

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

December 6, 2024

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

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:



The Winter Season has arrived!

At the start of the school year, you completed a form that informed us of how you wanted your child to go home, should school be canceled unexpectedly. Today we are sending home Early School Closure UPDATE Forms (click [here](#)) in Friday folders for each family to complete to ensure our records are still accurate as the colder season approaches. This allows us to know how students should be sent home should an early release be called **once the school day has already started**. If an early release is announced the day prior, students will be sent home their normal way unless a change of dismissal form is received. All children who were scheduled to stay for an afterschool program on an announced early release day should bring a change of dismissal note. Please refer to the Inclement Weather Update Form for more details. **We ask that all forms be returned to your child's homeroom teacher no later than December 13.**

If you need to update any of your child's emergency contact information, please reach out to our school data clerk, Courtney Gatlin Cleary, at gatlinclearc@fultonschools.org. We highly recommend that each student have at least one emergency contact listed in the event that you are "stuck" and unable to pick-up your child from school.

Shakerag's Annual Giving Tree

Shakerag's annual Giving Tree is happening now! Shakerag Elementary, in partnership with our local Girl Scout Troop, is a toy donation location for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program this year. Toys for Tots aims to provide new toys during the holidays to underprivileged children, delivering a message of hope. Please donate new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages to our Giving Tree box located in our atrium this holiday season. All donations will be accepted **from Friday, December 6, through Wednesday, December 18**. Once you donate, please remember to write your name on one of the stickers and place it on the Giving Tree. Please click on this [link](#) if you'd prefer to shop from home. Thank you for your generosity!

Cafeteria Changes

Due to district requirements and increasing costs, the cafeteria will no longer be able to provide extra condiments and silverware for students who do not purchase their lunch from the cafeteria. If your child brings his/her lunch from home, please make sure to include a fork, spoon, napkin, and/or straw if needed. We appreciate your help and support and apologize that we will no longer have extras available.

Media Center

The media center is excited to announce the Winter Reading Challenge using the Beanstack app in Classlink. The challenge is open to all students PreK - 5th grade. Students have the opportunity to use the Beanstack app to log their daily reading minutes & reach at least 90 minutes before December 18. Those who complete the challenge will have their name displayed in the hallway & will also be entered into a raffle for prizes. At least 6 winners will be selected. Please see below for more information.

Basic Instructions for Using Beanstack:

1. Classlink
2. eLibrary Folder
3. Beanstack app
4. Click "Log Reading" at the top of the screen
5. Click "Log Minutes"
6. Fill in blank fields & click "Log Minutes" at the bottom

Winter Reading Challenge Introduction Video: [Winter Challenge Intro..mp4](#) Beanstack Instructions Video: [Beanstack Instructions.mp4](#)

Classroom Parties

It is hard to believe our winter class parties are right around the corner. The room parent for each classroom will be working closely with classroom teachers on party plans and volunteer needs. Any parent that is **scheduled to attend** MUST complete the volunteer registration AT LEAST 48 hours prior to the scheduled party date. Please complete this important step NOW or it might not be processed in time. To complete the volunteer training, click [here](#). **Please don't wait until the last minute! If you are not cleared through the volunteer registration process when you sign-in to volunteer, you will not be able to participate.**

A Message from the PTO:

9th Annual PTO “Through My Eyes” Art Contest

It is the season for new memories and to share joy with friends and families! And it is the time to announce our Annual Through My Eyes (interschool) Art Contest. This year's theme is “**What memories are made of**”... Participating FCS Zone 6 schools include: Shakerag ES, Ocee ES, Wilson Creek ES, Findley Oaks ES, and Medlock Bridge ES.

- Who can Participate? Kindergarten – 5th grade
- Categories: Photography, Visual Art, Dance, Choreography, Film Production, Music Composition, or Creative Writing.
- The last day to submit the entries: **Friday, January 17, 2025**
- Students can send their entries in any one or multiple categories.
- All artwork should adhere to rules specified in the entry form and will be judged based on originality, theme interpretation, creativity, and technique.
- Each category will have two winners for each grade.
- The winning entries will be sent to further cluster-level judging. The winners of the cluster-level judging will receive an email along with award ceremony details for the Zone 6 finalists.

The entry form and rules can be found on the Shakerag PTO website or by clicking [here](#).

For any queries or clarifications, contact Meghan Bakare at meghanatme2023@gmail.com

Yearbook

Reserve a yearbook today! Order your student's yearbook using this link: [Order Yearbook](#)

The yearbook team is looking for pictures to be added to the 24-25 yearbook. Please upload any First Day of School, Kona Ice Social, Storybook Night, Community Night, or Pictures with Sharky using this QR code or click [here](#).



A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

School Governance Council (SGC) Meeting

Our next School Governance Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 11 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](#).

The School Governance Council is looking for a parent representative to finish out one of our open terms. This is about a one hour a month commitment. If you are interested in additional details, please reach out to Mrs. Lemerond at Lemerond@fultonschools.org.

FCS News:

Change of School Assignment (COSA) Process:

Fulton County Schools is now using a new term for school choice: “Change of School Assignment” or COSA. Last spring, the Fulton County School Board revised its policy ([Board Policy JBCD: Change of School Assignment](#)) governing student transfers and changes of school assignment. Any student wishing to attend a school outside of their home attendance boundary will need to follow the new Change of School Assignment (COSA) process and timeline. The process applies to all transfer-related programs, including previous options like hardship transfers, open enrollment, transfers for employees' children, Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program transfers, and requests to schools offering International Baccalaureate or magnet programs. A list of schools accepting transfers will be published on the COSA website on December 9, 2024. Parents can apply during the application window of December 9, 2024, through January 15, 2025. Learn more at www.fultonschools.org/COSA.

In the Community:

Kristin McCabe's Community Meeting

Our school board member, Kristin McCabe, will be hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 9:30 a.m., at Findley Oaks Elementary School. All are welcome to join.

Northview Techno Titans

The Northview Techno Titans Robotics Team will be hosting a STEM Night workshop at their team workspace on December 14 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. For more information and to sign up, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

