

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18th

SPARK FAMILY NEWSLETTER



Calendar

September 21 - SPARK STEAM Night

September 23rd - SPARK Night at Atlanta United (event is sold out)

September 25-29 - District Assessment: BASC 3-BESS Fall Window K-5

October 2- National Custodian Appreciation Day

October 4 - National Walk to School Day

October 5- Fun Run registration opens

October 9-13- Fall Break, no school

October 19- Fun Run kickoff

October 27- Fun Run



Events

Pik My Kid: Starting **9/5/2023** all dismissal changes will be on the Pik My Kid app. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

★ **Gifted Eligibility Testing-Parent Referrals:** The window to request a parent referral for Gifted Eligibility Testing this school year is open from September 1 through September 30.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Parent Referral Informational Video and FAQs

[CLICK HERE](#) for Online Request for Parent Referral Form

[CLICK HERE](#) for SPARK GATE Testing Informational Session slides and meeting recording

SPARK Wonder Family STEAM Night: Join us for SPARK Family STEAM Night on September 21st from 4:30pm-6:30pm!

Fall Picture Day: QR codes to view proofs and order pictures will be sent home in Thursday folders on September 21st. If your student was absent for picture day, make-ups will be September 29th.

Volunteer in the SPARK Media Center: The SPARK Media Center needs volunteers to help reshelve books! Volunteer times are flexible after volunteer training. Sign-up for a Media Center volunteer training [HERE](#).

September 30th DragonFly Event: This event has been cancelled.



Announcements:

♥ **Join SPARK's Parent Teacher Organization:** We strive to have 100% of families join the PTO, which helps support the enrichment, community, and fundraising of our school. Click [THIS LINK](#) to join the PTO for the 23-24 school year!

▶ **SPARK STEAM Newsletter:** Our commitment to STEAM education SPARKles! Read our STEAM newsletter to learn more about how each grade level is using STEAM in their classrooms [HERE](#)!

■ **SPARK Media Newsletter:** [CLICK HERE](#) to view the September newsletter.

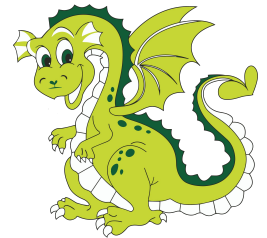
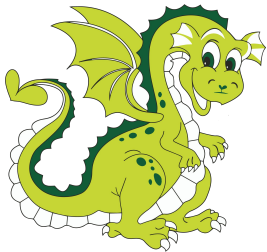
🌿 **Kids' Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt on Peavine Trail:** [CLICK HERE](#) to come join us for an awesome, fun-filled adventure out in nature with the Kids' Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt on Peavine Trail!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



SPRINGDALE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dr. Jennifer Toney, Principal • Mrs. Sara Prueff, Assistant Principal
803 Briarcliff Road, NE Atlanta, GA 30306 (404) 802-6051



“F” is for Failure

SPARK Parents and Guardians,

As we continue to nurture the minds of our students at SPARK, it is crucial to reflect on the principles that drive our approach to education. Today, I want to share some thoughts on a subject that is often misunderstood but is fundamental to growth and innovation: failure.

In the context of STEAM education and the engineering design process, failure plays a critical role in the development of skills, knowledge, and character. At SPARK, we believe that failure is not the end but a stepping stone towards success. Here's why:

Resilience and Perseverance: Failure teaches our students to bounce back from setbacks and persevere in the face of challenges. In STEAM fields, innovation often requires numerous iterations and revisions. It is through these cycles of trial and error that students learn to adapt, refine their ideas, and develop the resilience needed for real-world problem-solving.

Problem Solving: In the engineering design process, identifying and rectifying mistakes is a fundamental step. Failure encourages our students to critically analyze their work, identify weaknesses, and devise solutions. It fosters a mindset of continuous improvement, which is crucial in fields where innovation is paramount.

Creativity and Innovation: Failure encourages creative thinking. When a solution doesn't work, students are prompted to think outside the box, explore alternative approaches, and innovate. It is often these moments of perceived failure that lead to groundbreaking discoveries and inventions.

Learning from Mistakes: Mistakes provide valuable learning opportunities. Through failure, students gain a deeper understanding of concepts and gain insights that can be applied to future projects. It's an integral part of the learning process, allowing students to build a strong foundation of knowledge.

Collaboration and Teamwork: Failure often necessitates collaboration. In STEAM education, students frequently work in teams to tackle complex problems. When faced with setbacks, they learn to communicate effectively, share ideas, and leverage each other's strengths to overcome challenges.

As parents, your support in fostering a growth mindset and resilience in our students is invaluable. Encourage them to take risks, explore their curiosity, and view failures as opportunities to learn and grow. Thanks for your continuous support!

With Love,
Dr. Jennifer Toney