

Heards Ferry Herald

◆ A weekly publication of the news and events of Heards Ferry Elementary School ◆

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From the Desk of Susan Dorenkamp

Welcome Back

Although it is still summer according to the calendar and the weather, summer vacation has come to an end and school has started. The staff and I are very excited and look forward to sharing many academic experiences with our students. As you know parent participation is very important to your children and their educational experiences. Participation is not just volunteering in the school but includes the many home activities that support the educational process. Parent participation has always been a highlight of Heards Ferry and contributes to our academic success. We are excited about the addition of the many new families and I want to thank the PTA volunteers for helping the new families feel like they are a part of our school. I especially want to thank Mrs. Barba and Mrs. McQuary for the organization of Sneak Peek including the packets, check lists and set up.

Last year our enrollment was around 411. This year our enrollment is 478 which means that we added classrooms and teachers. I would like to introduce Ms. Amy Finkelman, who is teaching second grade, Ms. Kristine Jones, who is teaching fifth grade, Ms. LaTonya Curry who teaching third and fourth grade students, and Ms. Lisa Rosenfield, speech teacher. We, also have a new food service manager Mrs. Diane Kennedy, a new production chef Mrs. Janice Abrams, a new Instructional Support Teacher, Ms. Jody Kassel and a new half time custodian, Ms. Monica Gilmore. You will have the opportunity to meet them and the rest of the staff at our Back to School Night on Thursday, August 27, 2009. You won't want to miss this event held at 6:30 to 8:00 as our PTA presidents discuss the PTA budget and kick off the Sally Foster fundraiser. Classroom visits follow the PTA meeting and the introductions of the staff members.

Housekeeping tips and tasks

School Hours: School starts promptly at 7:45. Please make sure that you drop off students in plenty of time for breakfast which is served from 7:20-7:40 or a visit to the school store which is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Students need to be in their classrooms ready for instruction by 7:45. On rainy days, the car pool line is very long and it takes longer for students to get to class on time. So on bad weather days, leave home earlier. Dismissal starts at 2:15 with bus riders. Car pool follows the bus riders. If you decide to change the way that your child goes home, please send a note to the teacher. Transportation can not be changed except in extreme emergencies without a note from the parent.

Absences: If your child is absent, please send a note to the teacher the following day. Illness is an excused absence but a note is needed from the parent.

Dress Code: We ask that students come to school clean and neatly dressed in a manner that is not distracting. Shorts above the finger tips, see through clothing, dresses and tops with spaghetti straps, tank tops, midriff tops, t-shirts with inappropriate or suggestive language or pictures, make-up, cut-offs, flip flops, crocs, body piercing except for earrings for girls, and torn clothing are examples of inappropriate dress. Gym shoes should be worn on PE days not crocs or sandals. They are not appropriate footwear for PE or recess. If students, come to school with inappropriate clothing, we will give them something else to wear or call home for something else to wear.

Lunch news: There is a change in the breakfast and lunch prices this year. Breakfast is \$1.00 and lunch is \$2.00. Students are allowed only one "charge" for meals in the cafeteria. Parents will receive written notification in the event of a charge. Payment is requested immediately. Please refrain from sending anything in aluminum cans, carbonated drinks or breakable containers. Sharp edges and glass present a safety hazard. Additionally, please do not send your child with "fast food" lunches.

Birthdays: Birthdays are not celebrated in the classrooms. Parents may, however, bring cupcakes for the whole class to have during the lunch time.

We have a terrific year planned with fun, learning and plenty of volunteer opportunities. The staff and I hope that your children have a wonderful year. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have a question or concern.

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 percent on the reading or mathematics 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 visit <http://www.fultonschools.org/k12/TalentedandGifted/> . There you will find our Talented and Gifted Brochure and Q&A documents. You may also contact the teacher of gifted students at your school or call 404-763-6811.

“There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.” ~Edith Wharton

[New Articles](#)

Summer Reading Party!

Don't forget to fill out your Summer Reading Program reports. All students who met their goals and turn in their forms to their teacher by Friday, August 21, will be invited to the Summer Reading Party (with prizes!). **Questions? Erica Ross, PTA Summer Reading Contact eneross@bellsouth.net or Amy Frederick atlantafreds@gmail.com.**

Like Cake?

We need volunteers to help us cut cake and corral kids at the Summer Reading Parties. **The K-2nd grade celebration is on Thursday, August, 27, and 3rd-5th grades is on Friday, August 28. Parties run from 1:30pm to 2pm.** We need volunteers to work from 1pm to 2pm. Please email us and let us know if you can help at either party. **Contact Erica Ross eneross@bellsouth.net or Amy Frederick atlantafreds@gmail.com. Thank you!**

Welcome Back from the Media Center!

Last year our HFE Media Center checked out over 18,000 books. This year we are gearing up with many new titles and plenty of popular old ones. With over 20,000 books in circulation, there's something for everyone. A special welcome to our new HFE families. For your information, the Media Center is open each day **from 7:30 am until 2:15 pm**. HFE students are allowed to check out one book at a time in P-K through 1st grades and two books at a time in 2nd through 5th grades. HFE parents are welcome to come browse our collection at any time during open hours and check out up to five books per student under their own names as well. We have many exciting programs in store, including our annual Book Fair scheduled for October 19th so mark your calendars! **Questions? Alice Marrin, Media Specialist, marrinam@fultonschools.org or PTA Contact, Amy Frederick, atlantafreds@gmail.com.**

Carpool Update

Thank you for your patience while we are busy updating the carpool numbers in the next couple of weeks. Due to the significant amount of new families and the request for additional numbers from current families we are working to get the needed numbers out ASAP. When picking up your child in the afternoon please enter the school driveway from the west only. (Right hand turn into the driveway) When waiting in line on Heards Ferry Road, please do not block any resident's driveway. With your patience and cooperation, in just a couple of weeks our carpool will be running very quickly and efficiently!! **Jodi Herndon jodi690@bellsouth.net**

What do YOU think beauty is?

Participate in the National PTA Program REFLECTIONS and create something in (1) of these categories (visual arts, literature, dance choreography, musical composition, photography, and film production) that expresses the 2009-2010 theme "Beauty is...". Why participate in REFLECTIONS this year? Because you are creative and you need to let that light shine! Detailed information will be sent via book-bags in early September and entries are due October 19th. Get those creative juices flowing! Who knows? Your project could be selected for local, state or national recognition. Everyone who participates will be recognized at the End of the Year Awards ceremony at HFE. **Check out: www.pta.org/2032.asp or contact Scottie Belfi, sbelfi1@bellsouth.net , for more information.**

Want to show some Eagle Spirit?

Don't forget to buy one of the new Heards Ferry logo T-shirts before they run out! You can purchase T-shirts, Bag Tags, car magnets and pre-order Sweatshirts anytime. There are adult and youth sizes available. There will be a booth at First Friday on August 14th or you can email me to place your order. Look

for spiritwear samples on the HFES website soon. Also, if you have ideas for what you would like to see with the HFES logo on it - let us know. **Erica Ross eneross@bellsouth.net**

Lady Raider Softball Clinic

Come learn softball from the best at the 1st Annual Riverwood Lady Raider Softball Clinic Saturday August 22 from 9 – 12. Girls ages 8-14 are welcome. Cost is \$15 per athlete, proceeds going to help the Lady Raider Softball Program. The Riverwood softball complex is accessed through the Heards Ferry parking lot. **Questions, contact Coach Rick McKeone at mckeone@fultonschools.org.**

THANK YOU THANK YOU!

The PTA thanks all the teachers and staff who worked tirelessly the week before school to get HFE ready for our smiling students. And, it was especially wonderful considering these teachers and staff were furloughed (i.e. working for free!) Monday through Wednesday. We appreciate your dedication! And, also a big thank you to HFE parents Tracy Barba and Sheryl McQuary who spent many weeks this summer preparing the packets and planning Sneak Peek. It was a great event!

OPEN PTA POSITIONS

We currently have 2 positions available on the PTA Board: 1) Vice President of Public Affairs and 2) Technology Integration Liaison. Neither role requires a huge commitment of time. If you are interested in getting involved at HFE and would like to know more about either of these positions, please email Megan Grout at megangrout@comcast.net.

GREAT STEP TOWARD GOING GREEN

So far this year, every family that has joined the PTA has agreed to receive their newsletter via email. Thanks for helping us save paper, money, and trees! For those who have not yet joined the PTA or filled out the membership form, please fill out and return the one you received in your child's backpack today. Even if you choose not to join the PTA, we need your information for the directory and for newsletter delivery.

Dates to Remember	
August	
8/14	Heards Ferry "First Friday Celebration" at Heritage Sandy Springs Entertainment Lawn 6 - 8 p.m.
8/20	Room Parent Meeting (all room parents) 10 am
8/27	Summer Reading Party K-2
8/28	Summer Reading Party 3-5
8/27	Back to School Night, General PTA Meeting 6:30-8PM
8/31	Sally Foster Gift Wrap Fundraiser Begins
September	
9/7	SCHOOL CLOSED - Labor Day
9/3	Principal's Coffee "New Parents Workshop" 8-10
9/4	Local School Advisory Council (LSAC) 8 - 9
9/17	Principal's Coffee (Topic: Testing) 9-10 a.m.
9/17	Family Math Night 6 – 7:30 p.m.
9/22-25	Normed Referenced Test, Grades 3 & 5

The menu for the week of August 17-21 is posted on the website.

Equal opportunity employer and service provider. Reasonable accommodations and modifications made for the disabled. Contact 404-763-4585 TTY 1-800-255-0135
To submit articles for the newsletter
 Please email hadi@fultonschools.org with the subject: **Newsletter.... by each Tues at noon.**