



Tiger

TALK

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF SPALDING DRIVE CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND PTA

02.03.2012

Parent University

Health Fair

Learning, Food & Fun!

Thursday, February 9, 2012

6:00—8:00 PM

- Sample Spalding "Stone Soup"
- Grade level booths addressing various health topics
- Guests from different health-related fields
- Exercise sessions
- Safety tips from Police & Fire Dept. personnel

Additionally, all are welcome to visit our Parent Resource Center, Room 23, to check out all the materials available to parents.



The annual BINGO night is coming up on Friday, February 24th! Mark your calendars for a great family outing, complete with pizza & salad meal, baked items & concessions, and lively BINGO games for fantastic prizes! Registration flyers will be coming home to all families this week, and we will also offer an option to register online.

In the meantime, we are grateful for any prize donations that SDC families would like to contribute. Because this is a fundraiser to benefit the 5th grade class, we count on those families for 100% participation. But we are very thankful to all of the school families who might want to bring in a prize donation between now and the deadline on Thursday, February 16th. Each prize item should cost no more than \$15 and be a new item in good condition. Some suggestions are board games, craft kits, sports items, DVDs, gift cards, books, or art supplies. Many items can be purchased at Target, grocery stores, Big Lots, Wal-Mart, or Michaels. Just drop your gift off at the school front desk, and we thank you! Any questions can be sent to Catherine Fuss at fussfamily@comcast.net.

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THIS WEEK'S TIGER

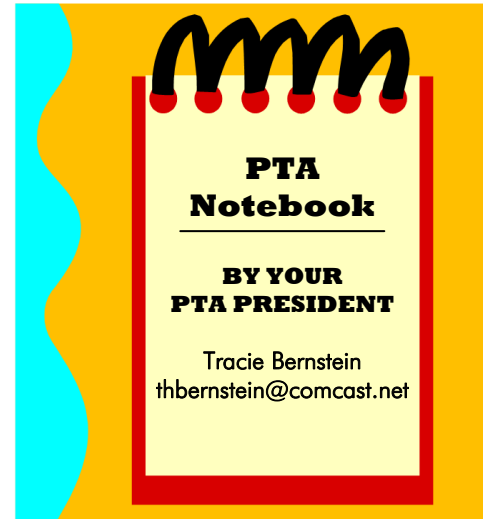
This week's Tiger
created by
William Edmondson
in 5th Grade





Spring. Although a really busy time of year for all of us, it's also a really fun time of year! We have two events at SDC in the Spring that are a lot of fun and right around the corner! The first is Bingo Night, which is on February 24th. Bingo Night has always been a family favorite in my house, or at least after kindergarten for my 4th Graders. (They were not happy when their younger sister, who was in preschool, won and they didn't). Held as an event to raise money for the 5th grade class, there are many winners that night! The 5th grade classes use the money (along with other fundraisers they have done throughout the year) to pay for their 5th grade End-of-the-Year party and the 5th grade present to the

school. The sign up sheet for Bingo Night is coming home soon, so make sure you reserve your space to WIN! The next event is our Spring Auction, "A Night of Lucky Stars". This is only the second Auction that our school has held (it's held every two years, and the first auction was held in 2010), but the committee has some great things in store! It will be held on March 16th and will take place at the newly remodeled Bluestone Building in the middle of Sandy Springs. You should have gotten the flyers about the raffle for the Auction in your child's backpack. This is a great prize - 12 gift cards worth over a total of \$1200 to well-known restaurants in Sandy Springs and Buckhead! The raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 - this you don't want to miss! You also don't want to miss the auction! All proceeds from the auction will benefit the SDC Foundation, and like last time, there will be many great items to bid



on, teacher gifts, which are mostly events with a teacher, and each class in the school will make an art project that will be up for auction! So mark your calendars for March 16th!

PRINCIPAL'S DESK

MS. YOUNG

“State of the School”

The SDC School Improvement Plan interim report has been submitted for approval to Area Superintendent Dr. Vic Shandor. This article is the first of two parts, the second of which will be in the Feb. 16th issue of Tiger Talk.

Since the beginning of the school year, SDC has successfully implemented 77% of its initiatives and strategies. Of the remaining 23percent, all are in-process. The in-process initiatives are primarily in the areas of implementing Professional Learning Communities and new approaches to teaching math and writing concepts. In both cases we are committed to the initiatives but are refining the approach to achieve better consistency and understanding.

The initiatives we have implemented that we are the most proud of are:

1. Triple A—Additional Academic Activities which take place in the mornings from

7:10 am until 7:40 am. Students are pulled for small group content specific remediation and enrichment activities such as Academic Bowl, Debate Team, and book clubs.

2. Beginning the implementation of our Professional Learning Community meetings. This is a cultural paradigm shift for our staff to really examine student data and teacher best practices.
3. Having a group of staff trained for Critical Friends Group facilitation. Critical Friends/School Reform Initiative protocols are useful for providing varying levels of structure when analyzing student data, teacher best practices, resolving dilemmas, reviewing relevant educational articles and team building.
4. Continued integration of 70/30 common assessment summative tests in spelling, math, social studies, and science. Teachers are working towards not giving students “permission to forget” previously taught standards. This initiative allows for the monitoring of remediation effectiveness and that standard mastery is achieved.

The initiatives that have been the most challenging are:

1. Effective implementation of Professional Learning Communities. Although staff are beginning to see the value in this process, it is a cultural paradigm shift.

Because of this, we have stepped back and provided additional training and modeling.

2. Scheduling time for staff to conduct colleague/peer writing lesson opportunities. Peer observations are important for teacher growth. However, providing coverage so that staff may have access to observe any staff member, regardless of planning time, can be challenging.
3. Incorporation of Drops In A Bucket into the math schedule. Being a new initiative to Spalding, there has been a learning curve for the staff in implementing the program with fidelity. Providing the staff with a common data collection spreadsheet and brainstorming ideas for student responsibility for their own data has been helpful in this area.
4. Implementation of Dibels. Even though we believe that this initiative is going to provide teachers with valuable data regarding student literacy skills, it is a very time-consuming process.

We have continued to work this year to establish a school culture where staff are willing to try new initiatives and discard others if deemed ineffective. Providing professional learning that involved the staff in the development of the strategies, initiatives, and data collection has led to an improved understanding of the school goals and opportunities for growth.



Earn a Free Ticket to Six Flags

Earn a free ticket to Six Flags just by reading! It is that simple! Spalding Drive Charter is participating in the Six Flags Six Hour Reading Club again this year! Every child who completes six hours of reading and turns in a signed form will receive a free ticket to Six Flags Theme Park. Students can read silently, aloud, or with an adult. Books, magazines, comic books and newspapers count for recreational reading! Your child should have brought home a form to use to keep track of reading time! Completed reading logs should be returned to the homeroom teacher no later than February 24 2012. So remember, reading now means fun at Six Flags this summer! If you have questions, please email Ms. Fenoglio at Fenoglio@fultonschools.org.

Tennis Programs

The Sandy Springs Tennis Association will begin their registration for 2 programs offered for Spring 2012. The first is Kids Luv Tennis (KLT) for beginners taught on Tuesday afternoons at Spalding from 2:30 until 4:00. The second program is 10 and Under Quick Start, taught at the Sandy Springs Tennis Center on Fridays for advanced beginners. Please keep in mind these popular programs have limited class space and fill quickly. Once class size is filled, REGISTRATION WILL BE CLOSED. KLT dates are on Tuesdays starting with Feb 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 10, 17, 24; graduation is May 11. For registration form, click [here](#). Returning players who are 10 and under may want to go to 10 and Under on Fridays. The Friday schedule is Feb 24, Mar 2, 16, 23, April 13, 20, 27, May 4; Graduation May 11. For registration form, click [here](#). Questions? Contact Cindy Zimmerman, cczbrowncow@aol.com

SSCMS Open House

Please join Principal, Dr. Kay Walker, to learn how Sandy Springs Charter Middle School can help your child bridge the gap between elementary school and high school. Open houses and tours will be held on the following dates:



February 16, 9:00 am
March 15, 9:00 am
April 17, 6:30 pm

FITCamp

SDC presents FITCamp for SDC parents featuring Zumba intervals! Meet every Monday at 3:30pm at SDC gym and increase your fitness level. Everyone is welcome from couch potatoes to athletes! \$5 per person. Contact Jenn Hall (needmorefitness@gmail.com) with questions and to RSVP.

Counselors' Corner

The character trait we are learning about during the month of February is honor. The definition of honor is **letting someone know you see how valuable they are**. Why is it important to teach kids about honor? Because every day we are given the opportunity to show those around us that we think they are valuable. We honor the people around us by showing respect and courtesy. Our body language, our words, our time and our actions all indicate who or what we value. Here are some specific ways we show honor at school:

We honor those who came before us. When we remember the contributions of people who have contributed to our world, our country and even to our lives personally, we honor their memories.

We honor authority. When we respect those in authority, we show that we honor not only the person, but also the position which they hold.

We honor each other. Every day our actions and words communicate to those around who we consider valuable—and who we don't, even if we don't say a thing.

CATCH YOUR CHILD SHOWING HONOR

Here are a few suggestions on how you can catch your child, and let him or her know you see them showing honor.

- Your child treats others with kindness.
- Your child is good at sharing.
- Your child treats everyone equally.
- Your child treats people of different ages like they are valuable.
- Your child reaches out to kids who are new.



Counselor's
Corner
By Ken Stevenson

Please contact me if there is
anything I can assist with, or if you
have questions:

770-551-5880 ext. 135,
stevensonk@fultonschools.org

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Muffins for Mom/ PTA Mtg. 7:15 AM Volunteer Day	4
5	6	7	8 Early Release Day 12:30 PM	9 Parent University— Health Fair 6-8 PM	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine Centers/ Mad About Math	15	16	17 Teacher/Student Holiday Schools Closed	18
19	20 Presidents' Day Holiday Schools Closed	21	22	23	24 BINGO Night Spirit Day	25
26	27	28 Optimist Club Oratori- cal Contest 5:15 PM	29			



**What's
going on at
Spalding
this
month?**

**Board Members
Community Meetings
in February**

2/16 Mrs. Dean @ Hamilton Holmes ES
6:30 PM
2/21 Mrs. Bernath @ Woodland Charter
ES 9:30 AM

Volunteer Day
2/3

**Muffins for Mom & PTA
Meeting**
2/3 7:15 AM

Early Release Day
2/8

**Parent University/
Health Fair**
2/9

**Valentine Centers/
Mad About Math**
2/14

**Presidents' Day
Holidays**
2/17 & 2/20
Schools Closed



**BINGO
Night**
2/24

Spirit Day
2/24

**Optimist Club
Oratorical Contest**
2/28

Need to contact Spalding Elementary?
Call us at 770-551-5880 or visit us
online at:
www.spaldingdrivecharterschool.com