



After-School All-Stars Quarterly Newsletter

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Summer 2007

Parks Middle School Kicks Off The Summer With The Mustang Summer Academies

When most people think of the summer, the first thing that pops into their mind is “a break from school.” However, the 7-week Mustang Summer Academies at Parks Middle School was a time of active learning. Middle school students had the opportunity to participate in all kinds of activities, field trips, and reading clinics throughout the summer. The children received a generous donation of new athletic shoes and a visit from star Atlanta Falcons running back Warrick Dunn—all courtesy of our good friends from Nike. Overall, the summer camp turned out to be a successful...continued on page 2



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Mustang Summer Academies Continued



program. Every day the kids had three meals; breakfast, lunch, and snacks. There were several classes that took place during the camp, and the kids had an opportunity to rotate from one class to another to develop a variety of skills that helped them nurture both their minds and bodies. The **Nutrition and Cooking** class, taught by the Mendez Foundation, helped them learn about the ingredients and nutritional value of foods, as well as advertising techniques in food magazines and commercials containing information about what types of foods are healthy. **Outward Bound**, taught by members of the AmeriCorps, gave kids the opportunity to learn teambuilding skills through outdoor recreational activities, while **African Drumming** allowed them to practice the art of dancing and drumming for school performances. **MIRACLES** provided students the opportunity to learn computer skills such as web design and **Digital Connectors** allowed them the opportunity to share these types of skills with the community. Students had an opportunity to learn how to write songs and draw in **Art and Music**, write poems and newsletters in **Creative Writing**, and study acting in **Drama**. Overall the kids had a blast taking the classes and the instructors enjoyed teaching them.

Mustang Summer Academies

Early College Preparatory

Health & Science

Technology

Fine Arts



Georgia State University Clinics

Every Monday and Wednesday morning during the summer and after breakfast, the children were engaged in reading clinics taught by graduate students from the College of Education at Georgia State University. While on Mondays the teachers came to Parks Middle School, on Wednesdays two buses picked up the students and dropped them off at Georgia State University where they spent the rest of the day. After their Wednesday reading clinics, the students participated in athletic clinics on campus, with sports such as baseball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, and track & field. The athletic clinics were some of the most popular activities for the students throughout the summer. These clinics were run by coaches and athletic teams from the Georgia State University Athletics Department.



Field Trips

Every Friday, the participants of the Mustang Summer Academies went on a field trip. The locations visited were Centennial Olympic Park, a bowling alley, an ice skating rink, the Georgia Aquarium, Coan Park, and Dixie Land. At Centennial Park the kids took part in the watershow, and at Dixie Land they participated in obstacle courses and played arcades. At Coan Park students put on dance and musical performances, as well as participated in recreational activities. Both the students and the staff had an opportunity to participate in these activities. One of the field trips was at Georgia State University's Cinefest, which is the location where movies are shown. The film being viewed was Happy Feet, and everybody enjoyed watching it, as they enjoyed the rest of the field trips.



The Schools of the After-School All-Stars Program

King Middle School

King Middle School has a strong technology component, made possible by the MIRACLES program. However, there are other strong aspects of King Middle School, such as fine arts, health, and physical fitness. Named After Martin Luther King Jr., King Middle School strives to honor his memory by recognizing and celebrating multicultural diversity and promoting civil, global, and environmental responsibility. For the second year in a row, King Middle School made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) removing them from the Needs Improvement (NI) list

Brown Middle School

Brown Middle School contains a strong “Success For All” program designed to improve the reading and writing skills of the students that attend. Furthermore, they also have a dance team and two basketball teams separated by gender. Likewise, Brown Middle School has a “Project Grad Atlanta” program focusing on the areas of mathematics, literacy, classroom management, social services, and parental involvement. This program targets aspects that affect performance in low-income communities

Walden Middle School

Walden Middle School stresses an involvement in sports as well as academics and special interest clubs. Walden students are involved in football, cheerleading, and softball. In addition, one of the highlights of this school is a performance that took place in partnership with the Atlanta Housing Authority. Before the CRCT last Spring, performances from Dancers On Point and Omega Psi Phi, two student organizations at Georgia State University, performed dancing and music intended to get the kids motivated about performing well on the CRCT.

Parks Middle School

Parks Middle School, site of the first After-School All-Stars summer camp program appropriately called “Mustang Summer Academies”, also made AYP for the second year in a row removing them from the “NI” list. Parks is one of the After-School All-Stars program’s newest schools funded by multiple partners including the Annie E. Casey Foundation, United Way, and the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Parks Middle School is also a 21st Century Community Learning Centers school.

Harper-Archer Middle School

What stands out about Harper-Archer Middle School is its Family Literacy Center. Not only does it provide reading programs for kids, but also helps parents of children with computer training, G.E.D. prep classes, and adult literacy classes. Furthermore, The Counseling and Guidance Services of Harper Archer focus on the development and nurturing of the children, and they have a strong social work services department that helps kids with problems such as health problems, economic problems, and academic problems. After-School All-Stars is working closely with Visions Unlimited, a violence prevention program, at both Harper-Archer and Carson Middle Schools.

Carson Middle School

Of all the schools that are part of the After-School All-Stars program, Carson is significant because while the 7th and 8th grades are still co-educational, the 6th grade is gender-specific. The 6th grade is divided into two schools, the [Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy](#), and the [B.E.S.T. Academy for Boys at Benjamin S. Carson](#). These academies have an active college preparatory program to help students transition from high school to college.

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 serves on a number of committees on campus. He is also active in his profession by publishing 8 books and numerous scientific presentations. He has lectured in 21 countries on 5 continents. He has a strong 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 to 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 three 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 quality time with her family and friends.



Yanna Jones: Program Coordinator

Yanna Jones has been with the After-School All-Stars for five 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 in setting up and planning activities for After-School All-Stars, performs administrative tasks, and acts as a liaison between the university and the schools that are represented. His main goals for the upcoming year are to recruit more volunteers and create new partnerships for the program with other agencies. During his years as a student, he was involved as a leader for a number of on campus organizations. For example, he was the Director of Community Service for Village Student Government, Vice President of Finances for Public Relations Student Society of America, and as a member of Intercultural Student Ambassadors he has assisted with developing multicultural programs to advocate against racism, gender-based discrimination, religious discrimination, and other forms of discrimination. He has been awarded numerous accolades for his work, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. Torch of Peace Award, President’s Award for Community Service and Social Action, and the Nell Hamilton Trotter Student Leadership Award. 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).



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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.

FOR DONATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

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