

# Porter Academy Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday April 26, 2017

## Quick Reminders:

- Tomorrow is Spirit Day —“Take me out to the ballgame” theme
- Friday, April 28: NO SCHOOL—Teacher Workday
- May 1—Last tuition payment for 2016-2017 school year is due. Please contact Pam to settle any outstanding balances.
- May 1: Safari Minutes are due—please send in planner or email Ms. Hannah (hcha@porteracademy.org)
- Yard Sale donations wanted—please bring donations to library before/after carpool—donations are tax deductible
- Year end performances: Lower School May 23 @ 9:30, Upper School May 24 @ 9:30
- May 25—Last day of school, 1:00 release, no afterschool available

## Message from Ms. Lynn

Porter Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). SAIS is a membership organization of independent K-12 schools with the mission to “strengthen member schools by providing high quality accreditation processes, comprehensive professional growth opportunities, and visionary leadership development programs”. We were initially accredited by SAIS in 2012, completed a “two-year report” in 2014 to demonstrate our growth since initial accreditation, and we are now in the midst of the re-accreditation process.

There are two main components of SAIS accreditation: the Standards and the Self-Study. The Standards ensure that we are meeting expectations in the areas of “Mission”, “Governance and Leadership”, “Teaching and Learning”, “Stakeholder Communication and Relationships”, and “Resources and Support Systems”. The chair of our SAIS visiting team, Dr. Sean Preston, visited Monday. He toured the school, observed students and teachers, and talked with administrators. Dr. Preston reported that our Standards looked good, that he was very impressed with our school as a whole, and he made special mention of the creativity and engaging nature of our teachers.

Being accredited by SAIS is beneficial because it drives us towards continuous improvement. The whole purpose of the Self-Study component of the accreditation process is to choose several areas that are especially important to us and in which we feel we have room to develop. We then use resources from SAIS, as well as internal and other external resources, to focus on developing these areas. For this re-accreditation, we have selected the following areas as our focus: Positive School Climate, Technology, Assessment, and Financial Sustainability. I am so excited for this process because I feel it is so important to continuously analyze the strengths of the school as well as to brainstorm ways that we can improve. Dr. Preston quickly proved to be an incredible resource, sharing many ideas that we are excited to implement ASAP (we’ve already implemented one of his ideas regarding our admissions process). I am excited about our continued growth as a school so that we can increase the ways in which we can support our teachers, students, and their families.

**We would love your input about your experience at Porter Academy. Please take about 5 minutes to complete the linked parent survey before the end of the year.**

**Your input makes a difference—thank you for your feedback!**

**<https://goo.gl/forms/yWvOC3CjAAJ5RG5E2>**

## Important Dates

**April 27:** Spirit Day (baseball), Magician, Last Day of iLs

**Apr 28:** No School—Teacher Work Day

**May 1:** Safari Minutes Due, Last tuition payment due

**May 5:** Last Day of Fast ForWord

**May 8-9:** Lower School Conferences; No School for Lower School Students

**May 10:** Field Day

**May 11:** Upper School Conferences; No School for Upper School Students

**May 12:** Yard Sale 2-6

**May 13:** Yard Sale 7-2

**May 25:** Last Day of School; 1:00 Dismissal (No Afterschool)

The Character Education trait for April is Perseverance—

“I will do my best, even when things get tough.”



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## Fernbank Fieldtrip—Whole School

The students had a great time and learned lots on our fieldtrip to Fernbank Museum. We learned about extreme weather and how it forms as well as what we need to do to be safe in extreme weather. We learned about the development of the Earth and its inhabitants. We learned about body temperature and how sweating keeps us cool. We explored tunnels and learned about different animals and their habitats. We learned about simple machines such as pulleys through hands-on experimentation, and we explored the outdoor boardwalk and play area. It was a wonderful, and tiring, day!



Porter Academy is dedicated to educating children by utilizing individualized programs that are appropriate to each student's development level and learning style. Your child can succeed in the right environment.



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## Upper School Orange Field Trip



Upper School Orange enjoyed their field trip today to Special Kneads and Treats. This is a bakery that is staffed by individuals with special needs with the mission of teaching them job skills as well as helping them develop a sense of accountability and pride. The bakery gives back to the community by catering to programs that help those in need and profits are given to programs that support the special needs community. Our students learned about the different jobs available in the bakery and the responsibilities associated with each as well as the daily routine. They also practiced ordering and purchasing items appropriately.

### OUR MISSION

**SPECIAL KNEADS AND TREATS** is a non-profit specialty bake shop designed to **PROVIDE** Special Needs adults within the surrounding community a place to **LEARN** a skill & **DEVELOP** a sense of accountability and pride.

We **CATER** to local Food Ministry Cooperatives, Elderly Care Facilities, Battered Women and Childrens homes as well as many small locally owned businesses.

Our program **ALLOWS** this special group of people an opportunity to **PROVIDE** for those less fortunate or in need. Profits from standard sales are injected back into community programs to further **ASSIST** Special Needs awareness, research and many other areas of need.



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## Student Contracts

Please return your contract for 2017-2018 as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding our program, please contact Barbara Richard (brichard@porteracademy.org). If you have any questions about finances, please contact Pam Higginbotham (phigginbotham@porteracademy.org). If you are planning on attending a different school next year, please let Barbara Richard know so we can do everything possible to facilitate a successful transition.

## Annual Fund

Please help us reach 100% participation in our Annual Fund campaign! We cannot do it without you. Remember, your participation is more important than the amount you donate. We are applying for grants, and these groups want to see that we have full internal support as evidenced by 100% of families, staff, and board members donating something to the annual fund. You may donate by sending in a check with Annual Fund written on the memo line, stopping in to see Pam, or clicking the "donate" button on our website to donate through Pay Pal. You can specify "annual fund" by clicking the "add a message for sender" link on the Pay Pal donation page. Thank you for your support!

## Summer Camp

Testing shows that many students lose academic skills over Summer Break. Our goal with Porter Academy Summer Camp is to prevent that from happening while providing a fun summer day camp experience. ***Our program is appropriate for children Pre-Kindergarten through fourth grade***, and offers integrated cross-curricular thematic units. Academics are integrated into fun activities, as well as taught in a more formal small-group setting each day. Activities integrate reading and math with science, social studies, art, social skills, and cooperative games. Students also receive occupational therapy and music therapy twice a week. Our program is further enhanced by in-school enrichment activities provided by outside professionals such as a juggler, a magician, and Party Animals Atlanta. There are Morning Session (9:00-12:30) and Full Day options, with the morning focusing on academics. Students are completely immersed in one theme each week. The 2017 session dates and themes are:

- Week 1 June 12-16.....Jurassic Park
- Week 2 June 19-23.....Pete the Cat
- Week 3 June 26-30.....Astronaut Adventure
- Week 4 July 3-7 (not July 4).....Wild Wild West
- Week 5 July 10-14.....Rainforest Romp



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