

# Lin Link

Mary Lin Elementary School PTA

[www.marylinelementary.com](http://www.marylinelementary.com)

September 17, 2007

## Mark Your Calendar ...

**Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>:** Banking with Bond, PTA General Meeting: Specials Night & Local School Council Representative Election, 7 PM

**Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>:** Dr. Hall at Inman Middle School, 6:30 PM

**Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>:** Q & A with Mr. Mitchell, 8:15 AM, Auditorium

**Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>:** PTA Advocacy Conference

**Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>:** No School, Teacher Planning Day

**Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>:** PTA Board Mtg., 7pm

**Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>:** CINS Mtg at Inman: 7 PM, Link article submission deadline

## Superintendent Fireside Chat

APS School Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall will host a Fireside Chat at Inman Middle School on Thursday, September 20th at 6:30pm. During the session, members of the community will be updated on the district progress and given the opportunity to provide the APS leadership team with feedback. It is an honor to have Dr. Hall at Inman, so mark your calendars early and make plans to come and participate in this informative community event.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

The third through fifth grade teachers were engaged in a productive writing workshop last week. Karen Caine, writing consultant did an excellent job presenting researched based best practices for teaching writing. Mrs. Caine also did a demonstration lesson with one of our fifth grade classes. The demonstration lesson entailed best practices for conferencing with students about their writing. How exciting it was to hear our teachers dialoguing about infusing what they learned into their instruction. The day concluded with the teachers planning a unit of study in writing. Our Kindergarten through second grade teachers will work with Mrs. Caine on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember that we are working on decreasing the number of students absent and tardy. We need your help. Students need to be in their seats ready to learn at 8:00. Students are marked tardy after 8:05. Thank you for your assistance in maximizing your child's learning experience at Mary Lin!

The next Morning Meeting with the Principal will take place on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. We have secured personnel from the District's Nutrition Department and personnel from Sodexo to be present at this meeting. Please join us to learn more about the District's vision on nutrition in the schools.

Thanks for all you do for Mary Lin!

**Brian Mitchell-Principal**

## Local School Council News

LSC's were created and empowered by the General Assembly of Georgia to bring parents, educators and local community members together to share ideas for school improvement in an advisory capacity. The LSC provides advice and recommendations to the school principal and where appropriate, the local board of education on a wide variety of issues and concerns.

Currently, Paula Kupersmith is running for the business partner position vacated by Mellie DeRouen. Keli Jones is running for the parent position vacated by Erica Dines. The parent representative position is open because Cheryl Mason is now a paid employee (Office Assistant). There is a 2 year commitment. The council meets once a month except for December and July when it does not meet.

Elections will be held at the September 18<sup>th</sup> PTA General Meeting.

## Did you know ?

Individual PTA members have access to a number of exclusive benefits including:

**Online parenting resources**, including articles from Our Children magazine, E-newsletters on parenting and legislative issues, Exclusive National PTA member benefits and **sponsor offers** from companies such as Office Depot and Barnes & Noble, **Leadership training** opportunities in-person and online, **Discounted member rate** for PTA's annual national convention, magazine subscriptions, and more, **The Member-to-Member Network**, connecting you to Congress when help is needed on issues important to children, schools, and families.

To find out more about these benefits and much more visit the National PTA website today at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

## Advocacy Conference on 9/28/07

This year's PTA Advocacy Conference is on September 28. Next year's legislative session promises to be full of proposals that will impact your child, your schools, your taxes, you! Learn what happened last year and what hot issues are slated to be addressed next year. Taxes, education funding, vouchers, curriculum, funding for technology: all this and more. For more information or to attend, contact the Lin PTA Legislation and Advocacy Chair, Barb Marston at [legislation@marylinelementary.com](mailto:legislation@marylinelementary.com)

## FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT. . .

We've had a terrific first month of school! I almost can't believe how much the PTA has accomplished already... The school Directory is coming along, the new Community Vegetable Garden is underway, Visiting Artists have been booked,... More events are being planned for this Fall, including a Health/Wellness Fair, Science Night, Candler Park FallFest, a Family Fun Feast, and an Artists Market. Thank you to the hard-working PTA Chairs and to ALL of the volunteers who are helping out with the many goals for this year!

Mr. Mitchell and the faculty have made some notable improvements already as well. The master schedule needed no tweaking this year and the kids seem thrilled to have their Specials classes split throughout the week again. Not to be forgotten is the smoke and mirrors act they pulled getting the school put back together and ready for Open House in LESS THAN A WEEK! Truly an astonishing feat! Another of their improvements has been the cafeteria atmosphere. Mr. Mitchell, the teachers, and staff worked together to come up with some definitive plans and have carried them out with great success, with further improvements to come. If you haven't already, stop in for lunch with your child some time and see for yourself. It won't be quiet... the goal is NOT for a restaurant atmosphere down there. But it should be pleasant.

Now, for the **cafeteria food!** We've heard that the contract with Sedexho (the APS food provider) is due for renewal THIS November and that there are a number of APS schools banning together to make their voices heard within APS to bring about change in the current menu choices (or at least to be a part of the contract selection process.) Mr. Mitchell has set up a meeting for us with representatives from both Sedexho and APS during (or in lieu of) the next Principal Q&A on **Thurs, Sept 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:15am in the Auditorium**. If you have ANY concerns about the current cafeteria food, PLEASE come to this meeting with your questions and ideas. Right now may be our best time to bring about change in this area. Please come with an open mind, ready to hear what obstacles they face, so that we can work together to improve the situation. We're thrilled that they've agreed to be our guests for this forum.

Kelly Mann [president@marylinelementary.com](mailto:president@marylinelementary.com)

404-521-2429



## Membership News

Our PTA membership now stands at 391! This puts our participation in the PTA at **80%**! We are well on our way to the goal of 100%.

Thank you to all the teachers and parents that have joined. A special thank you goes to all parents that have donated above the \$5.00 membership fee.

It is not too late to join! We will be signing up members for \$5.00 per person at the next general PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 18th. Hope to see you there.

If you have joined and do not have your membership card, you can pick it up at the membership table at the Sept. 18th meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, your membership card will be sent via your child's backpack in the next few weeks.

Together, teachers and parents make Mary Lin great!

**Jeanna Lashley**

## Mary Lin Community Partners

Every year Mary Lin PTA is proud to invite local businesses to join us in supporting our school. These partnerships are important to us. Last year they helped us supplement Mary Lin's rigorous curriculum and provide extracurricular activities and cultural events that our students and teachers look forward to every year.

### 2007-2008 DIAMOND SPONSORS

Publix                      Target  
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### 2007-2008 PLATINUM SPONSORS (\$500)

Look for these and other sponsors in next month's Link! And remember to thank these great local businesses and ask for their continued support!

## Communications Info

Make sure to join the yahoo group that sends out the Lin weekly email update, the **Monday Rocket**, at [www.marylinelementary.com](http://www.marylinelementary.com).

Deadlines for upcoming Links are 11/7 (for 11/12 edition), 12/12 (for 12/17 edition).

Articles for the **Lin Link** are always needed. Would you like to get the **Link by email**? Contact me at [linlink@marylinelementary.com](mailto:linlink@marylinelementary.com) and I will get you on the mail list today.

## CINS

Please join us at Inman Middle School on Wed. Oct. 10, at 7 PM. At the meeting, Grady High School faculty and parents will up-date the CINS community on the programs offered to students at Grady High as well as update on the APS High School Reform model. From arts to academics, Grady High School has it all. This meeting is free and open to the community. Inman Middle School is at 774 Virginia Ave, 30306, and its phone number is 404-802-3200.

The Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) is celebrating its 29th anniversary during the 2007-08 school year. CINS' mission is to influence Atlanta Board of Education policy to ensure ongoing progress for all children in the Grady Cluster of Schools. To meet this goal, CINS conducts monthly meetings of parents, school administrators, Atlanta Board of Education members, neighborhood groups and interested individuals to explore resources, identify critical issues and seek solutions to problems of importance to the Grady Cluster of Schools. CINS meetings are always free and open to the community. Lunch is available at all noon meetings for \$7. Refreshments are served at all evening meetings for no charge.

Please consider joining CINS today – the membership fee is \$10 for individuals, \$5 for school personnel, and \$25 for organizations. Membership dues fund CINS' vital work of fostering communication, advocating for our schools, and helping students directly through our teacher grants. For additional information about CINS, please visit our website at <http://www.cinsatlanta.org/> or email us at [cinsatlanta@bellsouth.net](mailto:cinsatlanta@bellsouth.net)

### Yes! I want to support CINS:

Enclosed is my check (payable to CINS) for membership: (School Personnel \$5, Individuals \$10, Organizations \$25)

Enclosed is a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Educational Grants to Schools

I prefer mailed postcard reminders (rather than e-mail alone)\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Neighborhood Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the above and mail it to:  
Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools  
P.O. Box 8116  
Atlanta, Georgia 31106



C I N S COUNCIL OF INTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS

*Empowering Schools ... Enhancing Neighborhoods*

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