

After-School All-Stars Atlanta

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2007

Challenging The Minds Of Middle School Students

The Atlanta Public Schools Academic Fair provides students an opportunity to engage in scholarly research about topics and issues that are part of the human experience. Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School and Walden Middle School hosted an Academic Fair at the end of the year to provide their students with opportunities to increase their participation in critical thinking, problem solving, as well as writing. Judges for the Academic Fair consisted of After-School All-Stars staff, teachers from the schools, Georgia State University faculty, and representatives from Bank of America and the Atlanta Housing Authority. Topics ranged from studying the best type of toothpaste for killing bacteria to the benefits of recycling.



Another program that challenged the minds of students that participate in After-School All-Stars was an essay contest that took place in each school. Students were to write about the benefits of participating in after-school programs, and a winner was chosen from each of the eight schools that After-School All-Stars Atlanta serves. They were all recognized during Lights On After-School and received gift certificates as awards for their accomplishments.

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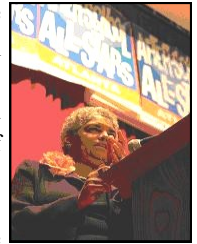
AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STARS

ATLANTA

Profiles of celebrities at “Lights On” 2007

Shirley Franklin: Mayor of Atlanta

In 2001, the people of Atlanta elected Shirley Franklin, a first-time candidate for public office, to serve as the 58th mayor of the City of Atlanta. Since her inauguration in 2002, Mayor Franklin has worked to build a “Best in Class” managed city by strengthening existing frameworks, implementing progressive changes and making tough decisions necessary to improve Atlanta. In 2005, Time magazine named her one for the top five mayors in the country, and she is ranked among the top ten mayors in the world by the World Mayor Internet organization and has been named one of “America’s Best Leaders” by U.S. News and World Report and the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. Mayor Franklin currently serves as a member of the Democratic National Committee and treasurer of the Democratic Party of Georgia. She is the Georgia Municipal Association’s president, chair of the Travel and Tourism Taskforce and chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayor’s Women Caucus. She is also the president of the National Conference of Democratic Mayors. Mayor Franklin earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Harvard University and her Master of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania. She has received honorary degrees from Howard University, Atlanta College of Art, Cambridge College, Spelman College, Morehouse College, and Tuskegee University. Mayor Franklin resides in southwest Atlanta and is the proud parent of three adult children, one daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.



Emmett Johnson: Vice-Chair for Atlanta Board of Education

Emmett Johnson currently serves as vice-chair of the Atlanta Board of Education, a title he has held since 2006. In 2005, he was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to the Master Teacher & Academic Coach Implementation Committee. He has also served as Chair of the Atlanta Board of Education. Mr. Johnson has done extensive work with PTAs, community groups, and various task forces of the Atlanta Public Schools. He was a PTA officer for 16 years, and is the past chairman of the Metropolitan Regional Educational Services Agency’s Board of Control. He is also a past President of the Atlanta Council of PTAs, just to name a few. Additionally, Mr. Johnson serves (or has served) on several committees, including the Advisory Committee on AIDS and Sex Education for APS, the Athletic Advisory Committee of APS and the Board of Directors for the Norman H. Thomas Scholarship Fund. He has been married for 33 years to Gwendolyn Miller Johnson, and is the father of two Atlanta Public Schools graduates. Mr. Emmett Johnson has proven that he is a person dedicated to making a positive difference. He is committed to serving the needs of our youth.



Jermaine Dupri: Atlanta-based producer and songwriter

Jermaine Dupri is an Atlanta-based producer, and songwriter, with an extensive career in the music industry. He is the youngest inductee to the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. Dupri also became the youngest charting producer in history of music at age 18 with his first chart-selling artist, Kriss Kross. Likewise, Dupri has pursued a recording career of his own, resulting in hits such as “Money Ain’t A Thang,” “Welcome to Atlanta,” “It’s Like That” and “Gotta Getcha” featuring Johnta Austin. Dupri’s record label, So So Def, specializes in Southern hip hop, R&B and bass music, and was originally distributed through Columbia Records/Sony Music Entertainment. In 2003, Dupri was appointed president of Arista Black Music. In 2004, Dupri was appointed president of Urban Music at Virgin Records. Dupri is also an entrepreneur with business ventures such as his own boutique restaurant, Café Dupri.



Johnta Austin

Johnta Austin started his career in media at the age of eight as a host of a TV show aired on CNN called “Kid’s Beat.” Other highlights of his career were becoming the Atlanta Bureau Chief for the CNN weekly news program, “Real News For Kids” and the reporter for “Feed Your Mind, aired on TBS.” Through these TV shows he covered topics such as current events, sports, and entertainment. In the mid-late 90’s he started writing songs such as “Sweet Lady,” in which he served as a solo-artist, but he also worked on songs with other artists. For example, he co-wrote “We Belong Together,” a 2005 hit singles, with Mariah Carey. Additional artists he has co-written with include Chris Brown and Jermaine Dupri, his mentor. Some of the songs that Jermaine Dupri and Johnta Austin have worked on include “Money Ain’t A Thang,” “It’s Like That,” “Welcome to Atlanta,” and “Gotta Getcha.” Moreover, the two of them worked on an album called “Ocean Drive” that includes songs such as “Take It Back” and “Mutual.” Jermaine Dupri and Johnta Austin coordinated a musical performance at the “Lights On After-School” celebration at Brown Middle School to conclude the event.



Profiles continued

Dr. Susan R. Dyer: Atlanta Public Schools Administrator and Educator

Dr. Susan R. Dyer is a professional educator with extensive training and experience as a teacher, principal, deputy superintendent, and chief academic officer. She received her bachelor's degree from Central State University, a master's degree from the University of Michigan, and an Education Specialist degree from Wayne State University. Prior to becoming the first female deputy superintendent in St. Louis Public Schools, she received a fellowship to Harvard University and earned another Masters of Education degree in the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Urban Superintendents Program (USP). She also completed a doctoral program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Dyer joined the Atlanta Public Schools in 2005. She currently serves as the special assistant to the deputy superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and interim executive director for Learning Excellence.



Milton J. Little Jr.: President of United Way Metropolitan Atlanta

Milton J. Little Jr. is the new President of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. Little, who previously led United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, has strong ties to the Atlanta region. Little earned a B.A. degree in Sociology from Morehouse College, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and an M.A. degree in Urban Sociology and Urban Social Policy from Columbia University. In addition, he studied at New York University and his 25-year career spans the for-profit and non-profit sectors. Prior to United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Little served in executive leadership positions at the National Urban League in New York, Lucent Technologies, and AT&T. His recent volunteer activities include service with the Council on Foreign Relations, One Economy Corporation, Support for Training and Educational Program Services, Inc., the White House Fellowship New England Selection Committee, and Ways To Work. He is married to Traci Gibson Little and is the father of two sons, Milton and Taylor.



Robbin Shipp: State Representative, District 58

State Representative Robbin Shipp believes that all children should have an education that will motivate them to embrace learning as a life-long passion and equip them to compete in a global marketplace. She has spent her entire adult life active in her community, fighting for the rights of children and vested in the political process. She has earned a B.A. in Communications at Shaw University, and holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Georgia College and State University. Furthermore, she received a Jurist Doctorate from the Walter F. George College of Law at Mercer University. In 2001, Representative Shipp was appointed to the staff of the Honorable Brenda Hill Cole. She went on to serve as an assistant district attorney for the Fulton County District Attorney's office. State Representative Robbin Shipp is currently serving her first term as representative for House District 58. Representative Shipp currently sits on the Judiciary, Industrial Relations, and State Planning & Community Affairs committees. Representative Shipp also practices general civil and domestic litigation in her private practice, which is Stephenson, Reynolds, Jenkins, and Shipp, LLP.



Ann Cramer: IBM Director of Corporate Community Relations

Ann Cramer serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Partnership For Excellence In Education. In addition, she is also the Director of Corporate Community Relations and Public Affairs for IBM. As a result of her dedication to empowering children of Georgia in reaping the benefits of education, she has received the 2006 Georgia Budget and Policy Institute Visionary Award. An additional accomplishment of hers was being inducted in the Atlanta Business Hall of Fame from Junior Achievement of Georgia, which took place at the Loudermilk Center in Atlanta, where she was escorted by Mayor Shirley Franklin. As well as holding a number of advisory and leadership roles in Atlanta, Ann Cramer is part of the National Corporate Leaders Council, the Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College, and the Council on Foundations. Furthermore, she has chaired the Georgia and Metro Atlanta Chambers of Commerce Education Committees, the World Class Schools Foundation, Workforce Development Task Force for the Governor's Commission for a New Georgia, the Governor's Child Protective Services Task Force, and the Governor's Commission on Youth and Children.



All-Star Highlights

Volunteerism

One of the things that really determines the success of any nonprofit organization is the presence of volunteers. Many students of Georgia State University offered their services to the schools that benefit from the work of After-School All-Stars Atlanta. Greek Intervarsity, a faith-based student organization, provided their contribution of time at Parks Middle School during a Friday Fun Day. They helped serve snacks to the students at Parks Middle School and helped facilitate recreational activities. Several of the volunteers were first year college students of Georgia State University, and one of them was Demetra Lester, who volunteered her services at Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy by tutoring the students. Another one of the many volunteers was Tierra Turner, who has been volunteering her services at After-School All-Stars Atlanta for a long time. She has assisted both King Middle School and Harper-Archer Middle School throughout her time as an After-School All-Stars volunteer. Methods used to recruit these volunteers included speaking at Freshman Learning Classes and advertising the Program at the Fall 2007 Volunteer Fair of Georgia State University's Office of Civic Engagement. Furthermore, students from Coretta Scott King Young Leadership Academy participating in a service-learning Initiative at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding Hospital. They sang Christmas carols to the patients and delivered candy canes to uplift their spirits.



Activities

Field Trips

The students at the schools had opportunities to visit a number of sites throughout the year. Several of the schools went to a field trip together at Metro Lanes to skate. In attendance during this field trip were Walden Middle School, Parks Middle School, the B.E.S.T. Academy, Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy, and Brown Middle School. Other locations that were visited by participants of After-School All-Stars were the CNN Center and the Center For Puppetry Arts.

Recreation Time

The schools kicked off the year through a number of different activities. Parks Middle School, for instance, hosted a rap performance with a pizza party. Harper-Archer Middle School had a field day event with activities such as baseball, volleyball, and frisbee tossing. The year consisted of many activities throughout the Fall and Winter. The B.E.S.T. Academy and Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy participated in a co-ed dance at the B.E.S.T. Academy. King Middle School has offered the MIRACLES program to help students learn about web design and media recording, Walden Middle School has provided its students the opportunity to participate in jeopardy to improve their academic skills, while Brown Middle School has given their students a chance to participate in cooking clubs and jazz ensembles. The success of these programs have resulted in a donation of \$75,000 from the national headquarters and new T-shirts for all the different schools.



Mexico Visit

After-School All-Stars Atlanta Executive Director Dr. Walt Thompson was invited by the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Mexico to talk about the preliminary steps toward developing after school programs in Monterrey, Mexico. Over 1,000 educators attended the event. Perhaps Monterrey will be the next expansion city for After-School All-Stars?

Celebrations

Lights On After-School

This year has been a very active year for Atlanta After-School All-Stars, and there have been a number of events that have taken place to further celebrate the successes of the program. The biggest event of the year was Lights On After-School, which took place at Brown Middle School. During this event many celebrities, who are well known as political figures, entertainers, and philanthropists, came to show their support. Mayor Shirley Franklin was among the political figures present at the event, and she spoke about the progress of after-school programs in keeping kids off the streets and pursuing a path of learning. Perhaps one of the biggest highlights of the event was the presence of Jermaine Dupri and Johnta Austin. These two representatives from So So Def gave a musical performance in front of the audience, which the kids particularly enjoyed. These two, however, were not the only ones that performed, as the students from all the schools put on a demonstration of some kind. There were African drumming demonstrations, step shows, cheerleading, and several other performances. The event was con-



cluded by closing remarks from Ann Cramer, IBM Director of Corporate Community Relations.

Family Affair Night

While the students and staff of the schools that Atlanta After-School All-Stars serves, as well as the staff at Georgia State University, get to celebrate the accomplishments of the program, one event in particular gave parents to share a night of success with their kids. Taking place at Brown Middle School, Family Affair Night was a dinner event where students and their parents got to share a meal together and watch a jazz orchestra and dance class give performances in front of an audience. Moreover, there was a raffle that took place and prizes such as Nike sneakers offered to the winners.



Holiday Parties



All the schools closed the year of 2007 with a holiday party. Walden Middle School hosted a party with a performer named "Afroman" from So So Def putting on a dance in front of the kids. Likewise, the MIRACLES program celebrated its year with a holiday party at King Middle School and Harper-Archer hosted a Winter Family Festival for its students. Georgia State University, as well, held a holiday party for the After-School All-Stars staff and friends. Taking place at the Department of



Kinesiology and Health, the holiday party was attended by members of the College of Education at Georgia State University, as well as staff members of the schools served by Atlanta After-School All-Stars. Also in attendance were Noah Bookman, the Managing Director of Operations for the national office of After-School All-Stars, and Aaron Dworkin, the National Program Director of After-School All-Stars. These two individuals came to visit the Atlanta After-School All-Stars and observed programs at Parks Middle School and Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The Mendez Foundation

Over the years the childhood obesity epidemic has been rising, an alarming fact that has concerned many health educators. The main causes of this trend are lack of exercise and diets that are rich in fat or sugar. Leading a healthy lifestyle, however, is not very simple, as foods that are healthy cost more. The Mendez Foundation, an organization that focuses on drug prevention and nutrition education for children, is addressing this issue. Pamela Muller, the Curriculum Development Coordinator for the Mendez Foundation, has developed an innovative program called *Seeds of Nutrition*. This program has been designed to raise awareness about whole foods, which are foods that are consumed in their most natural state. Whole foods include fruit taken straight off the tree and foods that are grown organically, with an absence of the chemicals and antibiotics that are put in nonorganic foods. Pamela has piloted the *Seeds of Nutrition* program at Brown Middle School, and developed a curriculum to educate both students and their parents about what types of ingredients to look for in foods to determine whether they are healthy to eat. She gave a speech at Brown Middle School's Family Affair Night, stating that "I have been invited to speak with you all tonight about health and fitness because we have a program, the *Seeds of Nutrition* after school program, that is being piloted right here at Brown Middle School and some of your children are participating in our pilot. Just so you know, that means that we have developed a curriculum to teach children about good nutrition and this is our dress rehearsal before we go live and launch the program publicly. Brown Middle School and the After School All-Stars have welcomed us into their after school environment to bring the program to the children here. We are very grateful for their hospitality." She teaches her students about chemicals that are added in foods such as high fructose corn syrup, yellow #5, and sorbitol. These chemicals, which can be recognized in canned or packaged food items, are generally high in fat or sugar, and increases the risks of obesity and diabetes. One of the aspects of the *Seeds of Nutrition* program is to engage students in educational activities. Activities such as skits, songs, and bingo have been implemented in the classes to provide an interactive learning experience for kids. The Mendez Foundation has also organized community gardening projects to teach students how to grow their own food by planting and harvesting organic farms. Not only do these gardening projects benefit children by giving them access to healthy food, but the labor involved in these projects provides exercise to the kids.



Ms. Pamela Muller of the Mendez Foundation



Gaurav Bhatia, Pamela Muller, Dr. Walt Thompson, and Lyndsy Greene celebrating at Brown Middle School

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

bloomingdale's

Because Bloomingdale's believes that giving is always in style, Bloomingdale's is honoring After-School All Stars as part of our Spring 2008 Fashionable Fundraiser.

It is chic to care, so come support your favorite local charity on February 27th with a little shopping and live entertainment.

Marcus Foundation

HUMMER

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



United Way





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HERE



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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