



# The Parent Post

Parent Involvement, Title I

Volume VIII, Issue 2

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, 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](mailto:patti.sullivan@douglas.k12.ga.us)

## Internet Fun during the Winter Break

By Tanya Clagette, Instructional Lead Teacher, Annette Winn Elementary School

The winter break is a great time to spend with family and friends. It also offers your kids much-needed downtime to recharge and refocus. Reading together, going to the park, taking a long walk, or playing a game with your family are all fun to do. We also realize that having two weeks off is a long time for the students to go without stimulating their brains, but that can be done a number of ways. These are just a few:

- Reading a book
- Bake at home- have the children do the measurements
- Do an experiment (make sure to remember the safety rules)
- Make up math problems using real-life scenarios
- Take a trip to the library-Young learners will love the library's selection of science books or biographies of famous historical figures.
- Turn your regular errands into learning opportunities
- Write thank-you notes
- Write fun stories

When you have a quiet moment, having your children use the iPad, computer, smartphone, or any other device to play a learning game keeps them engaged and provides a learning opportunity during their time off. Here are some sites for you to visit...

- <https://scratch.mit.edu/>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- <https://www.google.com/earth/> - take a trip
- <https://www.ixl.com/>
- <http://pbskids.org/>
- <https://www.abcmouse.com>
- <http://www.spatulatta.com/>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>
- <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- <http://www.funbrain.com/>



The sites listed above can be used for all ages. Most are free or give a free trial period. Make sure your child is engaged in fun, learning activities.

Dr. Gordon Pritz  
**Superintendent**

•  
Lisa Dunnigan  
**Title I Director**

•  
Patti Sullivan  
**Parent Outreach  
Specialist**

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## Literacy in the Home

By Dr. Tara Campbell, K-12 English Language Arts/ Reading Specialist, Douglas County School System

Parents often wonder how they can help their children with reading and writing. The most natural way is to involve your children in home literacy practices. You probably use reading and writing every day! You do not have to create assignments or worksheets to practice literacy with your children; instead, look for ways to include them in your everyday reading and writing activities. Here are some examples:

- Ask your children to read the nutrition labels on food items. Ask them about the ingredients or the calories. If they do not know what some of the words mean, help them or encourage them to search the Internet for more information.
- Encourage your children to read the directions for preparing food or recipes. For younger children, show them how YOU read the directions and follow them. You don't have to get fancy - even a carton of Easy-Mac has directions to be read and followed!
- Dictate shopping lists or to-do lists and let your children write the list (or part of it). Then, let them cross off the items as they are completed.
- Work together on emails. Maybe you are emailing a family member, a teacher, or a company. Show your children how you think through what to say and the tools you use to check your spelling and grammar. Ask for their help in composing what to say.
- When you arrive in a new place, you probably read signs to know where to go and what to do. Show your children how you are navigating the world by reading, and let them help you. Show them the signs and ask what they think they mean, or read them aloud.
- You and your children have special interests and hobbies, right? Work together to find out information. Use the Internet, or consider subscribing to magazines to get more information about your hobbies. Some magazines offer free trial subscriptions to get you started!
- Do you eat out or get fast food? Show your children how the menus are organized and encourage them to read and choose their own items (within a budget, of course – then you are involving math, too!). If it's not too crowded, let them do their own ordering. Using oral language is an important part of literacy.
- Finally, the importance of talk cannot be overstated. Talk, talk, talk to your children and let them talk to you. Ask them questions; encourage them to defend their ideas with reasons and information. Most people become great readers and writers THROUGH talking first.

You use reading and writing every day in your home. It may take a little longer to involve your child in these practices, but the payoff is worth it. You will have a child who understands and appreciates the value of literacy in our daily lives. With practice, their "help" may even save you some time!

### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT

Factory Shoals Elementary School has been very fortunate to have United for Christ Church to embrace our school as a Partner in Education and by giving parents breakfast as they drop off their child(ren). The Reverend Paul Hopson was very instrumental in gathering several of his dedicated members to recognize our parents on National Parent Involvement day on Thursday, November 17, 2016. Many of the parents were very surprised at the warm and kind token of appreciation that 100 of our parents were the recipients! Church members also read stories to our students that were very engaging. The Factory Shoals Elementary School faculty, staff, students and families are very appreciative of the support from the community. Thank you United for Christ Church!

## Upcoming Important Dates

December 16	Semester ends
December 19-January 3	Student Holidays
January 4	Students return; 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester begins
January 6	Report cards issued, all levels
January 16	Student Holiday



## **Holiday Regression**

By Dorothy Williams, Instructional Lead Teacher, Factory Shoals Elementary School

*Between the Christmas and New Year's holidays, some students can lose as much as a month of schooling and forget what they have just learned in the fall.*

One of the things kids look forward to in December is the academic downtime, but there is no reason why they cannot keep their minds sharp during the holidays. Believe it or not, they can still have fun while doing it! Reading does not have to mean sitting at a table with a boring school book or worksheets for a set amount of time each day. Parents can easily place reading into daily activities.

### **What is a parent to do?**

One approach teachers have taken is to create vacation packets that include reading logs, math worksheets, and book report forms. In those packages, teachers might also include ideas that students and families can work on together by completing a research project or book report that they could complete at home that does not necessarily involve worksheets or traditional homework.

For some teachers, vacation packages are a repetitive of their daily activities in class. Instead, to help decrease learning loss while away from the classroom, some teachers use projects like cooking which requires the child to read, add, measure, and learn as they make meals or share recipes. This is also an opportunity for parents to talk with their child(ren) about family holidays and traditions. What better way to get kids to listen, question and understand new concepts? It is a great way to assist them with learning, applying their learning, and to have some quality fun time.

Here are some websites to assist you and your child(ren) to browse for ideas on holiday break activities that can help keep their minds engaged:

Preschool to 2nd grade -- [Starfall.com](http://Starfall.com): reading, math, phonics for the young set. Some of the resources are free, others available with paid membership.

8th grade on up -- [Coolmath.com](http://Coolmath.com): fun math games, brain benders, science games.

Science for all -- [HowStuffWorks.com](http://HowStuffWorks.com): how life jackets work, facts about lobsters, and other weird science.

Reading for all -- [Goodreads.com](http://Goodreads.com)

### **How to connect students with technology?**

Students are also encouraged to use myON, an online library that promotes student literacy. It is a very helpful resource that our school district utilizes, and kids have access to holiday books. Since this resource is used at school, your child should know their login information. If you need more information, please contact your child's teacher.

# 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  
Tanya Clagette (770) 651-3131

## **Academic Parent Teacher Teams Meeting 2**

Monday-Wednesday, January 23, 24 and 25, 2017 at 6:00 PM  
Grades K through 4 will meet with the parents of their child's homeroom to discuss data based on foundational skills they have chosen. They will then create and practice activities to work with their children at home and discuss goals for APTT meeting #3.

**Beulah Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
1150 Burnt Hickory Road, Douglasville, GA 30134  
Juan Bell (770) 651-3338

## **Don't Let Science Boggle Your Mind**

Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 6:00 PM  
Please come out and join us in a night of fun Science activities and learning. We will have our students' Science Projects on display in the classrooms (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>). We will also have the Star Lab available, which will be located in the Gym.

**Bright Star Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134  
Kanesha Howard (770) 651-3468

## **Awesome Assessments/Testing Strategies and Tips**

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 5:30 PM  
Join us for a night of assessment fun. Parents will get the opportunity to learn about the different assessments your child takes at school. There will be fun for GKIDS, AIMWeb, GMAS and CDAs.

**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**

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 4:00 PM  
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

## **Using STEM Activities in the Classroom and at Home!**

Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 5:30 PM  
Families will participate in interactive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities for all grade levels.



**Visit YOUR Parent  
Resource Center Today!**

**Factory Shoals Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
2375 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122  
Dr. Dorothy Williams (770) 651-3966 and Cynthia Brooks (770) 651-3533

## **Technology Talk (held in conjunction with Sweetwater Elementary)**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 1:00 PM  
Sergeant Jesse Hambrick from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office will present information on how to protect your child from some of the dangers of social media. Darien Carruth, Instructional Technology Specialist, will demonstrate some of the great technology to help your child at home.

**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

## **Academic Parent Teacher Teams Meeting 2**

Monday-Wednesday, January 30 and 31, February 1, 2017 at 6:00 PM  
Grades K, 1 and 2 families will be trained to support children's academic goals by linking home and school learning.

**North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134  
Schontal McClary (770) 651-4855

## **Living Wax Museum**

Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 6:30 PM  
In addition to receiving information about their child's curriculum for the second half of the school year, families will engage in presentations, displays and exhibits related to diversity.

**Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center**  
8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134  
Regina Gladney (770) 651-5486 and Chris Atkinson (770) 651-5591

## **Georgia Milestones Test Prep**

Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 6:00 PM  
Come out and learn important test taking tips and strategies for the Georgia Milestones Assessment.

**Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122  
Tameka Scott (770) 651-4659

## **Technology Talk (held at Factory Shoals Elementary)**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 9:00 AM  
Sergeant Jesse Hambrick from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office will present information on how to protect your child from some of the dangers of social media. Darien Carruth, Instructional Technology Specialist, will demonstrate some of the great technology to help your child at home.

**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

## **Milestones Testing Early Prep**

Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 6:00 PM  
The workshop will allow parents to have plenty of time to work with their student/s to ensure a successful pass. Workshop presenters will provide test-taking strategies, student testing tips, and supplemental materials for student use at home.