

# Shark Bytes

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

**February 14, 2025**

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

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

**NO SCHOOL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY!**  
**NO SCHOOL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – FCS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

## Shark Tales:

### Thank you!

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to share our thanks and appreciation for all that you have done for us this week for staff appreciation week. A special thank you to our Korean Parent Group for the beautiful, sweet treat, Agnes Law, Alicia Lopez, Kathy Preuss and our PTO for the delicious lunch on Friday, and all of the amazing families that showered us with treats and gratitude all week. We appreciate everyone for the individual hugs and warm wishes your children bring to us each day. Thank you for filling our hearts and making sure we feel loved!



### Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year and Professional of the Year!

We are proud and excited to announce Ms. Stephanie Mack, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, as our 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year and Ms. Paula Perrin, Media Center Paraprofessional, as our Professional of the Year. We are fortunate to have such wonderful staff members who give their very best to our school family every day! Congratulations Ms. Mack and Ms. Perrin!

### 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](#).

### Clinic Needs

Please help our clinic. We need:

- New packs of underwear in all sizes for girls and boys
- Boys - size **medium** long sleeve shirts/sweatshirts
- Boys - size **large** shorts and pants/sweatpants
- Girls - size **small** long pants/sweatpants
- Girls - size **medium** long sleeve shirt/sweatshirts
- Girls - size **large** shorts, long pants/sweatpants and long sleeve shirts/sweatshirts

If you have any donations, please send them in or drop them off at the clinic. They would be greatly appreciated.

### 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 75% participation rate for each survey. Schools failing to meet the minimum 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Rashi Manaktala at [manaktalar@fultonschools.org](mailto: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](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Information Meeting**

All parents of rising 6<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

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

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

We need assistance from our current 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](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, 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](mailto: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:

### **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:

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

Our school board member, Kristin McCabe, will be hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at Dolvin Elementary School. All are welcome to join.

### **Potential STEM Camp hosted by the Innovation Academy Foundation**

The Innovation Academy is excited to explore the possibility of offering a **Summer STEM Camp** to provide hands-on learning experiences for students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Healthcare. As part of their commitment to serving the needs of our community, the Innovation Academy Foundation is gathering feedback from families like yours to ensure that this opportunity is designed to best support your child's interests, schedule, and learning goals.

This camp would provide students with the opportunity to engage in real-world problem-solving, explore different STEM fields, and experience hands-on activities in a fun and interactive environment. However, they want to hear from **you**—what timing, topics, and price ranges would work best for your family?

Please take a few minutes to complete their **interest survey** by February 21: [🔗 IA Foundation STEM Camp Interest Form](#)

Your feedback will help them create a camp that is accessible, engaging, and tailored to meet the needs of our students. Whether your child is interested in **engineering, coding, healthcare, or general STEM exploration**, they want to provide meaningful experiences that inspire curiosity and learning beyond the school year.

Thank you for your time and support in shaping this opportunity for our students. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Avery White at [whitea10@fultonschools.org](mailto:whitea10@fultonschools.org).

**Have a wonderful long weekend!**

