



FRAGA GAB



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

January 2012

Staff Of The Month



Stormy Bolton is a Substitute Assistant Teacher at Dade and Mountain View.

Staff of the Month for January is Stormy Bolton, Substitute Assistant Teacher for Dade HS/EHS and Mountain View HS/EHS/Pre-K.

"When we were setting up our files, Stormy jumped right in and alphabetized every file for us (and that's a lot of files)!"

"She also sets up tables for our Buddy Breakfast and helped make extra orientation packets for us. She does all of this in addition to being an excellent Substitute Assistant Teacher when needed in the classroom."

"Stormy always goes above and beyond what is expected of her. We really appreciate all that she does for us."

Thanks, Stormy, for the wonderful job you do!

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Director's Desk	2
Paula's Point Of View	2
Melissa's Page	2
Quality Corner	2
Think Pink!	3
Center Stage	3
January Birthdays	3



CAUGHT *in the Act*



Carl Quinn - OPS. Carl came to the rescue recently when "Santa" became ill and could not make his scheduled visit to Pioneer Head Start. Lucky for us, Carl borrowed Santa's suit and visited the children and families at Pioneer, passing out smiles and laughter to everyone there (see photo, right). Thank you so much, Carl — or should we say, Santa!



Lori Taylor-Pirkle, FSS at Chattooga EHS. We have a parent who gave birth to a child who had to be hospitalized in Atlanta. The child has had two open heart surgeries. Lori provided transportation to the parent various times and recently also visited the mother in the hospital to do the home visit for the post-natal visit. Thank you for going above and beyond!

CONGRATULATIONS to all the staff at Cloud Springs Head Start and Tiger Creek Head Start for having licensing visits with "No Cites". Thank you for being so diligent and working so hard every day to make sure we provide quality care for our children and families.



PLEASE REMEMBER

- Completed Health Risk Assessment forms are due to Catherine Rice by January 31, 2012! If you haven't completed this yet, make it #1 on your list of New Year's Resolutions!
- Be sure you verify your mailing address and payroll stub information for your W-2. This is especially important if you have moved or had a name change during 2011. If you have a problem viewing pay-check stubs on the Work Self-Serve site, please let your Center Manager know. You will not be receiving your 2011 W-2 by mail. You will need to log on to the Self-Serve site and print it. W-2's will not be available until February 1st.

Silent Auction A Success!



Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Silent Auction. Whether you donated items for auction, bid for items, or both, I just want you to know that your efforts and participation were greatly appreciated. There were beautiful handmade items and some centers pooled their money and bought an item to put in the auction. There were such a variety of items to choose from — truly something for everyone this year. The total amount donated was \$677.00 and 100% of the money donated goes directly to the Child Advocacy Fund. Thanks again — you guys are awesome!!



From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulgham, Director

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The December In-Service was such a good time! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and that you are ready for 2012. You will be hearing a lot this year about School Readiness, CLASS and Family Engagement so following is a brief description of each of these initiatives:

School Readiness Goals are the expectations that children's statuses and progression across domains of language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches towards learning, physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development will improve children's readiness for kindergarten.

CLASS is an observational tool based on more than a decade of research on teacher-child interactions in more than 10,000 classrooms across a wide range of communities and programs. The CLASS focuses on teacher-child interactions - processes - rather than on the content of the physical environment, materials or specific curricula. The CLASS assesses interactions between children and teachers in three broad domains of classroom quality: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The Office of Head Start believes that the domains of quality measured by the CLASS remain central to its approach to child development and education and serve as important indicators of the future school readiness of all Head Start children.

The Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework is a road map for progress in achieving the kinds of outcomes that lead to positive and enduring change for children and families. It is a research-based approach to program change that shows how an agency can work together as a whole—across systems and service areas—to promote parent and family engagement and children's learning development.

There is much more information about all three of these on the ECLKC website: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>.



Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director

I enjoyed getting out to several centers before the holidays. The open houses/ribbon cuttings for Chattooga Early, Valley Point and Ringgold Early were exciting. It was great to see such positive changes. I also got to visit South Walker and Lakeview while doing Pre-K monitoring visits, both of which had excellent reports! During the holiday break, I hope everyone got to rest and relax some so that when we start 2012 it will be with enthusiasm to support our children and families throughout the rest of our school year. May will be here before we know it. So Happy New Year and wishes for great success stories!



By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

Welcome to our newest Center Supervisor, Brandy Young. Brandy comes to us from Ringgold EHS with over five years of experience. Brandy has her CDA and has almost completed her AA, and brings a lot of Head Start knowledge with her to her new position. She is very knowledgeable of our GOLD assessment tool which will help her be very supportive to the teaching staff at her new Center, Whitfield/Dalton Heritage. Welcome to the Child Development Team!

Center Visits. I have center visits scheduled for January and I am really looking forward to being out at your Centers. I truly enjoy seeing all our Child Development Professionals in action — you are what makes our program GREAT!

Farewell 2011 and WELCOME New Year 2012! Every year teaches us some of life's most important lessons, and with that, we step forward into the new year. May you soar ever higher, reach greater heights and find happiness in everything you do!

Say this...

Do That!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Winter is cold | → Hug yourself and shiver. |
| There is snow in the sky | → Flutter fingers above your head. |
| The squirrel gathers nuts | → Pretend to gather nuts. |
| And the wild geese fly | → Flap arms. |
| The fluffy red fox | → Cup hands over head to form ears. |
| Has his fur to keep warm | → Stroke arms as if stroking fur. |
| The bear's in her cave | → Form a cave shape with your arms. |
| Sleeping all through the storm. | → Fold hands under cheek and pretend to sleep. |



QUALITY

~ Submitted by
Betsy Taggart
and
Martha Baker,
Quality Monitors

CORNER



Think Pink!

By Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you! May your seasonal lights be bright and your children and families have a bright season too! I will be distributing coats to your centers soon, so let me know if you are in dire need and I will come to you first.

The Ringgold Primary Head Start class was invited to a play and to visit their Crayon Pal's room for an art activity! Isn't that wonderful collaboration? They all enjoyed the time together.

When the male principal at Park Creek began to speak over the intercom system recently, a girl asked her teacher, Mrs. Nita, if that was God speaking. I hope you are all writing down these wonderful things our children are saying - we could write a book!

Mrs. Angie and Mrs. Sheila's class at Westside had an excellent program for the Georgia Head Start Association Fall Conference attendees. Congratulations to Karla Suttle for being the Georgia Head Start teacher of the year!

Thank you to the Chattooga and Pennville staff for the warm reception given for the retiring special services director in Chattooga County, Mr. Mitch Williams. We appreciate all he has done for our shared children and families.

Happy New Year! Wow, can you believe it is already a new year! Welcome to 2012. My, how the months just fly by. So far it has been a very busy school year for us in Catoosa County. Here is just a sample of what our four centers have been up to this year.

Ringgold Early: We are very excited about being settled in our new building! We hosted an open house recently which was a big success. You may have even spotted a few of our staff members and children on News Channel 9! Yes, they now feel famous! We welcome Amanda Daniel to the center and say farewell to Brandy Young — we wish you luck in your new position! We are awaiting a visit from NAEYC as we are up for re-accreditation.

Tiger Creek: Welcome Samantha McNabb and Teresa Powell to our team! Tiger Creek recently enjoyed a field trip to Freeman Springs farm which made for a fun-filled day! If you get a chance next fall you should check them out! The owners were great and there were many activities for the children to do including making their way through a corn maze! Tiger Creek is also busy preparing for a visit from NAEYC for re-accreditation!

Kids Station: We ended the year with an exciting month of chasing "The Elf on the Shelf". He had his way with the center every evening while the children were gone. Every morning as the children came in they were excited to find what activity or trouble he had left them for that day! Kids Station also held a special "Holiday Program" for their parents. The children sang their favorite songs and performed their favorite finger plays for a packed house. Each and every child had someone there to watch which was quite exciting for them!

Ringgold Primary: Welcome to Alisha Brock! The children took right up with Ms. Alisha and got her busy working right off the bat! Our children got to be "special guests" to a play put on by the Kindergarten classroom that they do "Crayon Pals" with. The children enjoyed the play and also made a very good impression on the Kindergarten teacher as they sat quietly and respectfully and watched the play! The children also got to take a recent field trip to Freeman Springs farm. They got a big kick out of the hay ride and stopping in the pasture to allow the cows to eat the hay that was on the ride!

Happy New Year from all of our Centers! ~Submitted by Sherree Lovain, CM.



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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Betsy Taggart
- 1 Jessica Camp
- 4 Katie Grider
- 5 Becky Goins
- 6 Gina Scharf
- 7 Jamie Walraven
- 8 Shannan Blanchard
- 10 Teresa Millican
- 10 Luz Andrade
- 10 Getina Walters
- 13 Joy Dykes
- 14 Joann Allgood
- 15 Karen Mussared
- 17 Sonya Darden
- 18 Gwen Parrott
- 18 Rebecca Lee
- 19 Cristy Baker
- 19 Kayla McInturff
- 19 Hillary Glover
- 20 Melissa Hankins
- 22 Karen Long
- 22 Mercedita Byers
- 22 Candice Sieber
- 23 Paula London
- 23 Kim Gardner
- 26 Betty Wentz
- 26 Jessica Baldrige
- 27 Angela Agan
- 27 Amanda Roach
- 27 Kelly Collins
- 27 Dana Howard
- 28 Angel Stafford
- 28 Crystal Hester
- 31 Lois Morgan