

The AASD Panther Tracks



Atlanta Area School for the Deaf

Volume 15, Number 1

Fall/Winter 2010



Preschool students enjoy a fall walk at Stone Mountain Park.

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*Excellence Everyday;
That's the Panther Way*



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Table of Contents

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|----|
| AASD Today..... | 2 | AASD Volunteers at Project Open Hand..... | 15 |
| Principal’s Corner..... | 2 | Robotic Technology Competition..... | 16 |
| School Improvement Grant..... | 2 | Best Wishes Megan Metzler..... | 16 |
| Welcome Newly-Enrolled Students..... | 3 | Homer’s <i>Odyssey</i> | 16 |
| Welcome New Staff..... | 3 | Video Production at AASD..... | 17 |
| SES - Saturday Tutoring Sessions..... | 3 | Student Council 2010-2011..... | 17 |
| Zoo Atlanta..... | 4 | Fall Festival Dance..... | 18 |
| Fall Walk at Stone Mountain Park..... | 4 | Sock Puppet Day..... | 19 |
| Cagle’s Family Farm..... | 5 | Parent <i>Engagement</i> - | |
| Halloween Trick-or-Treating..... | 6 | Parents Taking the Lead..... | 20 |
| DeKalb County Fire Department | | Let’s Do Lunch..... | 20 |
| Visits Elementary..... | 8 | Georgia PINES..... | 21 |
| Atlanta History Center..... | 9 | Panther Reader’s Club..... | 21 |
| Fall Festival 2010..... | 12 | Volleyball..... | 22 |
| Middle School “Home Run” Winners | | Soccer..... | 22 |
| Go Bowling..... | 14 | Boys Varsity Basketball..... | 23 |
| MARTA Five Points Station..... | 14 | Junior Varsity Basketball..... | 23 |
| | | Girls Basketball..... | 24 |

AASD Today

Dear AASD Families,

Where has the first semester of school gone? It seemed to zoom by all too quickly! As I reflect back on the semester and where the time went, I realize how truly busy we've been here at AASD. As you read this edition of the *Panther Tracks*, you'll see for yourself just how busy students, staff, and parents have been since the start of school. As you enjoy the articles and pictures, you'll find that we not only focus on student learning here at AASD, but we also have some fun while we do it.

Thank you for allowing us the honor of working with your precious children. I wish you all a safe, relaxing, and fun winter break!

Best regards,
Kenney Moore



Principal's Corner

We are off to a great school year! I am seeing wonderful things happening both in and out of the classrooms. The sports program has been going strong, winning games in and out of state. Student art work is up around the school and looks fabulous. Our Fall Festival had a fantastic turn out, and it was wonderful to see so many old friends! We have many initiatives happening in the classrooms that you will be hearing about as the school year progresses.

I would like to introduce you to the program implemented school-wide named Thinking Maps. Thinking Maps is a visualization of eight cognitive skills. In the past, we used a wide variety of graphic organizers and while those make information visible, they do not always encourage independent thinking. The visual look of the graphic organizers change from teacher to teacher or book to book, and the idea behind the graphic organizer can change depending on the content. Thinking Maps are consistent with their use and design. When all teachers and students use the

Thinking Maps in all content areas and across all grade levels, they are reliable tools for learning.

The eight specific thought processes addressed by Thinking Maps are: defining/brainstorming, describing, comparing and contrasting, classifying, part-whole relationships, sequencing, cause and effect, and seeing analogies. There is an exact map that correlates with each thought process, so students create mental visual patterns for their thinking. These tools for thinking become a constant as students move from content to content and overtime, develop an independent ownership of their learning. All students and teachers will have a common language for meaningful learning.

By utilizing Thinking Maps, we are promoting student-centered and cooperative learning, development of concepts, and higher order thinking. Thinking Maps also encourage creativity, clarity of communication, and continuous cognitive development. Ask your son or daughter to show you his/her Thinking Maps from class and demonstrate how the maps are used. We are seeing results from using this program. You will be receiving information on getting a CD with the electronic version of the program for use on your home computer. We are excited about Thinking Maps and what it is providing for our students.



School Improvement Grant

AASD received a \$1,200,000 school improvement grant funded by the federal government that the school will use over the next three years to increase student achievement and promote parent involvement. AASD staff, with the support of the Georgia Department of Education, worked for many months on the school improvement grant application, and the school received notice in October of this school year that the grant application was approved. The grant will accomplish many incredible things! Please visit the following website to read AASD's grant application, and see how it is going to transform the school. If you have any questions about the grant, please contact our school director, Mr. Kenney Moore, or visit our website at <http://aasdweb.com/sigrant.htm>.

Welcome Newly-Enrolled Students

The early childhood and elementary departments welcome **Jordan Cassells**, age 3, **Christopher Quinones-Guatemala**, age 3, and **DiKorien Ward**, age 4, from Fulton County; **Anthony Shoate**, age 3, from Marietta City; **Menelik Tavares**, age 9, from Atlanta City; **Jason Pena**, age 7, from Cobb County; **Jamire Baskerville**, age 9, **Harry Doxey, Jr.**, age 8, and **Rusia Saidi**, age 9, from DeKalb County; and **Daniel Maye**, age 6, from Gwinnett County.

Middle school welcomes new and returning students: **Jared Brown**, age 11, and **Brandon Brown**, age 12, from Clayton County; **Shar Be**, age 12, **Francisco Guevara**, age 13, **Lillian Huevo**, age 15, **Tiana Jacobo**, age 11, and **Lar Tro**, age 14, from DeKalb County; **Rachel Hunter**, age 13, **Tomorrow Swanson**, age 12, from Fulton County; **Cordell Richards**, age 12, from Gwinnett County; and **Rebecca Smith**, age 13, from Newton County.

High school is happy to welcome **Cornelius (K-von) Benjamin**, age 19, and **Titania Hill**, age 15, from DeKalb County.



Kenney Moore and Vanessa Robisch welcome parents.



Nella Ginocchio provides Spanish interpreting for parents.

Welcome New Staff

We are happy to add a number of new staff to AASD this fall. Welcome **Leah Branan** and **Jillian Minarich** to the early childhood/elementary department. Middle school is happy to have **Kenneth Bryant**, **Marie Gilbert**, **Pam Gonzalez**, **Nyanna Harris**, **Candace Jones**, **Matt Luakcka**, and **Kim Thompson**. In the high school department we welcome **Greg Owen**. The whole school is happy to have **Audrey Shields**, **Patty Spurlin**, and **Lisa Stevens** as new paraprofessionals. Food services welcomes back **Bertha Hughes** as line supervisor. We are also happy to have **Carolyn Harris** join us as our new school nurse. AASD is happy to welcome back **Michael Clegg**, who will be working with the Accessible Materials Project, and **Stacey Shapiro**, who is Special Projects Manager. Administration is happy to welcome **Shirlyn George** as a Financial Worker. Last but not least, Georgia PINES is happy to welcome their new program manager **Dr. Alice Stanley**. Please make all the new staff feel welcome to our AASD family.

SES - Saturday Tutoring Sessions

We are off to another great year of our SES program on Saturdays. Students in grades 1-12 enjoy a challenging and fun learning environment on Saturdays at AASD. Each student works on math and reading skills on the computer, attends an ASL class, and has an educational Wii activity period. Learning and fun combine to support the weekly curriculum but also to provide new opportunities for student growth. We hope that all students join in the fun! Our second semester dates are January 8th and 22nd, February 5th and 19th, March 5th and 19th, and April 16th and 30th. If your child is not yet registered, please contact Amanda Adams, SES coordinator, at amadams@doe.k12.ga.us to register.



High school students enjoy honing their Wii skills.

Zoo Atlanta

The preschool and pre-k classes went to Zoo Atlanta on September 24th. The students prepared for the trip by learning about the different animals that live at the zoo. We used circle maps to list the animals that live at the zoo; we made bubble maps to describe the animals; brace maps helps us learn the parts of the different animals (an elephant has a trunk); and double bubble maps helped us compare the difference between animals. In addition to the thinking maps, we used an enlarged map of the zoo to help the students become familiar with where the animals lived. All of these activities helped prepare the students for our zoo trip. They were able to hold copies of the zoo map and tell what animal they would see next. They were excited as they saw all the animals that they learned about at school. We ended the trip by stopping by the petting area where the students were able to pet the goats, sheep, and pot belly pigs. It was a fun trip!



Wouldn't it be fun to have a pet goat?



We love the zoo!

Fall Walk at Stone Mountain Park

After the Halloween candy is eaten and Fall Festival Festivities are done, the preschool and pre-k classes look forward to the annual fall walk at Stone Mountain's Nature Trail. This year, our walk was right after the first frost. It was a chilly morning, but the students were bundled up in their coats, gloves, and hats. Before leaving for our walk, we made a circle map where the students made predictions about what they would see on the walk. Words and pictures that we added to the circle map included leaves, trees, nuts, and squirrels. Once on the nature trail, students had shopping bags for collecting nuts, leaves, moss, and other items they found interesting. The collected items would be used later in the week for sorting, making collages, and other fall learning activities.



A true "Tree Hugger"



Gathering moss and leaves is fun.



We waded across a creek.

Cagle's Family Farm

In October, students in kindergarten and elementary visited Cagle's Family Farm in Canton, Georgia. While each class had slightly different goals for the trip, each child was able to gain valuable experience and background knowledge to fuel their learning in the future.

First, the children had the opportunity to feed and even pet several farm animals, including ducks, sheep, goats, cows, chickens, and even a farm dog! The children enjoyed watching how differently the animals ate their food – the ducks snatched the corn husks quickly with their beaks, while the cows chomped lazily on their leaves. The children later witnessed a cow being milked and also saw the tools used to make the milk drinkable by people. A group hayride around the farm allowed the children to see and talk about the different tools used and jobs performed on the farm, including the man who plows the field and the farm dog that herds the cows! After a nice group lunch together, the children got to release some of their energy bouncing on the farm's Jumpee Pillow before heading back to school.



Thomas enjoys feeding the cows.



Marquize is surprised by the milking machine.



We had fun on the huge trampoline.



There's nothing like a hay ride in the fall.

Back at school that week, the children expanded their language and made numerous connections between books and videos by recalling and retelling their experiences from the farm. The kindergarten class created a language experience book where the children narrated what was happening in pictures taken on the field trip, and the teacher used their words to caption the photos. One of the first grade classes worked on understanding sound by discussing the onomatopoeias associated with each farm animal (ex. cock-a-doodle-doo). For weeks afterwards, the children would often mention something they had seen, experienced, or learned during their farm visit. Overall – it was a great trip for all!

Halloween Trick-or-Treating

The tradition here at AASD has been for the preschool classes to dress up in their Halloween finest and hit the halls of the school for Trick-or-Treating. This year was no exception. Twelve adorable little cats, firemen, princesses, tigers, and dinosaurs, along with teachers and parents, went from classroom to classroom knocking on doors, signing “trick-or-treat” and watching the goodies multiply in their bags. Some of the teachers in high school had their students participate by giving out the treats. This gave the older students the opportunity to share in the experience. Some of the older students remember their days of trick-or-treating here at AASD. The faculty and staff were very generous in supporting the annual trick-or-treating. We had over forty teachers and staff members participate. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped to provide a wonderful and safe trick-or-treating experience for the students.



We're all dressed up and ready for candy.



The UPS guy and Spiderman drop by.



DaNayia, Jaina, and DiKorien are ready for the big day.



Trick-or-Treat!



Trinity Arreola is a beautiful butterfly.



Even the staff got into the fun.



Jasmine Taylor gets crazy with her class.



Jennifer Flores has her face painted.



River Scott is the doctor on call.



Jillian's class takes a survey.



Middle school prepares for their party.

DeKalb County Fire Department Visits Elementary

On a beautiful fall day in November, the DeKalb County Fire Department brought their “Smoke House” to the school! The elementary and kindergarten students had been studying jobs and wages and asked the DeKalb Fire Department to visit the school and share information about their work. The students gathered in the multipurpose area for a very exciting and informative presentation. The fire fighters taught the children how to stop-drop-cover-and roll, how to safely exit their house if there is smoke and fire inside (Stay Low and Go!), and the importance of having a meeting place for their family in case of an emergency. After the presentation, the children went outside to practice in the fire department’s “Smoke House.” The house simulates a smoky situation by allowing the children to crawl through a kitchen and hallway underneath fake smoke. The teachers were all impressed with the students’ abilities to review and retell what they had learned that day. The students had the opportunity to make further connections the very next day when the school building had a fire drill!



The students practice crawling under the “smoke.”



Waiting to enter the “Smoke House”



DeKalb County’s simulated “Smoke House”



Firefighters explain how to escape a burning building.



Rashaud and Trell come through the “Smoke House.”

Atlanta History Center

In October, the third through fifth grade elementary students went to the Atlanta History Center. Upon arrival, each grade was split into three groups. The third grade students went on an outside tour of the Tullie Smith farm. However, the tour was cut short due to a tornado watch. Instead, they all stayed inside and learned how people in the 1800s used scented pouches to make themselves smell good. The students made their own scented pouches with lavender. They also learned about wooden toys that children played with on the farm, such as the Jacob's Ladder, a simple wooden toy that simulates a continuous ladder.



The guide gives Harry lavender for his pouch.



The third graders enjoy rocking on the porch.



The old fashioned toys are fun.

The fourth graders enjoyed the *Native Americans of Georgia* tour, where they learned about the Cherokee and Creek Indians. They saw artifacts these Native Americans made and used for daily life and trading. The students learned how the Indians used corn for food. They also saw where these Indians currently live in the United States. While inside, the group was shown a deer skin, a rabbit skin, a drum made out of deer parts, and clothes the Indians wore. The last part of their tour was making masks.

The fifth graders went on the *American Civil War* tour and saw many artifacts that were made and used in the battles. They learned what the soldiers had to carry daily for the battles and for their basic needs. They also learned how to make bullets, using the same methods as the women and children used during the war. All the students enjoyed learning about life a long time ago.



The guide helps Rusia tie her pouch with yarn.

Fall Quarter Activities



The Karate Kid



Signing the No Bullying poster



First day of school fun



The Fonz and his sidekick



Lunch at Cagle's Dairy Farm



Norma and Tyler



Wendy, Christopher, and Patty play.



Emily Burris



Tiana Jacobo and Lauren Washington



The milking stool



Meeting friends on the first day of school

Fall Quarter Activities



Krystal and Kevin go see the *Odyssey*.



Xylinda and Titania relax at lunch.



Josiah and Janelle arrive at school.



A retirement feast for Bobbie Little



Artsy Andrea



Denetrice and Evan make Wii music.



Zoom and students visit the 11 Alive studio.



Students vs staff



The robotics teams



Adam Garfinkel explains MARTA Breeze cards.

Fall Festival 2010

AASD celebrated its 18th annual Fall Festival on Saturday, November 6th. The weather was fantastic, and the turnout amazing. We had carnival games, a clown bounce, a giant slide, a rock climbing wall, crafts, organizations serving the deaf, and an auction. The auction was small but still successful. We auctioned many fun and exciting items. It is never too early to start collecting items for next year's festival. We'll be happy to store them here at school. We had around 150 volunteers, many from Georgia Perimeter College Interpreter Training Program. We also had some of our own high school students sign up to work. They had a great day, as did all who joined us in the fun.

Thank you for a wonderful Fall Festival 2010. We are looking forward to next year! Our next Fall Festival will be on Saturday, November 5, 2011. If you want to donate items for our silent auction or want to help, please contact the school or Carrie Kalberg at 866-639-0470.



Steven Ware in the 50s, 70s, and 80s.



Jessica and Marqesha get into Spirit Week.



The Fall Festival Pep Rally Band kicks off the festivities.



Deja, Camry, and Norma dress for the 60s.



Ready for the Pep Rally to start



“Thriller”



The AASD Panther makes a special appearance.



Jessica and Travis are Fall Festival Queen and King.



The concession ladies serve the masses.



Playing the carnival games is a favorite.



Jasmine plays with the rubber ducky.



Middle School “Home Run” Winners Go Bowling

The middle school department has an exciting positive behavior support program called “You Have Got a Home Run!” This positive behavior support program is similar to the rules of a baseball game. It encourages children to follow all of the behavioral expectations in middle school, and those expectations are:

- “ Respect yourself and others
- “ Be on time and prepared for class
- “ Encourage a positive learning environment
- “ Use electronics appropriately
- “ Dress appropriately

The “You Have Got a Home Run!” program rewards students who meet all of the behavioral expectations each week. Each child receives a “baseball” to put on a poster to show this accomplishment.

Each child who gets a “home run” three weeks in a row receives an ice cream as a reward. The second set of three weeks in a row (6 weeks total) ice cream will be given again. The third set of three weeks in a row (9 weeks total) your child earns a pizza party! The best part is that children who earn 10 or more home runs in an 11-week period are rewarded with a special and fun field trip.

On Friday, November 19th, twenty-six middle school students earned a special trip to Suburban Lanes in Decatur, GA. They bowled two games and had a wonderful time! Congratulations to the home run winners: **Manuel Avecedo, Deja Barber, Christopher Battle, Shar Ban Be, Taja Bedell, Jared Brown, Rebecca Boggs, Ayner Garcia, Alexis Hill, Rachel Hunter, Tiana Jacobo, Quincy Lewis, Manuel Magana, Christopher McBurrows, Camry McCaleb, Jenny Nicolas, Rosa Perez, Brandon Perkins, Elizabeth Ramos, Deyanira Rodriques, Aaron Sosa, Tommorow**

Swanson, Norma Torres, Marcina Turner, Christian Utley, and Lauren Washington. Keep up the good work, middle school! The next special event will be roller skating sometime in February. Please encourage your child to keep up their positive behavior in school.



MARTA Five Points Station

This past September, a group of high school students went on a field trip to visit the Five Points MARTA Station to get a MARTA Half-Fare Breeze Card. The goal for these students is develop important life skills, which means learning to travel independently. This independence increases a student’s options for employment. When students graduate from AASD, they will know how to locate, advocate for, and obtain services for themselves.

What is the MARTA Half- Fare Program? The MARTA Half-Fare Program allows eligible individuals to ride MARTA trains and buses at a reduced fare. Deaf students are eligible for this program. Your child can receive a MARTA Half Fare Breeze Card which has their photo ID. This allows them to use MARTA (bus or train) for 90 cents instead of \$1.80 one way. Because of this program, many students are now able to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the MARTA Half-Fare Program, please contact Adam Garfinkel, Transition Coordinator, at agarfink@doe.k12.ga.us for more information about this program.



We have our MARTA Breeze cards.

AASD Volunteers at Project Open Hand

In October, a group of students from AASD volunteered at Project Open Hand in Atlanta. This non-profit organization supplies healthy food to people who are sick with chronic diseases. Project Open Hand is successful because of the people who volunteer their time packaging and delivering food.

The students who volunteered included the high school food science class and the internship students. When we arrived, we watched a brief video about the organization. Then the group of eager volunteers went in the warehouse to package nonperishable items in boxes for people who have health conditions and might not have any other way to get nutritious food to eat. Each box was filled with tuna fish, wheat crackers, mayo, mustard, relish, Fig Newtons, 2% milk, raisins, and other items.

The students worked really well as a team. They formed an assembly line to get the job done fast. Each person was responsible for a specific item that was to be placed in the box. After working for 4 hours, the students had assembled a total of 765 boxes. AASD goes down in history as the first Deaf school to volunteer with the organization. Project Open Hand volunteer coordinators were very impressed with the work that the students accomplished. They commented, "These students worked harder, faster, and had better team work than most adult volunteers. Please come again."



Everyone pays attention to the instructions.



Lucy Merlo packs a box.



Chris Sims prepares the boxes.



The assembly line works great.



Resting after a great day of volunteering



Robotic Technology Competition

Robotics and programming have become an amazing experience here at AASD. Students enjoy making and programming robots in technology class, but the most fun is having robot competitions where students show off their programming skills to see who has the better robot. Students also get to go see other students compete at FIRST - an international robot competition held at the Georgia World Conference Center. This fall, fifteen students participated in the Intramural Robotic Competition at AASD. Working in teams of two, the students demonstrated their robots in front of the students and staff. Students were judged on technical performance, creativity, and difficulty in maneuvering. This year, for the first time, the girls proved their skills and did better than the boys! Congratulations to the winners, **Alison Antwine** and **Kirsten Perkins**.



The students program their robots from the computer.



Deion and Xavier perform as teacher Zoom Bakari watches.

Best Wishes Megan Metzler

Sarah Megan Meltzer has attended AASD since she was 3 years old. This May, Megan was going to graduate from AASD. However, her mother received a fantastic offer for employment, and they moved to South Carolina. With bittersweet feelings, Megan is attending South Carolina School for the Deaf. This will be her first time attending a residential school. We will miss Megan and wish her the best. The AASD Transition Department gave her a “See You Later” party with her fellow seniors during lunch.



Ms. Cox and Ms. Green wish Megan farewell.



Homer’s *Odyssey*

In October, the high school students went to Oglethorpe University to see a performance of Homer’s *Odyssey*. In preparation for this trip the students read aloud the poem in class for several weeks. During this time the students learned of Odysseus’s struggles to return to his family after the Trojan War. The play was adapted to show how a modern day soldier must adapt to life once he/she leaves the war. Students and staff all raved about the performance.



Students and staff wait for admission to the theater.

Video Production at AASD

Students in technology class at AASD learned about video production this semester. The role of the student in this course was to develop inquiry and problem solving skills within the context of scientific investigation. Students planned and coordinated camera setup, used proper film techniques for video production, edited their films, and presented their completed projects.

In October, the students took a field trip to the local NBC 11 Alive news studio to give them a glimpse of what is actually involved in film production work. The 11 Alive news personnel were very cordial to the students. The students enjoyed a tour of the entire complex. They saw an actual live production and even made a cameo appearance. Students got to see what happens both behind the camera in the control room, and in front of the news camera in the studio. The students brought along school video cameras to document their trip. A few students even interviewed some of the 11 Alive news team staff for AASD's PND. Everyone learned a lot about video production in the real world and enjoyed the experience.



The morning news with Karen Greer and Chesley McNeil



The students pose outside the studio.



The students meet Donna Lowry at the information center.



Learning how a teleprompter works

Student Council 2010-2011

Congratulations to the new Student Council members for the 2010-2011 school year. **President Erika Carrasco** and **Vice President Felix Dickerson** are looking forward to an exciting year. **Xylinda Collins** is the new **Secretary** and **Tiana Miles** is the **Treasurer**. The new representatives are **Antonio Jackson** and **Jorae Smith** for 9th grade; **Keiera Copeland** and **Kevin Hernandez** for 10th grade; **Christina Anderson** and **Joshua Grant** for 11th grade; and **Ezequiel Mixcoatl** and **Alex Valdez** for 12th grade. **Luis Naranjo** is the Parliamentarian. The Student Council is already hard at work planning the 2011 AASD Prom. Students come together to lend their voices to help improve AASD.

Fall Festival Dance

The recreation department sponsored a dance for the high school students to kick off the Fall Festival in November. The students had a wonderful time dancing in the gym. Many of the students brought their own music and enjoyed teaching some of the staff to dance. Staff also provided some “old fashioned” music and showed the students how we used to dance when we were their age. Brittney Brown was awesome, teaching many of the students some of her super-smooth moves. Everyone enjoyed socializing and visiting. Many students who are not grouped together in classes enjoyed the opportunity to hang out together. Snacks were served, and the Fall Festival spirit was felt by all. Many thanks to all the staff who gave up a Friday night at home to stay and chaperone!



The students teach each other their best moves.



Everybody joins the dancing.



Kimber Wright and Kevin Hernandez



Ericka and Anthony have a great time.



Donte Stanley and Keierra Copeland

Sock Puppet Day

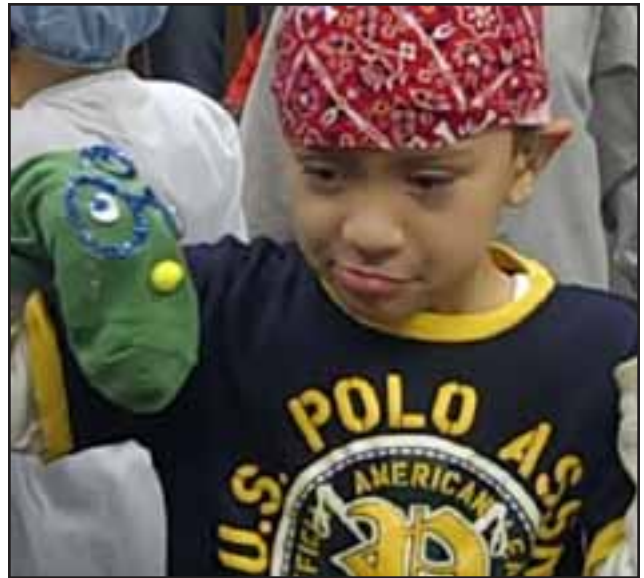
The recreation department sponsored a sock puppet day in October for the elementary students. The students had a blast creating their own puppets made from old socks. Creativity and imagination took off as the students became involved in their projects. One student had recently gotten glasses for the first time and made a point to create her puppet with glasses. AASD Director Kenney Moore visited the recreation room during the activity and posed for a few pictures with the students and their puppets. It was a joy to see the students explore their creative side. Sock puppet day was definitely a huge success!



Ajoni Wyers and Jordan McCabe show off their puppets.



Daniel's sock puppet gives Jennifer a kiss.



Daniel Maye is proud of his puppet.



River's puppet has an orange nose.



The sock puppets like hanging out together.

Parent *Engagement* Parents Taking the Lead

November has been “Parent *Engagement* Month” at AASD. The word *engagement* is used to stress that parents are more than just involved. Parents are taking ownership and responsibility for the educational achievements of their child. AASD is proud to say, “Our parents are *engaged!*” We have parents who are actively seeking leadership roles within the school, the community, and as representatives to state government.

We are extremely proud to announce that one of our parents, **Ms. Guadalupe Crespo-Martinez**, has been chosen to represent AASD on the State Superintendent’s Advisory Council. Ms. Crespo-Martinez is *engaged* and has accepted the huge responsibility of representing all AASD parents to the state. The state superintendent also has a Student Advisory Council, and one of our students, **Amber Sheppard**, was chosen to represent AASD. Her mother, **Ms. Tiffany Lawson**, is not only a proud parent, but an *engaged* parent. She gave her daughter the confidence to know that her educational achievements are limited only by her efforts. Amber is an *engaged* student!

The Department of Education (DOE) is committed to the State Schools being included in the representation of the local school systems. The three State Schools, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Georgia School for the Deaf, and the Academy for the Blind, were given funding to hire a parent mentor as a part-time employee of the DOE. A parent mentor must have a child with special needs and be willing to accept leadership responsibilities within their local school system. Within AASD we had eight men and women apply for the position. All of the applicants are *engaged* in the life of their child and the school. Stay tuned for the announcement of the new parent mentor.

Is AASD *engaged* in the parents? Absolutely! Community sign language classes began in December. Henry County held the first community sign language class. Special thanks go to **Ms. Michelle Law**, the parent mentor in Henry County who helped us locate

a classroom in the Henry County Medical Center, Educational Facility.

Parents can be *engaged* in various other ways as well. You can become parent leaders within the school by committing to give a minimum of one hour per week to assist school personnel. You may also help locate services within the community that will assist other parents who may be in need of food, shelter, jobs, after school activities, discount shopping, and more. Do you have a skill you can teach students, or that can help their families, such as sewing, construction, painting, gardening, catering, computer technology, sports, music, dance, etc.? When one parent is able to help another parent, no matter how small it may seem, they are showing *engagement* in their students’ achievement as well.



Let’s Do Lunch

Students in Jamia Green and Chantel Watkins’ science classes earn monthly rewards for good behavior. The students earn points every day in class by meeting the requirements for showing respect, being prepared, participating, etc. Sometimes the reward is a game day in class with Wii games and other fun computer games. Occasionally the reward is lunch off campus. Students earn a ticket on the bus and pay for lunch themselves. It is always a special treat to eat lunch off campus. A recent special treat for these students was lunch at Golden Corral. Yummy!!



Krystal Davis takes pictures for the magazine.



It is a fun and delicious reward for everyone.

Georgia PINES

The Parent Infant Network for Educational Services (Georgia PINES) provides early intervention services in natural environments with an emphasis on training families of children from birth till five years of age newly diagnosed with sensory loss. Sensory loss includes hearing loss, visual impairments, deaf-blind, and sensory impairments with additional multiple disabilities. Georgia PINES' mission is to support, educate, and empower families of young children with sensory loss to positively impact their quality of life through collaborative efforts in natural environment. Currently, Georgia PINES serves over 500 families throughout Georgia with over 200 contractors. There are four different programs within Georgia PINES. The SKI-HI Program serves families of children with hearing loss. The INSIT program serves families of children with hearing loss or visual impairments with additional disabilities. The VIISA Program serves families with children with only visual impairments. The Deaf Mentor Program serves families with children who want to use sign language as a main communication method for the family.

Mrs. Clare Sullivan retired on October 29, 2010, having served Georgia PINES as Program Manager for eleven years. Dr. Alice Stanley became the new Program Manager on November 1, 2010. She was the SKI-HI Program Coordinator prior to taking the position as the Program Manager. Georgia PINES is in the process of hiring a new Program Coordinator for the SKI-HI Program. With the change of having a new Program Manager and a new SKI-HI Program, Georgia PINES is committed to continue to grow, adapt, and embrace new and improved ways of serving families of children with sensory loss in Georgia efficiently and effectively. Georgia PINES wants to thank AASD for its continual support under the leadership of Kenney Moore. Together, Georgia PINES and AASD are making the difference for the children we serve.



Strengthen a parent...
and you strengthen a child.
Fred Rogers

Panther Readers' Club

The theme for the Panther Readers' Club this year is based on *The Wizard of Oz*, with students following the yellow brick road to see how many books they can read. Students who meet their reading goals are rewarded with a special event in the library each semester. In October the high school students celebrated with a variety of Wii games. Everybody loved that activity.



There's no place like a great book.



Keyvis Russell and Stephon Garcia play Mario Galaxy Wii.



Anthony Watson and Anthony Sinkfield like Wii bowling.

AASD Sports Report

Volleyball

This year, the AASD volleyball team had a greatly improved season. We learned to “bump, set, and spike.” We traveled to North Carolina, Kentucky and Alabama to play against the deaf teams. In Kentucky, we won 2nd place in their tournament. **Christina Anderson** received an award for **Most Valuable Player** and **Brittney Brown** received the award for **Best Defensive Player**. We will miss these two seniors next year, for they have played beautifully for us. This year’s team was **Christina Anderson, Denetrice Arnold, Brittney Brown, Xylinda Collins, Xylonda Collins, Camry McCaleb, Jaquisha New, Jessica Santiago** and **Amber Sheppard**. Our team managers were **Nick Foster** and **Travis McClain**. Our record for the season was 5-11. Many thanks to head coach **Kayleen Pugh** and assistant coach **LaRhonda Strickland**.



Ms. Pugh’s old stomping grounds



Soccer



The soccer team had an amazing season. We won 12 games! We played our first tournament at the Kentucky School for the deaf and we won 1st place! **Luis Naranjo** won **Best Offensive Player** and **Hugo Soto** and **Moise Gatua** made the **All Classic Team**. We also made the playoffs in our league and won 3rd place in the tournament. Another highlight was our last regular season game where we beat the 2nd place team in the league, Mill Springs Academy. Team captains were **Luis Naranjo** and **Marvin Marquez**. Luis broke the school record of goals scored in one game. He scored 4 in one game and 21 for the season. Hugo Soto scored 18 goals on the season. We are looking forward to next season!



On the court at the Alabama School for the Deaf



Getting instructions from the coaches



The AASD Soccer Team



Boys Varsity Basketball

The varsity basketball season began on October 19th, and AASD's Varsity Boys are off to an exciting start. Head coach **Reginald Bess** and assistant coach **Adam Garfinkel** have been working hard to enhance the boys' basketball skills. With only four games played thus far, AASD is now ranked 8th in the Atlanta Athletic Conference (AAC). Having lost a couple of our best players because of age restrictions, we are starting this year with some young, unseasoned players. **Blair Roberts, Jr.** and **Jesus Ontiverous** are our key players at this point. Blair is currently ranked number two in the AAC, with the second best average of points per game. Jesus is currently number four in the AAC. This is impressive considering the AAC commissioner selected only twenty students from eight different schools. The coaches are proud of their boys for their valiant effort. We have 18 more games to play this season. Go Panthers!

against the Cottage School in November. The current record is 1-2, and the boys are determined to win more games in the next few months. We are looking forward to a winning year and making it to the Atlanta Athletic Conference tournament. Many thanks go to Head Coach **Adam Garfinkel** and assistant Coach **Victor Calloway**.



Junior varsity boys beat the Cottage School.



Girls Basketball

Head coach **Robert Calloway** and assistant coaches **Candace Jones** and **Danielle Valenza** are ecstatic to be starting their first basketball season with the varsity girls. With a record of 1-4 so far this season, the girls are putting forth their best efforts on the court. The girls are highly motivated to improve, attend practice sessions regularly, and exhibit a positive attitude on and off the court. We look forward to winning more games!



The varsity boys hustle for the ball.



Junior Varsity Boys Basketball

We are entering into our second year of junior varsity basketball at AASD. The 2010-11 JV Boys are: **Amir Ahmed, Evan Ferguson, Deion Harvey-King, Kevin Hernandez, Marvin Marquez, Ezequiel Mixcoatl, Justice Pyne, Cordell Richard, Jorae Smith, Donte Stanley, and Alex Turner**. This year we will be competing against The Cottage School, Brandon Hall, The Howard School, and the Chrysalis Experiential Academy. Some of the experienced boys will have the opportunity to play against the Alabama School for the Deaf and the Kentucky School for the Deaf. The boys have already earned their first win



The girls take off down the court.