

Open House a Success at Parent Resource Centers

The Fulton County School System's Title I Department held open houses for its three new Parent Resource Centers on August 28 from 6-8 p.m.

The parent resource centers—geographically located throughout the county, with one in North Fulton, South Fulton and Sandy Springs—provide parents of children attending Title I schools the opportunity to become more involved in their child's education.

At the open houses, parents received information on upcoming workshops and trainings and community- and school-based support groups, as well as educational materials to help enrich their child's academic performance.



The centers are located at High Point Elementary School (serving North Springs and Riverwood clusters), Mimosa Elementary School (serving Centennial and Roswell clusters) and Palmetto Elementary School (serving Creekside, Banneker and Westlake clusters).

In addition, the school system's central parent resource center, which serves the Tri-Cities Cluster as well as all Title

I schools, is located in the Teaching Museum South in Hapeville.

The building also houses the system's Title I Department. For more information on the Parent Resource Centers, contact Pam Baisden at 404-669-8217.



From the Desk of the Title I Director

Greetings Title I Parents,



Dr. Tawana Miller

Welcome back to the 2008-09 school year! We are extremely excited to announce the opening of 3 new parent resource centers throughout the district for your use. Title I parents can visit any of the resource centers.

September is Go Healthy Month.

Now is a great time for students to step up to the plate as leaders in their community to empower and inspire each other and their families to go healthy by being more physically active and eating healthy foods. Each issue of Title Talk will feature a Health and Wellness article, a healthy tip, or recipe.

Did you know?

Most working adults spend the majority of their time sitting at a desk. This sedentary behavior, along with poor eating habits at work significantly increases the risk of heart disease (www.americanheart.org).

Did you know?

The American Heart Association has teamed up with the William J. Clinton Foundation to form the Alliance for a Healthier generation. The primary goal of the alliance is to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity by encouraging children to eat healthier and become physically active. Encourage your child to visit www.igohugo.org—a website designed specifically for kids to encourage and promote a healthier lifestyle.

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Why Fitness is Important

The following facts point out why it is important for young people to achieve a healthy fitness level:

- More than 9.2 million children and adolescents (ages 6-19) are considered overweight or obese.
- One-third of young people in grades 9-12 do not get a sufficient amount of moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- Only 22% of high school students get the recommended number of fruits and vegetables each day.

Creekside/Westlake Cluster Schools Implement Healthy Kids, Smart Kids Program: The Sugar Free Zone

Internationally renowned author, educator and nutritional advocate, Dr. Yvonne Sanders Butler, will continue her fight against childhood obesity by introducing her highly acclaimed "Healthy Kids, Smart Kids Program: The Sugar Free Zone" to the Westlake/Creekside Cluster in the Fulton County Schools.

The Creekside/Westlake Cluster has over 20,000 students in school with remarkable principals committed to joining Dr. Butler in fighting childhood obesity and improving student nutrition, physical activity and self-esteem while emphasizing academic performance and behavior.

The goal of the three-phase series is to enable Fulton County Schools to develop, implement, and manage school wellness programs that will improve the health, morale, and academic performance of students and staff.

"Healthy Kids, Smart Kids: The Sugar Free Zone" is a real-life approach to educate and energize school administrators, cafeteria managers and staff on establishing sound nutrition and fitness practices in school culture. Participants will be engaged in workshops teaching them how to develop and manage the program at their school. The students will have sugar free and healthy snacks and meals at school.



Title I Parent Resource Center Offers GED Test Preparatory Courses

Parents of Fulton County Title I students who are working on a high school equivalency have access to GED Preparatory Courses at the Title I Parent Resource Center.

The preparatory class is free of charge and is a computer-based program which gives practice in core skills associated with success on the G.E.D. Upon completion of the preparatory courses, parents are encouraged to take the G.E.D. assessment.

COURSE OFFERINGS

- GED Test Preparatory Class
- Math Basic Skills Classes
- Reading Basic Skills Classes



CLASSES AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

12:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.



We are happy to announce that 3 more Title I schools made Adequate Yearly Progress following the addition of summer school Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) re-test data. Three of our schools now make AYP that did not before. Congratulations to Heritage, Oak Knoll, and Parklane Elementary Schools for making AYP.

NEWS FLASH—AYP!

HOMWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS

Homework can have many benefits for students including increasing their level of understanding of key concepts learned at school, improving their responsibility, and helping them develop good study habits. However, many working parents often find it difficult to help their children with homework for a number of reasons.

Some parents view homework as busy work which keeps their children from participating in extracurricular, civic, or religious events. Still, others view it as a necessary evil and insist their children are given homework daily. Listed below are the answers to some of the most pressing homework questions.

When should homework be done? Homework should be done at a consistent time each day. This helps students establish a clear routine for completion of homework and helps parents affirm the importance of homework.

How much should parents help? Parents should allow students to complete assignments independently providing guidance only when asked. Parents should never do the work for their children.

Where should students complete homework? Homework should be completed in a designated area that is quiet, comfortable, and conducive to learning. It is also a good idea to create a homework center or station in your home.

What if it's late night and they haven't finished? Send them to bed. Children generally perform better when they aren't sleepy or tired. Make sure your child gets enough rest each night as not getting enough rest can be a huge problem for students when it comes to homework completion and classroom involvement.
(www.homeandyoumagazine.com)

Development of School-Parent Compacts Ensures Open Communication Between Title I Schools and Parents

The school-parent compact is a written agreement between teachers and parents. It is a document that clarifies what families and schools can do to help children reach high academic standards. Every school receiving Title I funds must develop a school/parent compact. The compact serves as a clear reminder of everybody's responsibility to take action at school and at home so that children can learn what is required of them. It is a written commitment indicating how all members of a school community—parents, teachers, principals, students, and concerned community members—agree to share responsibility for student learning.

The compact should outline how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. All parents of Title I students should understand the school/parent compact. Compacts are developed to reflect the needs and culture of the home and school environments.



Joyce Epstein's Model of Parent Involvement: Keys to Successful School, Family, Community Partnerships

Dr. Joyce Epstein, the world's foremost authority on parent involvement, directs the National Network of Partnership as part of her work with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Dr. Epstein's research has helped identify and clarify the many different kinds of partnerships that contribute to student success.

Her model identifies six types of parental involvement:

- ◆ **Type 1—Parenting**
- ◆ **Type 2—Communicating**
- ◆ Type 3—Volunteering
- ◆ Type 4—Learning at Home
- ◆ Type 5—Decision-making
- ◆ Type 6—Collaborating with Community

This month's focus is on **Parenting** and **Communicating**. According to Epstein, the basic obligations of parents include the following:
Parenting: (a) Parents help ready

their children to learn at all ages by keeping them healthy and by supervising, disciplining, and guiding them. (b) Parents help children feel good about themselves and confident with others. (c) Parents teach them a positive attitude about learning and school.

Communication between home and school should have a two-way focus. Schools should provide information to parents about students' progress and school programs and school should also provide ways for parents to share with school staff information important to their children's learning. This can include phone calls, notes, conferences, newsletters, open houses, or report cards.

Contact your child's school today to learn more about **Parenting** as well as to increase your level of **Communication** with school officials and staff.

Science Summer Camps Sparked Student Interest

Thanks to each Title I SALE (Summer Accelerated Learning Experience) administrator and student for their participation in the Title I E=mass² (Exploring Math, Art and Science in Summer School) One Day Science Camp.

Fifty-nine percent of students from 9 Elementary sites and 8 Middle Schools participated and students left craving for more!

Special recognition goes to Dr. Tony Wilcher (Evoline C. West ES) and Minnie Jenkins-Miller (Camp Creek MS) for the highest number of participating students in the science camps.



CRCT PARENT CLINIC

Title I will host the 2nd annual CRCT Clinic for parents. The CRCT Parent Clinic for North County Title I parents will be held Saturday, October 18, 2008, from 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at Mimosa Elementary School. The CRCT Clinic for South County Title I parents will be held Saturday, November 15, 2008, from 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at Teaching Museum South

located at 689 North Avenue, Hapeville, 30354. Parents may attend either session.

At the CRCT Clinics, parents will receive information on working with their children to help them become successful on standardized tests. Assistance will be provided in the following subjects: math, reading, and language arts. Contact Pamela Baisden for more information.

The Learning Circle: Georgia Aquarium Project and Fulton County Title I Schools

The Learning Circle is a new school-business partnership that will initially provide Fulton County Title I students enrolled in 41 elementary and middle schools access to the world's largest aquarium. The aim of the Georgia Aquarium Education Department is to make the education experience an extension of the classroom.

One of the primary goals of this partnership is to increase student awareness and stimulate an interest in career paths in marine biology for minorities and underrepresented subgroups. Another critical goal is to increase conceptual knowledge and understanding of marine ecosystems, and conservation of the environment.

STONEWALL TELL TEACHER WINS USDOE AWARD

Dr. Elletta Denson, a fourth-grade teacher at Stonewall-Tell Elementary School, received the prestigious American Stars of Teaching Award. Each year, one teacher from each state and the District of Columbia is selected as an award recipient.

Given by the U.S. Department of Education, the award honors teachers who have demonstrated remarkable success in helping students rise above the circumstances of poverty and underachievement. Award winners represent the finest educators nationwide with a track record of improving student achievement, using innovative instructional strategies and making a difference in the lives of their students.

Dr. Denson received her award September 5th during a surprise visit from U.S. Department of Education officials.

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