



www.TheOrionSchool.org

FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

Save the Date!

Our Fall Professional Breakfast meet and greet is scheduled for November 13th at 8:00am. Hot coffee and delicious breakfast treats will be served.

Parent Tour dates for the 2009/2010 School year are on the following Fridays at 9:00am:

November 20th
December 11th
January 15th
February 15th
March 19th
April 16th
May 21st.

Please RSVP to ccarden@theorionschool.org if you can join us for a tour.

Enrollment

We have a rolling admission

Dear Friends of The Orion School,

It has been an exciting time of growth and change this fall. Read on to learn more...

We now have a lower (K-3rd grade) and upper (4th-6th grade) school to ensure that our teachers can focus on the needs of our students at each stage of development.

Thanks to our ongoing relationship with [The Athletic Club Northeast](#) our students now spend one afternoon a week working on gym sport skills and group instruction in tennis, swimming, and rock climbing.

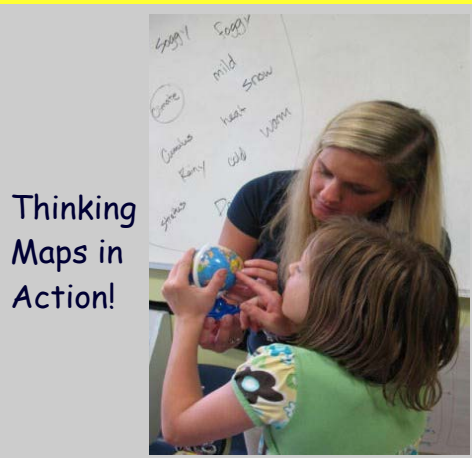
This year, [Irene Celcer, MA, LCSW](#) will continue to offer our families emotional and educational support through our monthly parenting series. Irene is an international speaker, author, and mental health professional.

Our Afterschool Program for elementary age children who have ADHD continues to grow. The nurturing and novel yet structured afternoon ensures a successful experience for our curious and energetic children! This program includes a ratio of 1:5 or less, homework help, and social skill building activities that address issues common to children with ADHD. Enrichment activities included each week of afterschool are: art, dance, martial arts, sport skills, and [Kumandi Drumming with Chuck Cogliandro](#). The Spring semester enrollment fee for the afterschool is \$2100.

For ongoing updates join [The Orion School Facebook page](#) or read [The ADDED View](#) blog.

policy and have very limited spots available for the 2009/2010 school year. We are also enrolling students for the 2010/2011 school year.

The Orion School participates in the Georgia SB-10 Special Needs Scholarship Program



Thinking Maps in Action!

Donations

The Orion School is pleased to announce a major donation of laptops from one of our business partners - [Internap Network Services Corporation](#). This donation allows the Orion School to lay the foundation for a first-class computer lab and enables the School to enhance its use of assisted technology approaches as part of the curriculum. Thank you Internap! Internap is headquartered in Atlanta and is a global leader in providing internet network services to businesses.

HOW TO HELP

GOOD SEARCH is a new easy way for our supporters to help raise money for The Orion School. Just start using Yahoo! powered [GoodSearch.com](#) as your search engine and they will donate a penny to The Orion School every time you do a search! In addition, do all of your shopping through their online shopping mall

Warmly,
[Laura Markson](#)
Director
[The Orion School](#)

Teacher Training!

- [Matt, Chelsea, and Celeste](#) just returned from the national [CHADD](#) Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. They learned the latest research based interventions and strategies to help our learners who have ADHD.
- Elizabeth is attending [Georgia's 13th annual Outdoor Classroom Symposium](#) in Athens GA. She is learning how to create specific types of school gardens and how to use our school grounds to enhance cross-curricular learning. Elizabeth plans on incorporating gardening into the lower school curriculum and the after school program. Our students are super excited to help Elizabeth with the garden.
- Our teachers are now trained in [YogaKids](#) and [Angel Bear Yoga!](#) This training helps them integrate yoga more organically into the school day.
- With dysgraphia as a common struggle for our students, we continue to train our teachers in the [Handwriting Without Tears](#) program.

In The News

- The Orion School was one of seven Atlanta area schools and the only special needs school to participate in the MEGA Family Conference Resource Fair. Read the article in the Southern Voice called [MEGA Family Conference takes broad look at LGBT parenting - group aims for diversity](#).
- The Orion School submitted a scarecrow depicting who else but Orion for the Atlanta Botanical Garden's annual scarecrow exhibit. This is the second year we have participated in this exhibit. Our students helped make the scarecrow and visited him during one of our Friday Field Trips. A recent AJC article called [Atlanta Botanical Garden's scarecrows a fright of fancy](#) profiled our scarecrow!
- Ken Wright, the father of an Orion School student, wrote an article in a local magazine about his child's success at The Orion School. Click the link to read the original copy published on The Orion School blog [ADDED View](#).

Volunteers

<http://www.GoodShop.com>, where you can shop at more than 900 top online retailers and a percentage of your purchases will go to The Orion School. You pay the same price as you normally would, but a donation goes us! Here is the web site - <http://www.goodsearch.com>. You can also read about GoodSearch in the NY Times, Oprah Magazine, CNN, ABC News and the Wall Street Journal.

PUBLIX PARTNER PROGRAM - By simply scanning our Publix Partners card before paying for your purchase at any Publix grocery store, Publix will donate a portion of your sale directly to The Orion School. Please contact us and we will supply you with as many Publix Partners cards as you would like.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION - Save and send us Box Tops from participating products. You can also shop at your favorite online stores through btfe.com/marketplace and up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is automatically donated to our school. Sign up to support our school at <http://www.btfe.com>. You will learn about new and easy ways to help our school earn the extra cash it needs.

The Orion School is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

For more information about The Orion School please:

look at our web site <http://theorionschool.org/>

or contact Cristina at ccarden@theorionschool.org

or call 404.551.2574

Thanks to **Sigma Beta Rho** fraternity and friends from Georgia Tech. we were able to complete some much needed projects - including an outdoor classroom, a garden, painting rooms, and cleaning and setting up our new after school space.



Local artist **Jonathan Chang** donated his time and talent to work with our students to create an interpretive mural representing Orion for our multipurpose/after school space.

ABOUT THE ORION SCHOOL

The Orion School is a GAC accredited alternative private school located in Midtown Atlanta. Our mission is to embrace and specialize in students who have ADHD. Our typical student is a bright, engaging, curious and active child in grades K-6. Our intimate learning community offers a place where students develop mentoring relationships with teachers and real peer friendships. We use a strength based approach to teach students strategies to live successfully with ADHD. High interest, hands on and physical activities are integrated into the fabric of a novel yet structured school day. Our ratio is very low at 4:1 or less. Programs that are part of the school week include the Orton Gillingham method, Handwriting Without Tears, group Occupational Therapy, Thinking Maps, AIMS web, Touch Math, a Social Skills curriculum, a Positive Behavior Plan, The Alert Program, Drumming Circle, Learning on the Log hiking, art, dance, photography, YogaKids and Angel Bear Yoga, martial arts, swimming, rock climbing, tennis, sport skill development, and weekly Friday Field Trips