

## Spring/Summer 2011 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of the Orion School,

School is winding down and summer is almost here! Both school and Camp Orion enrollment is strong as word spreads about the supportive services we offer for more complex children. We had a busy spring packed with special events and projects including a visit from a star of "Shrek the Musical," hatching chicks, Soccer Saturdays, a California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser, and a community service day.

Please consider joining [The Orion School Facebook](#) page and check out the [ADDED View blog](#) postings - both have a wealth of helpful information. Please read our newsletter and share it with those who will benefit from reading it.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warmly,

Laura Markson  
Director, The Orion School  
[director@theorionschool.org](mailto:director@theorionschool.org)

### SCHOOL ADMISSION

We have limited number of spaces available for the 2011/2012 school year.

Please call 404.551.2574 to schedule a tour or for more information about applying for admission.

### Quick Links

[The Orion School Web Site](#)

[The ADDED View Blog](#)

### Spring Happenings

Spring has been super busy at Orion - below are just a handful of the activities, events and new programs at Orion:



11Alive News came to profile a [visit](#) from young actress Danielle Soibelman from "[Shrek The Musical](#)."

Thanks to a donation from [The Atlanta Women's Club](#) we have been able to greatly expand our books on CD library and other curriculum materials.

Jenna Mobley, who has created school gardening programs in Atlanta, generously donated her time to give our teachers an in-service class on

## [11Alive Visits The Orion School](#)

Find us on Facebook 

Listen to Karen Powell's radio show [Education Forum on The Orion School](#). (view 02/17/10)

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

## Join Us For Camp Orion 2011!

Camp Orion is a full day camp with a 1:4 teacher to camper ratio taught by Orion teachers. The focus is on self regulation, self esteem and social skills. High interest camp activities designed to foster social and emotional growth include dance theater, art, gardening, games, science fun, cooking, yoga, and outings.

### **Four 1-week thematic sessions offered:**

**June 6th - 10th Sensory Sensitive Adventures**

**June 13th - 17th Building Friendships**

**June 20th - 24th Old School Camp Friends**

**June 27th - July 1st Wacky Water Week**

### **hours:**

9:00am-3:00pm

Monday - Friday

Fee: \$395 per week for application see:

[www.theorionschool.org](http://www.theorionschool.org)

or call 404-551-2574

Earn a **TAX CREDIT** and Sponsor Orion Scholarships

Taxes can't be avoided...so let some of

even more ways to integrate gardening in the curriculum. We also had an outing to the [Oakhurst Community Garden](#) to get ideas for our own garden.

It would not be spring at Orion without chicks hatching...and this year was no exception! We hatched three chicks who will return to their farm home for the summer.

Our **Community Fix-It Day** was a great success thanks to our families, teachers, staff, and young men from Sigma Nu fraternity and women from Zeta sorority at Georgia State University.

As we prepare for next year we are excited to strengthen our 5th/6th grade transition program with the addition of **Beth Brieske** to our team of teachers. Our transition program offers 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.

We have welcomed **Lillie Ransign** as our new Dance Theater teacher. Each class is made up of dance-theater, "Theater of the Oppressed," and conflict resolution activities. Students explore practicing 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.

## Orion School Programs For The Community...

*We recognize that a private specialized school cannot be the choice for everyone. We are committed to be a resource for the community and when possible, we offer complimentary or reasonably priced programs that non Orion families can also participate in.*



### **Club Orion After School**

is open to all children in grades K-6 who have social and emotional differences and need a more supportive after school option. The teacher to student ratio is 1:4. Some families use Club Orion as a childcare option, other

children attend one or two days a week to build friendships and confidence in a nurturing and structured setting. The hours are Monday through Friday from 2:30-6:00. The 2011/2012 fee for Club Orion is **\$4,000** (\$400 per month). Call Cristina for the day per week option fees. Applications are under "Club Orion" on our web site.

the money be redirected towards Orion scholarships! If you donate to [Apogee Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund](#) this year, you can get up to a **\$1,000 TAX CREDIT** for next year's taxes. A tax credit reduces your actual tax and differs significantly from a tax deduction that only reduces your taxable income. Donors receive a "dollar-for-dollar" Georgia tax credit for donations to the Scholarship Fund in turn Apogee provides eligible students with scholarships.

The paperwork only takes a few minutes and any Georgia taxpayer can participate; so please spread the word to your friends, relatives, and colleagues.

## Share Newsletter!

Thank you for sharing this newsletter with interested parents and professionals

 Forward to a Friend

Join us at our school each month for our **Parent Support Group** which provides an opportunity for parents of complex children to exchange resources, learn new information, relax and build relationships with other parents. Refreshments will be served. The group is facilitated by Orion parent and educator Katherine McGee. Join us on Tuesday **June 8** for a social evening and on **July 12 at 6:30 PM** for a more traditionally structured support group format. **These evenings are sponsored by The Orion School and are free to the community.**

Our popular drop in **Soccer Saturdays** program will return in the fall. Stay tuned for updates. This program is sponsored by The Orion School and is free to the community.



The Orion School is an accredited, non-profit, special education school located in midtown Atlanta. Our complex students have not been successful in traditionally structured classrooms. We use a disability perspective and a strength based approach to teach students ages 5-13 strategies to succeed. The 1:4 teacher to student ratio is kept for all our academic classes.

Programs included in the tuition are *Handwriting Without Tears*, a literature-based social and emotional literacy curriculum, a positive behavior support plan, *How Does Your Engine Run*, dance theater, drumming, photography, recreational hiking, art, sport skill and team building, experiential outings, swimming and martial arts. We also provide our families and the community with parent support and education.



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.