



## Fall 2011 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of the Orion School,

Thank you for your ongoing support of The Orion School. We continue to build our strength based program around the needs of complex children with neurobehavioral differences; including ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome. Club Orion is gaining attention as one of the few full week specialized after school options in the community. Our free services for the community remain popular; including the monthly Parent Support Series and the Orion Kickers Club weekend sports program.

Please share the newsletter with families who may benefit from reading it, join our expanding [Orion School Facebook](#) page or check out the [ADDED View blog](#).

Warmly,

Laura Markson

Founder and Director, The Orion School

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### FALL HAPPENINGS: EVENTS, PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES



Orion submitted an entry called *Field of Beams* in the Scarecrows in the Garden exhibit at The Atlanta Botanical Garden. This was our fourth year participating in this Atlanta tradition.

Our middle school transition program continues to offer the most supportive education possible - with small classes of four students and the goals geared more towards the needs of the emerging teen student with social, emotional, and executive function challenges.

As part of our curriculum, we have added a dance improv class which is encouraging our students to explore and practice alternative social situations, performance skills, and role playing. With empathy and compassion built into the program, social and emotional intelligence, self awareness and self esteem are developed.

Through the generosity of the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's Organization, our students participated in the [Lake Lanier Aquatic Learning Center \(LLALC\)](#) to experience a hands on water study aboard the only floating classroom in Georgia.



We were fortunate to have the Sigma Beta Rho fraternity

at GA Tech. sponsor two service days this fall. It is hopeful to know so many young adults passionate about finding ways to help the community!



As part of an interdisciplinary thematic unit on Australia, Orion students were able to skype, e-mail, and exchange YouTube videos with Orion parent Chris McLeod as he cycled around the perimeter of Australia for the Smile Foundation. Chris was also profiled in an [AJC article](#) for his extraordinary feat.

## **2nd Annual Iron and Wine Event on November 17th**

The Orion School will host our second annual Iron & Wine fundraising event this Thursday, November 17th from 6 to 8 PM at the Andrew T. Crawford Ironworks, 905 Bowen Street, NW, Atlanta. Chef Shaun Doty of Yeah! Burger will provide food and we will have great silent auction items and raffle prizes. Even if you can't join us, buy tickets to support us and be entered into a drawing for many great prizes including a 55" LED HDTV, Atlanta Falcons Tix, a Worthmore Jeweler necklace and more! Call 404.551.2574 or e-mail [tstannard@theorionschool.org](mailto:tstannard@theorionschool.org) to purchase tickets. Thank you for your support of The Orion School and hope to see you there! A special Thank You to Andrew Crawford Ironworks Studio and to our many sponsors!

### **PLATINUM (\$1000 minimum)**

Best Buy

The Coca-Cola Company matching grants

Duane Morris LLP

Dyson

Mannington Mills

MarksonHRC

Bob and Lucy Reid

Stein Investment Group

**GOLD (\$500 minimum)** Linda Disantis, Chris McLeod

**SILVER (\$250 minimum)** Atlanta Falcons, The Chuck Jones Galler, Kelly Colihan, Fado's Irish

Pubs, Green's Package Stores, Whole Foods, Yeah!Burger, Buckhead YMCA, Atlanta Zoo

**Bronze (\$100 minimum)** Burke Industries, Chick-Fil-A, Clara DeQuick, Coca-Cola North

America, Anthony Conetta, Chuck Cogliandro, Justin and Beverly, Ellis, Home Depot, KK

Smiles, Little Cakes Bakery, Publix, Sensations Therafun, SpotOn Events, Trader Joe's, Van

Michael's Hair Salon, Will Wingate, Worthmore Jewelers

### **SCHOOL ADMISSION**



The scheduled parent tours for the 2011/2012 school year are on the following Fridays from 9:00-10:30: November 18, January 27, February 24, March 23, April 27, May 18. Please call 404-551-2574 if you would like to attend a tour

## **Community Outreach Programs**

*We are committed be a resource for the community and when possible, offer complimentary or reasonably priced programs that non Orion families can also benefit from.*

**Club Orion** is the only daily after school (2:30-6:00) designed for children who need a more supportive after school option. The teacher to student ratio is 1:4. Club Orion can also be attended one or two days a week to build friendships, confidence and social skills in a nurturing and structured setting with teachers who understand. Dance, art, yoga, sport skills and team building are just some of the activities that are part of Club



Club Orion friends

## Quick Links

[The Orion School Web Site](#)

[The ADDED View Blog](#)

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

[The Special Guide](#) - Great special needs resource.



The Orion School

Participates in the [Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program](#) (SB-10) Please click on the link to learn more about how this program can help bridge the gap from public to private school.

## Share Newsletter!

Thank you for sharing this newsletter with interested parents and professionals

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

Orion. The hours are Monday through Friday from 2:30-6:00. The 2011/2012 fee for Club Orion is **\$400 per month** and the fee for one day a week attendance is **\$110 per month**. Applications are under "Club Orion" on our web site.

We continue to offer a free monthly **Parent Support Group** for parents of complex children to learn new information, exchange resources, relax and build relationships with other parents. The evenings are facilitated by Katherine Mcgee, Orion Parent Outreach Liaison, with guest professionals invited to share information on various topics. Upcoming support evenings are scheduled for December 6, January 10, February 7, March 6, April 10, and May 8. **These evenings are sponsored by The Orion School and are free to the community.** Call 404-551-2574 for details and to rsvp.



Orion Kickers Club

Our popular drop in **Orion Kicker's Club** program has just ended for the fall season. This free program hosted by Orion and open to the community continues to offer a positive team sport experience as well as an opportunity for families to connect and socialize. The

goal is to build self confidence through participation in a guided recreational activity.



The Orion School is an accredited, non-profit, special education school for children ages 5-13. A strength based approach is used to teach complex students with social and emotional challenges strategies for success. The 1:4 teacher to student ratio is kept with classes of four students. Programs included in the tuition are *Handwriting Without Tears*, *Orton Gillingham*, Touch Math and Singapore Math, a literature-based social and emotional literacy curriculum, a positive behavior support plan, dance and improv theater, drumming, photography, yoga, recreational hiking with ORA, art, sport skills and team building, weekly experiential curriculum outings, and swimming. Ongoing parent support, education, and recreational programs are also provided to our families and the community.