

# Shark Bytes



**Shakerag Elementary**  
Christine Lemerond, Principal  
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**September 13, 2024**

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

## Shark Tales:

### **Community Support – “Report. Don’t Repost.”**

As we continue to process the recent tragic school shooting at Apalachee High School, Fulton County Schools, along with our municipal partners, are deeply committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all students and staff. During difficult times like these, it's important to lean on one another for support, and we encourage anyone in need to seek assistance.

Since last Wednesday, several of our communities have also been impacted by social media posts that are disruptive and dangerous. While this is more prevalent in middle schools and high schools, I want to remind our students and the community in general that making specific threats on social media will be investigated by the district and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

If you see or hear a threat, report it to local law enforcement immediately. Notify authorities, but don't share or forward the threat until law enforcement has had a chance to investigate. Superintendent Looney is asking everyone to “Report. Don't Repost.”

As shared in last week's newsletter, if you “See Something, Say Something.” Fulton County Schools has made that process easy through the district's anonymous S.H.A.R.E. Tip Line (See It. Hear It. And Report It Every Time.). We highly encourage any individual with any safety concerns to use this TIP line ([Report a Safety Concern - Fulton County School System \(fultonschools.org\)](http://fultonschools.org))

I continue to be extremely grateful for our amazing and supportive community. We truly appreciate your partnership and help in making sure we all play a part in the safety of our schools.

### **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](#).

### **Accessing iReady Diagnostic Reports**

At the beginning of every school year, our students take the iReady Diagnostic Assessment in Math and Reading. These assessments are used for instructional planning as they tell teachers what your child already knows and what they are ready to learn. If you are interested in viewing your child's iReady Diagnostic results, please log in to Classlink using your child's credentials. Then, click on the iReady icon. Finally, click on Reports and enter code 1TT7PS when prompted. Click [here](#) to learn how to interpret the iReady Diagnostic results.

### **Free or Reduced-Price Meal Benefits**

To continue receiving Free or Reduced-Price Meal benefits, each household must submit a new application every year. Meal benefits for the 2024-2025 school year will end on **September 18, 2024**, if the household has not reapplied and are approved by that date. If there is an interruption in benefits or no reapplication is received, the household will be responsible for meal payments until the new application is approved. To ensure uninterrupted benefits, households must complete an online application before September 18, 2024, at [www.fulton.nlappscloud.com](http://www.fulton.nlappscloud.com), or submit a paper application to the school cafeteria manager by September 16, 2024.

### **Book Fair & Storybook Night is next week!**

**Book Fair:** September 16 – September 20

This year, we're hosting a Literati Book Fair, and the theme is Galactic Adventures! When students come to shop, online payment is preferred via Literati Gift Card. See more information below.

Cash Free shopping option for this year's Literati Book Fair:

#### **Purchasing Gift Cards:**

1. Go to <https://efairs.literati.com>
2. Select the “GIFT CARDS” tab at the top of the page.
3. Choose a gift card amount. (For a custom amount, select “Choose Your Own Gift Card.”)
4. If it's a gift to a teacher or another student, check “Send as Gift?” and enter your recipient's email, your name, and an optional message.
5. Click **Add to Cart**, then continue to checkout.

\*Cashiers will have access to each student's gift card(s) and can apply funds directly from the register meaning that once you set up a Literati Gift Card online, students can shop without having to bring anything with them at all. All funds must be spent at the book fair and no reimbursements will be provided.

### **Storybook Night: Thursday, September 19**

We're excited to continue the fun with our annual Storybook Night. Join us from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. as Shakerag teachers and staff perform their favorite cosmic space stories. Come early to shop at the book fair from 5:00 – 5:50 p.m.

### **NWEA MAP Assessment for Grade 4**

Students in grade 4 will take the MAP Growth Assessment in math (the week of September 23) and ELA (the week of September 30) this year. The MAP Assessment 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](mailto:weavers@fultonschools.org).

### **Save the Date! Hands on Shakerag – Saturday, September 28**

On September 28, 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 2024](#). Thank you so much in advance for helping to make our campus beautiful.

### **Science Olympiad Tryouts – September 30**

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](#) for more information about Science Olympiad and upcoming tryouts.

### **Responsibility and Care of Student Devices**

As we continue to integrate technology into our classrooms, we have taught students how to care for their devices properly. We have informed them of their responsibility to take care of their assigned laptop or iPad, and teachers regularly reinforce these processes in the classroom.

Fulton County is really doubling down on damaged and/or missing devices this school year. Each student is assigned their own device to use in the classroom. Please note that families are financially responsible for damage done to student devices. We ask that you partner with us and remind your child to take care of their FCS-issued devices. The fines being imposed for damages this year include: \$100 for a damaged device (missing keys, cracked screens, damaged charger ports, hinges, etc.), \$250 for a lost device, and \$30 for lost or damaged accessories (chargers etc....). To help avoid these costs, please review device care with your child: always hold the laptop with two hands, keep it closed while walking, avoid storing pencils or pens inside the laptop, only use it for school-assigned work, and refrain from eating or drinking near the laptop.

Additional tips & FAQs can be found by clicking [here](#). Should you have any questions about devices, please reach out to our Device Coordinator, Alison Francis at [francis@fultonschools.org](mailto:francis@fultonschools.org). Thank you for your attention to this important matter!

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

### **TANNER FAMILY PORTRAIT EVENT**

The Tanner Family Portrait Event is back at Shakerag! This year's event will be held **Saturday, October 5th from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Cauley Creek Park**. This is a quick, 10-minute photography session where the photographer will take as many pictures as possible in only 10 minutes! This is the perfect opportunity to get some quick, professional shots with wiggly kids (quick in, quick out!) ahead of the holidays or for any occasion. Pets are welcome, too! **For only \$45 you will receive your 10-minute sitting plus one (1) 11x14 Family Portrait print**. There will be an option to purchase additional prints/digital copies as well. Sign-up and pay online at [tinyurl.com/tannershakerag](http://tinyurl.com/tannershakerag). Book TODAY before spots fill up!

### **ATTENTION 5TH GRADE FAMILIES!**

Keep those baby pictures coming! Please send in one picture of your child when they were under the age of 1 to be used in the 5th grade graduation video. A headshot is best, with just the child in the photo. Please label the pictures with their full name and homeroom teacher so we can keep track of all the students (picture file name example: first.last.burnett.jpeg). Please email the photo to [shakerag5thgrade@gmail.com](mailto:shakerag5thgrade@gmail.com) by **OCTOBER 1st**.

Also, the PTO is looking for any parents with video editing experience that can volunteer their skills and time to help with putting together the video montage. Please email [shakerag5thgrade@gmail.com](mailto:shakerag5thgrade@gmail.com) if interested.

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR BINGO NIGHT!**

**BINGO NIGHT** is right around the corner, and we need **YOUR SUPPORT** to pull it off! Mark your calendar for **Friday, October 25** to join the PTO for another fun-filled evening of Bingo! We are bringing back all of the elements you love about Bingo Night, from the Silent Auction to the Raffle Baskets to many opportunities to score some **AMAZING PRIZES!** Please consider donating **CASH** so that we can buy fabulous Bingo prizes for the kids and even better Raffle items for everyone! We need to buy the prizes **SOON** so please donate **TODAY!**

[Click Here To Donate NOW!](#)

Additionally, if you have any **PRIZE-WORTHY ITEMS** you'd like to donate, please let us know! Think unused toys (must be new), game tickets, electronics (must be new), birthday party gift certificates, video game gift cards, restaurant gift cards, kid's sports

registrations, tutoring services, dog walking services, photography sessions, etc. Please reach out to Krista Zimmerman ([kzimmerman73@gmail.com](mailto:kzimmerman73@gmail.com)) or Lisa McNary ([LisaMcNary@outlook.com](mailto:LisaMcNary@outlook.com)) for more information about how to donate.

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

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

Our next School Governance Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 9 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](mailto:manaktalar@fultonschools.org). Public comment will be held at the end of the meeting. To read more about our School Governance Council, we invite you to visit our School Governance Council (SGC) website by clicking [here](#).

## 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 through our 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 impacts a student's academic performance and can result in them falling behind in subject mastery.
- By 6th grade, chronic absences become the leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- 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!

## In the Community:

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

Our school board member, Kristin McCabe, will be hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at Ocee Elementary School. All are welcome to join.

### **STEM Fest 2024**

STEM Fest is a free event hosted by [Georgia Tech's College of Engineering](#) in partnership with [STEM Global Action](#). It will be held on Saturday, September 21 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Georgia Tech McCamish Pavilion for all students in grades K-12. For more information and to register for this event, please click [here](#).

### **Girls in STEM!**

Girls in STEM is a club run by Northview High School students to encourage elementary school girls to join STEM fields at a young age! We introduce topics such as chemistry, engineering, physics, and more through fun science experiments and activities. Meetings are completely free of charge and held once a month on Thursdays @ Northview High School from 3:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Their first meeting will be September 26! Please click [here](#) for more information.

**Have a wonderful weekend!**

