

ATLANTA AREA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1
November 2011

Message from Principal Robisch

I want to welcome everyone back to the 2011-2012 school year and let you know how excited I am to see this parent newsletter up and running. I am sure it will be the start to even better communication between school and home. I believe that most of you know me but for those of you who do not I wanted to tell you a little about myself. I have been at AASD for more than 24 years in a variety of roles. I started as a volunteer while in graduate school and moved on through-out the years to substitute teacher, paraprofessional, elementary teacher, middle school supervisor, behavior specialist, instructional leadership positions that have gone by various names, and am now serving in the principal's position.

I have seen many changes during my time at AASD. Some of the changes are due to the needs of the school and others are due to us trying to align our administrative positions to what you might normally see with a typical school. One change that happened this year is that we no longer have both a principal and a school director. Kenney Moore, our former school director, has moved to the Department of Education to become the Director of the Division of State Schools which includes the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Georgia School for the Deaf and Georgia Academy for the Blind. This was done with the hope that the three state schools will be able to work together as our own district as opposed to three separate schools.



Vanessa Robisch
Principal

We are consistently working to improve student achievement and one of the biggest influences on this area is parent involvement. The more we can work together between school and home, the more our students will achieve. I look forward to a great year and believe this parent newsletter is the first step toward improved collaboration.

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Special Topics:

- "Parent Involvement Program" (PIP) needs you.
- Know your rights as a parent.
- How much do you know about Title 1 Schools?
- Tips and Resources for our families!

Federal Grant Corner

TITLE I: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantage

What is Title I?

Title I, Part A is a part of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 (ESEA). This act provides federal funds through the Georgia Department of Education to local educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools with high percentages of students who meet eligible requirements for federal funding support. This support is to ensure that all children meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards.





TITLE I SCHOOL

What is the eligibility requirement?

Meeting the needs of academically at-risk children (as determined by the percentage of students that qualify for free and reduced lunch).

What is the purpose of Title I Federal Funds?

Targeting and distributing our resources sufficiently to make a difference where needs are greatest,

Significantly elevating the quality of instruction by providing staff with substantial opportunities for professional development;

Affording parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their **children**.

Parent Notifications Letters & Dissemination Requirements!

Parents should have received information about the following topics in a variety of ways. Information was available at registration day, mailed to all parents, posted on the school website and will be available at the Annual Title I Conference. Districts are required to inform parents by letter of their rights if their home school is identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring and if they are offering Supplemental

Educational Services (SES). If you have not received your informational packet please call, Andrea Johnson, System Federal Grants Coordinator at 404-298-4866, email Andrea Johnson at ajohnson@doe.k12.ga.us or mail a request, Attn: Andrea Johnson at, 890 North Indian Creek Drive, Clarkston, GA 30021.

Parent Notifications

As you are aware, AASD is a state school that provides special education services for deaf and hard of hearing students. AASD closely monitors student progress and regularly informs parents of individual student development.

In spite of the progress made by our students, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf has been included on a list of schools in Georgia identified as not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). Atlanta Area School for the Deaf is identified as a needs improvement year (NI) 7 school under ESEA.

AASD will continue to implement a School Improvement Plan to address student achievement and improve student outcomes and in accordance with ESEA, specifically addressing the reason why the school is identified as NI.

An important part of the success plan for

- Choice Transfer
- Supplemental Educational Services (SES)
- Complaint Procedures
- Parent Right to Know - Teacher Qualifications
- School Parent Compact

Atlanta Area School for the Deaf is parent participation and support in developing

activities to improve student achievement. We hope that as a parent, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations.

If you are interested in participating in developing our school improvement initiatives, contact Vanessa Robisch at 404-294-3551, 866-703-5863 (vp), 404-294-3522 (fax), email vrobisch@doe.k12.ga.us

Stay Informed!





Homeless Liaison Information

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. § 11434a (2) et. seq., defines homeless students as those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes:

Children and youth who:

- Share the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- Live in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Live in emergency or transitional shelter;
- Are abandoned in hospitals
- Are awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances set forth in the items above. The parent/guardian of a student who demonstrates evidence of living in a homeless situation can contact the Homeless Liaison Coordinator of the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf who will assist in determining eligibility based on the above definition.

AASD's homeless liaison

Dona Harris, M.S.W.

School Social Worker, Homeless Liaison Coordinator

Atlanta Area School for the Deaf

890 N. Indian Creek Drive

Clarkston, GA 30021

Telephone: 404-298-3613

Fax: 404-299-4485

Email: doharris@doe.k12.ga.us



PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Get Involved and Make a Difference!

ATLANTA AREA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

**890 North Indian Creek
Clarkston, Georgia 30021**

Phone Voice: 404-296-7101

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*“Excellence Everyday
That’s The Panthers Way!”*

Parent Rights/Information

- **Parent Rights Webcast:**
NEW on the GaDOE Website - Parent Rights Webcast ! We hope this will be helpful to you in assisting parent to understand their rights. It is Chaptered and very parent friendly. It is available in English and Spanish. I also believe it could be a good resource to help teachers brush up on their knowledge of the rights. We had contracted for closed captioning and it will be added soon. http://gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx?PageReq=CIEXCParentsRightsVideos
- **New Resources on the GaDOE website:**
End of Course Tests (EOCT)
http://www.gadoe.org/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI_TESTING_EOCT
GPS Algebra Test Content Descriptions
GPS Geometry Test Content Descriptions
GPS Algebra Student Study Guide
GPS Geometry Student Study Guide
- **Dare to Hope:** <http://dare-to-hope.org/> - There services include procuring free or low-cost legal and advocacy assistance, furnishing medical supplies not covered by insurance, offering toys to brighten a child’s day, providing community resource referrals and coordination and offering emotional support to families. I got this from the website.
- **Dentistry from the Heart Events”**
There will be a free dental clinic sponsored by Dentistry From The Heart. Each person will get a cleaning , extraction or a restoration. Every year, individual dentists and practices across the country donate their time and resources to host this event.
http://www.dentistryfromtheheart.org/even/even_upco.php

11/19/11

Marietta Family Dental Care, PC - Marietta, GA

4720 Lower Roswell Road

Marietta, GA 30068

www.naturalsmile.biz<<http://www.naturalsmile.biz>>