

# Shark Bytes

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

**February 20, 2026**

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

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

## Shark Tales:

### Thank You!

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to thank the families of our Chinese Community for the wonderful lunch they provided today in celebration of the Chinese New Year. We truly appreciate you incorporating us into your traditions and celebrations.



### **GA DOE School Climate Survey for Students and Parents – DUE TODAY!**

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 14.49% participation rate for our family surveys with a completion of 83 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.

### **Cluster-Level Winners – Through My Eyes Art Contest**

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our talented students from **Shakerag Elementary** who earned top honors at the cluster level of the 10th Annual *Through My Eyes* Art Contest! Their creativity, originality, and dedication truly stood out among participating schools.

- **Visual Art:** Aria T. (1st Grade) – 1st Place; Luna B. (2nd Grade) – 2nd Place; Enya D. (3rd Grade) – 3rd Place
- **Creative Writing:** Shaanvi P. (2nd Grade) – 1st Place; Nishka B. (3rd Grade) – 3rd Place
- **Film Production:** Avyaan B. (2nd Grade) – 1st Place
- **Original Dance Choreography:** Nishka B. (3rd Grade) – 2nd Place
- **Original Music Composition:** Kristodea A. (5th Grade) – 1st Place
- **Photography:** Ethan L. (Kindergarten) – 3rd Place

These outstanding achievements reflect the imagination and artistic excellence of our students. They have represented our school with creativity, confidence, and heart — and we could not be prouder!

**Every voice. Every vision. Every artist. Join us next year and let your creativity shine!**

### **Fevers and Illnesses**

While attendance is important, we also want to make sure we are keeping all students safe and healthy. As temperatures start to fluctuate up and down this time of year, we often see a rise in illnesses. Please help us keep everyone healthy by reminding your children about washing their hands, practicing the elbow cough to cover their mouth when they cough or sneeze, and keeping your children home if they have a fever. Students must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications prior to returning to school. We appreciate everyone's help during this time of year.

### **Coming Soon... Student Devices for Grades 3-5**

Families of students in Grades 3-5 may have received a district communication this week regarding an upcoming device swap. The district will be switching out all student devices in Grades 3-5 and transitioning to Chromebooks. We anticipate our swap occurring mid-late March. Please click [here](#) for additional details.

For those that may not have already registered in the Device Protection Plan program, the district will be providing an opportunity to purchase this protection for the remainder of the year as a prorated rate. Details are included in the link above.

### **Shakerag Elementary will soon teach kids to Think First & Stay Safe™**

Fulton County Schools is excited to share that we will soon commence our personal safety education program for all elementary students called *Think First & Stay Safe™*. The *Think First & Stay Safe™* program is a research-based program that teaches specific personal safety education by way of interactive classroom lessons, classroom posters, role-plays, and corresponding activities. *Think First & Stay Safe™* enables students to take an active and necessary role in protecting themselves from harassment, abduction, bullying, exploitation, and various forms of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional).

In March of this school year, *Think First & Stay Safe*™ lessons will be implemented at Shakerag Elementary School for all K-5 students. The materials can be made available for preview if needed. ALL K-5 students will participate, unless an opt-out form is returned by Friday, February 27.

**If you prefer that your child not participate in the *Think First & Stay Safe*™ program, please sign the bottom of the parent letter that went home last week in Friday folders and have your child return it to the school counselor, Mrs. Chang, by Friday, February 27, 2026.** If you have any additional questions, please reach out to our school counselor, Mrs. Chang, at [changb1@fultonschools.org](mailto:changb1@fultonschools.org).

### **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](mailto: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](http://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.

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

### **School Dance – Friday, March 6**

Shakerag's annual School Dance will be held on Friday, March 6 in the school cafeteria! This year's theme is inspired by the wildly popular "6-7" meme - playful, silly sound and number joke that students love. It's all about being goofy, unexpected, and just having fun together. No hidden meaning, no inside jokes parents need to worry about - just a trend that kids recognize and enjoy. There will be a professional DJ, photo booth, 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 noon Thursday, March 5. **THIS IS NOT A DROP OFF EVENT. ONE ADULT PER FAMILY REQUIRED FOR ENTRY. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BRING CELL PHONES.** Please click [here](#) to purchase tickets

**VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Click [here](#) for volunteer sign up form

Click [here](#) for donation sign up form

For more information, please contact Sonam Dewan at [dewan.sonam@gmail.com](mailto:dewan.sonam@gmail.com) or Sarah Chu Cigar at [cigar1121@hotmail.com](mailto:cigar1121@hotmail.com)

## **FCS News:**

### **ALL IN ON ATTENDANCE**

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with learning. Missing just a few days can have a big impact on progress. Missing 2 days in February means losing 10% of instructional time for the month. The late bell rings at 7:40 AM. Students should be in their classroom ready to learn at that time. Please email our data clerk, Mrs. Gatlin Cleary at [Gatlinclearc@fultonschools.org](mailto:Gatlinclearc@fultonschools.org) and copy your child's teacher when your child is absent.

### **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, March 11 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](#).

**Have a wonderful weekend!**

