

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

September 15, 2023

Follow us on Twitter: [@ShakeragShark](#)

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:

Progress Report Cards

Student progress report cards are now available on the Parent and Student Portals. For instructions on how to access your child's 4.5-week progress report, please click [here](#).

Conference Time

Starting next week, teachers will be scheduling parent-teacher conferences. Our front office is open from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. If your conferences are scheduled outside of the office hours, please make sure you have made arrangements with your child's teacher to meet them at a specific door so they can let you in the building (all doors are numbered). For safety reasons, our after-school programs will not be able to allow any visitors to enter and/or exit the building from their entry points.

If parents have a scheduled conference right after dismissal and are making a dismissal change to pick-up their student prior to joining the conference, a Change of Dismissal form must be sent in with your student the morning of the conference. Parents are required to pick their children up at 2:20 p.m. and provide supervision during the conference time.

Vision Screenings for Grades 1, 3, and 5

Annual vision screenings for students in grades 1, 3, and 5 will take place on **Tuesday, September 19**. Students in grades 1, 3, and 5 should have received a more detailed letter earlier this week. Please make a special effort to ensure your child is in attendance on this important day so they can participate in the screenings. If your child wears glasses, we ask that you make sure they have them and bring them to the screening. If the screenings identify a possible concern, parents will be contacted with a letter. If you do not receive a letter in the days following the screening, it is safe to assume the screening did not produce any concerns at this time. If you have any additional questions, please contact Samantha Weaver at weavers@fultonschools.org.

NWEA MAP Assessment for Grades 2 and 4

Students in grades 2 and 4 will take the MAP Growth Assessment in math (September 27-29) and ELA (October 4-6) this year. The MAP is a computer adaptive, norm-referenced assessment that measures each student's individual learning level. MAP Growth measures what students know and what they don't know, regardless of their current grade level. This helps teachers adjust their instruction for each student. It is not used for grading purposes but is included as part of our gifted screening/eligibility process. If you have any additional questions regarding this assessment, please contact Samantha Weaver at weavers@fultonschools.org.

Hands on Shakerag is next Saturday, September 23

On **September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, all Shakerag families and friends are invited to help us beautify our school by planting, removing weeds, and spreading pine straw around the school. Bring gardening gloves, yard waste bags, and your water bottles. The more families we have available to help, the faster we can go in completing this amazing project! Please sign up at [Hands - On - Shakerag 2023](#). Thank you so much in advance for helping to make our campus beautiful.

Science Olympiad Tryouts – September 28

Do you have a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade student interested in joining a team of young scientists and engineers? If so, they should join our Science Olympiad team. Science Olympiad is filled with science experiments, engineering, and learning new things about science. Click [here](#) for more information about Science Olympiad and upcoming tryouts.

Media Center and P.A.L.S. Volunteer Opportunity

The media center is ready for parent volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering in the media center, please attend a short training on either Tuesday, September 19, at 9:30 a.m. or on Thursday, September 21 at 12:00 p.m. Please RSVP using the link below. Media Center help includes sorting and shelving books. P.A.L.S. (Printing and Laminating Services) includes helping teachers with copying and laminating. Both opportunities are a great way to get involved. As a perk, volunteers are allowed to check out up to 10 books at a time. If you will be attending one of the volunteer training sessions, please let us know by clicking [here](#).

A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

School Governance Council Meeting

We invite you to visit our School Governance Council (SGC) website, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#) or via our school website (click [here](#)) under the 'ABOUT' drop-down menu. All SGC information is posted to this site for your convenience. Our next SGC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, at 8:00 a.m. At this meeting we will be holding a 10-minute public comment session. If you are interested in speaking at our public comment, please email Rashmi Manaktala at manaktalar@fultonschools.org. Public comment will be held at the end of the meeting.



A Message from the Shakerag PTO:

PTO Membership

Our PTO has consistently provided our students with outstanding and fun activities and events over the years. Your financial support directly impacts the quality and quantity of academic programs, materials and all the fun events our PTO provides. Please visit the PTO website to support our mission by purchasing the membership [HERE](#). Every membership makes a huge difference.

BINGO Night is Coming!

The SHAKERAG PTO is excited to announce their fall fundraising event for the year! Mark your calendar for this in-person Shakerag family event taking place on **Friday, October 20, 2023 (2 sessions: 5:30-7:00 p.m. & 7:30-9:00 p.m.)**. We are bringing back all the elements you love about Bingo Night, from the Silent Auction to the Raffle Baskets to many opportunities to score some AMAZING PRIZES!

Without your support, this event cannot be successful. Please help us make this year's fall fundraiser as successful as it has been in the past by making a donation. The money collected from your donation is used to purchase Bingo Prizes & Raffle items. All proceeds help support school programs and events. [Click Here To Donate NOW!](#)

We are also accepting any prize-worthy items/services that can be offered as Silent Auction or Raffle Prize items (e.g., game tickets, vacation home rentals, iPad, gift cards, etc.). This is a great way to promote your store or business while also helping to support the school. Please contact this year's PTO Fall Fundraising Coordinators, Krista Zimmerman (kzimmerman73@gmail.com) and Megan Milovich (megan.milovich@yahoo.com) if you have any items to offer. We appreciate everyone's support and look forward to seeing you at Bingo Night!

FCS News:

Attendance Awareness Month

September is Attendance Awareness Month where we spotlight the power of positive school attendance in our school community. This year we will be focusing on promoting the importance of positive attendance where we focus on our 3-prong attendance campaign: Connected to School, Engaged in Learning, and Achieving Success.

School Attendance Facts:

- Chronic absenteeism is defined by missing 18 days or more.
- As few as 2 absences per month can result in a student being chronically absent.
- FCS allows remote learning for up to 5 days per semester when given advance notice.
- Poor attendance in early elementary can impact whether a child is able to read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade.
- Chronic absenteeism negatively affects a student's academic performance and can result in them falling behind in subject mastery.
- By 6th grade chronic absence becomes the leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
- Teacher relationships with students and families are one of the most impactful strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism.
- Students who attend school regularly are more likely to feel connected to the school community and engaged in learning.

Parents/Guardians play an integral role in supporting positive attendance for their child. Please partner with us to ensure your child maintains positive school attendance by being present for 95% or more of the school year – no more than 8 absences per school year!

Emergency Release of Students and Dismissal Precautions

Last week, you should have received a flyer focusing on updating Emergency Contact Information (click [here](#)). Please review this document carefully and make any necessary corrections using the directions included on the flyer. Should you have any questions and/or need any assistance updating your child's emergency contact information, please reach out to our school data clerk, Courtney Gatlin Cleary, at gatlinclerc@fultonschools.org.

In the Community:

Kristin McCabe's Community Meeting

Our school board member, Kristin McCabe, will be hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at Shakerag Elementary School (10885 Rogers Bridge Road, Johns Creek, GA 30097). All are welcome to join. She will be discussing this month's agenda including suggested Instructional Calendar parameters. There will also be an overview of the Balanced Scorecard. Ms. McCabe values community input and is looking forward to seeing everyone next Wednesday.

Have a wonderful weekend!