

# SUTTON SOURCE

QUICK NEWS &amp; INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SUTTON FAMILY

THE PTA WEEKLY PUBLICATION

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST

**27th** All School **Open House** - 6:00 pm  
PTA Meeting - 6:30 pm

**28th** Sutton Executive Board Meeting - 9:00 am

### SEPTEMBER

**3rd** Girls Softball at Price Middle School - 5:00 pm

**5th** Football vs. Kennedy Middle School- Home - 10:00 am

**7th** **NO SCHOOL: LABOR DAY**  
Wellness Committee's Eat-In; Chastain/Am. Legion - 11:00 - 2:00 pm

**8th** Ultimate Frisbee Intramural Starts

**9th** Coffee Talk- 9:00 am (Media Center)  
Progress Reports Sent Home

**10th** Girls Softball at Inman Middle School - 5:00 pm

**11th** Boys Soccer at Killian Hills - 4:30 p.m.  
**Blues & BBQ 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Buy tickets at the Open House

**12th** Football vs. Long Middle School - Away - 10:00 am

## PTA POSTINGS

**Open House for parents is tonight, Thursday, August 27, starting at 6 pm.** Come learn about our latest programs and clubs, meet the teachers, vote on the PTA budget and rotate through your child's classrooms. Teachers will give a brief synopsis of their syllabus to each "parent class." It's a great way to connect with your child's middle school experience and meet other parents!

All of last week's Parent Coffees were a hit! Thanks again to Kitty Hartley, Angelia Heard and Mary Zizzi for hosting three fabulous get-togethers. Thanks also to our administrative team - Ms. Sofianos, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Bouldin and Mrs. Kaltman - for attending all three coffees and answering questions. We're sure parents left feeling much more "in the know" about middle school.

See you tonight!

Leigh Ann Livaditis    Beth Ryan  
PTA Co-Presidents

## Open House/PTA Meeting **-TONIGHT-** Thursday August 27

Don't miss out on our Information Fair in the gym at 6 pm; a short PTA meeting at 6:30 followed by visiting your child's classrooms. Due to the large crowds expected, we designed this as a **Parents Only Event** - this is the one campus meeting that is really geared to adults. So if possible, please leave your children at home. Finally, parking will be tight so please consider carpooling.

When you arrive, the following committees will be set up with information and the ability for you to volunteer:

- **Parent Portal Campus Credentials:** Pick up your personal passcode to access Infinite Campus' Parent Portal to review your child's schedule and attendance records. We are vying to be the pilot school to access grades this way. Let's show that we will use it!
- **Sutton Source** • **Dues and Donations** • **Spirit-wear** • **Blues & BBQ ticket sales**
- **School Clubs: All-Pro Dads, Student-to-Student, Wyldlife** • **Girl Scouts**
- **Reduce/Reuse/Recycle:** Don't forget to donate your reading list books from last year. Drop Boxes will be at the gym doors.

Our first PTA meeting kicks off at 6:30, and will include the budget vote. All teachers will be introduced! Then, you'll head off to rotate through your child's classrooms according to his or her schedule. Teachers will speak to each "parent class" about each syllabus. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, ask questions and gain a greater understanding of your child's "world" while at school. We encourage everyone to join us!

## Principal's Corner



### Now the Work Begins!

As we've settled into our third week of school, the students are working hard on their assignments and projects. Each week, teachers meet in Professional Learning Communities ("PLCs") that focus on specific curriculum needs of the subject and grade level. Teachers work together to design lessons, assignments, and quality learning experiences for each child. We appreciate our teachers and all that they do to create a meaningful, academic and positive environment in each room. Look for Progress Reports coming home on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Two other exciting things headed our way: lockers for students and Campus Parent Portal for Parents! Lockers have a fee of \$5.00 (allowing us to change the combination over the summer) which is paid to the homeroom teacher. Campus Parent Portal is your way of logging into the Atlanta Public Schools system to view your child's schedule and attendance. Information on Campus Parent Portal will be available at Open House, so don't forget your ID to pick up those credentials!

Audrey Sofianos  
Principal



## Sutton Spotlight

### Natalie Colbert Orchestra Teacher

This summer, Mrs. Colbert spent two weeks in Switzerland studying the master class model and focusing on chamber music instruction. "It was the first time I experienced a ski lift or cable car. We took four cables cars to Mont Fort where we could see mountain peaks of Germany, France and Italy. It was an experience to go from July weather in the valley to a snowball fight at the peak in one hour!"

She firmly believes that music and the Fine Arts are an academic discipline that are, as the other academics, an independent way of learning and knowing. Mrs. Natalie Colbert has taught at Sutton for 27 years! She attended Frederick Douglass High in the APS system, and is a graduate of the University of Georgia. She is currently serving as President-elect of the state chapter of the American String Teachers Association and has been elected as the State Orchestra Division Chair for the Georgia Music Educators Association with her term beginning in 2011. Both jobs were earned through statewide elections and she is honored to have the confidence of her colleagues throughout the state.

The Sutton Orchestra program is the most comprehensive orchestra program in the APS school system, and we have Mrs. Colbert to thank. Traditional classical training is the core of the program with students consistently earning superior ratings in the district adjudication events, solo and ensemble festivals. At least 15 former students in the Sutton orchestra have become orchestra teachers in the public schools and at least seven have gone on to professional orchestral careers such as Jonathan Colbert (Manhattan School of Music) and Ismail Akbar (Oberlin Conservatory). She also taught Andre Benjamin (of OutKast fame) and Derrick Watkins, now known as Fonzworth Bentley, an MTV personality.

**Music to our ears:** She will present a seminar to parents and students soon to introduce plans to implement a new teaching model for our music students.

For more info about her Fund for Teachers Fellowship go to her blog: [www.artisticendeavor.wordpress.com](http://www.artisticendeavor.wordpress.com)





## Community Eat-In Picnic on Labor Day

**Healthy Food = Healthy Minds**

The quality of children's learning can be seriously impaired by poor nutrition. Fortunately, there's plenty that we, as parents and community members, can do about it.

The first thing? Join neighbors for a Labor Day picnic to call upon Congress to increase funding when it goes to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act later this year. We will be one of nearly 200 communities around the country taking part in the "Time for Lunch" project headed by Slow Food USA.

Sponsored by Slow Food Atlanta and the Chastain Park Conservancy, our neighborhood "Eat-In" will bring together families from the six elementary feeder schools, Sutton Middle School, and North Atlanta High School. It will also raise awareness about the resources available to promote policies and increase funding for fresh, healthy school food under the Child Nutrition Act. And we'll have lots of fun while we're at it!

We have heard the sobering warnings: Due to the increase in children's weight, 30% of children born after 2000 are likely to develop Type II Diabetes in their lifetimes; that number increases to 50% for minority children. More than 100,000 children ages 4-15 suffer from asthma due to overweight and obesity. If these trends continue, we can expect to see more than 100,000 additional cases of coronary heart disease by 2035.

**The time to act is NOW.** Bring your blanket, picnic lunch and family to Chastain Park, next to the American Legion Hall (bottom of the park on Powers Ferry) on Monday, September 7, 2009, from 11:00 – 2:00. Restrooms and limited parking are available on site. Satellite parking, with golf cart shuttles (tips appreciated!), available at the Red Lot on Powers Ferry. Alcohol not permitted.



**NO PARKING**  
For obvious reasons, please do not park in the turnaround areas in the front parking lot.

### After-School Parking

A reminder that if it's after 5 pm, please pick up your child at the back of school. Also, there are several weekday concerts remaining in the Chastain Park concert series. That means we need our front spaces open till the end of the season. Thanks for your cooperation!

### ATTENDANCE HOTLINE

**It's 10:00 am.**  
**Do We Know Where Your Child Is?**

Parents of any Cougar that is not at school by 10 am, Please call **404-802-5635** each day your child is absent.

You can also email Sutton at [suttonattend@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:suttonattend@atlanta.k12.ga.us) to report an absence.



**SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

4360 Powers Ferry Road  
Atlanta, GA 30327

Phone: 404.802.5600 Fax: 404.802.5698  
[www.suttonmiddleschool.org](http://www.suttonmiddleschool.org)

## Intramurals Sign Up Has Begun!

**Co-Ed Ultimate Frisbee Intramurals** Ultimate Frisbee Intramurals will begin Sept 8th on Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:00-5:15. Ten students from last year (7th and 8th graders) to compete and then 10-15 new students will learn throwing techniques, game strategy and sportsmanship. Sign-up forms and information are available in the front office.

Any questions please call **Mitzi Lau 404-272-9082** or **Margaret Long 404-216-5507**. Intramurals co-chairs

## Cougar Collection: Off the Ground Running

Sutton's Cougar Collection PTA dues and donations campaign officially kicked off on August 7 at Meet & Greet, and the response so far has been amazing. We truly have a wonderful collection of Cougar parents, teachers and students!

So far, **our PTA boasts 351 members**, which includes 100% of our fabulous teachers! The enthusiasm you all have shown for Sutton so early in the school year has already qualified us for several membership awards from the Georgia PTA! Won't you meet our teachers' commitment to your child's education and join today so that we can boast 100% of our parents as well?

### PTA Pointers:

- **All adult members of your household can join the PTA.** *The larger our membership, the louder our voice will be to members of Congress who fund public education. Last year, the Georgia PTA effectively lobbied to keep nurses in our schools when the State was looking to cut budgets. A strong voice ensures greater success during this tight budget year.*
- **A PTA form turned in without dues payment can't be counted for membership.** *We've received 64 forms without payment. If you think this might be you, please contact **Heather Cook** at [cook8391@bellsouth.net](mailto:cook8391@bellsouth.net) or **Julie Salisbury** at [salisburyatlanta@aol.com](mailto:salisburyatlanta@aol.com).*
- **Any amount donated above \$10 helps fund the very things that make Sutton so special.** *Our PTA spends about \$200 per year per child to fund clubs, sports, fine arts, events and academic enrichment for our students -- ranging from soccer, football, Ultimate Frisbee and baseball to knitting, cooking, guitar and robotics!*
- **Any contribution you make to the PTA is completely tax deductible, so the more you can give, the more you can write off.** *A true win-win!*

In the animal kingdom, the cougar is known for its leadership, courage, strength and responsibility. As part of our Cougar Collection of parents and friends, let's reflect these same characteristics with a ferocious support of Sutton's PTA for 09-10.

If you haven't already, join! Just click here to download the donation form <http://suttonmiddleschool.org/Documents/pta/SuttonD&DLetterFinal.doc>

## BLUES AND BBQ - BETTER BUY THOSE TICKETS SOON

A favorite for many Cougar families, **Blues and BBQ** is happening **Friday, September 11th from 5:00 - 7:30 pm**. The fun takes place on the backyard patio at Sutton, where you'll spend time with your child's teachers, the faculty and other Sutton families.

Tickets are just \$8.00 for anyone 12 years and older; \$5.00 for anyone 11 and under. Price includes a heaping plate of hickory-smoked shredded pork or turkey with baked beans, slaw, chips, a drink, and cookies provided by One Star Ranch BBQ. Our very own **Mr. Bond and his band will provide the "blues."**

Be on the look out: Order Forms will be sent home on Friday, 9/4. You can also purchase tickets (cash or check) at the Sutton Open House this Thursday.

Interested in providing corporate or family sponsorships for this event? Just e-mail **Christie Derrick** at [ccderrick@yahoo.com](mailto:ccderrick@yahoo.com).

**Christie Derrick & Laura Wright** - Blues and BBQ Co-chairs



### Your Trash is Our Cash!

Each of those pink symbols on food packages are worth 10 cents to Sutton! As one mom said, "My pantry could yield \$10 in no time!" Those dimes really add up when everyone cuts the

Box Tops symbols off and sends them in to the collection box in the front office. For more info visit: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Check out our other fundraisers: [www.suttonmiddleschool.org/pta/fundraising.htm](http://www.suttonmiddleschool.org/pta/fundraising.htm)

**The deadline for submissions to Sutton Source is Monday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. All content subject to editing and approval by the PTA. Please send submissions to [suttonsource@gmail.com](mailto:suttonsource@gmail.com)**

- Looking for the APS holiday calendar for the whole year? [Click Here](#)
- Need more Info? [suttonpta@gmail.com](mailto:suttonpta@gmail.com)
- News to post? [suttonsource@gmail.com](mailto:suttonsource@gmail.com)

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