Stallion News

A Newsletter for the Sandy Springs Charter Middle School Community

Dr. Emily Abrams Massey, Principal
Ms. Alisha Lyas Jones, Curriculum Assistant Principal
Ms. Sabrina Taylor, Curriculum Assistant Principal

March 13, 2015

CALENDAR

April 6th-10th
Spring Break

May 22nd
Last day of School

Congratulations!
The CLC Principal of the Year 2015-2016 is (our very own) Dr. Emily Massey!

8750 Pride Place, Atlanta, GA  30350  770.552.4970 – phone (English/Español)  770.643.3334 – fax
http://school.fultonschools.org/ms/sandysprings/Pages/default.aspx

Title I School Commitment: Sandy Springs Charter Middle School qualifies to receive federal funds under No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I Part A for the 2012-2013 School Year. Our school has been designated as a Title I School.
After-School All-Stars:

As part of our STEM outreach, the Sandy Springs Education Force sponsored a field trip for 105 students, many from the After School All Star program, to attend the AT&T High Tech Day. High Tech Day is a national program which takes place in 30 cities to help students discover a future in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This half day program, which took place at the AT&T Lenox location, exposed students to the future of communication technology including digital voice, digital life and connected car activities. Thank you AT&T! Comments from the students, “This was the best field trip ever!”

In addition, All Star students attended another STEM related field trip sponsored by the Sandy Springs Education Force and the Georgia Tech Research Institute, on Thursday, March 5. Students were able to participate in hands on learning experiences in the field of Communication Technology. Students were so excited about what they saw, they did not want to leave the event.

Session 4 of the After School All Star program will begin Monday, March 9. Session 4 will end of Thursday, April 2. There is no program on Friday, April 3rd, before spring break. We will not have the After-School All-Stars Program during Ga. Milestone testing, during the weeks of April 13-24. After School All Stars will resume on Friday, April 27 and will be in session until May 8. The program will end for the year on May 8.

Study Island

Study Island math and language arts computer program is available for all students. The After-School All-Stars students have specific completion requirements. Parents are encouraged to have students complete the math and the language arts pretest.

Students will log onto studyisland.com. The log in is the student’s firstintitial.lastname@sscms (example J.Lane@sscms)

The password is the student’s lunch number.
**FYI...**

**Georgia Parent Survey**

The Georgia Parent Survey is also modeled after the student survey and contains 24 questions. Parents will be able to complete the survey using their personal computers, smartphones or iPads. For parents that do not have access to the Internet, school administrators might consider scheduling dates and times to allow parents to complete the Georgia Parent Survey at school. All parents should be encouraged to participate in the Georgia Parent Survey because the data will be used to calculate the School Climate Star Rating. However, there is no mandatory participation rate for parents. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. Data results from the Georgia Parent Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online. The URL address for the Georgia Parent Survey is posted below.

**Georgia Parent Survey:**

http://apps.gadoe.org/schoolclimate/parents.nsf/Survey.xsp

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**Announcement for Military Families**

Please see the link below to find out about a camp for military youth ages 12-15. Thank you for all you do for the children of Georgia! [http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/youth_camps/youth_camp_georgia.html](http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/youth_camps/youth_camp_georgia.html)

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**8th Grade Dues**

**A Memo from the Dance**

**CELEBRATE**

What do the dues include?

Admission to the End-of-Year Celebration/Party on May 15th. There will be food, music, friends, fun, memories to make, and even a keepsake.

Dues of $45 must be paid in full, at this time. All payments MUST be received by Friday, April 3rd.

Refunds will not be given. Payments may be made in cash or by money order. All payments can be made during lunch to Mr. Hill. Please direct any questions to Mr. Hill at HillJ2@fultonschools.org or to Ms. Salters at Saltersa@fultonschools.org.
**News…**

**Café Conversation**

SSCMS offers a nutritious and convenient breakfast every morning at no cost to all students. This is a breakfast program designed to boost academic performance, behavior and attendance. The daily breakfast includes:

- Both hot and cold whole grain entrée options
- Fresh fruit and 100% fruit juice
- 1% and fat-free milk

Please take a look at the breakfast menus at [www.fcsnutrition.com](http://www.fcsnutrition.com), and consider joining the SSCMS Café for a delicious breakfast!

Kim Redden  
SSCMS Café Manager  
770-552-4972  
redden@fultonschools.org

**Winter Weather Updates**

It’s cold outside! The weather can be unpredictable. In order to be best prepared, stay tuned in to the weather forecast. Listen to AM 750 WSB, or visit the website: [http://www.wsbradio.com/s/weather/](http://www.wsbradio.com/s/weather/)

**Want to Volunteer at SSCMS?**


**SSCMS Yearbooks**

Remember to order your yearbook online. One day, you will want to reflect on your year at SSCMS!  
**Purchases can be made at the following web-site:** [http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01347150](http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01347150)  
Refer questions please contact Mr. Hytowitz at hytowitzn@fultonschools.org

**KUDOS to Mr. Hytowitz and the Yearbook Staff!**

**Helping Children after a Loss**

If you have a child who has experienced the loss of a parent, sibling, or other close loved one, there is a FREE weekend retreat for kids 7 years old to a high school senior. Camp MAGIK—Mainly About Grief In Kids ([www.campmagik.org](http://www.campmagik.org)) --is having their weekend retreat April 24-26 (deadline is April 17th). Please contact Rene Searles McClatchey, PhD, at rsm@saf.com, 404.790.0140, for more information.

**Info about the Internet**

Students who receive free or reduced lunch may qualify for “Internet Essentials” through Comcast. This program gives families the internet for only $9.95 per month. Additionally they can order a laptop or desktop for only $149! Below you will find the direct link to the online application.  

**From the Front Office:**

To support home learning, parents have specialized parent access to their Home Access portal via the Fulton County website. Should you need your login and password information, simply contact one of our front office staff, and they will more than glad to walk you through the process.
More News...

SSCMS Building Alterations

SSCMS is undergoing a facelift to include expansion and upgrades to better suit the needs of our students. Some of the improvements will include more classrooms, a STEM lab, and changes in the media center to accommodate 21st century learners.

PAWS POPS for sale. Items being collected for animals from AHS wish list. All proceeds will go towards the Atlanta Humane Society. Thank you for helping to support our furry friends.

Visit the Media Center to make your purchase!
We support the Atlanta Humane Society!

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Please bring your donations to the media center.
**FYI...**

**SSCMS 8th Graders**

The 8th grade students will embark on yet another adventure to Savannah, Georgia on March 26-27th. Stops include the First African Baptist Church, Fort Jackson and the Okefenokee Swamp. If you have any questions regarding the trip, please contact Ms. Cowart at cowarnt@fultonschools.org

**TAG INFO**

The following links will give you information and guidance on Summer Programs. Many are designed specifically for gifted students but there are as many open to students of all levels. Please look through the options if you are thinking of enrolling your student in a summer program this year.

http://giftedatlanta.com/summer-programs/

They have a calendar set up each month. This is the one in our area, however it has events listed all over the metro area. Some are educational, some are just for fun:

http://duluth.macaronikid.com/calendar/  
Please feel free to email Mrs. Katie English at englishk@fultonschools.org for more information.

**BOX TOPS**

Here’s what we need you to do if you are participating in collection efforts:

- Box tops should be cut out cleanly and rubber banded together in groups of 50.
- Each (participating) Teacher/Staff member must provide a total number of all box tops submitted.
- Box tops should be placed in a clear large baggie or manila envelope.
- On Inside, please include and Index card with Teacher Name, Grade, Date, and the Total # of box tops submitted.
- Turn in box tops to Ms. Arkeah Jacobs (Front Office) or Ms. Jeannette Lawson (D104).

KUBO’s to Mrs. Katie English who submitted 570 box tops for the 8th Grade!

Here are the current stats by grade:

- 7th Grade - 1st Place
- 8th Grade - 2nd Place
- 6th Grade - 3rd Place

Please drop off any Box Tops at D104 or Ms. Lawson’s mailbox. Please encourage students to participate.

**GA Milestone**

Below are several resources that provide detailed information regarding the Georgia Milestones. There is a webpage dedicated specifically to where these resources are available. This can also be found on the GaDOE’s Georgia Milestone Assessment webpage (see links below). Another resource that you might find beneficial is a video developed to provide parents with an explanation about Georgia’s Student Growth Model, which is embedded on the GaDOE website as well.

Testing/Assessment  
http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/default.aspx

Georgia Milestones Assessment System  
http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx

Georgia Student Growth Model  
http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Student-Growth-Model.aspx
**Counselor’s Corner**

Mrs. Russell  
Mrs. Burgins

Jamie Burgins- 6th grade and 7th grade boys support

Shinah Russell- 8th grade and 7th grade girls support

What we do for students

School counselors provide programs and support designed to promote student achievement. “These programs are comprehensive in scope, preventive in design and developmental in nature” (American School Counselor Association, 2012).

Our comprehensive school program consists of the following components 1) academic, 2) social/emotional, and 3) career development.

- Individual Counseling
- Small Group counseling
- Parent Workshops
- Mentoring programs
- Core Curriculum (Classroom Guidance)

Special programs i.e. Anti-Bullying, BFF, PALS, Transitions, Support for Teachers

Student Support Team (SST)

Resources for mental health

College and Career Awareness

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**College & Career**

**Georgia Career Information System (GCIS)**

This year students will use Georgia Career Information System (GCIS) for career exploration and planning. Each student will obtain their access information, complete career interest inventories and 8th grade students will complete their four year high school graduation plan. The career inventories and the high school graduation plan are designed to meet the Bridge Law requirements.

**College/Career Lesson(s)**

On Wednesday, March 04, students were engaged in a lesson on career choices “putting all the pieces together”. During the lesson students identified their interest & developed a career goal. We will continue the lesson on Wednesday.

**College & Khaki Day**

On Friday, March 27 students and staff are encourage to wear their favorite college shirt with khakis. Each week we engaged students in lesson on college and careers. The lessons help students make the connection between the importance of their education and their future career aspiration. This day is designed to support the initiative and promote a college going cultural.

**What to look for?**

Success in Middle School Groups

6-8 grade STEM opportunity- A group of 6-8 girls have been select to participate in the Tech Bridge program offered by Girls Scouts of Greater Atlanta. The program is designed to spark interest in STEM careers, build leadership skills, and provide mentorship.

**Attention 8th grade Parents and Students**

North Springs Charter High School Counselors visited our 8th grade students to prepare them for the transition to high school. Students learned about opportunities and course offerings. In addition, students had an opportunity to speak with their high school counselor and choose their electives for next year.

**9th Grade Night at North Springs Charter High School.**

Parents and students, you are invited to attend 9th grade Night at North Springs Charter High School on April 21, 2015 from 5:30pm -8:30pm. This event will provide the students with an opportunity to tour the school and gain valuable information about North Springs High School. We hope to see you there!
This week we’re discussing perceptions. To most people, how they view things are or become their truth. However, if you’re not fully aware or informed, this often taints one’s views; setting the atmosphere for stereotypes and prejudices to be birth. One of our POP Ambassadors is a prime example of how his lack of knowledge created a wayward view about his family history. Here’s His Story.

Why do some people uses da, das, do, and de before their surname?

Prepositions that can be used in Portuguese surnames are da (the), das (of), do (of), dos (of) and de (from). The current convention in Portuguese is that they be written in lower case. The conjunction "e" (and) is also common. I heard that if you have preposition in your name one of your ancestors were slave and the slave were bought by a wealthy family. The wealthy family would give their last name to the slave and put a preposition on it. Well that’s not true. It depends on the culture or family background. My family have a preposition on their name and come to find out, no one in my family were slaves.

This is some fact about my family and my background. Jose Vicente de Castro was my great - great grandpa and he was really wealthy. He used to own a big Cocoa farm and hired works to tend to the fields. Before my great, great-grandpa died, he gave the farm to my great-grandpa, Antonio Muniz de Castro. Years later, after the workers no longer worked for my great grandpa, the farm was passed down from generation to generation AND we still have prepositions on our name.

To conclude, just because you have a preposition on your name doesn’t mean one of your family members were a slave. Just like the example I gave of my family. We had preposition on our name but my family members were very enterprising and acquired wealth from our Cocoa farm. If you’re really interested to know about your ancestry, ask your eldest family member. You’ll be surprise on what you might find out 😊

~ POP Ambassador -Bruno Castro
In the Spotlight…

Congratulations!

Ms. Alisha Jones
Nominee for CLC Assistant Principal of the Year 2015-2016

TOTY & POTY

Congratulations!

Our 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year is…
Alana McLemore

Our 2015-2016 Professional of the Year is…
Adrianna Barron

Alana McLemore is also Nominee for CLC Teacher of the Year!

SSCMS Cheerleaders with the Atlanta Hawks Cheerleaders!

Science Olympiad

AJ Evansjelista, Joline Speck, Jessica Forbes-Dacosta, & Mathew Aguilar
Dear 6th grade parents, guardians, and students,

Our school is going to host an amazing Earth Science experience for our students unlike anything they have even seen before! **On March 27**, SparkPoint Innovations will bring a massive 15 ft tall, 40 ft wide inflatable solar system model to our school to teach students about the standards related to the universe. The students will get to interact with the model. It is sure to spark new discussions and deeper mastery of difficult science topics.

To look for pictures about the Orbit Earth Inflatables, please go to [www.sparkpointinnovations.com](http://www.sparkpointinnovations.com) for more details.

Please send in $6 (cash only) with your child to cover the cost of this in-school field trip. The money will be collected by Mrs. Hunter (E117) until Wednesday, March 18.

We look forward to this great opportunity for our 6th grade students and we hope that you can support us financially with this in-school field trip. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

6th grade SSCMS teachers
As part of our STEM outreach, the Sandy Springs Education Force sponsored a field trip for 105 students, many from the After School All Star program, to attend the AT&T High Tech Day. High Tech Day is a national program which takes place in 30 cities to help students discover a future in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This half day program, which took place at the AT&T Lenox location, exposed students to the future of communication technology including digital voice, digital life and connected car activities. Thank you AT&T! Comments from the students, “This was the best field trip ever!”
Stallion Sports

Track
Fulton County Middle School Track Meet
March 21st 8:00 a.m.
Milton High School

For more information you may contact Saudah Parsons, athletic director, at
parsons@fultonschools.org

Cheerleading
Attention SSCMS Parents,
Tryouts for the School Year 2015-2016 will be in May. More information will follow.

For more information, see:
Coach McLemore
McLemore@fultonschools.org

Sports Information:
MEDICAL INSURANCE
Students who are interested in trying out for sports must have medical insurance in case of an emergency. Students can provide a copy of their current medical insurance policy card or purchase school medical insurance for as low as $14.50 for the school year.

For more information, please call:
S. Parsons, Athletic Director
770-552-4970 x160
parsons@fultonschools.org
We said goodbye to winter with a Puzzle Palooza!

Our team of competitors have been holding their place as the top point earners for weeks!

We Love Survivor AR Challenges! 😊
DLDay at SSCMS...

DLDay!
The students at SSCMS enjoyed participating in the Digital Learning Day! There were so many exciting digital activities going on at SSCMS. I was able to capture some of the moments to share.

One class was working on Environmental Improvement Campaigns in various mediums. They were active in spreading awareness about the environmental issues in Asia. I asked the students how they planned to inform.

Students…filming a commercial about the problem with flooding in China.

Students…creating a skit for a radio commercial about the Yangtze River pollution.

Students…filming a persuasive ad campaign about air pollution.

Students…planning an ad campaign focused on the awareness of pollution in the Ganges River.
Celebrating Digital Learning Day
SSCMS iSpy Scavenger Hunt

Students were given a list of random items located around the school.

They were given an iPad and instructed to take pictures of each item they found.

Everyone joined in on the fun, as students searched for items that required interactions with others.

In the end, they shared pictures. It was a lot of fun!
Opportunities...

TEC CAMP
Technology, Engineering, & Computing
June 1-5, 2015

Camp Overview | The Women in Engineering Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology is hosting a week-long, day camp for middle school girls from June 1–5, 2015. This fun and interactive camp is designed to give girls an early introduction to the exciting world of engineering with the hope of inspiring them to eventually consider college majors and careers in engineering.

Camp Hours | Camp begins daily at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. except on Friday when there is a celebratory end-of-camp banquet, which lasts until 7:00 p.m. Drop-off and pick-up information will be provided upon acceptance.

Program Highlights | Students participate in a multitude of activities: exploring engineering and computer science through exciting hands-on projects, interacting with female undergraduate students and professional engineers, working on a project as a team with other students, and presenting the group's findings Friday at the banquet.

Instructors and Facilities | TEC students are well supervised throughout the program by professional institute staff and college student assistants. Engineering faculty and professionals teach courses in Chemical Engineering, Aeronautics, Robotics, and other topics. Seminars are held in Georgia Tech classrooms and laboratories, and the students take a guided campus tour.

Meals | Lunch is served daily as well as an afternoon snack.

Who Should Apply? | Rising 7th and 8th grade girls who have an interest in science, math, or technology. The camp is limited to 40 students. Applicants are selected based on their essay and transcript.

Registration | The registration fee for TEC is $275.00, which covers tuition, meals, materials and supplies. Please do not send the program fee until your daughter is accepted to TEC Camp.

To Apply | An online application can be found at http://wiew.gatech.edu/tec-camp. Registration begins March 16, and the deadline to apply is April 6, 2015.

Thank you for visiting this edition of the SSCMS News online newsletter!