

# Shark Bytes

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

**December 20, 2024**

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

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

**December 23 – January 3: Winter Break - School Closed**  
**January 6: Teacher Workday - No School for Students**

**We look forward to seeing all of our students in school on Tuesday, January 7!**

## Shark Tales:

Wow, what an amazing first semester! We all have so much to be proud of this year. On behalf of our entire staff, I would like to thank all of our parents for helping us make Shakerag a great place for students to learn and teachers to teach! Our Shakerag family wishes you and yours a safe and enjoyable winter holiday and much happiness in 2025!



### Winter Parties

All of the winter parties were a huge success thanks to our amazing PTO and all of the wonderful volunteers. A special thank you to Krista Zimmerman and Madeline Ruffin-Thomas for leading our Room Parent program and helping to organize all of the plans.

### Shakerag's Annual Giving Tree

The PTO and the local Girl Scout Troop would like to thank our Shakerag families for your continued support of the Giving Tree. Through your generosity, we collected holiday gifts for children in need within our community. These gifts will be delivered to The Marine Corps Toys for Tots. Thank you for helping to bring joy to so many families this holiday season. We would also like to thank Diane Tharp for organizing this great event for us.

### Attention all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students: Northview Cluster Concert

Our talented 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sharks are invited to participate in the 2025 Northview Cluster Choral Concert on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m. Any interested 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students are welcome to join at no cost! We will have three after-school rehearsals on January 15, 22, and 29 to prepare for the show. If you would like to come and sing with us, [click here to complete the interest form!](#)

### Donate Back to Shakerag While You Shop!

Publix and Kroger have partnered with Shakerag to donate a percentage back to the school on EVERY purchase you make! Click [here](#) for instructions on how to sign up.

### Intruder/Hard Lockdown Drill

On Friday, January 10, 2025, in compliance with the Georgia Safe Schools Act, we will conduct another Intruder Alert/Hard Lockdown Drill. The drills are designed to familiarize our students, staff, and community with ways to protect and prepare against a potential threat posed by an armed intruder.

Our teachers train on all safety drills each year, and we conduct all drills with our students at least twice each year. Our intruder drill is called a hard lockdown drill, and our students have already practiced it once. All schools in Fulton County have been instructed to conduct this drill using our Centegix badge system, which is installed in every Fulton County School. Because of this, the drill will look and sound a little different to our students and staff although the actions they take are the same as our normal hard lockdown drill.

During the drill, lights flash (similar to our fire drills), an alarm will sound, and an automated announcement is made. An administrator will also make an all-school announcement prior to the drill to reassure students, staff, and visitors that we were moving into our hard lockdown drill and that it was only a drill.

I encourage you to talk with your children and reinforce the preventative stance we are taking when we conduct our drills. As always, thank you for your partnership as we work to ensure a safe, secure, and positive learning environment for our students.

## A Message from the PTO:

### 9<sup>th</sup> 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Categories: Photography, Visual Art, Dance, Choreography, Film Production, Music Composition, or Creative Writing.
- The last day to submit online entries: **Monday, January 20, 2025**
- Students can submit 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 Meghana Bakare at [meghanatme2023@gmail.com](mailto:meghanatme2023@gmail.com)

### **School Dance – SAVE THE DATE!**

Please save the date for this year's School Dance on February 21, 2025! For more information, please contact Sonam Dewan at [dewan.sonam@gmail.com](mailto:dewan.sonam@gmail.com) or Sarah Chu at [cigar1121@hotmail.com](mailto:cigar1121@hotmail.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, January 8 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](mailto: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 JB CD: 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](http://www.fultonschools.org/COSA).

**Have a wonderful WINTER BREAK and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
Please BE SAFE!**

