



# The

# S.N.S Chronicle

## April 2010

## Message from Ms. Elinore

Dear Friends,

Can you imagine that there is only 7 weeks of school left? This is a wonderful time at school. We begin to see what the students have accomplished. We realize that the staff's hard work and dedication is paying off. We also notice how each parent, board member and extended family has helped make it a good year.

Many students have gone way past the goals set for them. Children who could not sit still are staying in line and waiting for what's to come next. Children who could not recognize their name in print are reading twenty stories or more. They can spell and phonetically sound out words. One class this year talked all year long about government and had their own student council.

Social Studies Projects were created about lands far away and men and women in history. It's all put together in their own words. Science Projects like making "rock candy" and "space potatoes" are all around the classrooms. And just hearing them describe how the experiment works in words that real scientists might use.

Parent's dreams about their children having friends and going to friends homes to spend the night are becoming a reality. And those students who could not speak have found a voice to be reckoned with.

The school is a powerful tool for all the students. It is a safe haven where trust is our main objective. School is a place where mistakes can happen and we take those mistakes and learn from them. School is a place where social skills improve and are reinforced, best friends emerge, chitchatting on the phone, going together to the movies and the mall. School can also sometimes seem tedious and repetitious. But giving up is not an option. It will never be an option here at SNS!

I am so proud of all our students and staff for a great year!

Have a safe spring and remember, summer is just around the bend!!! I hope to see you all during camp.

-Ms. Elinore

## In This Issue

- Message from Ms. Elinore
  - Board Notes
  - Class Letters
- Upcoming Events & Important Dates
  - Announcements
- Fundraising Update
  - Thank You's

## Board Notes

Happy Spring everyone! I don't know about you all, but I've had enough of our winter. I'm ready for the sun and some warm spring days! I'm sure our students (and especially teachers) are! I want to thank all of you for a great turnout for our Spaghetti dinner. We had a great sampling of people -- parents, staff, friends, and new friends. In addition to a fun evening, the school made in excess of \$6000 from the dinner! I don't want to mention any names specifically (I'm sure I'd forget someone), but I want to give a big thanks to everyone who played a part in making the event such a success. In addition to the visible work that night (kitchen servers, silent auction, ticket sales, raffle, etc.), there are also a number of invaluable jobs that are not seen (planning, rounding up donations of food items and raffle items, assembling baskets, publicity, and many more). We thank all of you for your effort!

Finally, the 2nd Annual SNS Golf Classic is just around the corner (May 3) at Sugarloaf Country Club. We are actively pursuing sponsors and golfers, and we could use your help. Please spread the word to golfers you know. Also, talk to any contacts you have that might be willing to be a sponsor. You can direct people to [www.snsgolffclassic.com](http://www.snsgolffclassic.com) for details, or see Carol in the office for printed flyers.

Wally Bryan (Matthew's dad)



## Class Letters

Preschool:

Preschool / PreK at SNS is blooming into spring! We are learning about "Healthy Me" and our "Community Helper" of the month is the Dentist. We are now in review of the upper and lower case letters Xx, Yy and Zz. We had so much fun reading Dr. Seuss books and celebrating his birthday with the whole school in March.

Parker and Brayden have grown so much this year. They are doing SUPER!!! They are very excited about the upcoming visit by the Easter Bunny and about hunting for and finding colored eggs. Ms. Amanda & Ms. Kim are equally excited about Spring Break!! And, whew...here comes the end of the year before you know it...

- Ms. Amanda & Ms. Kim



### Primary:

Hello Spring!

Ms. Michelle and I cannot believe that spring break is already here, and that there are only 7 weeks of school left. Man, time has sure gone by fast this school year! In class we have done some new and exciting things. In Language Arts we have written many, what we call our "BIG" Stories about spring and Leprechauns the kids have really enjoyed working on these. In Math we have finished up Chapter 5 Addition up to 12, we will start working on Chapter 6 Subtraction up to 12 after Spring Break. We hope that everyone has a great Spring and a WONDERFUL Spring Break!



- Ms. Ashley & Ms. Michelle

### Intermediates:

The year has just flown by! This class has surely come a long way since the beginning of the year. Matthew, Jordan, and Kayla will be starting Geometry after Spring Break when they have accomplished long division. They have worked real hard to get where they are. Cole, Eric, Joshua and Sam have been working on graphing and sorting what is possible and what is impossible and after Spring Break we will be working on some Geometry facts as well.

In Reading and Language Arts we have gone through two books in one year and that is awesome. In Spelling we are actually writing the words as they are told to them.

In Science we have been talking about electricity and space adventure. They love to play soccer and basketball in Physical Education. We have some great athletes.

I have thoroughly enjoyed having these students and I will miss Jordan & Matthew deeply when they move ahead for their next adventure in Middle School, but I know they are ready and they will go far and beyond!

- Ms. Barbara, Ms. Heather, Ms. Brittany

### Elementary:

March roared into Elementary like wind through the lion's mane. We started this month in the spirit of celebration; we spent a couple of weeks studying the work of the WONDERFUL Dr. Suess and had a Birthday party in his honor. We left our Suessical Celebration by way of the clover fields in search of that sneaky little Leprechaun who made such a horrible mischief in our classroom. We have made shocking discoveries through our experiments with Electricity. We have also enjoyed basking in the beautiful weather and spending recess counting sunbeams instead of raindrops. We look forward to hopping along after the Easter Bunny because we know that little cottontail is going to lead us straight to SPRING BREAK!!!! So as March winds down we will find calmness like a sleepy little lamb. When we return from spring break we will be buzzing like bees with the excitement of getting everything done because like it or not May is fast approaching. Until next time pull out your flip flops and enjoy the days lasting a little bit longer.

- Ms. Erica, Ms. Karly, & Ms. Ashley

### Middle School:

Happy Spring everyone from the Middle School Class!

Over the past nine weeks, we took trips around the world. We were inspired to learn about different countries cultures and their important landmarks. First we started off and explored Canada, where we learned about that their major industry is fishing. Then we explored the United Kingdom where we were amazed by the dimensions of Big Ben. Then we were shocked to find out that if we asked the kids who live in the U.K. to play a game of football with us, we would be playing to different sport – soccer! Then our bellies started to growl when we found out about all of their yummy foods that are made with red sauce and garlic. Exploring Ireland was fun because it was right around St. Patrick's Day, where we spent the day reading about Ireland and drinking green milk-shakes (mint chocolate chip). A leprechaun even called us and explained why he or she messed up our classroom.

It may sound like we always with our noses stuck in books learning but we learn through fun and socializing with our friends.

- Ms. Rachel & Ms. Alyssa

### High School:

I have never seen so much fun with so much learning at the same time.

Come visit the high school. It looks like "The Mad Scientist" lab. Stalagmites and stalactites are growing. Crystal is being grown from "scratch" – and tada...rock candy is formed as well. Then there are all the other yummy cooking adventures taking place! What a great hands on way to learn reading, math, science, history and reinforce social skills all at once!

The high school has come alive! I have seen more learning, more confidence, more talking, more laughing and more love for school in one month than I have seen in years.

The students love Ms. Carrie and Ms. Lisa. They share a natural love to teach no matter how hard some students struggle. Every young man in the high school now has a love for learning. It's been an awesome year!!

- Ms. Elinore

### To Our SNS 2010 High School Graduate:

Dear Skylar,

I wonder if you realize how many people love you. You are a fighter that will always "win" because you won't accept less.



Through the years I have watched your spirit grow in strength, while your body continually fights to keep from weakening. I know why Rocky Balboa is one of your favorite characters. You are the "Rocky" of SNS.

You continue to amaze me and others with your wonderful zest for life. Now, here you are graduating from high school.

WAY TO GO SKYLAR!!!

Love,  
Ms. Elinore and Your SNS Family

### Y'ALLS:

If you ever get a chance to stop in the YALLS room, please do. You will truly be amazed at what these young adults can do. They are always excited about learning new things and give 110% to whatever they are asked to do. All of our young adults are employable and can work independently, so we are going to work on how to prepare them for the interview. In the next couple of weeks we will be learning what to do on an interview, how to compose a resume, sending a thank you note after the interview, what to wear and a whole lot more.

NEVER underestimate what your child can do. They CAN all learn at any age. I am so excited and proud of the accomplishments they have all had this year!!!

- Ms. Kelley

### The Art Room:

The art room has been very busy. We had lots of fun playing with clay, using our hands to make funny creatures, even hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza. Then we took that same clay and made beautiful heart shaped hanging vase for our valentine's presents to our parents. We also made iPods with valentine conversation hearts. Then it was time to talk about St. Patrick's Day and leprechauns. We made our annual Leprechaun catchers covering and putting shiny green and gold things in a box to try and catch him and he would give up his gold. We didn't catch him this year but he did call each class on the telephone and that was really fun.

For the Spaghetti Dinner our students made beautiful birdhouse center pieces for the tables. They worked hard on these and it showed. We hope you enjoy using them on your tables at home now.

We are now finishing up on our Easter projects, making milk carton baskets to use to hunt for those great candy filled eggs and wonderfully colored egg cartons with brightly painted eggs.

Have a great spring break then it's back to spring inspired Art.

- Ms. Janice

### A Speech Note:

In Speech/Language groups we have spend a lot of time working on category skills, which are so important to increasing vocabulary knowledge and organizing thoughts. Our whole world is organized through categories. Think about how hard it would be to find items in the grocery store if they weren't grouped by type! And how much trouble we have when the store decides to re-arrange!! When we have good category skills, we can use them to compare/contrast, define/describe, analyze/infer, and even problem solve. Each class has worked on this skill at their own level, from 'helping me' organize a box of toys into categories, to identifying the group name, to expressively labeling the category. And the categories themselves range from easy and concrete (animals vs things to ride) to more complicated (subcategories: farm, zoo, woods animals) to very abstract (bowling ball, plate, ring= things that are round). We also pull in other concepts such as what belongs vs not, and brainstorming items that belong without changing the topic.

We did break away from our normal schedule to do activities based on the Winter Olympics, including learning about the reason for the Olympics to be held, what the flag colors and rings stand for and when and where the Olympics were located this year. This was a little preview for our 6th annual field day. Our theme this year is going to be "Winter Olympics in May!!" More information will come after spring break.

We also spent a week reading and learning about Dr. Seuss and rhyming words as we celebrated Read Across America. We had so much fun using rhyming to solve riddles, dressing up as our favorite Dr. Seuss characters and celebrating his birthday with cake!

- Ms. Dyanne



# Upcoming Events & Important Dates

## April

- 1st – Noon to 2pm: Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Visit
- 2nd to 11th – NO SCHOOL: Spring Break
- 17th – 10am to 2pm: SNS Car Show @ SNS
- 23rd – 11:30-1:30: Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Pinnacle Awards
- 28th – 9:30-12:30: 1st to 5th Grade Special Olympic Track & Field @ Archer HS
- 29th – 9:30-12:30: Middle School Special Olympic Track & Field @ Norcross HS
- 30th – 9:30-12:30: High School Special Olympic Track & Field @ Peachtree Ridge HS

## May

- 3rd – SNS Golf Tournament @ Sugarloaf Country Club
- 11th – 7pm: Board Meeting @ CTL
- 19th, 20th, 21st & 24th – Program Practice @ CTL
- 23rd – 11am: Baccalaureate Service @ CTL
- 24th – 7pm: SNS Program & Graduation @ CTL
- 27th – Noon – 2pm: Awards & Picnic for Last Day of School
- 28th – June 11th – School Closed

## June

- 14th – Week #1 Summer Programs
- 21st – Week #2 Summer Programs
- 28th – Week #3 Summer Programs

## July

- 12th – Week #4 Summer Programs
- 19th – Week #5 Summer Programs

## August

- 2nd – 9th: Staff Planning Days
- 8th – 1pm-4pm: Open House
- 10th - First day of School 2010-2011



## Announcements

### Mom's In Touch



Please join us every week in praying for our children and school. We are a part of Moms In Touch International and would love to have you join us for prayer, encouragement and support for our families and our school. Our children need our prayers and God promises to hear us as when cry out to Him! This group is not limited to just moms from our school, but we open it to the community for any other moms of children with special needs. So join us and bring a friend! We meet on Wednesdays at the Tabernacle Church down the street from the school

from 1:15p to 2:30p. For more information call Candace @ 770-822-4652 or email knoblochs@bellsouth.net Hope to see you soon!



Don't Forget: SNS has partnered with PrintGreenUSA, who will donate 10% of referred sales to us. Sign up your today to help raise money for the school. Directions to begin using PrintGreenUSA today are below.

- 1) Visit [www.printgreenga.com](http://www.printgreenga.com)
- 2) Click "Create An Account"
- 3) Fill in all required fields. Billing information is required, but credit card information is optional.
- 4) Select "SpecialNeedsSchools" as the Nonprofit/Partner in the drop down box.

To save extra money and for an added convenience, you can email [mail@printgreenga.com](mailto:mail@printgreenga.com) your printer make and model.



Work is well underway for our Second Annual SNS Golf Classic that will be held on Monday, May 3 at TPC Sugarloaf.

Golfers will enjoy the beautiful championship course along with boxed lunches, player prize bags, raffle, golfing contests, a gourmet banquet dinner, silent auction and more. Participant registration is now open. Single golfers can register for a fun-filled day for only \$250 and foursomes for \$1,000.

As this is slated to be our largest fundraiser of the year, we ask the entire SNS family to join us in making the event a tremendous success. Bring out a foursome and have your company sponsor the event or sign up to volunteer at the course – anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

Sponsorship packages are also available and start at \$250. For more information and to register for the SNS Golf Classic visit [www.sns golfclassic.com](http://www.sns golfclassic.com).

If anyone has questions regarding the golf classic, please contact Stephanie Wallace at [steph.d.wallace@gmail.com](mailto:steph.d.wallace@gmail.com).



# Fundraising Update

## Sock Hop:

On Feb 19th our students, family, and friends came together and had a great time dancing to the cool tunes brought to us by our D.J.'s Brian Donegan and Bubba Harrison. Thanks to our great staff, who helped in so many ways, including dancing. We enjoyed pizza and so many prizes for the adults and kids. Many thanks go out to so friends, Amanda Quinn, Kim Goodman, Robin Traeger, Carol Bolton, Kara Bryan, Christina Coalson, Carol Donegan, Susan Styron, Robin and Paul Gwin, Alyssa and Ronnie Trotter, Deborah Hurst, Party Lites and Girl Scout Troup 1414. Mary Beth Hurst celebrated her birthday with us with a great Hannah Montana birthday cake. Thanks again to everyone; though this is a wonderful way we get together for family fun we made \$500 for our school.

## Spaghetti Dinner:

The Spaghetti Dinner Committee would like to thank the families, staff and donors for all of their hard word and dedication that made this wonderful event a success!!!!

### LIST OF DONORS:

#### FOOD:

IPPOLITO'S – SAUCE/ROLLS  
OLIVE GARDEN – SALAD DRESSING MALL OF GEORGIA  
PUBLIX - SALAD MERTON'S WALK  
KROGER – PARMESAN CHEESE/NOODLES  
LOCATION GWINNET DRIVE/GRAYSON HIGHWAY LAWRENCEVILLE  
BARILLA PASTA  
DESSERTS – WHOLE FOODS, CANDACE KNOBLACH, KENYA CARL & KAY (ELINORE'S SISTER) & CAROL BOLTON  
FLOWERS BAKERY – FRENCH BREAD  
TEA – ROBIN MORTON

### SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLE DONORS:

BEST BUY – SNELLVILLE  
TGI FRIDAYS @ MALL OF GEORGIA  
GWINNET COUNTY POOLS  
LAWRENCEVILLE FLORIST  
CHICK-FIL-A  
THE BOLTON FAMILY  
THE BRYAN FAMILY (CHRISTIAN)  
THE COALSON FAMILY  
THE SELWA FAMILY

### SILENT AUCTION/BASKET DONORS:

WHOLE FOODS  
TRADER JOE'S  
SHARON ENGLISH  
CANDACE KNOBLACH CANDIES BY CANDACE

TO OUR WONDERFUL ROOM MOMS , PARENTS AND STAFF FOR ALL OF THEIR HARDWORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS

### ROOM MOMS:

JENNIFER CHITWOOD  
JANE MAINA  
KARA BRYAN  
KENYA CARL  
BARBARA KIRSCHNER  
LISA BRYAN  
CHRISTINA COALSON  
TINA HOLT  
HEATHER VIRE  
ROBIN WHITING  
CAROL BOLTON



## Looking for Grants:

SNS continues to apply and search for grants in order to obtain additional funds. If anyone knows of any or if you come across grants that SNS would be eligible to apply for please contact Kara Bryan via email at karabryan@rocketmail.com or by phone at 678-887-2402. Please do not submit grant information unless approved by the school.

# Thank You's

Thank You to the Angels Among Us!

Amanda Nealin

– In honor of Elinore Trotter, Bev Bailey & Joshua N.

Thank You for the Following Donations from:

James & Schenita Carl

- In honor of Janai

Lawrence & Jacqueline Maude, Lorraine Ravaschieve  
& Travis & Christina Coalson

- In honor of Eric C.

Larry & Martha Landrum, Mr. & Mrs. Whitfield & Living  
Waters Worship Center

– in honor of Caitlin S.

Bill & Fran Moebuis, Myra & Richard Medlin, Sue  
Watts, Anne & Virgil Parks, & Rusty & Jennifer  
Chitwood

Bagley Family

- In honor of Brayden

– In memory of Ms. Barbara's father

## Ways to Donate to SNS

1. Put SNS in your Last Will and Testament.
  2. Donate through the SNS Website ([www.specialneedsschools.org](http://www.specialneedsschools.org)) via “Google Checkout” - It's a great way for your neighbors and out-of-town friends and families to help.
  3. Get Matching Funds for your personal donations from your employer.
  4. Ask your employer if they have any Charitable Grants Programs and then provide the SNS office with a contact name.
  5. Ask your employer for an Outright Donation of:
    - a) money (preferable)
    - b) goods\*
    - c) services\*
- \* Note: Call the SNS Office or refer to the website to make sure what our needs really are at the time.
6. Refer to our Wish List on the Website (or in this newsletter) to purchase items or ask local businesses to donate the items. Caution: Please call the SNS office before doing this as we may have already asked them. We don't want to wear out our welcome by having too many people contacting the same business!
  7. Make a pledge to donate a certain sum each month.