

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

February 7, 2025

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

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:

Thank you Strong4Life!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to The Strong4Life Team for joining us today to support our students in PE and lunch to remind our students about the four healthy habits we have been focusing on this year. Each student will be coming home with a special T-shirt that they wore today to help them remember to make good healthy choices.



Young Georgia Author's Writing Competition

Thank you to our twenty 5th graders who submitted their work for the 2025 Young Georgia Author's Writing Competition sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education. The purpose of this competition is to encourage our students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, provide a context to celebrate their writing success, and recognize student achievement in the arts and academics. This year's author who will move to the district level competition is Jaden M. in Mrs. Dowling's homeroom class. Congratulations to Jaden and all of our amazing writers!

GA DOE School Climate Survey for Students and Parents

We value your feedback! Fulton County Schools wants to hear from you through the **Georgia Department of Education School Climate Survey**. The Georgia Department of Education (GA DOE) requires all public schools to participate in this annual survey. To see the GA DOE informational website and sample surveys, please [click here](#). There are four different surveys this year: one for parents, one for students in grades 3 -5, one for teachers, and one for staff. Each school is aiming to have a minimum 70% participation rate for each survey. Schools failing to meet the medium participation rate could have their school's climate star rating automatically reduced by one star.

Key points:

- This survey gives individuals the chance to share their thoughts on our school.
- The survey will be available **from February 3-March 31**.
- The survey is **anonymous and confidential**.
- The survey is available in both **English and Spanish**.

To take the Parent Survey for Shakerag, please click on the following link.

<https://survey.gadoe.org/FM?sid=786E7A44>

At Shakerag, students in grades 3-5 will participate in this survey the week of February 17. The survey is approximately 27 questions and should take about 10 minutes to complete. The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232(c)(1)(A) gives parents the right to review a copy of the student survey questions. You may review the survey questions at this [link](#). Additionally, you may request that the school provide a copy of the survey questions for your review. The PPRA also gives you the right to opt your child out of participating in the survey. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please email our assistant principal, **Samantha Weaver**, at WeaverS@fultonschools.org, **prior to Friday, February 14**, requesting that your student not participate in the Georgia School Climate Survey.

Your input helps us make improvements, and we truly appreciate your time and feedback!

School Governance Council Members Needed!

We are still looking for a parent representative to finish out one of our current 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. We really, really need your help.

As we struggle to fill a current vacancy, it is hard to believe that it is time for us to start searching for parents and teachers who want to declare their candidacy to serve on the School Governance Council for the 2025-2027 term. We will have one teacher elected position and two parent elected positions opening on the council for next year. If you, or someone you know, are interested in any of these positions, please refer to the Charter System website for additional details, or reach out to our SGC Chair, Mrs. Rashii Manaktala at manaktalar@fultonschools.org.

The window for parents and teachers to declare candidacy for their school's SGC opens Monday, **February 3, 2025**. During this time, individuals interested in serving a 2-year term (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027) will need to complete a Candidate Declaration Form available on the SGC election website and click the candidate guide and/or declaration form (www.fultonschools.org/our-

[district/charter-system/elections](#)). The declaration window will close on **March 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM**. Elections will be held from April 16 – 23, 2025.

Save the Date: Gladiator Hockey Community Night – 3/14!

Get ready for a night of fun & community as Shakerag teams up with Medlock Bridge ES, Findley Oaks ES, Wilson Creek ES, River Trail MS and Northview HS to cheer on the Gladiators at Gas South Arena! Join us on **Friday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.** for an exciting game and a chance to connect with your community! A portion of every ticket sold will support our school, so grab yours today! Click [HERE](#) for more details and to purchase tickets. We can't wait to see you there!

Attention All 5th Grade Parents: Rising 6th Grade Parent Information Meeting

All parents of rising 6th grade students are invited to a Parent Night at River Trail Middle School on Thursday, March 20. There will be an optional TAG meeting from 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and then the general session will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please click [here](#).

Spotlight On Special Areas:

What's Happening in Art with Mr. Avery this Month

Please click [here](#) for this month's Art Newsletter.

What's Happening in ASL with Ms. Pennywell this Month

Please click [here](#) for this month's ASL Newsletter.

What's Happening in Music with Ms. Housholder and Mr. Denney this Month

Please click [here](#) for this month's Music Newsletter.

What's Happening in PE with Coach Smith this Month

Please click [here](#) for this month's PE Newsletter.

A Message from the PTO:

🌟 Celebrate Staff Appreciation Week – February 10-14! 🌟

Our Shakerag PTO is excited to help recognize and celebrate **Staff Appreciation Week** from **February 10-14!**

Let's celebrate our amazing teachers and staff and show them how much we appreciate all they do! Join in the fun and make them feel extra special this week.

Monday, February 10 - Give your teachers an extra HUG and show them how special they are to YOU!

Tuesday, February 11 - Compliment your teachers today!

Wednesday, February 12 - Bring a homemade card or a sweet letter to your teachers today!

Thursday, February 13 - Give your teachers an extra SMILE today to help brighten their day!

Friday, February 14 - Bring a small surprise or special treat to your teacher on the last day!

Not sure what to do?... Here are some ways to show your appreciation that you can choose from:

- Donate classroom or playground supplies
- Give extra hugs & smiles
- Bring flowers or a book for the class library
- Surprise your teacher and / or staff with a small gift or gift card

***** Don't forget your special area teachers and our amazing Shakerag Support Staff *****

Student Agenda Cover Contest for current 2nd and 4th Grade Students

We need assistance from our current 2nd and 4th grade students to design the 2025-2026 student agenda front cover. Students in grades 2 or 4 interested in submitting a design should return their artwork and completed entry [form](#) to the front desk by **Friday, February 28, 2025**. All students' entries will be submitted to a Shakerag PTO committee to choose the top design. Please have your students use the Shakerag Sharks school expectations of "Leadership, Kindness, and Respect" in their artwork. Good luck to all submitting artwork!! The Shakerag PTO is excited to see your masterpiece! If you have any questions, please email meghana.bakare26@gmail.com.

School Dance – Friday, February 21

Shakerag's annual School Dance will be held on Friday, February 21 in the school cafeteria! This year's theme is a Disco Dance Party! There will be a professional DJ, games, refreshments, and loads of fun!

There will be two sessions for the dance - 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Grades PreK – 2) and 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Grades 3-5). Please be sure to select the proper session by grade level when ordering tickets. Please note: Due to capacity limitations, we encourage you to make your purchases early. Online ticket sales will end at 12 a.m. on Thursday, February 20. **THIS IS NOT A DROP OFF EVENT. ONE ADULT PER FAMILY REQUIRED FOR ENTRY. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BRING CELL PHONES.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! You can sign up to volunteer by clicking [here](#). Please click [here](#) to purchase tickets and [here](#) to sign up to make a donation. For more information, please contact Sonam Dewan at dewan.sonam@gmail.com or Sarah Chu at 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, February 26 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. Public comments 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](#).

A Message from Fulton County:

Important District Reminders and Updates for Valentine's Day

As Valentine's Day approaches, it is very tempting to send in treats. Your child's classroom teacher will be communicating what their classroom will be doing for a Valentine's Day exchange if they have not done so already. We are asking that no food be sent in with your child in alignment with the district's request below:

As we approach Valentine's Day, it is important to ensure that all homemade candy, desserts, baked goods, or other edible items **are not** to be sold or distributed during school hours. Please know that taking this measure will help us maintain a safe environment for all students with allergies, etc. You can help us protect your student(s) by requesting that they not eat anything given to them by another person, anything that they have not brought from your home, or anything not in its original sealed package without parent permission. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping all of our students safe at school!

Pre-Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year

Registration for the Pre-K Lottery is now open and will end **March 5**. Registration is conducted through the district and the information can be found [here](#). If a parent misses the March 5 deadline, they will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list. For more information on the registration process, please visit the FCS website by clicking [here](#).

In the Community:

Emory Sports Medicine's Creek Cup

The Johns Creek High School Boys' Soccer Program is hosting the first LOCAL High School Soccer Tournament in over 15 years, The Creek Cup! They will have over 20 teams represented from the Southeast with 12 boys' teams to compete at JCHS and 8 girls' teams to compete at Northview HS. With numerous college coaches in attendance, there will be tons of intense soccer games on the field and various family friendly activities off the field. Food trucks, concessions, SWAG, and a FREE Youth Soccer Training Experience sponsored by TOCA. Grab everyone you know who loves soccer and enjoys supporting local activities. February 12 - 15. Please click [here](#) for more information and the schedule. Go CREEK!

Have a wonderful weekend!

