



Ivy Gainey, **Principal**  
Jessica Rhodes, **Asst. Principal**

# Dunwoody Dispatch



Dunwoody Springs Charter Elementary School  
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<http://www.fultonschools.org/school/dunwoodysprings>

## Upcoming Events:

**Wed. September 24**  
PTA Exec Committee Mtg. 7:30 a.m.

**Thurs. September 25**  
-Lunch & Learn 12:00 p.m.  
-Second Grade Field Trip to Georgia Aquarium



**Tues. September 30**  
Lifetouch Fall Pictures



**Thurs. October 2**  
-Kindergarten Field Trip to Georgia Aquarium

**October 6-8**  
Checkpoints testing



**October 8**  
Bernath's Community Mtg. At Sandy Springs Middle School 11:30 a.m.



**Thurs. October 9**  
Reflections entries due

**Fri. October 10**  
NO SCHOOL- Teacher workday



**Wed. October 15**  
Early Release 11:20 a.m.

**Mon. October 20**  
Report Cards Distributed



**October 22-24**  
Vision and Hearing Screening



**Fri. October 31**  
Lunch and Learn 12:00 p.m.  
Volunteer Day



*New Date*

**Thurs. Nov. 6**  
State of the School Address 6:30 p.m.

VOLUME XI ISSUE III

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## A Message from Ivy Gainey- Principal

Thank you for your cooperation with our first Early Release Day last week! This is a valuable opportunity for teachers to receive training and to collaborate. The focus of our first training session was Grading and Student Reporting. Teachers shared best practices for teaching with the entire staff. Teacher teams discussed their views on grading and how the training will impact decisions about grading in the future.

### Field Trip Update

As you may have heard in the news, the Fulton County School System has discontinued centralized funding for day field trips occurring this school year. Due to unexpected budget cuts at the state level that came after our budget had already been set for this year, our school system has to make difficult decisions to reduce expenses while still supporting in-class instruction and educational opportunities. The costs associated with transportation account for a major portion of field trip expenses. As you can imagine, the rising cost of fuel also greatly increased this budget item.

While we are cutting back the initial number of field trips planned, we still have numerous activities planned that will enrich and supplement what students are learning in class. In particular, this year we will have High-Touch High-Tech in-house field trips and Young Audiences cultural arts performances thanks to our PTA. Fortunately, all students were able to participate in the Title I funded Georgia Aquarium field trips (*some using chartered buses*). Other grade levels are researching opportunities to provide in-house field trips (like Diamond Dell and Chattahoochee Nature Center) to be sure we maximize the use of allotted funds and the funds you may have provided for field trips.

We hope you understand the need for having to make this decision. We will do everything possible to maximize your child's learning experience and enrich their studies. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### Dress Code for All

Students and staff members are expected to adhere to our dress code policy in an effort to maintain our professional and appropriate learning environment. We welcome and encourage volunteers and visitors to our school. When coming to have lunch, volunteer, attend meetings or for any reason, please also be mindful of appropriate attire for a school environment.

The excerpt below is taken directly from the staff handbook. This policy should also serve as a guideline/ rule-of-thumb for our visitors/volunteers as we all work to provide an environment conducive to learning. Thank you for understanding.

*"Unacceptable dress code options: stretch pants, skirts/ dresses or shorts above mid-thigh level, leggings, shirts/tops which are see-through or expose cleavage or midriff, spaghetti straps, jeans with holes."*

Ivy Gainey



It is the policy of the Fulton County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service. If you wish to make a complaint or request accommodation or modification due to discrimination in any program activity, or service, contact Compliance Coordinator Ron Wade, 786 Cleveland Avenue, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30315, or phone 404-763-4585. TTY 1-900-255-0135. 763-4585. TTY 1-900-255-0135.

Learn more about our school by going to:

[www.dunwoodysprings.us](http://www.dunwoodysprings.us) or <http://www.greatschools.net> or <http://www.nfcpta.com>



Look for the next  
**DISPATCH**  
On **October 6**



**Dolphin Daily News Updates!**



Dunwoody Springs Charter Elementary School starts each morning with a live news broadcast called the Dolphin Daily News. The news show will be run by teams of fifth graders, with the help of our media specialist Mrs. Ciminelli. The following students will work in groups throughout the year as news anchors, weather anchors, camera techs, audio techs and video techs:

Alexis Bass, Enyo Fiakpoe, Jasmine Marealle, Bryson Ginter, Gabrielle Curry, Jessica Shirey, Charlie Deyo, Rebecca Neish, DeAndre Berry-Perdue, Martha Dung, Antwon Russ, Agozie Onyirimba, Joseph Anderson, Maria Trejo, Moon Hamilton, Kenelia Peart, Ahdil Gill, De'bora Nasamento, Andrew Mason, Katelyn Gardner, Josh Nooromid, Estuardo Rosales, Jewel Shirey, Natasha Barter, Judah Henry, Mikaela Adler, Bryana Mainor, Jacqueline Estala, Zykerria Ferguson, Christian Thomas, Mauricio Olascuada, Stephanie Rabadan, Caroline Freemyer, Trey Gray, Adaysha Mohapatoa, Diana Arrendondo, Dejara McKinney and Naima Rodriguez.

Congratulations to this year's Dolphin Daily News students!



**We LOVE our business partners! Thank you for all that you do!**



**Clothing Drop Box~**

You may have noticed the new Clothing Drop Box in the front parking lot. We are collecting clothing, shoes and small appliances. Our school will receive money for each pound collected. The items will be sold on consignment for pennies on the dollar. This is an opportunity to help donate to those less fortunate, contribute to our school and clean out your closets or basements. (Win, Win, Win!)



To submit items for the Dispatch, write to [polak@fultonschools.org](mailto:polak@fultonschools.org) with Newsletter in the subject line.



**Read to  Lead News**

The October **Read to Lead** calendars will be sent home with your students this week. The calendar will help you keep track of the reading your students do outside of school. We have some very aggressive reading goals established for our Dunwoody Dolphins, but we know they can be reached! Here are some activities that count toward your child's reading goal:



- \*Reading for homework
- \*Reading a book for pleasure
- \*Reading a magazine for pleasure
- \*Reading to a sibling, friend or family member
- \*Being read to



Please take a few minutes each night to think back over how much time your child has spent on these activities and help him/her fill out their **Read to Lead** calendars! We're looking forward to "blowing the top" off of our reading goal thermometers!!

**Reflections**

The PTA Reflections contest is under way!!!

What is Reflections? It is a PTA sponsored arts recognition program that provides children the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. This year's theme is "WOW" and students are able to submit entries in the following six categories:

- Literature 
- Photography 
- Visual Arts 
- Film/Video Production 
- Musical Composition 
- Dance Choreography 

Please encourage your children to submit entries. Winning entries from our school get forwarded to the next stage and have the chance to compete at a national level. National winners are eligible for cash prizes and medals.

You can't win at the national level if you don't participate at the school level so encourage your student to submit an entry! Please ask your teacher for an information packet and don't forget to follow the rules on how to submit your entry!

**Attention Third and Fifth grade parents:**

**Tips to help your child prepare for the ITBS:**

- \* Make sure your child attends school regularly and on time.
- \* Give your child encouragement. Praise him/her for a job well done.
- \* Ensure that your child has a well-rounded diet.
- \* Keep the lines of communication open between home and school.
- \* Make sure your child is well rested on school days.
- \* Try not to be overly anxious about test scores.
- \* Don't judge a child on the basis of a single test score.
- \* Follow normal routines.
- \* If your child wears an assistive device, such as glasses or hearing aids, be sure he/she remembers to bring it and wear it during all testing sessions.