

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
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February 6, 2026

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

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:

Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition Winners

Thank you to all our 4th and 5th grade students who entered their writing in the 2026 Young Georgia Authors 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. The following authors will move to the district level competition:

- Lianna M. from Ms. Greene's 4th grade class with "Life of a Penny"
- Iniyana T. from Mrs. Dowling's 5th grade class with "The Benefit of Video Games"

Congratulations to all our amazing writers!



Book Fair: 2/9-2/13

The Book Fair is here and will take place **Monday, February 9 – Friday, February 13**. Each homeroom teacher will sign up for a day/time for their class to shop the book fair during the school day. Each teacher will communicate their class's shopping day/time to parents.

Parents are also invited to shop with their student(s) during the **Family Shopping Night on Thursday, 2/12 from 5:00 – 5:50 PM**.

Cashless Shopping: Setting up a Scholastic eWallet is the easiest way for students to shop the Book Fair without having to carry around and manage their own cash. Information about setting up an eWallet can be found here: [Scholastic Book Fair eWallet: A Safe, Cashless Way to Shop](#). If your child has an eWallet, they do not need to bring anything with them when they shop the Book Fair. Their eWallet account can be accessed directly from the register using only their name. Please make sure your child (and your child's teacher for our younger students) knows that they have an eWallet and how much you put on their account.

Please view our Book Fair website, including a preview of the books, here:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/shakeragelementaryschool>

Storybook Night: 2/12

Book Fair fun continues at Storybook Night on Thursday, 2/12. The Book Fair will be open from 5:00-5:50 PM if parents would like to shop with their students. Then, we will all enjoy storybook performances put on by teacher groups throughout the school from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. We hope to see everyone there!

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.

We currently only have a 10.99% participation rate for our family surveys with a completion of 63 surveys.

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.

School Governance Council Members Needed

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 2026-2028 term. We will have one teacher elected position and one parent elected position 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. Debbie Wise at wised@fultonschools.org.

The window for parents and teachers to declare candidacy for their school's SGC opened on Monday, **February 2, 2026**. During this time, individuals interested in serving a 2-year term (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028) 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 27, 2026, at 5:00 PM**. The voting window will be held from April 22 – 29, 2026.

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 19. 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 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:

Do you want to be part of the Shakerag Elementary PTO Board?

We're looking for parent leaders to serve on the PTO Board next school year. Two roles will be available: VP of School Enrichment and VP of Academic Enrichment. Serving on the PTO Board directly impacts students by helping create meaningful programs, memorable events, and enriching learning experiences that strengthen our school community. If you're interested or would like more information, please email ShakeragPTO@gmail.com.

Teacher Appreciation Week (February 9–13)

Teacher Appreciation Week is just around the corner—**February 9–13!** Join us in celebrating our incredible teachers and staff with simple, fun daily themes planned by the PTO. Participation is always optional, and heartfelt notes, drawings, and kind words are appreciated all week long.

Book Fair Volunteers Needed!

Our Book Fair runs from **Monday, February 9 to Friday, February 13**, and we need your help! This year's theme is "**Spring into Books**," and we're excited to get our students and families involved.

We can't thank you all enough for signing up to volunteer and help our students have a smooth shopping experience. There are still a few volunteer spots left if you could spare some time. Please sign up to volunteer [here](#).

It's Your Time to Shine: Create Our 2026–2027 Agenda Cover!

The Shakerag PTO is excited to announce our **2026–2027 Student Agenda Cover Design Contest**, and we need the creativity of our amazing students!

We are inviting **current 2nd and 4th-grade students** to help design the **front cover of next year's student agendas**. Any interested student in grades 2 and 4 may submit an original piece of artwork along with a completed entry [form](#).

Submission Details:

- **Who:** Current 2nd and 4th-grade students
- **What:** Original artwork for the 2026–2027 agenda front cover
- **Deadline:** **February 20, 2026**
- **How to Submit:** Return artwork and entry form to the front desk at the school office.

All submitted entries will be reviewed by a Shakerag PTO committee, which will select the **top designs**. We encourage students to incorporate our Shakerag Sharks school expectations of "**Leadership, Kindness, and Respect**" into their artwork.

Good luck to all our young artists—we can't wait to see your creativity shine! The Shakerag PTO is excited to see your masterpieces!

School Dance – Save the Date & Volunteer Opportunities

Please save the date for this year's School Dance on March 6, 2026! For more information, please contact Sonam Dewan at dewan.sonam@gmail.com or Sarah Chu at cigar1121@hotmail.com.

Show Off Our Sharks! Share Your 2025–2026 Photos

We're collecting the last few 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.

Art & Culture Day – Calling Participants/Volunteers!

Shakerag Elementary's Art & Culture Day is coming up on April 3rd, and we're looking for parents and community members to share their talents and traditions.

Do you paint, dance, sing, craft, sculpt, play an instrument, or have cultural activities you'd love to showcase? Our students would be thrilled to learn from you. Your stories, demonstrations, and creativity help them see the world in new ways. If you'd like to lead a session or team up with other volunteers, we'd love to have you. Every contribution makes this day unforgettable. Please reach out to our Art & 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:

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 2026-2027 School Year

Registration for the Pre-K Lottery is now open and will end **March 3**. Registration is conducted through the district and the information can be found [here](#). If a parent misses the March 3 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](#).

A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

School Governance Council (SGC) Meeting

Our next School Governance Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 18 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 Debbie Wise at wised@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](#).

In the Community:

NOFU Girls Lacrosse Feeder Program

The North Fulton United Girls Lacrosse Team will be holding a Player Skills Clinic on February 8 at Newtown Park from 2:00 – 4:00. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Northview Techno Titans

The Northview Techno Titans Robotics Team will be hosting a STEM Night workshop at their team workspace on Saturday, February 21, from 4:00 - 5:30pm. For more information, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

