



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

## FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010

Dear Friends of the Orion School,

This will be our fifth year as the only school with a dedicated profile educating children who have social and emotional differences. Our energetic and curious students typically have a host of diagnostic acronyms including complex ADHD, EFD, SPD, and HFA. This fall has been an exciting time of growth as we define our niche serving the special needs world of Atlanta.

We are preparing to host a free event for the community called *Home to School Strategies For Children Who Have ADHD*. This promises to be a lively and informative evening with plenty of tips and an opportunity for Q&A. Refreshments will be served. This event has been scheduled for January 19, 2011 from 6:30-8:30. We are asking attendees to RSVP to this free event since space is limited.

Join [The Orion School Facebook](#) and check out my active blog [ADDED View](#). The ADDED View posts are meant to give fresh insights from a school perspective taken from my experiences as a volunteer director of The Orion School.

Thank you for your continued support,

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

### Visit Us!

Monthly parent tours are on the following dates:

### Fall Highlights...



Our Fall Soccer Saturdays offered a positive team sport experience as well as an opportunity for families to connect and socialize. Jason Teufel who is the

**12/10, 01/21, 02/18,  
03/18 , 04/15 and  
05/20**

Tours start at 9:00am and take about 1 1/2 hours. We can schedule a more individualized tour for more immediate admission.

Our next Professional Breakfast is on **December 3rd at 8:00am**. The morning will offer an opportunity for professionals to learn more about The Orion School and network with colleagues.

Please call Cristina at 404-551-2574 to RSVP for any of the above options.

#### SCHOOL ADMISSION

We have a rolling admission process and accept applications throughout the school year for the following academic year.

**Current school year admission is based on availability.**

Please call 404.551.2574 if you would like to start the admission process

#### Quick Links

[The Orion School Web Site](#)

[The ADDed View Blog](#)

Find us on Facebook 

Listen to Karen Powell's radio show [Education Forum](#), as we discuss *The Orion School*. (View the 02/17/10 edition)

Check out [The Special Guide](#) - a new online resource guide by and for the Atlanta special needs community.



to connect and socialize. Jason Feiler who is the our Sports Enrichment Coordinator led this free program and engaged participants in a variety of drills and scrimmages. Spring Soccer Saturdays will start in March 2011.

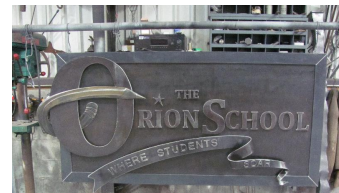
The entire Orion School staff attended the CHADD international conference which was in Atlanta this year. We were thrilled to have Robot Millenia visit The Orion School while he was in town attending the conference. Our students talked to him, danced with him, and were even able to ride on him!



For the third year in a row, The Orion School submitted an entry in the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Scarecrows in the Garden Exhibit. The Orion School mascot is a rocket...so this year our entry was a rocket surrounded by the city of Atlanta.

This fall our first ever fundraiser was chaired by Laura Ciucci and Michelle

Falconer. The *Iron and Wine Benefit* was held at Andrew Crawford's Ironworks studio. Andrew also created a stunning new Orion School sign!



## Join Us For Club Orion After School!

Club Orion after school is now open to all children in the community with an every day option or a choice of days per week. Children often attend one or two days a week to build friendships and confidence in a nurturing and structured setting. Spring Semester is from January 4th through May 26th.

- For children in grades K-6 who have a range of social and emotional differences; including complex ADHD and HFA
- Hour are Monday through Friday from 2:30-6:00
- Spring After School year tuition fee is **\$2000**
- Spring After School tuition fee for one day per week is **\$600** (for example child attends every Tuesday or every Thursday)
- Club Orion is held at The Orion School in Midtown Atlanta
- Every Day will include
  - \* An active after school that is structured to ensure an ongoing successful experience for children who need more support
  - \* A teacher to child ratio of 1:4
  - \* Snack
  - \* Homework help if needed
  - \* A program wide positive behavior plan as well as tenants of The Alert program to help each child learn strategies for self regulation.
  - \* Social skill building activities - including frustration management, cooperative play, games, and friendship building,
  - \* Activities include: Art, Sport Skills, Gardening, Cooking, Drumming, and Yoga.
- The application is on our web site under "After School".

**.Earn a TAX CREDIT by redirecting your income tax to The Apogee Scholarship Program!**

## Share Newsletter!

The Orion School provides a specialized and vital educational niche in the Atlanta special education community. Thank you for sharing this newsletter with interested parents, professionals and groups.

 Forward to a Friend



Registration for Camp Orion starts in January. The focus of this popular program is on making friends, self regulation and of course, self esteem!



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.

You can earn a Georgia State tax credit for donations this year through the [Apogee Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund](#), Georgia taxpayers can **REDIRECT**, at **no cost**, Georgia Income Tax dollars to The Orion School. As an added bonus, individuals and families in AMT (Alternative Minimum Tax) can actually profit up to 29% for donations.

Donors receive a "dollar-for-dollar" Georgia tax credit for donations to the Scholarship Fund and in turn we provide eligible students with scholarships for private school tuition in Georgia.

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



The Orion School is an accredited, non-profit, school located in Midtown Atlanta. We use a disability perspective and a strength based approach to teach students in grades K-6 strategies to succeed. Our curious and energetic students have a more complex profile that includes a range of social and emotional differences; with diagnoses such as ADHD, EFD, LD, SPD, and HFA. High interest multisensory learning activities are

integrated into the fabric of a novel yet structured school day. The student to teacher ratio of 4:1 is kept with small classes of four students. Programs included in the tuition are [Handwriting Without Tears](#), occupational therapy, a social skills curriculum, ongoing assessment, a positive behavior support plan, [The Alert Program](#), drumming circle with [Chuck Cogliandro](#), recreational hiking with Chris Zelski of ORA, gymnastics, art, martial arts, sport skill classes, weekly field trips and swimming, tennis, & rock climbing at [The Athletic Club Northeast](#) - with our older students participating in weekly fencing. We also provide our families with a monthly educational parent support series led by [Irene Celcer, MS, LCSW](#).