

The Parent Post

Parent and Family Engagement, Title I

Volume X, Issue 1

Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year and sent home with students being served with Title I funds at Douglas County schools. These schools include Annette Winn Elementary, Beulah Elementary, Bright Star Elementary, Burnett Elementary, Chestnut Log Middle, Eastside Elementary, Factory Shoals Elementary, Lithia Springs Elementary, North Douglas Elementary, Stewart Middle, Sweetwater Elementary, Turner Middle and Youth Villages - Inner Harbour Campus. For more information, please visit dcssga.org or contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@dcssga.org

STEM/STEAM in Douglas County

By Pam Walker, K-12 STEAM Coordinator, Douglas County School System

What is going on in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) world in Douglas County? STEM programs provide our students with opportunities to work collaboratively across content areas, so they master not only the content, but also 21st century workforce skills. Many schools are taking it one step further and teaching STEAM (A is for Art), making their instruction even more interdisciplinary than before. Our students deserve maximum exposure to STE(A)M, not only in class, but through after-school activities, electives, and special programs.

In answer to requests for some additional out of class activities in STEM for K-8th graders, the Douglas County School System, West Georgia GYSTC, West Georgia Technical College, and the Douglas County Economic Development Authority are sponsoring special Saturday STEM events right here in Douglasville. The first Saturday event, STEM Discovery, was held the first week of September. We hope parents will encourage their children to participate in future Saturday events, such as Coding with Robots on December 8th, Exploring Weather on February 2nd, St. Patrick's Day STEM on March 16th, or a STEM Tea Party on May 4th.

All events take place at the West Georgia Technical College, CCI Building D, 4600 Timber Ridge Drive, Douglasville. For more information, go to <http://www.westgystc.org/> to register (\$30 per event) or contact cfonteno@westga.edu for additional details.

If you are planning ahead, keep in mind that Douglas County Schools will also host week long summer camps at the Murray Education Center in the areas of LEGO Robotics, STEM Exploration, Game Development, and Math/Technology.

Mr. Trent North
Superintendent

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Lisa Dunnigan
Title I Executive
Director

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Patti Sullivan
Family Engagement
Specialist

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November is Parent Engagement Month! Get Involved!

November is Parent Engagement Month! Many of our Douglas County Title I schools have a variety of plans in place to celebrate parents in our schools! Like us on Facebook for more information about events at our Title I schools and to get resources and tips to help YOUR child SUCCEED! For more information, please contact your child's school. Contact information is listed on the back page of this newsletter.





New Infinite Campus Apps for parents and students!

Infinite Campus has created two new apps: Campus Student (for students) and Campus Parent (for parents)*. These apps provide real-time access to grades, assignments, attendance, schedule, announcements and more. Learn more at

infinitecampus.com/parents-students

* Elementary school parents can only access attendance information at this time.

School Highlight: Family Involvement Opportunities in Lithia Springs

By Barbara Lark, Parent Outreach Facilitator, Lithia Springs Elementary School and Turner Middle School

Involving families in the educational process of their children has always been at the forefront of educators. The opportunities for families to become engaged starts the first day of school. As educators, we want to maximize students' growth throughout the school year. In order to do this successfully we need to recruit our most powerful allies: their families.

Research shows that children are more likely to succeed academically and are less likely to engage in violent behavior, if their families are involved in all facets of their lives. Children's behavior can be determined by influences within the child's family system (Henderson, & Thompson, 2016). These influences can become the reason as to why children succeed (Henderson, & Thompson, 2016).

Further research shows the more parents are involved in their children's learning; the more beneficial are the achievements. This holds true for all types of family involvement, all ages and learning opportunities (Henderson, & Thompson, 2016). Educators recognize family involvement as an active component in the learning development of students.

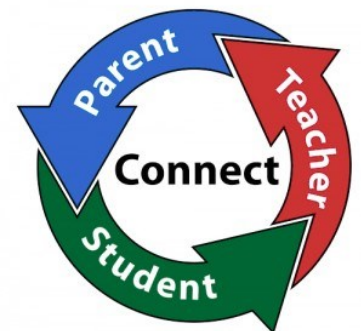
At Lithia Springs Elementary and Turner Middle School, we believe building a collaborative school-family relationship is paramount in fostering success for all students. We provide opportunities for families to volunteer their time and talent to support the school, classrooms, teachers and their children. We host a variety of academic fun filled nights that involve family participation. These nights include:

At Lithia Springs Elementary

- Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT) for Kindergarten –Third Grade
- APTT Parent Conferences

At Lithia Springs Elementary and Turner Middle School

- Parent Advisory Committee Meetings
- Title I Family Orientation
- Hispanic Heritage Family Night (Lithia Springs Elementary)
- A Celebration of Diversity (Turner Middle School)
- Family Reading Night "The Big Book Swap"
- November-Family Engagement Month Activities
- Workshop for Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS)



At Lithia Springs Elementary and Turner Middle School, we work effortlessly to safeguard the educational process of our students. We stand ready to equip them with the knowledge needed to enter the next phase of their educational growth. Families are a contributing part of this feature and we applaud their diligence in being instrumental to our school-home team. It takes a village!

Reference,

Henderson, D. & Thompson, C. (2016). *Counseling Children, 9th Edition*. Cengage Learning; Boston, MA.

Ways to Establish a Connection to Math from School to Home

Dr. Tenia M. Boone and Mrs. Kimberly Wood, Mathematics Content Specialists, Douglas County School System

Were you aware that your feelings towards mathematics can play a vital role in how your child perceives learning mathematics concepts or themselves as a mathematician? Research conducted by Sheldon and Epstein (2005) suggests that a child's home environment plays a major influence on that student's attitude towards mathematics and how well he or she will perform in math. In addition, it is important for all parents to understand that his or her involvement also influences a student's mathematical achievement. This article will provide an understanding of various events or activities that you can become involved in to make a mathematical connection between home and school to increase mathematical knowledge for both the parent and his or her child.

One of the best ways for parents to gain knowledge of what is occurring in mathematics is to attend math nights offered by your child's school. Math night is a common event for many elementary schools; however, many middle and high schools also offer similar events. Whether the event is hosted on the elementary or middle school level, the purpose is to ensure that there is a clear connection between learning at school and support at home. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) (2018) suggests that math nights offer parents the ability to see the real-world applications that exist between the concepts taught at school and how it can be applied to a student's everyday life. In addition, the NCTM also implies that these nights also help parents to be able to understand concepts to ensure that he or she is comfortable and positive about supporting their child's mathematics education.

Just as you should be reading with your child on a daily basis, Kormanik (2012) believes that mathematics should also be a part of the daily regimen. Mathematical reasoning is something that should be done daily with your child. One way that this can be accomplished is by helping your child become financially savvy. When you are grocery shopping, your child can assist with calculating the total cost of the groceries. Younger children can practice estimating the total cost of the grocery bill. Whereas, older students can focus on the price per unit to compare items and make a better choice to see if you are really saving money when items are on sale. Additional activities that can be done at home to help establish mathematical reasoning are:

- Building something together
- Measure items around the house
- Keep track of your child's height and weight
- Baking or cooking items as a family
- Planning dinner
- Creating a budget
- Helping to plan their birthday party
- Opening a savings or checking account for your child when they are 14 years old

One last way to develop a mathematical connection between home and school is to include mathematics in the literature that your child reads at home. Literature can be used as another way for your child to see the importance of math in their daily lives. In addition, children's books also provide contexts that help bring meaning to abstract concepts. The following sites can be used to help you locate books to promote mathematical literacy at home for all ages:

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/picture-books-mathematical-content>
<https://guides.library.duq.edu/CurriculumCenter/mathliterature>
<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/k/literature-list/>
<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/1st-grade/literature-list/>
<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/2nd-grade/literature-list/>
<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/3rd-grade/literature-list/>
<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/4th-grade/literature-list/>
<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/5th-grade/literature-list/>
<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/teachers/6th-grade/literature-list/>

References

Kormanik, K. (2012). A greater role in math education for parents: mathematical reasoning at home. Retrieved from <https://edsources.org/2012/a-greater-role-in-math-education-for-parents-mathematical-reasoning-at-home/23918>

Sheldon, S.B., & Epstein, J.L. (2005). Involvement counts: Family and community partnerships and mathematical achievement. *Journal of Educational Research*, 98(4), 196-206.

The National Council of Mathematics (2018). Partnering with Parents. Retrieved from <https://www.nctm.org/News-and-Calendar/Messages-from-the-President/Archive/Linda-M-Gojak/Partnering-with-Parents/>

U P C O M I N G W O R K S H O P S

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location.

Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center
3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3100

Understanding Testing and How You Can Help at Home

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 6:00 PM and
Friday, December 7, 2018 at 10:00 AM

The purpose of this workshop is to help parents understand the expectations of the different types of assessments given throughout the year. They will walk away with an understanding as how to help at home.

Beulah Elementary School Parent Resource Center
1150 Burnt Hickory Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3300

Family Math Night

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 5:30 PM

Beulah teachers and staff will host a family fun math night with hands on activities that parents can do at home with students to support grade level needs. Some activities will include make and takes and games to help reinforce math concepts and math facts.

Bright Star Elementary School Parent Resource Center
6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3400

Number Sense November

Thursday, November 8, 2018, scheduled during lunch times
Parents will learn about the importance of Number Sense and strategies that can be implemented at home to ensure that each student is successful in the area of math.

Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center
8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3500

Next parent workshop coming soon!

Visit the Parent Resource Center or see the next newsletter for more information.

Chestnut Log Middle School Parent Resource Center
2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5100

Next parent workshop coming soon!

Visit the Parent Resource Center or see the next newsletter for more information.

Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center
8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3800

Reading Under the Stars - Literacy Night

Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 5:30 PM

Families will gain ideas on how to help with reading comprehension and reading fluency skills at home.

**Visit YOUR Parent
Resource Center Today!**

Factory Shoals Elementary School Parent Resource Center
2375 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3900

Literacy Carnival

Friday, November 2, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Parents and students will participate in activities to increase and practice literacy skills through fun carnival activities. Parents will learn ways to assist students in the area of literacy.

Lithia Springs Elementary School Parent Resource Center
6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4100

Next parent workshop coming soon!

Visit the Parent Resource Center or see the next newsletter for more information.

North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center
1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-4800

English Language Arts/Study Skills

Friday, November 2, 2018 at 8:30 AM

Parents will be introduced to the English Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence as it pertains to their child's grade level. We will review how to use the GaDOE website. Parents will also be given suggestions on how to assist their children at home with study skills and preparing for assessments.

Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center
8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-5400

Coffee with the Principal - Grading

Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 9:30 AM

We will discuss grading categories (formative and summative), and grading weights for each grade level.

Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center
2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4600

Social Studies Night

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Parent and children will participate in games and activities that are based on the essential knowledge required at each grade level to meet the Georgia Performance Standards for Social Studies. We'll end the evening with hot chocolate and a story.

Turner Middle School Parent Resource Center
7101 Turner Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-5500

STEM/Math Carnival

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Our STEM/Math Carnival will support different mathematical areas through games and activities. Our aim is to focus on basic math and logical concepts through entertaining and engaging families/students/teachers in an inviting atmosphere.