



Sutton Source #22, January 24, 2012

## **Sutton Continues to be Recognized for Student Achievement Gains**

Sutton Middle School was recently awarded for our outstanding results from Governor Nathan Deal and the Office of Student Achievement! **Sutton is one of two schools in the metro area to receive the Platinum (Highest) Designation for Greatest Gains on CRCT!** We are one of 10 middle schools from across the state to receive the Platinum Award for Greatest Gains, with 111 schools total (25 middle schools) recognized in Georgia at the Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze level. Thanks goes to the students who work hard on these tests, and give their 100% focus to do their very best. The teachers deserve much admiration for their hard work and dedication. Parents we thank you for your support as well!

Sutton was also recently recognized as a **Title I Distinguished School!** Our high expectations for all and our belief that more students can achieve at higher levels have produced these great results! Being a Title I Distinguished School means that we have continuous years of making Adequate Yearly Progress, even as the goals get higher and higher each year. Our strong educational programming, our rigorous courses, and our above and beyond work with students is helping us to meet increasing educational goals! **Congratulations to all** the teachers, students, and families who exhibit the teamwork needed to accomplish these achievements!

Thank you for your wonderful response to Saturday Academy! Sutton has **235** students

registered, and we are so proud of our students and families. We have students from all grades and a wide variety of levels of learners. The response of our staff has been enthusiastic, as well. Our own teachers will be teachers at Saturday Academy. Timothy Robinson is our Lead Site Administrator with Barbara Bieniemy as the Assistant Administrator. Math Saturday Academy begins this Saturday, January 28th. More information will be sent home with the participants. ~**Audrey Sofianos**, Principal

## Calendar

### January

- 26 **Spirit Night at Taqueria Verde**  
1193 Collier Rd.  
**10% of proceeds donated to SMS.**  
<http://www.verdetacos.com>
- 26 Parent Workshop: Middle School 101 6-8pm Theatre
- 27 Showcase Tryout Forms Deadline for submission.  
info: Cathi Onley [cathionley@me.com](mailto:cathionley@me.com) or Millie Dunn [milliedunn@aol.com](mailto:milliedunn@aol.com)
- 28 Saturday Academy begins
- 28 Basketball –Sutton vs Inman 10:00 am AWAY

### February

- 1 Basketball –Sutton vs Young 5:00 pm AWAY
- 1 APS Demographic Community Mtg. 6:30pm NAHS**
- 5 Rising 6th grade skate party
- 7, 8, 9 Showcase Tryouts
- 10 PTA COFFEE TALK Friday 9:00 am**
- 10 School Dance (6th 4 -5:30; 7th/8th 4 – 6)**
- 16 Black History Celebration
- 24 All Pro Dads
- 25 Sutton Family Fair (theatre) and Wellness Day (gym) 9 - 12
- 17/20 No School**
- 29 NAPPS meeting 12:00 - Smith

## 6th Grade Fundraiser

Please support our efforts to offer scholarships for the Williamsburg trip by placing a

business or personal ad on our new Stadium Seat Cushion. Ask the businesses you visit to place an ad, too. It is an inexpensive way to advertise that will last for years! The seat cushions will be black with gold lettering and the Sutton logo one side.

Ads are guaranteed to be on 100 cushions. The cushions will sell for only \$10.

Forms for Seat Cushion Sales, Showcase Tryouts and Bleacher Nameplates:  
[www.suttonmiddleschool.org](http://www.suttonmiddleschool.org)

## Nominate for Next Year (Rising 6th Parents Included!)

Don't wait to get involved in your child's middle school! (Tip: Find an interesting committee and ask a friend to co-chair with you.) You can self-nominate or nominate someone who you know would be great for a board or committee chair position. You can even nominate rising 6th grade parents for chair positions. Three years go by fast and it is crucial to get involved early! Nominating forms will be available in the PTA room or can be accessed here:  
[www.suttonmiddleschool.org](http://www.suttonmiddleschool.org)

All members of the Nominating Committee as well as candidates for PTA positions must be PTA members. The Nominating Committee will present the candidates for next year's board at our March PTA Coffee Talk on Friday, March 16th.

## APS Demographic and Parent Meetings

Saturday Academy Updates and more:  
<http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/12369>

## Spelling Bee Battle Has A Winner

7th grade student **Leighton Katz** was named '**Champion Speller – 2012**', and she will go on to represent Sutton at the city-wide spelling bee in February, and then... perhaps she'll make a 'bee-line' straight over to The Scripps Nationals in Washington, DC this summer. 2nd Place in this tense encounter was awarded to fierce contestant **Amanda Stevens**. Had it been possible to name two victors, Amanda would have also "done us proud". Third place honors went to **Brianna Harris**, and fellow 7th grader, **Grace Lawton**

**Davis** collected the award for “Most Conscientious and Enthusiastic Participant”. Each of the above winners went home with gift cards from The Flying Biscuit, located at 5975 Roswell Road in Sandy Springs. We are grateful to Barbara Juhan and Sutton parent Brandi Holcombe for their continued willingness to honor Sutton’s academic stars.

Leighton’s first place prizes will also include a subscription to The Encyclopedia Britannica for Kids with interactive components and access to atlases, dictionaries, and other student resources. Additionally, Leighton will receive an on-line student immersion language course provided by **powerspeak 12** that will offer her the choice of studying one of seven languages; a total prize package worth over \$300.

All of the Spelling Bee’s 44 participants were winners, having proven themselves spelling successes through two other levels of competition. These students moved on from classroom contests, through grade-level mini-bees, and into places in the impressive ‘swarm’ we call, ‘Stellar Spellers’. Many of them attended several weeks of after school practice sessions and on-line preparation. Kudos also go out to our two “Queen Bees”, Mrs. Gillian Taylor, PTA Liaison and 6th Grade ELA Teacher, Ms. Dee Terhune who headed up the event, and Ms. Judy Marsh, Media Specialist, who took on the pivotal position of Bee Pronouncer. A ‘honey’ of a job was performed by event Judges Mr. Nicolas Alarcon (8th grade ELA), Ms. Fume Ekpere (7th grade Social Studies), Ms. Patti George (Media Specialist), and Ms. Paula Sawyer (6th Grade Math). Joining the hive were Mrs. Helen George and Angela Church (Sutton parents), Ms. Lauren Owens (6th grade ELA student teacher), Mr. Robert Pethel (choral music), and Ms. Johnson (lead custodian). Student worker bees Osaze Tisdale (6th grade), and future Cougars Charlotte and Margaret Taylor (Brandon ES) also deserve recognition. ~ Ms. Terhune

## **Sutton Debaters Score Again at Second Competition!**

**Congratulations Debaters!** Kit Burroughs won 1st place in the Novice Division. **Will Izenon** took 2nd place. **Cameron Balish** earned 6th place and **Gabriel Burke** attained 8th place.

It was the first time debating in a tournament for all of these Novices. **Kit** and **Cameron** also won the 4th place team award and **Will** and **Gabriel** won the fifth place team award in the Novice Division.

In the Junior Varsity Division, **Christina Aggrey-Banks** and **Amanda Stevens** won 7th

and 8th places respectively.

I also want to congratulate and recognize our debate teams: Novices - **Lucas Livaditis** and **Hakum Lartey, JV - William Poe** and **Benjamin Yarmowich; Skylar Buggs** and **Misha Andra-Thomas; Parikirt Oggu** and **Marshall Smith**.

Our students compete with hundreds of students from other schools, public and private. Many of the opposing students have been debating the topic of Space Colonization since September, and therefore have much more experience than Sutton's team. We are proud of all of our students for their efforts, commitment, determination, and courage in debating this year.

Thanks to parents **Serene Kim, Andrea Burroughs, Regine Zuber, Cynthia Stuckey, Mark Izenson,** and **Leslie Buggs** who accompanied our team, judged other rounds, and supported our efforts. **Thanks, also, to Serene Kim for bringing chips and water for the whole team.**

I especially want to thank Julian Thome, of American Family Insurance on Hammond Dr., who attends our team meetings weekly to help your children become the best debaters that they can be. ~Nina Edelstein

## Jan 10 Sigma Math Contest 3 Results

6th Grade

**1st Place Mitchell Hebner**

**2nd Place Richard Hill**

7th Grade

**Tied for 1st place Bonnie Shea and Zeke Day**

**Tied for 2nd place Avery Thomas, Emma Kurtz and Kit Burroughs**

8th Grade

**1st place Vajraang Kamat**

**Tied for 2nd Place Amber Christman, Benjamin Yarmowich and Nicholas Durham**

Cumulative Score place the top 12 students for each grade level as follows:

	6th Grade	7th	8th
1	Hebner, Mitchell	Kurtz, Emma	Hill, Taylor Anne
2	Hill, Richard	Shea, Bonnie	Christman, Amber
3	Balish, Will	Day, Zeke	Ellis, Peter
4	Naphin, Alex	Livaditis, Lucas	Tribou, Jack
5	Schatten, Wes	White, Wilson	Kamat, Vajraang
6	Khudenko, Misha	Stevens, Amanda	Sweeney, Diana
7	Hugh, Henson	Burroughs, Kit	Bell, Bethany
8	Carver, Alex	Thomas, Avery	Jennings, Jack
9	Gerding, Mitchell	Hederick, Grace	Binder, Nicolas
10	Dixon, Roy	Short, Paul	Shipps, Abigail
11	Jezak, Ian	Flash, Zach	McGaffigan, Aaron
12	Sargent, Derek	Balish, Cameron	Yarmowich, Benjamin

Please remind parents that practice for Sigma is at 8:00AM as follows:  
Tuesdays, **8th** grade; Thursdays, **7th** grade; and Friday, **6th** grade.

**Mathcounts is going well.** Started testing students yesterday to see who will represent Sutton on February 11th at Georgia Tech for the Chapter Mathcounts Competition. We have paid for a max of 10 students; 1 team of 4 and 6 individuals will compete.

**Please remind parents Mathcounts still meets every Monday from 4:00 to 4:45 PM.**

Students missing parts of the school competition tests need to make them up ASAP.

~Stephanie Daniels, Sutton Math Dept. Chair

### Reading Bowl Team Selected

Cox, Caroline 6th

Culp, Leo 6th

Emry, Hayden 6th

**Boardman, Emma 7th**  
**Rowen, Becca 7th**  
**Garcia, Joanna 8th**  
**Palacios, Maleni 8th**  
**Shirbroun, Katya 8th**  
**Tisdale, Abeo 8th**  
**Yarmowich, Benjamin 8th**  
**\* Wilson, Miguel first alternate**

These students will represent Sutton at the **February 4** Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl competition at Clayton State College.

Mrs. Ruffin created a unique reading competition in a game format using the literary award nominees. It was called the Reading Bowl. Her vision was to have teams comprised of students from different schools compete to test their knowledge of the selected books. Her colleagues embraced her idea and pressed forward.

Today, the Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl is open to students in grades four through twelve across the state. The DeKalb County's School System's Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl has been a leader in this endeavor.

**Dr. Sanjay Gupta presents:**  
**"Big Hits, Broken Dreams"**

SMS Nurse Vera Agonafer attended the preview and recommends that all parents, but especially those of athletes, tune into (or record) the CNN presentation of "Big Hits, Broken Dreams"

**Sunday January 29 at 8pm on CNN, Dr. Sanjay Gupta** promotes changes in game policies, use of athletic trainers, more rigid rules about returning to play after brain injury ("don't call it headbangers or dingers. Head injuries are more serious than knees and shoulders – there are no brain transplants"). One more emphasis – "Players should be required to have written release from Doctor before returning to play." A lot of good info that will help educate us all and keep our kids healthy and safe.

**Sutton Family Fair/Health & Wellness Fair**

Join us Saturday, February 25, 2012 for the Sutton Family Fair! We are partnering with the television station, Univision, to present a day of discussion and information surrounding many topics that middle school families face. There will be community resources on hand and an opportunity to get questions answered. Family Workshops will be in the theatre. Spanish interpreters will be present to ensure effective communication. Bring your family and friends! ~Nathalie Coward, Parent Liaison

**Mark your calendars** for the Sutton Health and Wellness Fair Saturday, February 25 from 9am to Noon in the gym. There will be **free** blood pressure screenings, body composition analysis, demonstrations on how to save someone who is choking, cooking demonstrations, healthy food tastings, physical activity contests, fire safety information, and much more! Come out and support wellness and if you are interested in **volunteering** please contact Sarah Callaghan [thecallaghans@comcast.net](mailto:thecallaghans@comcast.net).

## **FBLA COAT DRIVE**

We collected over 150 coats in just 7 days! The coats are going to Burlington Coat Factory to be distributed back into the community. The homeroom teacher with the most coats collected: Ms. Williams 8th Grade with 50 coats. Winner of the Ritz-Carlton Gift Pack and some other goodies. 2nd Place Homeroom Teacher: Mrs. Burch 8th Grade with 30 coats

## **BoxTops: Keep clipping!**

**Another contest coming this spring!**

## **Warrior Window**

Enjoy dinner at the (Lenox Square) Corner Bakery Cafe on January 26 from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The Corner Bakery Cafe will donate 15% of your purchase to the Center for the Arts and its upcoming production of "West Side Story." 3393 Peachtree Rd. Please tell the cashier you are supporting North Atlanta High School!

Mark your calendars for our spring musical "**West Side Story**." March 22nd, 23rd (**Sutton Night**), 24th, 29th and 30th at 7:00 PM. Admission is \$7 for students and \$10 for adults. On March 29th and 30th, 10:00 AM matinees will be held with **free admission for APS elementary and Middle School students**.

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