

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

September 29, 2023

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Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:

Hands on Shakerag

On behalf of Shakerag and the Shakerag PTO, we want to thank Yohmary Ortiz, The Duvall Family, Alan LoRe with Pressure Washing Pros and all of the volunteers that came out to Hands on Shakerag on Saturday, September 23. Students from all grades, parents, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, former students, and the Shakerag staff collected trash, picked up branches, planted flowers, and spread bales of pine straw! A special thank you to Yohmary Ortiz and Belinda Ting for organizing the event. We appreciate our Shakerag families and our wonderful students for making Shakerag a beautiful place.



Capital Tacos Spirit Night

A special thank you to Widad Saad and our wonderful Foundation for organizing our Spirit Night Wednesday night. We also want to thank Capital Tacos for their partnership with our school.

Announcing our 2024 Spring Musical: Finding Nemo, Jr!

The Shakerag Theater Department is excited to announce that this year's musical will be Finding Nemo, Jr. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are eligible to audition for the cast. Audition sign-ups are first come first serve and will **OPEN Friday, October 6, 2023**, and **CLOSE Monday, October 9, 2023**. If you would like more information about the musical schedule, requirements, or frequently-asked-questions, visit the [Shakerag Elementary Music Website](#).

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.

Attendance Reminders

It is extremely important for students to be in their classrooms and ready for the school day when the bell rings at 7:40 a.m. We are continuing to experience extremely high numbers of students who are tardy. Our carpool staff begins welcoming students into the building at 7:10 a.m. We see a lull in carpool from 7:15-7:30, and then long lines beginning at 7:30. Students are marked tardy if they are not in the building when the bell rings at 7:40.

As always, we highly encourage students to take the bus to and from school. If a student rides the bus, and for some rare reason the bus is late, students will not be counted tardy. Thank you for your help in making sure your children start their day off ready to learn.

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 Rashi Manaktala at manaktalar@fultonschools.org. Public comment will be held at the end of the meeting.

A Message from the Shakerag PTO:

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:

Parent/Family Online Early Literacy Learning Experience

Fulton County Schools is providing self-paced and interactive parent/family learning to support early literacy development at home through a series of engaging online experiences. These Parent Units are no more than 20 minutes from start to finish to complete. In the unit, an easy-to-replicate strategy is provided for parents/families to use at home to support literacy development.

Each Parent Unit will launch one at a time throughout the school year releasing **Friday, September 30!** These units are designed to support PK -2 parents and their families and will focus on different topics:

Literacy:

- Unit 1: Oral Language
- Unit 2: Vocabulary
- Unit 3: Reading with your child

Writing:

- Unit 4: Early Writing Development (PK – K)
- Unit 5: Beginning Writing Development (1st – 2nd)
- Unit 6: Transitional Writing Development (2nd -3rd)
- Unit 7: Advanced Writing Development (4th / 5th grade and above)

Multiple languages will be provided as well as additional supportive resources. The units and resources can be found on the district website <https://www.fultonschools.org/parentunits> and are also linked at the bottom of all elementary school websites. Parents will have the opportunity to earn a certificate for completing each unit.

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

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 gatlinclarc@fultonschools.org.

Have a wonderful weekend!

