



PANDA PRESS

The Parkside PTA Newsletter

May 2020

Recognition for Teachers and Staff

The week of May 4 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Though we don't get to see our wonderful teachers in person right now, they are still working very hard to keep our students learning. Consider making a sign or card to share with your teacher, either by holding it up during your Zoom meeting or by taking a picture and sending it as a message. The PTA has coordinated gifts for all staff as well.

*On Facebook?
Search for our
parents group,
"Parkside Elementary
Parents," where you can
ask and answer questions,
share experiences, and
engage with other
parents.*



5th Grade Celebrations

Our fifth graders will still graduate this May, despite the fact that they won't be able to have their normal graduation festivities. The fifth grade team is coming up with some great ideas to celebrate these wonderful students as they make their way to middle school, and the PTA is working to create a memory video. [Fifth grade parents: Look for a note from your teacher asking for a recent photo of your student.](#)

Fond Farewell to Dr. Alexander

Dr. Alexander, our wonderful assistant principal for grades 3-5, will be retiring at the end of the school year, and she is very sad to miss saying goodbye to the staff and students in person. Please join us in wishing her well and bidding her bon voyage in this new stage of her life! You can contribute to a memory video for her by sending a picture or short video to Mr. Swindle at Robert.Swindle@atlanta.k12.ga.us - be sure to use the subject line "Dr A video".

PTA Elections Postponed

Since we weren't able to meet in April, we've had to postpone our board elections. We will hold formal elections at our first meeting after students return to school, and nominations are still open. To nominate someone (or to volunteer yourself), please contact Mashunte Holmes at mashunte.holmes@gmail.com. (A nominee must be a PTA member and current on their PTA dues to be eligible.) The open seats are for Secretary (2-year term) and Teacher Liaison (1-year term). We would like to have candidates identified by this summer so we can be ready to hit the ground running when we get back into school. We will also need volunteers in several key roles when school begins again, so please contact Holly Wilhelm at hollywilhelm@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more.

Stride T-Shirt Pick-up

We were so sad to have to cancel this year's Parkside Stride. We hope people were still able to enjoy a good run in the beautiful spring weather. Stride t-shirts were already in production when the race was called off, so if you registered for the race, you can pick up your shirt at the school (under the canopy by the front door) on Friday, May 15th from 2 to 5 pm or Saturday, May 16 from 11 am to 2 pm. If you didn't register but would like to purchase a shirt, you can do so when we go back to school.

Pandemic Response Team

Since the onset of COVID-19, a group of Parkside parents have been working with Ms. Green and other Parkside staff to make sure that all of our Parkside families get the support they need during this difficult time. Through an incredible shared effort, we have accomplished the following together:

- 168 people have donated to the fund to support basic needs - if you haven't donated yet, here's the link! (tinyurl.com/Parksidefund)
- Over 200 families have either given or received resources: food, clothing, cleaning supplies and other basic needs.
- We have gotten nearly a dozen families connected to the internet so they can participate in our learning options - and we're on track to connect even more.
- We're connecting with our neighbors in TrestleTree and folks from the Housing Justice League to work together to support stable and sustainable housing for Parkside families
- We have connected with the APS Nutrition, Early Learning and Partnerships departments to share some of our feedback about things we've learned. We hope that these insights can support broader systemic changes that will support greater equity.

Parkside community - Thank you so much! If you would like to join the effort, please email parksidepandapta@gmail.com

SEL Resources

Is your child struggling with feeling isolated? Are they nervous about COVID-19? Are they frustrated with digital learning? Check out these Social Emotional Learning (SEL) resources from our SEL Coach, Ms. Green:

- Weekly newsletter: Easy to try SEL ideas strategies to work on each week. Sign up at tinyurl.com/parksideSEL if you're interested!
- Weekly SEL Videos: Engaging SEL videos for parents and students. Videos will be included in the newsletter and posted to Parkside's social media accounts on Fridays.
- Check Ins: If your child is interested in having a Zoom check-in with Ms. Green, please email her at Clara.green@apsk12.org. They can even invite a friend (or two!).

Raise Money While You Shop

We are now a member of Publix Partners! Please link your Publix account to our school, and we'll receive a portion of every dollar you spend. To get started, just go to tinyurl.com/parkside-publix to register for a Publix account and link it to Parkside Elementary.

Support Our Sponsors

Many of the local businesses who support our PTA every year are struggling through closures and limited operations right now. If you have the resources and opportunity, consider ordering take-out, buying gift cards, trying online classes with one of these business: Preferred School Care, Intown Pediatrics, Rollins Financial Services, The Neighborhood Ballet, Williams Teusink, Helen Kynes Realty, The Justin Landis Group, Inman Park Dentistry, In Atlanta Realtors, Six Feet Under Pub and Fish House, East Atlanta Pediatric Dentistry, Krevolin and Horst, Kick Start Martial Arts, Round Here Renovations, Intown Stars Gymnastics, Morelli's Ice Cream, Farmer's Insurance, the Body Well Chiropractic, Sopo Bike Coop, Ameripress, Chick-Fil-A, Your Pie, Doc Chey's Noodle House, Woods Chapel BBQ, and Junior's Pizza.

Go digital >>> Did you know we have our school calendar, faculty directory, newsletters, and more on our school website at atlantapublicschools.us/parkside/? And check out [Linktr.ee/parkside](https://linktr.ee/parkside) to access our Facebook page, become a PTA member and pay for school supply bundles.

Thank you to this year's \$1,000 sponsors! If you are associated with a business that might be interested in sponsoring the PTA, please email our fundraising chair at david.r.reid@gmail.com to learn more.

