



# FRAGA GAB



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

February 2012

## Staff Of The Month



LaTonya Thurman is a Teacher at Chattooga Early Head Start.

Staff of the Month for February is LaTonya Thurman, Teacher at Chattooga Early Head Start:

*“LaTonya is very flexible and works hard to provide a loving and caring environment for all of her children. Having multi-age children in a class with children who have behavior issues can be very challenging, especially when there are babies and older toddlers in the same room. LaTonya is able to anticipate problems before they occur and redirect children, keeping them safe, active and interested in developmentally appropriate activities. Not only is she able to keep all the children safe and busy in her wide age-range classroom, she also is able to make the most out of every teachable moment. She is helping the older toddlers learn about caring for the babies as well as incorporating their current curriculum goals. LaTonya is a very dedicated teacher.”*

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## CAUGHT *in the Act*



**Betty Wentz, FSS at Chattooga HS/Penville HS** was leaving the office one rainy day. As she started to pull out into traffic, she saw a child running down the hill from the center toward the road. She stopped her car and ran to catch the child. He was a former Head Start child. He told her he was going to the Summerville Elementary School to find his Mama. Betty took him back up to the school — they hadn't realized he had been missing. Betty then notified his mother. Betty's actions probably saved this child's life. We are very proud of Betty for being so alert and getting involved.



## PLEASE REMEMBER

- Are you remembering to check your email daily? This is a new change for this program year, so be sure to check your email so that you receive the important information being sent to you!

**Whitfield HS/EHS.** We hope everyone is having a GREAT year. This year we have several new staff. We would like to welcome Ashley Davis, Malynaye Barragan, Maria Pineda and Rubi Barajas — they are doing a great job and we are so happy to have them on our team. In November, Whitfield HS/EHS was selected and visited by the Bright from the Start Commissioner Bobby Cagle and Bright from the Start Regional Director of Child Care Services Janet Goggins. We were excited to have them come out and see all the wonderful things Head Start is doing for children and families in Whitfield County. We also received new equipment for the HS playground thanks to the grant. We can't wait to have it installed so the children can enjoy it.

**Dalton High EHS.** Thanks to the Head Start Body Start (HSBS) grant, DE also received new playground equipment. The staff and children are excited about the HSBS additions and ready to start enjoying them! The teachers are working really hard, and do a great job with all the children and families. Working with the teen moms is particularly rewarding and is definitely one of the highlights of the program.



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## From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulgham, Director

**Child and Family Outcomes:** The primary emphasis of the School Readiness and Parent/Family Engagement Framework is that we have to integrate our approach to supporting children and families. Head Start is stressing that engaging families is a critical part of preparing children for success in school. Our Child Development Coordinator, Melissa Hankins, and our Family Service Coordinator, Eva Neil, will be attending the Region IV Conference in February to get the information needed to begin the process of implementing the Parent, Family and Community Engagement as part of our School Readiness Plan. Melissa and I will be attending state cluster meetings with regional Head Start staff to get the information needed. You can expect to be hearing a lot about School Readiness and Parent/Family Engagement Framework!



By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

**Seeing Numbers.** We have been piloting a program called **Seeing Numbers** in some of our Whitfield County centers and the results are very promising. I recently received some feedback about its implementation from Kaye Ralston, CM:

*"It is very exciting to see 3-year-olds immediately recognize the number of dots on the cards when held up. All of the classrooms have seen such progress with this new tool. One day at Park Creek HS, I watched as several children named off the amount of dots on the cards in random order! Classrooms at Westside HS/EHS have children recognizing up to 10 dots per card! It's truly amazing! I can't believe the kids are learning it this fast with something as simple as holding up a card and saying hardly anything. The children are just as proud as the teachers, too. The teachers who are implementing the program in all areas are the ones that are succeeding the most and achieving the greatest results."*

This is wonderful news! It is always a good thing to have demonstrated results when piloting a new curriculum tool because it means that we can hopefully repeat those results program-wide. **Seeing Numbers** helps achieve goals found under the **Cognition and General Knowledge: Mathematics Knowledge and Skills** segment of the Head Start framework (see November 2011 newsletter).



## Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director

As we bring in the new year, it puts us that much closer to the 2013 deadlines for the next level of Teacher/Assistant Teacher education mandates. By October 2013, 50% of HS Teachers nationwide must have a BA/BS degree or higher in ECE or a related field and HS Assistant Teachers must have a CDA. Currently, all HS teachers have a minimum of an AA degree and 12 have already attained the BA/BS degree. This gives us 27% of our HS Teachers with 6 more in school. Once those graduate, we would have approximately 40%! That's a great start, but we still need at least 5 more teachers to volunteer to complete the BA/BS degree. Approximately 75% of our HS Assistant Teachers have the CDA or higher with 10 currently enrolled.

**What are some of the benefits of obtaining a higher level of education?**

1. Increase in pay dependent upon the education level achieved.
2. Gain knowledge of the most recent developmentally appropriate ECE practices.
3. Build a network of other educators through classes taken together.
4. Possible promotion opportunities.
5. Maintaining your current position after the 2013 deadline.

If you haven't enrolled yet, there is still time. If you are interested in more information about continuing your education to meet the mandates, please contact Becky Goins, Trainer, at Admin.

## Special Projects News

By Debbie McKissick, Special Projects Coordinator



Congratulations to Westside HS/EHS for having a "No Cites" Licensing visit. Way to go!!

Resource Committee updates coming soon! We'll see you soon for Packet C — have a Happy Valentine's Day!

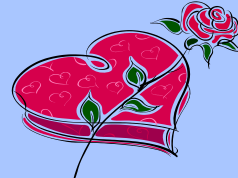
**QUALITY**

~ Submitted by

Betsy Taggart

and

Martha Baker,





## Think Pink!

By Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator

Kid's Station has an excellent class this year and it was a treat to visit their classroom for monitoring. Keep up the good work.

Thank you Pioneer Head Start staff and Whitfield County schools staff, as you work diligently to help each child in the center make progress throughout the year. Many gains have been made with the children, and it is very evident to therapists and teachers that our inclusion class is a significant factor in this process. It is especially evidenced when seen over a two year period with a particular child and family. Great job!

Cloud Springs has done an excellent job with their inclusion class this year. Ms. Joy, Ms. Lynda and Ms. Kaitlyn have a very good relationship that is tremendously beneficial to those children and families.

Tiger Creek has an outstanding relationship with the county school system and their children in that center who come for inclusion purposes.

The Dade site is the most exceptional site in our agency to identify and facilitate the children who need special services. They currently have 30% of Head Start children with a disability and 21% Early Head Start children with a disability!

I hope your February Crayon Pals have a happy Valentine exchange, and I hope you have a fun-filled Valentine's day too! I look forward to coming to your center this month.

### Center Stage, continued from Page 1):

**Valley Point HS.** After the devastating fire last December, the new modular is installed and Open House on Nov. 8th made it official. The staff have really worked hard to make the best out of a horrible situation. There was a lot of moving and rebuilding but they worked as a team, pulled together and did what only Head Start staff can do by turning a negative into a positive and providing the best possible services to both children and families. The children are enjoying their new trike track and teeter-totter thanks to the HSBS grant. We'd also like to welcome Charlie Cargile, new to VP this year.

**Dalton Heritage HS.** I would like to thank the staff for all of their hard work and dedication to the program. I really enjoy being a part of the team. I would like to welcome this year to the center, Gwen Parrott, Shannan Blanchard, Mercedes Queen and — new to the center but not the program — Ashley Griffith, FSS. I would also like to welcome new comer, Brandy Young — she is the new Center Supervisor for DH and WH and is the most recent addition to our staff. I am very excited about working with her and think she will be a wonderful addition to the team.

The staff at all of my centers work really hard. Even though their jobs are not always the easiest they never lose sight of what is important and they move forward, following the mission of Head Start and providing the best possible services to both children and families. These are a GREAT group of people and I feel lucky to be able to work with them every-day and privileged to be a part of this team. Hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the year!  
~Submitted by Stephenie Mitchell, CM.

**Chattooga EHS.** I would like to welcome Jolynn Elrod and Michelle Ingram to the CEHS family. They both have come in full-force during a crazy time here and are doing GREAT things in their classrooms with their children, and also with the staff at the center. I would also like to congratulate Felicia Harris on her move from the kitchen to a classroom. Felicia has joined the infant room and is bringing a lot of creativity to working with those little ones.  
~Submitted by Amy Turner, CM.

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## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Melody Wingfield
- 4 Melissa Lowery
- 5 Lucretia Southern
- 7 Deanie Wallace
- 8 Meredith Brown
- 9 Amanda Pendergraft
- 10 Mary Jones
- 10 Hali Carr
- 11 Myrna Thompson
- 12 Annette Caliz
- 12 Christina Morrow
- 14 Rita Rymer
- 14 Heather McGuire
- 15 Aimee Swiger
- 16 Shawna Ellis
- 17 Brandi Roe
- 18 Martha Baker
- 20 Ashley Shropshire
- 21 Judy Lindsey
- 21 Julie Adams
- 22 Donna Blevins
- 22 Amanda Vanmeter
- 24 Denise Asher
- 24 Talisyn Ridley
- 24 Samantha Hibbs
- 24 Jasmin Tinson
- 27 Marilyn Patterson
- 27 Sue Chamlee