

After-School All-Stars Spring 2010 Quarterly Newsletter

AFTER-SCHOOL
ALL-STARS
ATLANTA

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Arnold Schwarzenegger

How often does anyone get to say "I met Arnold Schwarzenegger?" Well, this month the Governor of California, also known as a Hollywood star and the National Honorary Chairperson of After-School All-Stars, visited Brown Middle School. The Men of Valor & Excellence Step Team demonstrated their outstanding talents with dance performances on stage. Mr. Schwarzenegger gave a motivational speech to the students about the importance of staying in school and getting good grades. He also spoke about the benefits that after-school programs bring to the community. At the end of the event Arnold congratulated the students for their wonderful step show. He also thanked the After-School All-Stars staff, partners, and Board of Directors for the work they've done in keeping kids away from drugs, gangs, and violence. He said "Thank you to the students who have done such an outstanding job. Afterschool programming is such an important program because it helps the kids in the afternoon to keep them away from the streets and to keep them here and help them with homework assistance." He particularly praised the impact that After-School All-Stars Atlanta has made in helping students get good grades and providing fitness opportunities for the kids. He gave an encouraging speech to the students about the importance of staying in school and getting good grades. After-School All-Stars Atlanta extends a special thanks to Arnold for his visit to Brown Middle School and for his role as the founder of After-School All-Stars, formerly the Inner-City Games. As a token of appreciation, After-School All-Stars Atlanta and Justin Blalock decided to name Governor Schwarzenegger as an honorary Falcon by providing him a football jersey. In addition, we give our thanks to Mrs. Joyce Thomas and Mr. Donell Underdue for allowing Brown Middle School to host this event. Also, a special thanks goes to Jarel Small, Program Coordinator of After-School All-Stars, for coordinating the dance performances. Other key people attending the event were Georgia Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Atlanta Board of Education Chair Ms. LaChandra Butler-Burks, Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Beverly Hall, and Atlanta City Council member Kwanza Hall.



All credits for pictures of this visit go to Scott C. King from Atlanta Public Schools.

Activities

Enrichment

After-School All-Stars Atlanta is always packed with enrichment opportunities for the kids we serve. The Men Of Valor @ Brown took home the 2nd place trophy in the Stroll competition and 3rd place in the Georgia Step Show. They stepped at the Georgia Stepping League State Competition on April 10th and at the BET Step Challenge Step Show on April 17th. B.E.S.T. Academy held a baseball clinic for the kids through a partnership with L.E.A.D. The gentlemen interacted with professional baseball players, educators, and entrepreneurs. Also, the Men of Valor and the Marching Band at Brown Middle School hosted an anti-violence rally while the ladies of Coretta Scott King Young Women's Academy went to Metro Skates for a family night event. The Mighty Mustangs of Parks Middle School took part in photography and martial arts, all the schools participated in tennis and nutrition, and Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy hosted a ribbon cutting event for Women's History Month. As always, the students all had fantastic times with these enrichment programs.



End Of The Year

After-School All-Stars always ends every school year with exciting family events and this year was no exception. The Stallions of Sandy Springs Middle School and their families celebrated the After-School All-Stars program at Andretti Indoor Karting and Games. The kids had the time of their lives riding on the racing karts, playing arcade games, and taking part in sports. Harper-Archer Middle School ended the year with an 8th grade dance while Long Middle School, Parks Middle School, and Brown Middle School held field day events. In these events the kids were involved in activities such as the joust. In addition, Long Middle School hosted the Ebony and Ivory Affair and the students of Brown Middle took field trips to Benihana's and Wild Adventures. The Jaguars of Harper-Archer Middle School had a cookout event for the kids at Cascade Mountain. Also, the ladies of Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy had an opportunity to attend a WNBA game and attended the Mother Daughter Tea while Turner Middle School had a dance party. King held a swim and dance party, raffling away prizes to those in attendance. B.E.S.T. held a cookout, Wii tournament, and staff v.s. students basketball game. The schools reflected upon the success of the school year with family night events. During these events students and their family members had delicious meals, participated in a variety of recreational activities, and received raffle prizes. We look forward to what the next school year will have in store for the kids we serve.



Atlanta Dogwood Festival



The birds were chirping, flowers were blossoming, and sunshine was in the air. It was a beautiful day at Piedmont Park and the After-School All-Stars kids were ready to perform in front of a large crowd on the International Stage. Each of the schools put on their own unique performances, all of which represented diverse cultures. The ladies of Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy were singing "Heal The World," by Michael Jackson, to remember the people affected by the earthquake in Haiti. Students from Brown Middle School and King Middle School participated in African Drumming and Dance, the Stallions of Sandy Springs Middle School read a poem about the importance of accepting people of different cultures, and the kids from Turner Middle School put on an African Step Dance. Likewise, the Tigers of Long Middle School demonstrated their talents with music from their band and spectacular dance routines. The Mighty Mustangs of Parks Middle School sang "We Are The Children," also by Michael Jackson, the Jaguars of Harper-Archer Middle School put on a skit as a tribute to Haiti, and the gentlemen of the B.E.S.T. Academy amazed the audience with a guitar ensemble. The crowds were clapping and cheering after they watched all the incredible displays of talent. Lesley Frappier, a Dogwood Board Member, was so proud of the After-School All-Stars kids that she invited them to perform next year at the Dogwood Festival of 2011.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead 1964



Highlights

Atlanta Falcons

Celebrities are constantly showing their support for After-School All-Stars Atlanta. Calvin Pace, linebacker of the New York Jets, came to the B.E.S.T. Academy to speak with the gentlemen about sports and academics. The boys asked him questions about his life, including facts about his football career and his years in college. Mr. Pace told the kids about the value of pursuing a good education, eating right, and exercising. He spoke to them about the hard work and discipline it took to get him to where he is today. At the end of the event he autographed the kids' T-shirts. Afterwards, Mr. Pace presented a \$5,500 check to After-School All-Stars. Another hero of the Atlanta Falcons came to show his support for After-School All-Stars Atlanta. Back in the winter Justin Blalock visited all the schools to give them words of encouragement in life and he has returned to speak with the kids again. Justin told the students about his life story in both academics and sports. Mr. Blalock spoke to them about how his hard work in school led to his success both in college sports and professional football. Moreover, he talked about the importance of making goals and sticking to them, as he stating that if he gave up his goals he would not be where he is today. Justin Blalock also provided a pizza party to the top 25 students in each school who had the highest grades. In addition, Mr. Blalock signed the T-shirts of the students. As always, we are grateful for Mr. Blalock's commitment to the kids we serve.



Health Expo



Students of After-School All-Stars Atlanta took part in the 5th Annual Children's Nutrition Education and Physical Activity Expo. Taking place on March 27 at the Adamsville Recreation Center, this event provided a number of activities for the kids. The students presented many of the workout routines offered by the HOPSports program. They also participated in scavenger hunts, visited nutrition exhibitions, saw cooking



demonstrations, and received free health screens. Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and Honorable Councilman C.T. Martin made some remarks at the event about the importance of exercise and nutrition. The health fair also received some press coverage from WSB-TV. There were many other groups that donated their time to organize the health fair. After-School All-Stars extends a special thanks to the following event partners:

City of Atlanta
Atlanta Dream
Enliven Atlanta Magazine

Atlanta Public Schools
Atlanta Hawks
Research for Wellness

The Atlanta Braves
Atlanta Thrashers
Fulton County Department of Health

Get Fit Atlanta
We Can
GPAN

Special Recognitions

Individuals

We would like to extend a special thanks to our Site Coordinators for all that they do to ensure the success of After-School All-Stars.

Joyce Thomas, Joseph E. Brown Middle School

Vatisha Prophet, Walter Leonard Parks Middle School

Samual Spence, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School

Salitha Westbrooke, Harper Archer Middle School

April Patton, Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy

Vernon Smart, B.E.S.T. Academy for Boys

Charlotte Sanford, Henry McNair Middle School

Tony Jones, Crawford-Long Middle School

Janet Lane, Sandy Springs Charter Middle School

Sabrina Taylor, Sandy Springs Charter Middle School

Donors



We are always grateful for all the donations from our partners, and this spring a new partner has made a generous contribution to After-School All-Stars. Cox Media held a kickball event on May 14, 2010 at Blackburn Park. Every month Cox Media holds a kickball event to collect in-kind donations for a charity and in May they chose After-School All-Stars Atlanta as the recipient. After the game Cox Media was able to donate sports equipment, boardgames, and video games to After-School All-Stars Atlanta. This event was co-coordinated by Jessica Laiti, Director of Corporate Responsibility and Jenal Greenawalt. We truly appreciate this kind gesture from the representatives of Cox Media. We would also like to extend our utmost gratitude to the Bernie Marcus Foundation

for their contribution of \$1,700,000 to help us sustain the After-School All-Stars programs in Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy, B.E.S.T. Academy for Boys, and Harper-Archer Middle School. Moreover, this donation will be valuable as we expand the programs of B.E.S.T. and CSK for high school students.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Marcus Foundation

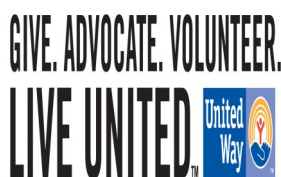
The Annie E. Casey Foundation *Helping vulnerable kids & families succeed*

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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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