

Daily Rigor Pays Off for Mrs. Colbert's Orchestra

The Orchestra recently completed the Annual Georgia Music Educators District Five Large Group Performance Evaluation (known as LGPE). This event represents very rigorous work in the daily classroom to demonstrate to a panel of expert adjudicators that our orchestra program is meeting or exceeding the standards in large group orchestral performance.

Each orchestra must perform 3 selections from an approved list. After the stage performance, each orchestra must perform one selection the orchestra has never seen before, also before 1 judge. This is called sight-reading. The orchestras have 5 minutes to silently study the selection and then perform it. The goal is to perform the music as if it has been rehearsed.

Each orchestra must earn a rating based on a point system and on the fewest errors in performance. The rating scale is Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor.



We had two orchestras to go before the judges. The first was the Maestoso Orchestra, a combined orchestra of 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes. The Maestoso earned the top rating of Superior in both performance and sight-reading.

Next, was the Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra. This group was comprised of the 17 students that auditioned for All-State Orchestra this year. Creating this elite orchestra is an historical first in the 30 history of the Orchestra program. This orchestra also earned a Superior rating in performance and sight-reading.
~Natalie Colbert

5th Annual Classical Music Celebration

SMS will be hosting its 5th Annual Classical Music Celebration on Monday, March 28th at 4:15 p.m. in the Orchestra Suite. All Sutton students who study classical music are encouraged to apply. Students do not have to be enrolled in a Sutton music program to participate in the recital. We would love to see a variety of talents: ALL instruments (string, woodwind, brass, percussion (no drum set), piano, harp and voice) are encouraged to apply. Selections must be in the classical music genre. Applicants will have the opportunity to rehearse (with our accompanist, if needed) on Wednesday, March 23rd, during their lunch period. All students who wish to perform in the recital must attend rehearsal. Please check the orchestra website for more information: www.suttonorchestra.org

Sutton Showcase: Save the Date--- April 23!

Students have auditioned and are now rehearsing for this spring highlight. Don't miss this unique night of family entertainment as our talented kids perform on the stage of the Chastain Amphitheatre. Bring your Chastain picnic and enjoy the show with neighbors and friends from all over the community.



Announcing Our New Media Specialist!

Along with our legendary Mrs. George, we have a new legend in the making: Mrs. Marsh... and her yellow scooter! A quick introduction from Mrs. Marsh:

I am thrilled to be a part of Sutton Middle School as an additional Library Media Specialist, working with Mrs. George and Mr. Simpson.

Sutton is my neighborhood middle school. I began my journey as an educator at E. Rivers Elementary School way back in 1994. I feel as if I have come full circle, and have come home. I love teaching children. Children are my motivation and constant focus. I have been an educator for the past 17 years, and a library media specialist for the past 12 years. I received a Master of Library Media Technology, as well as a Specialist in Teaching and Learning, with a concentration in Library Media Technology from Georgia State University.

On a personal note, I love to travel, read, walk, technology and my dog. You may have noticed a little yellow scooter parked in the Sutton parking lot. That is me. I love to scoot, too. I have been married for 26 years to a wonderful man, and have a 24 year old daughter who also graduated from Georgia State University. She is presently in India working as a website design intern. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone. Please come by the library when you have a chance. Thank you, Judy Marsh



8th Grader Maryellen Malone Wins VFW Writing Competition On The Importance Of Patriotism

Maryellen Malone's essay addressing the question "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" was selected as the winner by Marietta VFW Post 2681 out of 136 essays submitted in the VFW's 2011 Patriot's Pen writing competition. By coming in first, Maryellen received a certificate and \$300 cash prize at the annual VFW Post 2681 luncheon on Saturday, March 4, 2011, where she delivered her essay to the veterans and other guests. Maryellen's essay was also judged to be the best in the District.

Maryellen wrote her essay on Patriotism last Fall in Mr. Lloyd's Challenge Language Arts Class. At Mr. Lloyd's urging, Maryellen submitted her essay in the VFW Patriot's Pen competition. Maryellen dedicated her essay to her grandfathers, Sam Malone and Ron Eulenfeld. Mr. Malone, now 83, served in the Navy during World War II; Mr. Eulenfeld, now 72, served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War.



Buckhead Patch Names Sutton Reading Bowl Team "Whiz Kids of the Week"



Rising 6th Committed Cougars Attend Ice Skating Icebreaker at Park Tavern!

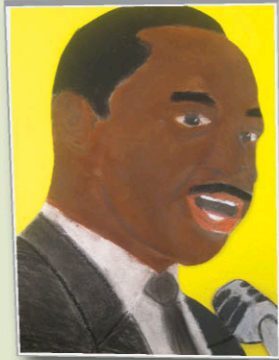
On Sunday, February 27, the Sutton PTA and Paul and Angela Smith of the Park Tavern hosted the rising 6th Grade Committed Cougars from all six feeder schools! Over 100 students enjoyed an afternoon of ice skating while parents mingled and enjoyed a beautiful day in the park. The ice was abuzz with children in their Sutton t-shirts. It was a great afternoon for parents to learn about opportunities at Sutton and for students to meet and begin to bond before their time at Sutton has even begun.



CAMPUS TOURS Sutton parent tours continue to bring record crowds to see all of the great things happening at our school! Parents are able to get an in-depth look at Sutton during school hours, meet some of our teachers and Principal Sofianos, visit classrooms, and tour the building. There are two tours remaining in the school year: April 13 and June 8. Please call Jennifer Miller at 404-802-5600 to make your reservation.

Mr. Smith's Art Students Keep Our Halls Well Decorated

8th Grade Year Round art students that worked on the portraits in honor of Black History Month are: Bradley Williams, Maryellen Malone, Zamir Steed, Carly Hillis, Grayson Martin, Max Hayes, Nick Schmal, Caroline Pratt, Mary Beth Walworth.
Jungle theme by 6th Grader Virginia McClatchey.



YOU are North Atlanta Parents of Public Schools: Bring Your Lunch and Learn About Our Cluster

The next NAPPS meeting is at noon on March 30 at Sutton. We will elect officers for 2011-2012 and discuss arts programs in our schools. The April 27 meeting at NAHS will focus on math and science, and will feature a demonstration by the Warbotz, the NAHS Robotics Team, as well as a presentation by a French astronaut as part of a partnership between NAHS and the Alliance Francaise d'Atlanta. We will also have our annual Senior Showcase. Finally, on May 13 NAPPS will host an IB Celebration at NAHS, where we will all get to view and celebrate IB projects from the Primary Years Programs at all six elementary schools, the Middle Years Program, and the IB Diploma Program. NAPPS welcomes all who care about our schools and our students. -Cynthia Brown, NAPPS Co-President

Walk to School Day

Sutton's Wellness Team organized a "walking school bus" on March 2. Carpoolers, bus riders and walkers met at the Chastain gym and walked to school to get some early morning exercise.



8th Graders Look to the Future

Our recent Orlando trip allowed 8th graders to get a glimpse of tomorrow's world, put science theories into practice, revisit history, go on an African safari, as well as have fun--all while growing academically and socially!

8th Grade Dress for Success Day is March 24. Students will wear their best professional attire and engage in mini-lessons related to proper decorum in social settings and professional behavior.
~ Mr. Lloyd

Science Fair Winners

Shabiba Haque, Vajraang Kamat and Erica Evans were recognized for their Science fair projects at APS' All Fair Awards. Having won at the regional level, they will compete at the state level in the first week of April.



Congratulations, Box Tops for Education Contest Winners- and SMS!!!

Our Box Tops Contest was a HUGE success! More money was raised for Sutton Middle School than ever before- over \$700!!! Sutton students and teachers collected over 7000 Box Tops! The following homerooms have won a fabulous party from our neighborhood Chastain Square Chick-fil-A. Please stop by and thank them for supporting our school in such a generous way:
6th grade- Ms. Corey, 7th grade- Mr. Willard, 8th grade- Ms. Parker Start saving your Box Tops from many grocery and household items now for our next contest. It means free money for Sutton Middle School!! ~Judy Harrison, Box Tops for Education Chair

P Chastain Concert Parking? We've Got It!
Park at Sutton and support our PTA. A good investment!