

AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STARS ATLANTA



Family Nights, Academics



Civic Engagement, Art, Dance And More



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Winter 2012 Newsletter

It's All About The Kids

Programs

We're Growing

After-School All-Stars has been growing continuously for years and this year has been no exception. Two new schools, Price Middle School and Young Middle School, have been added to our roster of sites. Both of these schools kicked off the year with family night events at which parents and students found out what After-School All-Stars is all about. The kids have already signed up for the activities that were offered to them. The students at Price Middle School participated in intramurals such as football, soccer, cheerleading, and track. Moreover, they were involved with enrichment activities ranging from debate and sewing to nutrition, hip-hop history, and board games. Young Middle School allowed its chefs to join the nutrition class so they could learn how to prepare healthy snacks. In addition, the kids at Young Middle School took part in a new program called CEO (Career Exploration Opportunities), which was funded by a grant from the MetLife Foundation. This new initiative engaged students in learning about topics such as credit cards, mortgages, and entrepreneurship. They did this through field trips to businesses and interviews with community leaders. We are excited about the addition of these new schools, along with the CEO program, which has also been launched at our other schools.



Enrichment

So much has been going on this winter for the students we serve. The ladies at Coretta Scott King Women's Academy utilized their technical skills through the robotics program and explored character education through the True Sparks program, which allowed them to participate in discussion about characters in movies like "To Kill A Mocking Bird" and "Akeelah And The Bee." Students of King Middle School and Coan Middle School engaged in outdoor adventure programs through Mosiah's Roots, which gave them a chance to learn about pitching tents, navigating with a compass, and other wilderness survival tactics. The Brown Middle School Dolphins hosted a Charm School Fashion Show to show the importance of wearing clothes that are appropriate and trendy, and the girls at Coretta Scott King Women's Academy participated in arts and crafts. In addition, the Eagle Drum Line of B.E.S.T. displayed their musical talents with bass, snare, and tenor drums while the Hip Hop Studio allowed the kids at Coan Middle School to write lyrics and tracks for public service announcements. Furthermore, the Jaguars of Harper-Archer Middle School enhanced their reading skills through the Book Club and participated in friendly competition during Board Game Fridays. The Sandy Springs Stallions brought out their creative sides and learned about the fields of film and television in the Film Makers Club, the students at Sylvan Hills Middle School collected non-perishable food items for families living in homeless shelters, and the kids residing at City of Refuge were taught African drumming. Also, Gilbert House's kids created Valentine heart flower bouquets for their mothers and neckties for their fathers. The children at South Bend learned about finances through Monopoly Math and J.D. Sims allowed its students to learn the arts of Ballet, Jazz, and Capoeira through Dance Canvas. With all these activities, no wonder After-School All-Stars has set a record of 2700 students this season.



Highlights

MLK Day Of Service

Martin Luther King Jr's legacy of service has influenced millions around the world and the All-Stars kids have chosen to honor his legacy with a day of civic engagement. Through a partnership with Home Depot, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Global Peace Festival Foundation, King Middle School and Sylvan Hills Middle School observed this national day of service with several community projects. The students and families decorated the schools with portraits and quotes of Dr. King, put together care packages for veterans through the Veteran Empowerment Organization, and created signage for community gardens. In addition, they wrote holiday cards for a children's hospital and distributed food and clothes for veterans at the National Kidney Foundation. Other programs that took place included workshops in stress management and financial literacy, as well as a voter registration and a health fair. There were many organizations that collaborated to make this day successful, including Morehouse College, Chase Bank, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Pi Alpha Omega, and Clark Atlanta University. After the projects, the kids and their families went to watch the Hawks game, courtesy of FOX Sports. This was indeed a spectacular day and the students, as well as their families, should be commended for the impact they made in for the community.



Health Programs



Health activities play a key role in After-School All-Stars. Price Middle School offered its kids programs like cheerleading, the athletes at King Middle School

took part in track & field, and Brown Middle School's students took part in step team and softball. The boys at B.E.S.T. Academy participated in basketball, City of Refuge's children were involved in "Soccer In The Streets," and Coan Middle School gave its kids a chance to advocate for public health through Citizen Wellness. Students from all the sites grew produce items such as pears, blueberries, and apples through the organic gardens. In addition, they prepared healthy snacks during the nutrition clinics. Kudos to the All-Stars kids!

Community Service



There is no limit to the good heart of the the After-School All-Stars students. The Young Middle School students put together a donation drive to raise funds for the *Against Malaria Foundation* on behalf of families

in Sub-Saharan Africa. The kids organized this fundraiser by advertising to the school, creating collection bins in the homerooms, and determining the charity of choice. In 3 weeks they raised \$436 to purchase 87 mosquito nets. Once the money is received by the foundation, they will indicate exactly where in Africa the nets will be sent. These kids should be commended for their hard work and the communities in Sub-Saharan Africa will appreciate this gesture too. As a larger number of students get involved in After-School All-Stars, more kids will serve the community.

Angel Tree Project



Last year After-School All-Stars and the Georgia State University College of Education teamed up to provide holiday gifts to children that reside at the City of Refuge. After the initial success of this initiative we continued this important project. In the lobby of the College of Education at Georgia State University, there was a tree we called our "Angel Tree."



Erected by the staff After-School All-Stars, on the tree were the names of children living with their mothers at the City of Refuge. The City of Refuge provides transitional housing for homeless women and their children. The names of the children were accompanied by the children's "wish list" for the holidays. Most of these children are elementary aged or middle school aged and all of them are in the After-School All-Stars program. City of Refuge hosted the 2nd annual Angel Tree Project on December 16, 2011. Students, faculty, and staff from the GSU College of Education all pitched in to provide up to 150 gifts to the kids that reside there. Presents consisted of items such as bikes, sports

equipment, dolls, Nooks, and MP3 players. These contributions were passed out after the children and their families quenched their hunger with delicious meals. The residents also sang Christmas carols around a piano that played harmonious music, composed by volunteer music instructor Nada Long. Likewise, as a result of a service-learning project organized by the Sandy Springs Middle School Stallions, the mothers of the kids received donations of much needed toiletry bags. An added bonus was the opportunity for each child to get his or her own picture taken with Santa Claus. Overall, the night was a complete success, as the residents were extremely appreciative of the generosity that was shown to them and enjoyed their holiday season.



Our "Angel Tree" with the many names of kids and wishes waiting to be fulfilled



Our "Angel Tree" and the wishes that were granted to the kids we serve.

Family Night Events

Concerts

Every winter After-School All-Stars holds annual family nights at the after-school sites and has continued the tradition this year. At Long Middle School's "Holiday Soiree" the Tigers used their wonderful skills to sing carols such as "It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year," Charlie Brown's "Christmas Time Is Here," and the Ukrainian "Carol Of The Bells." These songs were made possible by the band, chorus, and dance team of Long Middle School. Also, Brown Middle School's family night involved musical dance performances from the Brown Middle School S.Q.U.A.D. Step Team while the gentlemen at BEST Academy used their guitars for some incredible compositions of Christmas carols and showcased phenomenal dance routines. The kids at J.D. Sims and South Bend sang holiday tunes while dancing to Jazz and the children at Gilbert House and the Atlanta Music Project performed for a holiday concert at the Woodruff Arts Center. These fantastic musicians marveled their family members, as well as the After-School All-Stars staff.



Showcases

The holiday extravaganza at Harper-Archer Middle School, entitled "A Real Gift for the Holiday," consisted of poetry and dramatized performances about Christmas from the young Jaguars. The ladies of Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy displayed feats of talent such as dance and step performances, a holiday play, and elegant music. In addition, the agile students at King Middle School pulled off some high flying backward flips in front of their family members. Coan Middle School's event allowed the students to express their artistic personalities with an exhibit of paper mache sculptures and gorgeous looking paintings. The Sandy Springs Middle School Stallions showcased their expertise in robotics, science, tae kwon do, fencing, and dance. Door prizes were given at these events, with items ranging from tea and cocoa baskets to snow globes, picture frames, and video games. Everybody enjoyed these holiday events and are looking forward to what will take place next year.



You Can Help Us!

Wish List

<u>Sports Supplies</u>	<u>Card/Boardgames</u>	<u>Video Games</u>	<u>Other</u>
1. Tennis Balls	1. BINGO	1. Nintendo Wii	1. Digital Cameras
2. Table Tennis Tools	2. Uno	2. Nintendo DS or 3DS	2. Walkie Talkie
3. Baseball Supplies	3. Monopoly	3. X Box Kinect	3. MapPoint 2010 CD
4. Volleyballs	4. Trivia Pursuit	4. Wii Fit	4. Human Body for PC
5. Beanbag Toss Game	5. Scrabble	5. Trivia Pursuit	5. Crayola Art Studio CD
6. Soccer Balls	6. Clue	6. My Word Coach	6. Mathblasters CD
7. Basketballs	7. Balderdash	7. Brain Assist	7. ProTools Studio CD
8. Football Supplies	8. Family Feud	8. Learn Science	8. Jumpstart CD
9. Track Equipment	9. Apples To Apples	9. National Geographic	9. Gift Cards
10. Bullhorns	10. Playing Cards	10. Wii Music	10. Copy Paper
11. Dodge Balls	11. Jenga	11. Art Academy	11. School Supplies
12. Foosball Tables	12. Chess	12. Kinectimals	12. iPods
13. Frisbees	13. Checkers	13. Guitar Hero	13. Glue Sticks
14. Jump Ropes	14. Cranium	14. Learning To Spell	14. Pixar films
15. First Aid Kits	15. Taboo	15. Rubik's World	15. Disney films
16. Billiards Equipment	16. Family Feud	16. Harvest Moon	16. Musical Instruments
17. Running Shoes	17. Backgammon	17. Jeopardy	17. Calculators
18. Stopwatches	18. Guess Who	18. Sesame Street	18. Markers
19. Air Hockey Tables	19. Connect Four	19. Any Fitness Game	19. Measuring Tools
20. Hoola Hoops	20. Twister	20. Any Educational Game	20. Educational CD's

Other Ways

All items that are donated to After-School All-Stars must be appropriate for kids. In addition to providing in-kind support, you can make a financial contribution by making a check out to Georgia State University Foundation, Inc. and put in the memo line "After-School All-Stars Atlanta." If you are interested in tutoring or volunteering directly with the kids, please contact Gaurav Bhatia at 404-413-8481 or gbhatia1@gsu.edu.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Marcus Foundation Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation

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SITE COORDINATORS

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Shrone Hayes: King Middle School
Vernon Smart: B.E.S.T. Academy
Schredrick Austin: Price Middle School
Ray Anderson: Gilbert House
Byrce Williams: J.D. Sims Recreation Center

Tiffany Franklin: Sylvan Hills Middle School
Tony Jones: Long Middle School
Nia Baker: City Of Refuge
Bernard Webb: Coan Middle School
Morgan Garner: Coretta Scott King YWLA
James Rawls: Young Middle School
Ina Williams: South Bend Recreation Center



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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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