



## Fred Armon Toomer Elementary School

65 Rogers Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30317

[www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/toomer](http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/toomer)

Main Office...404-802-3450 Fax...404-371-1864

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Principal, **Nicole Evans Jones, Ed. D.**

August 5, 2013

Dear Fred Armon Toomer Elementary (FATE) Parents and Guardians,

As always, I hope my annual Back-to-School letter finds each of you in good health and spirits! As the first day of school is upon us, I am excited about what lies ahead for you and your children! This year's theme is, **"Learning, Leading, and Growing with Pride."** The concept of *pride* will be demonstrated by the administration, faculty, and staff, as well as the kids, and will echo in our work, customer service, school grounds, and interactions with each other as members of the Toomer family. One immediate source of pride for Team Toomer is the "facelift" the school grounds received, via the addition of a ramp and gorgeous landscaping which added instant curb appeal!

Another source of pride this year is our new partnership with **Responsive Classroom**. **Responsive Classroom** is a nationally used, research- and evidence-based way of teaching that improves students' social and academic skills and raises teachers' instructional quality. Developed by classroom teachers in 1981 and continually refined to meet schools' needs, the approach consists of practical strategies for helping children build academic and social-emotional competencies ([www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org)). Thanks to a grant from the **Zeist Foundation, Inc.**, all faculty received initial training on July 31, 2013, and faculty/staff will receive on-going training throughout the 2013-2014 school year.

In response to our 2012-2013 progress monitoring and standardized test data, our curriculum focus for the 2013-2014 school year will include:

- extensive professional learning for our teachers, in the area of mathematics instruction
- the creation of a master school schedule, which will allow for additional time dedicated to teaching math
- providing teachers more time and opportunities to collaboratively plan with their colleagues
- strategically planning units in the areas of science and social studies, with a focus on integrating these subjects across the curriculum
- and developing a school wide writing plan, in partnership with *The Rollins Center for Language & Learning*

Along with additional professional learning opportunities, there are several new faculty and staff members, for whom I would like for you to embrace. They are an additional source of pride.

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New members of *Team Toomer* include:

- **Yomi Alkebulan**, Department of Special Education Paraprofessional
- **Telicia Baker**, Fourth Grade Teacher
- **Trina Carr**, Department of Special Education Teacher
- **Denise Glasco-Sims**, Speech Pathologist
- **Stephanie Griffin**, Food Assistant
- **Yingping Hu**, Mandarin Chinese Teacher
- **Jaliesa Johnson**, Fifth Grade Teacher
- **Cynthia Morris**, Pre-Kindergarten Lead
- **Haniyfa Muhammad**, Cougar Café Manager
- **Alexa Roth**, Department of Special Education Teacher
- **Rabiah Taylor**, Department of Special Education Paraprofessional
- **Erica Williams**, Special Education Lead Teacher
- **Melissa White**, Food Assistant
- **Joanna Wimby**, Pre-Kindergarten Assistant
- **Sonya Wright**, Counselor
- *and, one of our very own* - **Sabrina Shields** has been promoted to a Department of Special Education Teacher

This list is expected to grow, as a few remaining recommended candidates are processed by *APS Human Resources*.

Enjoy the last few days of your summer vacation, and I look forward to seeing you on the First Day of School, Wednesday, August 7, 2013 by 8:00AM.

Carpe Diem,

Nicole Evans Jones