

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

December 5, 2025

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

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Champion, Niyantri S., representing Ms. Christiansen's 3rd grade class. "Galleon" was this year's winning word. Niyantri will represent Shakerag in the Fulton County Spelling Bee on January 10, 2026. We would also like to congratulate Zeeshan M., as our second finalist representing Ms. Gokhale's 4th grade class. We are proud of all the participants for studying hard and supporting each other in the Spelling Bee. Congratulations to all our Spelling Bee Sharks!



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 12.**

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 gatlincclearc@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.

Picture Retakes and Holiday Magnets

If your child took retake pictures a few weeks ago, they will be in their blue take home folder today. Also in the folder will be a set of Holiday magnets for all students. If you wish to purchase the special Holiday Package, please complete the information on the back of the envelope and either pay online or enclose the payment in the envelope. There is a QR code to help you with payment information on the envelope. Our code is HM100. If you decide NOT to purchase the Holiday Package, please return the entire envelope to your child's teacher so the pictures can be returned to GCI. **Please complete your payment or return your pictures to school by December 12.**

🌟 Aladdin Kids! 🌟

The Shakerag Theater Committee is proud to present our [2025 Winter Musical: Aladdin Kids!](#) We have two incredible night performances on Wednesday, December 17 and Thursday, December 18. Please join our amazing cast and crew for this MAGICAL performance! Tickets (\$5.00/each) are pre-sale only. 1 Ticket = 1 Seat. No tickets will be sold at the door, so buy yours today using our [Shakerag Online School Payments](#) platform! Any questions or concerns can be directed to Mrs. Housholder at housholders@fultonschools.org.

2026 Shakerag Spring Chorus

Attention all 4th and 5th grade students: You are invited to join our *2026 Shakerag Elementary Chorus!* Chorus rehearsals will take place every Thursday afternoon from 2:30-3:30 PM. Participation costs only \$25, and there is no audition to join! If you are interested, [please sign-up at our music website!](#) Deadline to sign up is Friday December 12, 2025. Our first rehearsal will be January 8, 2026!

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.**

Spotlight On Special Areas:

What's Happening in Art with Ms. Munson 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:

Join Us in Filling Shakerag's Giving Tree

The season of giving is here, and together we can make a difference. Our **Giving Tree** is ready to be filled with joy, and we invite you to help brighten the holidays for children in need. Once again, **Shakerag PTO** and **Girl Scouts Troop 24088** are partnering with the **Marine Corps Toys for Tots program** to spread cheer throughout our community.

Here's how you can participate:

1. **Donate** new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages.
2. **Students:** Place toys in the Giving Tree box in the atrium. Afterwards, sign your name on a leaf and place it in the basket — a symbol of your kindness.
3. **Parents:** Drop larger items at the front desk. Request a leaf, write your student's name, and staff will place it on the tree.
4. **Collection Dates:** December 1–16

Every toy and act of generosity helps build a season of joy. Thank you for being part of this tradition of giving at Shakerag.

Lights, Camera, Community! Submit Your 2025–2026 Yearbook Photos

We're collecting photos for the **2025–2026 yearbook** and want to capture the heart of our school year—moments big and small! Think about highlights like:

- Classroom fun
- School-wide celebrations
- Community favorites: Sneak Peek, Bingo & Movie Nights
- Winter & End-of-Year Parties
- Field Trips & Field Day
- Musicals and more

If you've snapped a great shot, we'd love to include it. [Upload Yearbook Pics](#)

Let's make this yearbook unforgettable—together.

Through My Eyes Art Contest!

There's still time for your Sharks to participate in the Annual *Through My Eyes* Inter-School Art Contest — a cherished event that brings together students from Shakerag ES, Ocee ES, Wilson Creek ES, Findley Oaks ES, and Medlock Bridge ES. This contest gives children the chance to express themselves, explore new ideas, and showcase their talents.

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Theme: *The Magic of Friendship*

Who Can Participate: Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Categories:

- Photography
- Visual Art
- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Music Composition
- Creative Writing

Students may submit entries in one or multiple categories. All artwork should follow the rules outlined in the entry form and will be judged on originality, theme interpretation, creativity, and technique. The entry form and rules can be found on the entry form by clicking [here](#). For any queries or clarifications, contact Meghana at meghanatme2023@gmail.com

FCS News:

ALL IN ON ATTENDANCE – Finish the Semester Strong

The weeks before winter break are full of important lessons, tests, and projects. Attendance helps students finish strong and start the new year prepared. Students with perfect attendance in December score 15% higher on mid-year assessments. The late bell rings at 7:40 a.m. Students should be in their classroom ready to learn at that time. Please email our Data Clerk, Courtney Gatlin Cleary at gatlinclear@fultonschools.org and copy your child's teacher when your child is absent.

Change of School Assignment (COSA)

The Fulton County School Board Policy JBCC ('Student Assignment') provides options for students to attend a school different than the one zoned for their home. Parents can apply for a school transfer using the district's Change of School Assignment (COSA) process. No specific academic, hardship or medical reason is needed; however, the school must be part of the district's list of accepting schools. For special education-related transfers, the accepting school also must offer the specific program and services outlined in the student's IEP or Section 504 Plan. Below you will find links to two important documents. The first is an overview of the process and the second is a document for what parents need to know. The application window for the upcoming school year runs **December 1, 2025-January 9, 2026**.

-  [COSA - Process Overview.pdf](#)
-  [COSA - What Parents Need to Know.pdf](#)

A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

School Governance Council (SGC) Meeting

Our next School Governance Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 10 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](#).

In the Community:

Northview Techno Titans

The Northview Techno Titans Robotics Team will be hosting a STEM Night workshop at their team workspace on Saturday, December 13, from 4:00 - 5:30pm. For more information, please click [here](#).

Festival Children's Choir with the Johns Creek Chorale – Open for 4th and 5th Grade Students

The Johns Creek Chorale is thrilled to announce the Festival Children's Choir, a special holiday ensemble that will bring together young singers from across our community!

Under the direction of *Dr. Nathan Frank*, children will experience the excitement of performing alongside a large, accomplished choir and orchestra at the Johns Creek Chorale Holiday Concert. No prior choir experience is required—just enthusiasm and a love of music! Please direct your questions to Ms. Leslie Morgan at morganl@fultonschools.org. This is a community event. It is not sponsored by the schools or FCS.

Sign up here! 🖱️ [Johns Creek Children's Festival Choir form - detailed](#)

Rehearsal – Friday, December 12

- Time: 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- Location: Johns Creek *Baptist* Church, 6910 McGinnis Ferry Road, Alpharetta, GA 30005
- Children will learn a few festive songs, build confidence, and practice teamwork. Rehearsal tracks will be shared ahead of time to make learning fun and easy.

Performance – Saturday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

- Location: Johns Creek United *Methodist* Church, 11180 Medlock Bridge Rd, Johns Creek, GA 30097
- Children will join the Johns Creek Chorale and orchestra for an inspiring holiday concert.
- Call time 6:00 p.m.

Have a wonderful weekend!

