



Hembree Highlights

From the Desk of Kalpana Raju, Principal

August 21, 2009

Dear Parents,

I enjoyed meeting some of our new parents on Wednesday! Our PTA periodically organizes a welcome breakfast for new families. In addition to learning about the school and PTA, they have an opportunity to meet and make new friends! If you were not able to attend the event this week, we hope you will the next time.

Our students are beginning to fall into a routine at school with their schedules and assignments. You can help them at home by having a homework space and making sure they go to bed early. We have had less than ten students tardy on any specific day! Students must be in the classroom at 7:45 a.m. If you use carpool in the mornings, do allow your child to let him/herself out of the car. Please make sure car seats are behind the driver seat. This will allow students to get out of the car on the correct side. Do come to a complete stop before allowing your child to get out. Please watch for pedestrians crossing and please drive slow. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Your child's teacher has sent you information about Curriculum Night next week. We hope to see all of you here!

Sincerely, Kali Raju

JOIN CUB SCOUTS

For all boys first through fifth grades: If you are interested in joining Cub Scouts, please contact Brian Vislusky by e-mail at brian.vislusky@mindspring.com or by phone at 404-386-5794.

Meet Pack 985 and sign up for Cub Scouts at our next Pack event. Pack 985 Extravaganza (Games, Cook-out, Pack meeting and an optional campout) is on Saturday, August 29, at 4 p.m. and on Sunday, August 30, at 9:00 a.m., Northbrook United Methodist Church – Scout House, 11225 Crabapple Road, Roswell.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Throughout the school year, volunteers are needed to help with PTA or school activities, some of which only require a short term commitment. If you are interested in being alerted to these activities as the need arises, please send a note to HSHelpers@Hembreespringspta.org.

FIRST FAMILY NIGHT

Please join us at CiCi's Pizza in Roswell for our first family night on Wednesday, September 16, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. All money goes to our PTA.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 24	PTA General Meeting; 5:45 p.m. Curriculum Night Grades 2, 3, 5 & Pre-K, SNPre-K; 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
August 25	PTA General Meeting; 5:45 p.m. Curriculum Night Grades K, 1, 4; 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
September 4	Food Drive Bags Go Home Sally Foster Begins
September 7	Labor Day – No School
September 8	Food Drive Begins

Equal opportunity employer and service provider.

Reasonable accommodations and modifications made for the disabled.

404-763-4585 TTY 1-800-255-0135

ANNUAL RECYCLING CONTEST

If you've been saving your printer cartridges and cell phones in preparation for the annual recycling contest – GREAT! You've got a few more weeks to collect recyclables from friends, family, and neighbors.

The recycling contest will run October 1 through October 30. The contest will be similar to prior years. Each classroom will be provided a receptacle for the recyclable items along with a flier stating which items are accepted. The receptacles will be collected weekly after school. The classroom standings will be also posted weekly.

Hembree Springs has been partnering with Cartridges for Kids for the past few years on our recycling program. The recycling program earned the school over \$800 during the 2008-2009 school year. The contest is a great way to kick off a successful recycling year. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Tia Bohannon at 770-754-5755 or by e-mail environment@hembreespringspta.org.

MESSAGE FROM ROSWELL HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents, Last Friday night, we had over 1600 students attend our first varsity football scrimmage at Roswell High School. The majority of the students in attendance were our high school students but we had a couple hundred students from our middle and elementary schools. We are excited to begin our 2009 season on August 28th against Tift County HS and are asking for your assistance in future home games.

- Children that are not currently enrolled in the high school must be accompanied to the game with a parent or guardian. Students getting dropped off will not be admitted.
- Please have your children sit with you during the game and help supervise your child. Last Friday night we had a large gathering of younger students in the south end of the stadium and by the concession stand which caused some problems for our visitors and staff on duty.

We are excited about the upcoming season and want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable experience as we all root for our Hornets! Thank you very much. Dr. Spurka, Principal, RHS

Working together to learn and grow beyond our dreams!

PTA GENERAL MEETING

The first PTA general meeting of the 2009-2010 school year will be held right before both Curriculum Nights at 5:45 p.m. We will be approving the PTA budget for the school year so please plan on attending.

The PTA will also have a membership table set up in the rotunda and will be selling spirit wear. When you go to your classrooms, the room parents will be collecting voluntary cash donations for the class parties.

SUMMER READING FORMS DUE August 28, 2009

It's time to turn in your Summer Reading form. All forms are due no later than Friday, August 28. Please make sure that your child's teacher's name is on the form as well as a parent/guardian signature. Extra forms are available at the front desk. Please e-mail any questions to Cindy Alvarez at summerreading@hembreespringspta.org.

2009-2010 REFLECTIONS ARTS COMPETITION KICKS OFF "Beauty Is...."

It's that time of year again for our students to show off their creative talents! The PTA Reflections Arts Competition allows all students Pre-K through fifth grade to submit entries in the categories of: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, and Film Production. This year's theme is "Beauty Is...." Imagine the possibilities!

Parents and teachers, please encourage your children to take part in this national competition. The Reflections program is a free program that allows students an outlet to express their talents. More importantly, it helps them build self-confidence as all participants are recognized at a special reception in early November. Top winners will have their entries sent on to the county level and possibly all the way to National!

Speaking of prizes, the class with the most entries will win a cookie cake party, and the top two teachers will win a School Box gift certificate. Entries are due Monday, October 12. Entry forms and category rules are available at the front desk or online at www.georgiapta.org/leadership-reflections.html. If you have questions, please contact Julie Daniels or Elke Monahan at reflections@hembreespringspta.org.

SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS

If you did not get your spirit wear order in by Friday, we have extended the sale through Curriculum Nights. On Monday, August 24, and Tuesday, August 25, you can place spirit wear orders or make purchases from in-stock merchandise prior to the PTA meeting and the curriculum night program. In-stock merchandise available includes Hembree Springs T-shirts (limited number of sizes in gray and gold available in stock), water bottles, and car magnets. Adult size t-shirts are available, too! Look for the spirit wear table beginning at 5 p.m. on Curriculum Nights. Payment can be made with cash or check.

Every Friday is Spirit Wear Day at Hembree Springs!

TAG NOTIFICATION

Notification to Parents of the Screening and Referral Process for Gifted Services: The Fulton County School System screens students for eligibility for gifted services twice a year.

I. Automatic Screening – At the beginning of the school year, TAG teachers review previous year's test scores.

- **Standardized Tests** – Students must have a minimum of an 85th Percentile and a 90th percentile in two of the three areas: Total Reading, Total Math, and Complete Battery.
- **Criterion-Referenced Competency Test** – Students must score in the top 20% on the reading or math section when compared to all other students in the system.
- **Grades (high school only)** – Students must have an overall cumulative average of 95 or greater.

II. Classroom Screening – Local schools select a two-week period from January 5 – February 26, 2010, to review all students in their school.

- Classroom teachers use the Characteristics Instrument for Screening Students (CISS) to identify students with superior abilities in five or more of the following areas: motivation, interests, communications skills, problem-solving abilities, memory, inquiry, insight, reasoning, creativity, and humor. Parents may request to view their child's screening results.

Students who meet either the automatic screening OR classroom screening criteria AND who have supporting data gathered from test history, products, and/or advanced content levels are **referred** for gifted placement testing. Once referred to testing:

- Parents receive the Parent Notification for Testing Consent Form
- Student is tested for the gifted program.
- **Parents receive test results. If state eligibility is determined, students are placed in the TAG program.**

For more complete information regarding Fulton County Schools Gifted Services, please call 404-763-6811 or visit <http://www.fultonschools.org/k12/talentedandgifted>. There you will find our Talented & Gifted Brochure and Q&A documents. You may also contact the teacher of gifted students at Hembree.

WEIGHT WATCHERS BEGINS SOON AT HEMBREE

Our Third Weight Watchers At Work Session will start on Thursdays at 3 p.m. beginning September 10. Our group is a great support system that gives you a plan and strategies to live a healthier life. Over our first two sessions several members lost over 10% of his/her body weight – which has great health benefits. We meet in the Media Center on Thursdays from 3:00-3:45 p.m. You may bring your children. While we meet, they can use our areas for homework, drawing, puzzles, and video viewing. You'll do something for yourself and your children will have fun, too!

Cost = 17 week session for \$175 and requires 15 or more participants (pay by credit card, one check, or 3 checks dated 9/10, 10/10, and 11/10). In addition, members who enroll in the 17-week series also receive 19 weeks of Weight Watchers eTools for FREE (\$80 value). E-mail Betty Routh at routh@fultonschools.org by Tuesday, September 8, to receive the sign-up form if you want to join. For more information about the Weight Watchers program go to: <http://www.weightwatchers.com/plan/index.aspx>