

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

December 19, 2025

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

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

December 22 – January 2: Winter Break - School Closed
January 5: Teacher Workday - No School for Students

We look forward to seeing all of our students in school on Tuesday, January 6!

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 2026!



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 Katie Ngo and Madeline Ruffin-Thomas for leading our Room Parent program and helping to organize all of the plans.

Aladdin Kids!

We want to thank all of the wonderful performers, stage crew, and volunteers who worked so hard on this fabulous performance. We would also like to thank **Mrs. Housholder, Dr. Sumrak, Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Manaktala, Ms. Nephew, Mrs. B. Chang and Mrs. Milovich** for all of their hard work and dedication. And a special thank you to our amazing community volunteers, **Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. Herrick, Mrs. Kwon, and Mrs. Vatsa**, some of whom don't even have students that still attend our school. We couldn't do this without your support. We also can't forget the families of our amazing cast and crew for supporting this performance. What an amazing show and team!

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.

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.



There are five different surveys this year: one for parents, one for students in grades 3 -5, one for students in grades 6-12, one for teachers, and one for staff. Each school is aiming to have a minimum 71% or greater participation rate for each survey. Schools failing to meet the GA DOE participation rates could have their school's climate star rating automatically reduced by one star. Please help us meet our participation rate by completing this quick 22 question survey using the following link (<https://survey.gadoe.org/FM?sid=786E7A44>), or scanning the QR Code.

Key points:

- This survey gives individuals the chance to share their thoughts on our school.
- The survey will be available from December 10-February 20, 2026.
- The survey is anonymous and confidential.
- The survey is available in both English and Spanish.

At Shakerag, students in grades 3-5 will participate in this survey the week of January 19. 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, January 16** 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!

Power Up for 30 Begins January 6!

We are excited to introduce Power Up for 30, a new program designed to help students start their day with movement and energy. This initiative supports the goal of providing students with an additional 30 minutes of physical activity each day. Research shows that physical activity before class helps students wake up their bodies, improve focus, and be more engaged in learning. By

participating in Power Up for 30, students will build healthy habits, boost their energy levels, and set a positive tone for the rest of the school day. We can't wait to see the benefits this program brings to our students. This schedule will rotate every two weeks and will be listed below. The time will be from 7:10-7:35 with arrivals to participate no later than 7:20. Please reach out to Mr. Smith or Ms. Dean if you have any questions.

| | Mondays | Tuesdays | Wednesdays | Thursdays | Fridays |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Week 1 Starts 1/6 | Kindergarten | 1 st Grade | 2 nd Grade | Christiansen/ Corney | Wolny/Sudeth/ Nephew |
| Week 2 Starts 1/12 | 4 th Grade Brown/Davis | 4 th Grade Gokhale/Greene | 5 th Grade Barlow/Burnett | 5 th Grade Dowling/Mack | |

A Message from the PTO:

Thank You, Shakerag Families—150+ Toys Donated!

Because of you, countless children will be smiling this holiday season! We're excited to share that more than 150 toys were collected for Toys for Tots. Thank you to you and your Shark(s) for making this possible—your generosity truly shines. Even more meaningful are the lessons your kiddos are learning along the way: that giving is greater than receiving. That's the best gift you could ever give them. Thank you again for helping us spread joy and kindness throughout our community this season. Happy Holidays!

Snap, Share, Shine! Yearbook 2025–2026 Awaits

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

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

Let's make this yearbook unforgettable—together.

There's Still Time: Enter the 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

Artist Day – We Need Your Help!

Shakerag Elementary's Annual Artist Day is returning this year, and we are dreaming even bigger. Our goal is to open our students' hearts and minds to the beauty of art and the richness of cultures from around the world - beginning with the incredible talent and heritage within our very own school community.

On **April 3rd**, we will host **Artist & Culture Day**, a vibrant celebration where students will have the chance to "travel the globe" without ever leaving school. They'll explore new art forms, hear stories from different cultures, discover creative expressions they've never seen before, and gain a deeper appreciation for the diverse world around them.

To bring this vision to life, **we need your help.**

Do you paint, dance, sing, craft, sculpt, or play an instrument?

Do you have traditions, art forms, or cultural activities you'd love to share?

Our students would be thrilled to learn from you. They light up when they hear real stories, see real demonstrations, and experience creativity and culture firsthand. Your participation can spark curiosity, inspire confidence, and shape how they see the world.

If you're interested in sharing your talents or cultural heritage, whether through a demonstration, a hands-on activity, or a story, we would love to have you join us. You can coordinate with other volunteers or lead a session on your own. Every contribution makes a difference.

Please reach out to our Artist & Culture Day co-chairs, Jen She and Myata Harris, at jen@fwdtalent.com and myataharris@gmail.com if you'd like to participate.

FCS News:

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, January 14 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:

Johns Creek Basketball Special Events

Basketball season is well underway at Johns Creek High School, and they want to share their events with the community! This season they are having a few nights to showcase their young feeder basketball teams, teachers, and elementary school kids. Please click [here](#) for all the events. FCS teachers and staff always receive free entry and for elementary night, all elementary students will get in free.

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

