

The Parent Post

Parent Involvement, Title I
Volume VIII, Issue 1

Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year and sent home with students being served with Title I funds at Douglas County schools. These schools include Annette Winn Elementary, Beulah Elementary, Bright Star Elementary, Burnett Elementary, Chestnut Log Middle, Eastside Elementary, Factory Shoals Elementary, Lithia Springs Elementary, North Douglas Elementary, Stewart Middle, Sweetwater Elementary, Turner Middle and Youth Villages - Inner Harbour Campus. For more information, please contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@douglas.k12.ga.us

Parent Involvement Defined

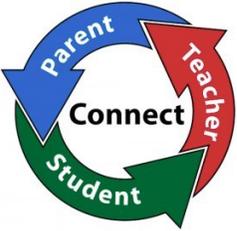
By Schontal McClary, Instructional Lead Teacher, North Douglas Elementary School

Studies show that students of involved parents are more successful in school. Convinced you don't have time? Continue reading... In the "old days", as the younger generation likes to reference the time period, an involved parent was that doting mom or dad who spent every moment hovering over their children. But this idealized characteristic of the perfect parent has never captured the true nature of an involved parent.

A loose interpretation of parental involvement is simply the time a parent spends with their child. That being said, wouldn't the most important characteristic of an involved parent be the depth of the *quality time* they regularly commit to spending with their children? While the definition of an involved parent may vary from person to person, or region to region, the goal of parental involvement has never wavered. A truly efficient parent involvement program attributes greatly to efforts to forge a stable, well-rounded educational environment for students.

Over the years, concern that the hectic lifestyles of parents impede parental involvement efforts has been overshadowed by the numerous after school and weekend activities of students. Consequently, a need to develop more realistic means for parents to spend quality time with their students has arisen. Simple, less time constricting means of getting involved as parents include:

- ✓ Attending meetings and conferences
- ✓ Joining school organizations
- ✓ Volunteering for school events
- ✓ Reading to your student's class
- ✓ Completing homework with your student
- ✓ Reading to your student and allowing your student to read to you
- ✓ Quizzing your student on study points before a test (This can be done anywhere)
- ✓ Creating games to help your student study
- ✓ Visiting the Parent Resource Center at your student's school to get material to help you support your student
- ✓ Contacting your student's teacher for helpful tips



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Superintendent

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Lisa Dunnigan
Title I Director

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Parent Outreach Specialist

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Parent-Teacher Conferences: Tips for a Successful and Productive Meeting

Parent-teacher conferences are a chance to get to know your child's teacher. Most parent teacher conferences around 20 minutes so planning is the key for a successful conference. Parents should be prepared to share in two – way meaningful conversation. Be prepared with a list of facts about your child that will be helpful in the conference. Include things such as their favorite subject, how they react to the homework at home, their outside interests or hobbies, any medical condition or health need. It is also important to include other issues that affect schoolwork like a recent move, divorce or the birth of a child. Be sure to take a pen and notepad so you do not have to rely on your memory. Examples of questions you can ask the teacher include:

- * What is my child learning this year?
- * What are the teacher's expectations for homework and has my child missed any assignments?
- * Is my child reading on level?
- * Are there any special programs that suit the needs of my child such as Program Challenge or special tutoring for a subject that they may need help in?
- * Has my child been absent? If so has the makeup work been turned in?
- * How does my child respond to testing situations? What kind of tests do you give?
- * How does my child act in a group?
- * What is my child like in class? Is he or she social or do not interact with peers?
- * What is my child's learning style?
- * What is the best way to get in touch with the teacher? Email or phone

Remember that you are the expert about your child and the teacher is an expert about teaching kids on his or her grade level. Both of you will come to the table with ideas and opinions and might need to compromise. Parent-teacher conferences are also a great time to volunteer. Find out if there is anything that you as a parent can do to help the teacher.

Stay in touch with the teacher after the conference. Set up a time that you and the teacher can touch base again briefly to see if the action plan is working or needs to be altered. As children get older it is also a good practice to include them in parent-teacher conferences. Stay positive and look at the parent teacher conference as an opportunity to help your child succeed in their academic endeavors.

To schedule a parent-teacher conference, please contact your child's teacher.

November is Parent Engagement Month! Get Involved!

November is Parent Engagement Month and Douglas County Title I schools have a variety of plans in place to celebrate parents in our schools! Like us on Facebook for more information about events at our Title I schools and to get resources and tips to help YOUR child SUCCEED! For more information, please contact the Instructional Lead Teacher or the Parent Outreach Facilitator at your school. Names and contact information are listed on the back page of this newsletter.



U P C O M I N G W O R K S H O P S

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location.

Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center

3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Tanyia Clagette (770) 651-3131 and Valerie Shaw (770) 651-3147

Literacy Night and Writing Expo

Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Parents will be able to see writing samples of their students and celebrate the progress they have made.

Beulah Elementary School Parent Resource Center

1150 Burnt Hickory Road, Douglasville, GA 30134

Juan Bell (770) 651-3338

Test Taking Tips

Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM

Come out and join us as we present important information concerning the Georgia Milestones assessment. Also on the agenda will be important information on the AIMSweb, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Common District Assessments (CDAs) and ACCESS Testing.

Bright Star Elementary School Parent Resource Center

6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134

Kanesha Howard (770) 651-3468

Math Carnival

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:00 PM

Join us at Bright Star's Math Carnival! A night of math activities and fun where parents will learn and practice the math curriculum and receive tips to use with their child. Parents will walk away with activities they can do at home.

Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center

8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134

Tenia Boone (770) 651-3572 and Cynthia Brooks (770) 651-3533

Georgia Milestone Informational Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM

In conjunction with Eastside Elementary School, parents will hear information about the Georgia Milestones Assessment Systems test. They will learn the benefits of this new assessment, and what they can expect and do to help their child prepare for the test.

Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center

8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134

Dr. Mary Jackson (770) 651-3885

Georgia Milestone Informational Meeting (held at Burnett ES)

Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM

In conjunction with Burnett Elementary School, parents will hear information about the Georgia Milestones Assessment Systems test. They will learn the benefits of this new assessment, and what they can expect and do to help their child prepare for the test.

Lithia Springs Elementary School Parent Resource Center

6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Pam Bates (770) 651-4192 and Barbara Lark (770) 651-4167

Technology Parent Day

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

This workshop will assist families in developing skills to raise positive family relationships and enrich academic support and growth through the use of safe technology.

North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center

1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134

Schontal McClary (770) 651-4855

Thanksgiving Lunch with Homework Strategy Information

Wednesday, November 16, 2016, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Drop-in informational meeting for families to have lunch with their child in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday and receive information about homework and study strategies.

Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center

8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134

Regina Gladney (770) 651-5486 and Chris Atkinson (770) 651-5591

Pastries with Parents

Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 9:00 AM

Celebrate National Parent Involvement Day with us as we show appreciation for our parents who are actively involved in their child's education.

Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center

2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Tameka Scott (770) 651-4659

Celebrations Around the World

Tuesday, December 8, 2016 at 5:30 PM

Children will participate in games and activities that are based on the essential knowledge required at each grade level to meet the Georgia Performance Standards for Social Studies. We'll end the evening with hot chocolate and a story.

Turner Middle School Parent Resource Center

7101 Turner Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Dr. Carol Lobban (770) 651-5563 and Chris Atkinson (770) 651-5591

STEM Night

Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:00 PM

A night of activities geared towards developing parents and students' appreciation of science, technology, engineering, and math through entertaining and engaging games and activities.

Visit YOUR Parent Resource Center Today!