the schools showcased their talents through drum performances, dance, and other activities. This year each school had their own Lights On Celebration, consisting of many different activities. Parks Middle School celebrated with activities such as face painting, obstacle courses, and balloon pumping. The students of Brown put on artistic performances, while Harper-Archer celebrated by having the kids dance. The rest of the schools celebrated Lights On by having ice cream socials. Also, all the schools had raffles in which students were eligible to receive book bags with school supplies inside, courtesy of United Way and the law firm of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP.



Reading Project

This Fall the schools of the After-School All-Stars program participated in a service-learning initiative in which they engaged the middle school students in reading to elementary school students. Books were donated by Kirk Postmanur, Co-Chairperson of Atlanta After-School All-Stars. The books were distributed to each of the seven schools, all representing a variety of interests. The Mustangs of Parks Middle School, for example, read to Gideon Elementary School students, who also took part in the series of activities during the Lights On events. Perhaps this reading project will recruit some elementary school students as future All-Stars participants.



Let's Eat

Meals are common events for the After-School All-Stars families to reflect on and celebrate their accomplishments. The students at B.E.S.T. celebrated the After-School All-Stars program with a family night at the school while Parks held breakfast and dinner events at the school for parents called "Breakfast On The Go," and "Let's Start Parenting." They also had a family night event at the Golden Corral, as well as a breakfast event in which they invited the grandparents of the students to come to the school.

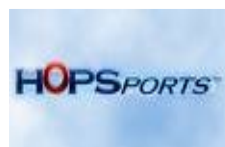


The ladies of Coretta Scott King and the gentlemen of the B.E.S.T. Academy celebrated Halloween with a Fall Festival and Dance that DJ 4Real chaperoned. This event's theme was "The Enhancement and Empowerment of the Future Leaders of Tomorrow." The kids played games, received prizes, and ate some hot dogs. Harper-Archer, as well, had a Halloween party, providing its students with special treats. Doesn't reading about all of this make you hungry?

Giving Back

Sports Talk

As a long-time partner of After-School All-Stars, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation has provided a lot of support to the program in the Fall. The Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation strongly believes in the importance of motivating youth to engage in regular exercise, as they have generously donated a HOPSports Training System, which offers a series of videos for kids and their parents to learn workout routines. The program was introduced to the After-School All-Stars during the Mustang Summer Academy 2008, which took place at Parks Middle School. This training program was so popular that the use of it has been extended for the entire year. Exercises such as breakdancing, martial arts, yoga, and Pilates were offered through this innovative training program. In addition, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation, in partnership with Atlanta-based NetMoves, donated tickets to the schools served by After-School All-Stars so that the students, as well as the staff of the schools, were able to watch the Falcons games. Moreover, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation contributed jerseys to the schools so that the students can wear them. After-School All-Stars extends tremendous gratitude for these wonderful contributions.



Donations

Kraft and United Way have been active donors for the After-School All-Stars program. Just recently Kraft Foods has given a grant in the amount of \$10,000, as well as assorted snacks. Also, United Way has contributed some book bags filled with school supplies, courtesy of the law firm of Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP. Likewise, Nintendo had sponsored the Nintendo Wii competition that took place at Carson. Kirst Postmantur, Board Chairman of After-School All-Stars, hosted his annual fundraiser, which netted nearly \$200,000. Our good friends at Audemar Piguet hosted the event. After-School All-Stars is truly grateful to its partners for their support, and so are the kids that are served by the program.



Service-Learning

This Fall After-School All-Stars has taken part in a call to service for the nation, as civic engagement is an aspect of the holidays that is strongly emphasized by the program. Each of the schools offered their students a chance to get involved in serving their community. Brown Middle School held a winter clothing drive for the homeless through a partnership with the GSU College of Education and students from Coretta Scott King made baby blankets for a children's hospital. Moreover, students from Harper-Archer Middle School and King Middle School collected food items for families in need, and they even had a chance to deliver the food to the houses and shelters. Also, After-School All-Stars donated some toy SUVs to the Toys For Tots drive that took place at Georgia State University. It's good to give!



Meet The Staff

Dr. Walt Thompson: Executive Director

Dr. Thompson is an exercise physiology professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health at Georgia State University. In addition, he serves as a professor in the College of Health and Human Sciences for the Division of Nutrition, School of Allied Health Professions. He advises undergraduate and graduate students as well as students who are working on their doctoral degrees, and he has published 8 books and numerous scientific presentations. He has lectured in 22 countries on 5 continents. He has a passion for youth development in urban settings, leading him to serve as the Project Director for the Atlanta Inner-City Games. In 1998, he received a phone call from Arnold Schwarzenegger, requesting him to lead the program in Atlanta and designate Georgia State University as the headquarters for the program in Georgia. Through his drive, the program is now known as After-School All-Stars, focusing on more than just sports, but also other enrichment and academic activities. He currently writes grant proposals to ensure that adequate funding sustains the After-School All-Stars program for the schools that the program serves.



Lyndsy Greene: Associate Executive Director

Lyndsy Greene has worked with the After-School All-Stars program for five years as a program specialist and currently as the associate executive director. Before joining ASAS, she volunteered her time at another after-school program known as AIM (Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers) located in the historic west end of the Atlanta area. She currently serves as a member of the Georgia After-School Advisory Committee, the local school council for Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School and the “Motivational Educational Entertainment” community network. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from Georgia State University and has worked as a Human Resources Assistant at Georgia State for three years. In her spare time, Lyndsy loves to travel and spend time with family and friends.



Yanna Jones: Program Coordinator

Yanna Jones has been with the After-School All-Stars for seven years as the Program Director for the MIRACLES program and now the Program Coordinator for the After-School All-Stars Program. She has been in the adult education field for eight years. She started teaching computer technology in after-school programs at The Boys and Girls Club and elementary schools with Inner City Games. She currently serves as a board member on the school council for Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School. She attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. majoring in Music and is a certified instructor in Microsoft Office. Ms. Jones second passion to the kids is cooking. In her spare time she cooks for family friends and her Church.



Gaurav Bhatia: Activity Coordinator

Gaurav Bhatia is an alumnus of Georgia State University who received his Bachelors of Arts in Journalism with an area of concentration in Public Relations during the summer of 2006. He started his role as staff on March of 2007, and he assists with administrative and public relations tasks for After-School All-Stars. During his years as an undergraduate student, he was involved as a leader for many organizations that focus on service-learning and diversity education. Gaurav enjoys martial arts, spending time with friends and family, and participating in student organizations. Some of his favorite films include Karate Kid, Patch Adams, Dr. Dolittle 2, and Rocky 3 (his all-time favorite film). Mr. Bhatia is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Social Foundations at the College of Education at Georgia State University.



Elgin Andrews: Graduate Fellow

Elgin B. Andrews is a graduate and former teacher of the Atlanta public school system. Mr. Andrews is a former decorated Marine public health educator, high school teacher and coach, and small business owner. He received his Bachelors from Savannah State University, Masters degree from the University of South Carolina and is currently pursuing his graduate certificate in Public Health and a Ph.D. in Kinesiology with a research interest in adolescent obesity from Georgia State University. Mr. Andrews is a Graduate Fellow with the Urban Graduate Research Collaborative, and his role with After-School All-Stars is to input data for the Kidtrax program.



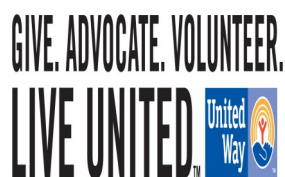
MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The Annie E. Casey Foundation *Helping vulnerable kids & families succeed*

Marcus Foundation

HUMMER

bloomingdale's



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kirk Posmantur, Co-Chair
Valerie R. Jackson, Co-Chair
Dr. Walt Thompson, Vice-Chair
Kwanza Hall
John Schuerholz
Don Waddell
Mike Burton
Scott Polhemus
Jim Tafel
Damion Carufe
Ann Lally
Dr. Carolyn Huff
Dr. Sharon Ordu
Ted Florence
Barry Donovan

ADVISORY BOARD

Jill Riemer
Gail Hayes
Lauren Lamb
Kwanza Hall
Kathy Augustine
Dr. Carolyn Huff
Dr. Roy H. Forbes
Kirk Posmantur



PLEASE
STAMP
HERE

After-School All-Stars Atlanta
Department of Kinesiology and Health
Georgia State University
P.O. Box 3975
125 Decatur Street, Room 137
Atlanta, GA 30302-3975



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.

To Contact Us:

For donation inquiries: **Dr. Walt Thompson**, Executive Director,
For general inquiries: **Lyndsy Greene**, Associate Executive Director,
Yanna Jones, Program Coordinator,
For volunteer inquiries: **Gaurav Bhatia**, Public Relations Specialist,

wrthompson@gsu.edu or 404-413-8365
lgreene@gsu.edu or 404-413-8355
yanna04@yahoo.com or 404-413-8481
kingab@langate.gsu.edu or 404-413-8481