

# Shark Bytes

**Shakerag Elementary**  
Christine Lemerond, Principal  
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

**August 9, 2024**

Follow us on Twitter: [@ShakeragShark](https://twitter.com/ShakeragShark)

Visit our website: [www.shakeragelementary.com](http://www.shakeragelementary.com)

## Shark Tales:

### Welcome Back!

We had an amazing first week of school! I would like to send out a special welcome to any new members of our Shakerag family, both students and staff. As I walked the halls and visited classrooms, it felt like we had never left. I am overjoyed by the smiles and enthusiasm. If I can ever be of assistance, please feel free to call (470.254.3880) or email me ([lemerond@fultonschools.org](mailto:lemerond@fultonschools.org)), and I'll do my best to help. It is going to be a GREAT year of learning!



### Teacher Assignments

We have experienced a very unique enrollment year. While enrollment is down across the district, our numbers are much lower than projected in grades K, 4, and 5. As shared in your Sneak Peek packets, we are watching our enrollment very carefully. Current teacher assignments are tentative pending the potential allocation of additional teachers and/or the reduction of teachers. While grades K, 4 and 5 might be directly impacted by enrollment, other grades could be impacted should we receive a shift in our allocations. We will continue to keep you updated as more information is shared with us throughout the district-wide enrollment count process. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process each year and welcome all of our amazing new families.

### Congratulations, Mrs. Housholder! Welcome, Mr. Waller!

Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Sally Housholder, our music teacher, on her new addition, Baby Nori. Baby Nori joined the Shakerag family on Monday, August 5. While Mrs. Housholder is out, we are excited to welcome Mr. James Waller to the team. Mr. Waller teaches classical piano, rock guitar, and beginner-through-college-level drum and percussion lessons at a local music school. Before that, he taught percussion privately and performed with a professional percussion ensemble. He currently plays in a marimba duo. He has a degree in music composition and writes music for percussion ensemble, orchestra, marching band, and rock bands.

Mr. Waller will be supporting Mrs. Housholder's classes during her leave. He will work closely with our special areas team, our other music teacher, Mr. Denney, and our Curriculum Support Teacher (CST), Ms. Duhe, to ensure instruction continues during Mrs. Housholder's time away. Should you have any questions while Mrs. Housholder is out, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mr. Waller at [wallerj2@fultonschools.org](mailto:wallerj2@fultonschools.org), or our assistant principal, Mrs. Samantha Weaver, at [weavers@fultonschools.org](mailto:weavers@fultonschools.org).

We wish Mrs. Housholder and her family all the best as their new family grows.

### Cell Phones/Other Electronic Devices... to include SMART Watches

We need the help and support from our parents in enforcing our policy on cell phones and other electronic devices, to include SMART watches. These items can be a distraction in school and disruptive in other nonstructured environments. Below, you will find our policy. If a child displays a device and/or is wearing a SMART watch, the teacher will collect the device, contact the parent, and then send it home at the end of the school day. If it happens again, the device will be turned into the front office and a parent will have to come to school to pick it up. We truly appreciate your help with this. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Samantha Weaver, assistant principal, at [weavers@fultonschools.org](mailto:weavers@fultonschools.org).

The following can be found in the Shakerag Family Handbook:

#### **Cell Phones/Other Electronic Devices**

A student shall not use, display, or turn on a tablet, cellular telephone or other personal electronic communication device (i.e. smart watches) on school property, except for **middle and high school students** who may use such devices on school grounds before or after the regular school day. **Elementary students are prohibited from using or displaying cellular telephones on school property and/or the bus at any time.** No such devices may be used at any time on school system operated vehicles, or during an emergency drill or evacuation. These limits on the use of personal communication devices do not apply to students whose special needs require the use of such a device to enhance speech or hearing. Students who are found with such devices in the "on" position, in use or displayed except as permitted above, shall have the device confiscated by a school administrator. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook for specific rules relating to the use of electronic equipment.

Items such as smart watches, iPods, iPads, Kindles or other tablets, electronic games, CD players/headphones etc., should not be brought to school. These items will be collected by the teacher and the parent will be asked to pick them up.

#### **Clinic Needs**

Our clinic is in need of NEW boys' and girls' underwear and boys' and girls' pants (new or gently used) in all sizes, especially for ages 4-6 years old. If you have any donations, please send them in or drop them off in the clinic. They would be greatly appreciated.

## **Curriculum Night – Mark your calendars!**

At Shakerag, we believe that we are one big family working together to support the success of every child. A key to that success is open communication. We hope you will be able to join us for Curriculum Night as teachers will walk you through the class structure/schedule for their grade level and what you need to know to help your child be successful for the year. **This is a night for parents and teachers only! If you must bring your child, he/she will need to sit with you in the classroom for the duration of the evening.**

We are trying a new format this year. We appreciate your patience as we hope this will make things easier for parents with students in multiple grades, but we do know parking will be difficult. Please plan accordingly.

### **Thursday, August 22:**

If you only have one child, you may choose which session you would like to attend.

- **5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Session 1**
- **6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. – General Information Session and PTO meeting in the cafeteria – We highly encourage all families to attend and hear important updates for the year.**
- **6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. – Session 2**

## **Newcomers Coffee**

If you are NEW to Shakerag... Welcome to the family! Please mark your calendar for our Newcomers Coffee on Thursday, August 29, at 8:00 a.m.

## **Attention ALL 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Families**

Fulton County Schools is requiring all families who are new to the district and/or those entering grades 2, 7 and 10 to submit two proofs of residency prior to the start of the school year. One of the approved utility items and one of the approved residency items must be provided. We ask that you please bring the original and a copy with you to sneak peek. We must see the original and then we will keep the copy to scan and upload to your child's permanent record. If proof of residency is not provided by the first day of school, your child will be placed on a provisional enrollment for 30 days. On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of enrollment, if proof of residency has still not been provided, your child will have to be withdrawn from school.

**One Utility Item:** Current water or electric monthly statement (Note: Gas bills are not accepted)

**One Residency Item:** Current mortgage bill/statement, Home sales contract, Current apartment/house lease, Section Eight/HUD housing document, Current HOA bill

**Both documents must contain parent/guardian name and current address where the student resides.**

## **Early Literacy Screening**

Recently, the state of Georgia has introduced new early literacy legislation aimed at improving reading skills among our young learners. We want to make sure you are fully informed about what this means for your child. In our back-to-school packets that you received during Sneak Peek, you should have received a letter outlining this new process. Please click [here](#) for an additional copy. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact our administrative assistant, Heather Lambright, at [LambrightH@fultonschools.org](mailto:LambrightH@fultonschools.org).

## **Thank you, Business Partners!**

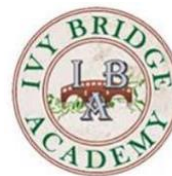
As we start the new school year, we would like to recognize and thank our Business Partners:



**The Tutor Shop**  
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**Big Blue  
Marble  
Academy**



## **FCS News:**

### **Bus Transportation:**

We ALWAYS highly encourage families to use the bus as their primary way to get students to and from school. Parents should download the **"Here Comes the Bus"** app for the most up to date bus information. It is a free app that enables you to see the location of your child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. Click [here](#) for instructions on downloading the app. For additional details and updates, click [here](#) to visit the transportation department's website. Information will continue to be updated the closer we get to the start of the school year.

### **School Nutrition Updates**

The cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch for those who wish to participate. Breakfast will be served from 7:10 - 7:40 a.m. All students are invited to **purchase** food at school, as it is a well-balanced meal.

- When a child's account balance reaches a negative \$10, they will be offered a special lunch (cheese sandwich and a milk) until payment is made on their account. You may send in cash, or a check written out to "Shakerag Elementary Café" with

your child in the morning with their name and teacher's name on the envelope. You may also pay online at [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com).

- **Free & Reduced Meal Applications for the 2024-2025 School Year:** The Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Program is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes Free or Reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of persons living in the house. A **new** application must be completed every school year. If there is an interruption in benefits or the household does not reapply, the household is responsible for payment of meals until the Free and Reduced Application is approved. **Free & Reduced Meal Applications are available in the cafeteria and anytime online beginning August 1, 2024. Visit [www.fulton.schoollunchapp.com](http://www.fulton.schoollunchapp.com) to begin the online application process.**

Fulton County receives funding from a variety of federal grants based on the number of children in the district that QUALIFY for Free or Reduced priced meals, regardless if they choose to participate in the meal program. Many federal grant awards are allocated nationally to public school districts based on Free and Reduced percentages such as Title-1, E-RATE, and The National Direct Teacher Loan Cancellation Program.

### **Café News - Birthday Treats**

Class birthday treats may be purchased for students to enjoy during lunch. Parents need fill out the ice cream form from our website or by clicking [here](#) and submit the form to your child's classroom teacher at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the celebration. If there are multiple children with the same birthday, only one birthday treat will be served on that day. **No outside food, goody bags, or class gifts are permitted for distribution to students.** Make sure you have enough funds or add funds to your child's account through My Payments Plus (click [here](#)) in your child's GENERAL lunch account to cover the cost of the treats for the number of students in the class.

### **Fulton County Schools Student Code of Conduct Handbook**

Fulton County Schools' Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook is available online in a PDF format (click [here](#)). Once you have read the electronic version and have reviewed the contents with your student(s), please take a moment to complete the **Acknowledgement of Receipt Form** by using the provided link to access Infinite Campus' [Parent Portal](#). Here is a link with instructions on how to complete the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form ([Link](#)). **All parents and students (over 10 years old) MUST sign this form found within your INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNT.** If you would like a paper copy of the Handbook, you can pick one up in the front office.

## **A Message from the PTO:**

### **SHAKERAG PTO MEMBERSHIP**

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who accepted the challenge and joined the PTO last week! Congratulations to **SANDY SUN** for winning the **\$100 Amazon Gift Card!** Other winners include Heather Jackson - a Popsicle Party for her child's classroom; Sherry Joshi - \$20 in Bingo Night Cards; and Elizabeth Kreutzer - Tickets to the School Dance. Way to go!

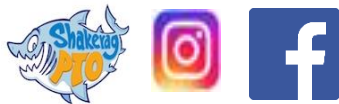
Look for more chances to **WIN** in the coming weeks! There will be **another \$100 Amazon Gift Card drawing** after Curriculum Night, so if you have not already, please **SIGN UP TODAY** to join the PTO and pay your membership fee. Joining the PTO does not mean you are committing to volunteering. Your monetary contribution will help fund all of the exciting events and activities throughout the school year for our kids and our teachers. So go to: <https://shakeragpto.membershiptoolkit.com/sneak-peek2024> and sign-up **TODAY!**

### **SHAKERAG SPIRIT WEAR**

Have you seen all your neighbor's kids with their new, fancy Shakerag Spirit Wear? Want your kids to look cool at the bus stop, too? Then head to [1st Place Spirit Wear](#) and get yours **TODAY!** Plus, from now **until SEPTEMBER 3rd, the ENTIRE STORE is 30% OFF!** There are so many options and sizes (baby, youth, adult) to choose from such as hoodies, zip-ups, tees, hats, beanies, tote bags, tumblers, blankets, and so much more! And it will all ship to your home! Get yours **TODAY!**

### **SHAKERAG PTO SOCIAL MEDIA**

Let's Be Friends! Please "Like" the Shakerag PTO on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with all things PTO this year. Bookmark the Shakerag PTO website, too, and check back for updates! Add #shakeragsharks or #firstdayofschool2024 to your Back-To-School pics so they have a chance to be featured in the Yearbook, too!



## **A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):**

### **School Governance Council (SGC) Meeting**

Our first School Governance Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 14 at 8:00 a.m.** To read more about our School Governance Council, we invite you to visit our School Governance Council (SGC) website by clicking [here](#).

## In the Community:

### **Kristin McCabe's Community Meeting**

Our school board member, Kristin McCabe, will be hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at Medlock Bridge Elementary School. All are welcome to join.

### **Cub Scout Pack 1000**

Cub Scout Pack 1000 will have an information and sign-up meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Johns Creek Presbyterian Church's youth garage, 10950 Bell Road, Johns Creek. Come learn how you can start your son or daughter on the path to Eagle. If you have questions and can't make it, please visit <https://www.pack1000.org> or email us at [pack1000cubscouts@gmail.com](mailto:pack1000cubscouts@gmail.com)!

### **Georgia Express**

Register today for Georgia Express Rec Soccer for the Fall 2024 season. Registration deadline is August 11, with a \$25 late fee after August 12 if there is space available. Practices begin August 27 and 29. Cost is \$150 for players born 2017-2020, \$200 for players born 2013-2016. We also have teams for boys born 2011-2012. All players will also purchase a new uniform for \$45. Practices and home games will be held at Shakerag Elementary and Cauley Creek Park. Click [Georgia Express Rec Soccer registration](#) for more details and to register. We are also looking for girls born 2013-2016 for our Academy program as well as boys born 2010-2017. Click [Georgia Express Academy tryouts](#) to train with one of our Academy teams. Text Craig Cunningham at (973) 727-0065 with any questions.

## Rogers Bridge Road & Bell Road Trail Project

### Detour Alert

Trail connections are underway along Rogers Bridge Road and Bell Road, making it easier for pedestrians to easily access nearby schools and Cauley Creek Park.

The project includes the installation of multi-use trails along the east side of Rogers Bridge Road from Bell Road to Amberleigh Way and along Bell Road from Cauley Creek Park to Rogers Bridge Road.

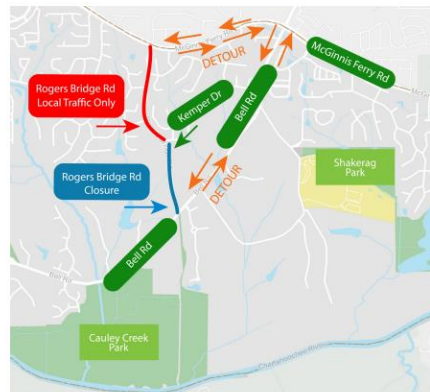
The intersection of Rogers Bridge Road and Bell Road will also be realigned and lowered about five feet to improve sight distance for drivers turning onto Bell Road and increase overall driver and pedestrian safety.

**Detour Alert:** Rogers Bridge Road will be CLOSED between Bell Road and Kemper Drive starting Monday, Aug. 19 while crews install stormwater lines and begin to realign the roadway as part of the Rogers Bridge trail project installation.

Rogers Bridge Road will be open to local traffic only. Access to the neighborhoods along Rogers Bridge Road from McGinnis Road will be maintained at all times. The closure is expected to last approximately three months, weather permitting.

Bell Road and McGinnis Ferry Road will remain accessible to motorists.

### Detour Map



[www.JohnsCreekGA.gov](http://www.JohnsCreekGA.gov) | 678-512-3200 | [info@JohnsCreekGA.gov](mailto:info@JohnsCreekGA.gov)

Have a great weekend!

