



FRAGA GAB



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

End of Year 2011

Staff Of The Month



Georgia Gillean is an Assistant Teacher Floater at Dalton High Early Head Start.

Staff of the Month for June is **Georgia Gillean**, Assistant Teacher Floater at Dalton High EHS:

“Georgia works whenever we need her, and at any center we need her. She jumps in and helps in any classroom. All of the teachers and assistants are so happy and thankful when Georgia comes to their classroom to help. Children, parents and staff all love her. She is the perfect example of an employee who understands and demonstrates TEAMWORK.

“Thank you for all your hard work. We are very lucky to have you as an employee!”

Congratulations!

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STAFF of the YEAR

Each year, you — the Staff! — review all the Staff of the Month winners from the past year and select the person you believe to be most deserving to be our **STAFF OF THE YEAR**. The votes are in! The 2010-2011 Staff of the Year is **Stephenie Mitchell**, Center Manager for Dalton High EHS, Dalton Heritage HS, Valley Point HS, and Whitfield HS/EHS!

Stephenie has a total of 15 classrooms that she manages altogether. Even with her busy schedule, her staff know her to be someone who always makes time to listen and to be there to help them solve any issues they may have. When staff were asked about what made her a good supervisor, here is what they had to say:

There is never any confusion of what her expectations are. ~ She would never ask you to do anything that she would not be willing to do herself. ~ She is always there to listen. ~ She is willing to work with you. ~ She is there when you need her both professionally and personally. ~ She is very knowledgeable of her job/position. ~ She is very organized. ~ She goes above and beyond as a supervisor.

We are fortunate to have such great leadership with Stephenie. So from all your staff — and the rest of Family Resource Agency of North Georgia! — thank you for your hard work and your dedication to your job and the Agency, and CONGRATULATIONS!!



We had such a great turn out at the BUDDY BREAKFAST at Westside HS/EHS! There were 16 Dads there with their children. Not only were the WS Staff impressed and proud of our Head Start Dads, but the Dads and children were proud of their hard work also! It was so nice to see such a great turn-out of male role models. It really meant a lot to the children to have their special male role model spend undivided attention with them. What a great program! We would like to thank Greg Cargile, Fatherhood Facilitator, for helping out and making the families feel comfortable. ~Submitted by Kaye Ralston, CM at Westside HS/EHS.



PLEASE REMEMBER

- We will be distributing important information about job openings, calendar changes, etc. by email over the summer. Please be sure to check your email regularly during the summer break to stay informed! If you have no email access at home, feel free to stop by one of the Centers and use the computers onsite to check your email.



From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulham, Director

A Year in Retrospect: This has been an eventful year for our program - from starting the year with the opening of our EHS Expansion classrooms and our Triennial Federal Review (with us in total compliance!) - to having our Expansion and Head Start funding in jeopardy but finally secured - to the storms in all our counties but with devastating destruction in Dade and Catoosa County. Through it all you have maintained the expectations of the program and continued to provide quality services to our children and families. We all have a right to be proud of ourselves and our program. Staff appreciation day is to recognize how much we appreciate all of you!

Storms and Tornadoes: Dade and Catoosa County - especially Ringgold EHS - were the most severely impacted locations. In spite of the power outages and travel problems due to storm damage, you were able to return to your centers and continue providing services to help the families get back to "normal". The admin office was without power and computers for three days but the staff came in and processed payroll manually to be sure that there would not be a delay in receiving paychecks. Ringgold EHS was unable to return to the facility due to the devastation of Ringgold Middle School, but they have continued providing services to the families. Battlewood EHS has taken in some of the children of the high school students and the Ringgold staff are doing home-based services with the remainder of the families. I want to say to everyone that we are so grateful that the responses to the storms, the danger and the destruction have been calm, fast, professional and with genuine concern and caring for the families and the community. Thank you for exhibiting the traits of our CHARACTER principles and being such great models of what Head Start is about!



Highlights From Kelly

By Kelly Collins, Program Coordinator

This year Georgia's Pre-K Consultants conducted observations using a new observational tool –The Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS™). The CLASS tool is designed to help teachers build on their strengths, grow professionally, and increase the effectiveness of their interactions with learners. This year, Pre-K collected baseline data (used to identify strengths and weaknesses state-wide) by conducting observations in all Pre-K classrooms.

Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director



You always know it's the end of the year when we have something exciting going on almost every day! End of year activities, volunteer appreciation, staff appreciation, grants due and St. Simons are a yearly sign! This year I got to go to St. Simons for the Georgia Head Start spring conference. It was a great trip! Hopefully, you will encourage your parents to volunteer so they can work towards winning a trip next year. I hope that everyone will have a safe and relaxing summer and we look forward to another exciting year!



By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

A special THANK YOU to all of the staff for helping out with the different duties at different centers during the last few weeks. Ringgold EHS staff, especially, helped deliver food and worked at other sites while transitioning to home-based EHS for the children at their center due to the loss of their building from the tornadoes last month. Thank you to Sherree Lovain (CM at Ringgold EHS) and Renee Lyons (CM at Battlewood EHS) and the staff at those centers for going above and beyond to ensure that the EHS teen mothers could have continued services despite the loss of the Ringgold EHS center. Thanks also to the Dade and Mountain View kitchen staff that had to prepare additional meals and transport them as we "rolled with the punches" in the different counties.

Have a FUN and SAFE summer and be ready in August to have a CLASS-y and GOLD 2011-2012 year!

FRA is proud to announce all three Pre-K classrooms received positive feedback from their CLASS observations!!! WAY TO GO!!! Here are some comments made by CLASS observers:

"The observation went very well, I really liked the classroom and now I understand why Pam Bojo talks about this program like she does."

"I am very impressed with the activities that are going on in the classroom and with the interaction between the teachers and the children. They received very high marks!!"

"The teachers are doing a great job in the classroom, above and beyond."

I'd like to commend our Pre-K teachers for a job well done — your commitment to Pre-K excellence shines through!



Think Pink!

By Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator

Sometimes the storm goes around us, sometimes we go through it. Hopefully, the storms will not come again for a long time. May your vacation be blessed with weather that isn't extreme, and may your days be peaceful and calm. Thank you for all you did this year for children and families. Enjoy your summer!



Chattooga EHS. I can't believe that it is the end of the school year already - it really has flown by! I would like to thank the staff at CEHS for such a great school year. I know you all have worked very hard to teach these little ones that are in our care and it really does show! For those of you that are off this summer - I hope you have a nice, relaxing summer and come back in the fall ready to go again! For those working this summer - I hope you are ready for a fun, hot summer! I would also like to say a big THANK YOU to my fellow Center Managers and the Admin Staff for all your help, guidance and listening ears this year - it was very much appreciated! I hope everyone has a fantabulous summer! ~Amy Turner, CM.

Dade HS/EHS. I would like to take this time to thank the staff of Dade for the way they handled the recent tornados

in our county. On April 27th, we lost power at 8:30 in the morning. Shortly after that tornado warnings were issued for our county. The staff immediately took all the children to the hallway for safety. They made sure they kept them all happy and occupied during this scary time. After all the children were allowed to leave with their parents, they immediately wanted to know what they could do to help others. I have never known a finer group of women and am so proud to be a part of them. They all have worked tirelessly donating time, goods, and whatever else is needed to everyone possible. We have had about 5 families who lost everything and we are helping them with what needs they have. Parents have been so happy that we could open back as quickly as we did so they could take care of things they needed to and at least their children were taken care of. Rebecca and Connie had to prepare all our meals in our mini kitchen while the school systems were closed. No one has complained or cried "Woe is me". They are just jumping in to help. Please keep Rebecca in your prayers. She lost her

Special Projects News

By Debbie McKissick, Special Projects Coordinator



Congratulations to Westside HS/EHS and South Walker HS/Pre-K for **No Cites** during their recent licensing visit this month. Also, congratulations to Cloud Springs HS and Lakeview HS/Pre-K — both of these Centers went through licensing visits in April and had perfect scores! Way to go!

nephew during the tornado. Also, some may remember Kim McMahon who was a FSS in Dade. She completely lost her home in Rainsville but is just happy no one was hurt. Tina Castleberry passed on a tip that could help in the future if there is an outage. If you happen to have solar lights in your yard, pull them up and bring them in at night to use for light (remember to set them back outside the next day to charge!) Finally, if you ever have the opportunity to give blood or donate to the Red Cross, please do. We have truly seen how they help communities during this tragedy. ~Charlotte Cuticchia, CM.

Westside HS/EHS, Whitfield-Dalton HS/EHS, Pioneer HS, Park Creek HS. As the year comes quickly to an end, I would like to thank all of my centers for such great dedication and hard work! I hope you all have a nice and relaxing summer with your families and come back refreshed and ready to start another promising year. After all, it is you who are on the frontlines making the difference in the lives of our families. Again, thank you for all you do! ~Kaye Ralston, CM.

Murray HS/EHS. I would like to thank all staff at MHS/EHS for all their hard work this year. I truly appreciate what you do for our children and their families. We had a wonderful year in our new center. I look forward to another great year with each of you. I hope each of you has a fun-filled summer. We are going to miss Lynda Williams as she retires. I hope she gets to travel all over the world! ~Quantrell Coffey, CM.

Whitfield HS/EHS, Valley Point HS, Dalton High EHS, Dalton Heritage HS. Another year is behind us — it went by so quickly! Thank you to all of my staff at WH, VP, DE, and DH. Because of your teamwork and dedication to your center and the program, we have accomplished so much with the children and their families. That is something to be proud of! I am proud to come in to work every day and have you as my staff. I hope everyone has a GREAT summer! ~Stephenie Mitchell, CM.



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Georgia Head Start Association Spring Conference in St. Simons:

We had a great conference and a wonderful trip. We took an outstanding group of staff and parents and they enjoyed the beach, the village and meeting other Head Start employees as well as attending interesting and informative workshops and sessions. Phyllis Ledford taught two sessions of her fun Scrapbooking workshop - both were full and she has been asked to add another session next year! David Hawkins taught an Excel workshop and Melissa Hankins conducted one day at the EHS Institute. Regional Office staff attended the GHSA Board meeting on Monday and Tuesday and updated us on what is going on at the Regional and National level. Stephenie Mitchell was honored as Staff of the Year and Jada Elleman (Murray) was honored as Parent of the Year. A candle was lit in memory of Beth Shropshire at the memorial service during the closing session. This conference is such a nice way to thank our parent volunteers and we thank our staff who chauffeured them and were their "tour guides"!

FRONT ROW (l to r): Melinda Durham, Yolanda Sanford, Phyllis Ledford, Stacy Long, Quantrell Coffey, Kelly Farris.

BACK ROW (l to r): Jessica Livers, Sherree Lovain, Jada Elleman.



Candles flicker in memory of Beth Shropshire and other Head Start employees during the memorial service at the closing session of the GHSA Spring Conference.

Each year at the GHSA Spring Conference, the Parent of the Year from each program is honored. Jada Elleman, a parent from Murray County (center) received a certificate and ribbon in appreciation of her volunteer work and dedication to our program during the 2010-2011 Program Year.



- 1 Christina Davis
- 2 Jacqueline Shropshire
- 3 Ann Flegal
- 12 Lakesha Veatch
- 14 Debbie Goodrum
- 15 Mimi Kozarcenin
- 17 Angie Mathis
- 17 Tifani Keith
- 17 Tiffany Cobb
- 18 Crystal Crabtree
- 19 Linda Blevins
- 21 Cherelle Etchison
- 24 Karen Burse
- 24 Karla Suttle
- 24 Angelie Thompson
- 26 Theresa Powell
- 27 Lilly Tipton
- 27 Jessica Kennedy
- 28 Traci Rogers
- 30 Julie Cothran



- 2 Angie Smith
- 2 Oceana Thomas
- 6 Stacy Kirby
- 7 Brenda Collins
- 7 Denise Butler
- 10 Samantha McNabb
- 12 Jennifer McClure
- 15 Joyce Williams
- 15 Rebecca Williams
- 17 Misty White
- 19 Mozelle Morman
- 21 Tomoko Shipman
- 21 Renae Duckworth
- 21 Alecia Pappas
- 22 Jay Lowry
- 23 Paula Bacon
- 23 Phyllis Taylor
- 24 Ella Townsend
- 27 Ashley Miller
- 28 Kelly Dodds
- 29 Maudell Wheeler

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Success is not the key to happiness.
Happiness is the key to success.
If you love what you are doing,
You will be successful.
~Albert Schweitzer