



FRAGA GAB



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

March 2011

Staff Of The Month



Talisyn Ridley is a Pre-K/Head Start Teacher at Mountain View Head Start.

Staff of the Month for March is Talisyn Ridley, Pre-K/Head Start Teacher at Mountain View Head Start.

"Talisyn is a very dedicated teacher. She loves the children and is always willing to help the families. She started in the Pre-K classroom last year when we first added the class to our center. She has done a great job learning the new Pre-K paperwork as well as keeping up with all of the Head Start paperwork for each child in the classroom. When there is something new for Pre-K we run it by her to see if it will work. We have heard so many comments from the parents of the children in her classroom about how their child loves coming to school and how much they have learned. She has a 2nd dramatic play area in her class that is changed monthly. It is very creative and gives the children extra opportunities to explore. Talisyn turns all of her work in accurately and on time. She is a good team

member and is always willing to help other staff when they have issues or concerns, or just need someone to talk to. Talisyn is an excellent role model for this center as well as the entire program."



The Lakeview Staff. Judy Smith, Kerie Craven, Christina Morrow, Holly Roberson, and Jamie Goins went into action recently when an electrical plug/outlet malfunctioned and the classroom filled with smoke. They called 911 and followed emergency evacuation procedures to keep everyone safe. As

soon as the fire department checked and cleared the building, OPS Manager, Glenn Elrod, quickly changed the outlet and the Center was back in business. Great Job!



From L to R, above: Judy Smith, Kerie Craven, Christina Morrow, Holly Roberson, Jamie Goins, and Glenn Elrod.



Greg Cargile, OPS Maintenance Specialist. Recently, while I was at Whitfield HS/EHS picking up supplies, Greg noticed that my tires were low. He went out of his way to air them up and keep me safe. That was a VERY kind gesture. He is a true gentleman. Thank you! ~Submitted by Georgia Gillean, Floating Assistant Teacher at Dalton High EHS.

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PLEASE REMEMBER

- Just a Reminder : Individual Professional Development Plan goals should be completed by March 31, 2011.
- Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13, 2011. This is your alert! This is your early warning! Prepare now and mark those calendars! Have a very happy spring, y'all!





From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulgham, Director

Funding: That is the big news for both Head Start and Georgia Pre-K. Both are looking at possible/probable funding cuts. We do not know at this point what this will mean, but will keep you updated as soon as we know. Remember, you may contact your Georgia legislators about Pre-K and national legislators about Head Start funding. The website for current information is: nhsa.org.

Review: I am VERY happy to report that we received our "Official" review letter and report stating that we are in compliance with all regulations! YEA!!!! They also included in the report details about what they considered the "most notable" of our numerous strengths: 1) Our governance structure ensuring effective communication between the program and the Policy Council and Board; 2) Our monitoring system which creates a "comprehensive culture of program monitoring" at every level; and 3) Our comprehensive system of technology to communicate and share information. Thank you to ALL of you for making this a quality program!



By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

Welcome to Maria Ortega-Valdovinos! I'd like to say welcome to our newest Center Supervisor, Maria Ortega-Valdovinos. She will be supervising Whitfield-Dalton HS/EHS and Pioneer HS. She will be working with Kaye Ralston, CM for Westside HS/EHS and Park Creek HS.

Pre-K Excellence. The CLASS observations that have been done of the Pre-K classrooms have gone extremely well. Kelly Collins, Program Coordinator, has been doing a great job contacting and working with the Pre-K Office and meeting with the Pre-K staff to ensure that the Pre-K Assessment meets HS Performance Standards. Pam Bojo always has positive things to say about our Pre-K Program. We really enjoy working with Pam — she is an excellent consultant, always ready with advice and encouragement. Janice Haker, the Head Start Collaboration Director for Georgia, says that Pam Bojo has nothing but good things to say about how well our program is implemented. Other HS programs in Georgia that have the Pre-K collaboration are asking us how we are administering the program and how we make it work so well meeting HS Performance Standards and the State regulations without having the teaching staff do double-work.

Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director



It's that time of year again...ALREADY! Our annual evaluation process has begun. As you may have heard and will soon see, our scoring system has changed from a five point score to only a three point score. Beginning with this evaluation, a score of 3 will remain the "benchmark" score indicating your performance is as expected. A score of 2 will still denote that the performance is below an acceptable level and a score of 4 will denote an above average performance. Hopefully this will make the scoring process easier and more consistent. Please remember that when you set your self-goals you should be able to utilize your Individual Professional Development Plan goals in addition to any goals you may need based on your performance.

We are going strong on our new Workplace Safety Incentive Program. We are at the end of the second month with NO Worker's Comp claims submitted from any location within our program. Keep up the safe work habits!!! Remember, safety pays!!



Mr. O'Toole volunteered to watch his numerous children so that Mrs. O'Toole could have a nice evening out. When bedtime came, he sent the youngsters upstairs to bed and settled down to read by the fire. One child kept creeping down the stairs, but O'Toole, not putting up with any shenanigans, kept sending him back up to bed. At 10 o'clock the doorbell rang. Mrs. O'Brien, the neighbor, had come to call.

"Well, hello there, Mrs. O'Brien! What can I be doin' fer ya, this fine evening?" Mr. O'Toole asked. Mrs. O'Brien asked if Mr. O'Toole had seen her son. O'Toole said no.

Just then a little head appeared over the banister and a voice shouted, "I'm here, Ma, but he won't let me go home!"



Liam had left Dublin to go up to Belfast for a bit of skydiving. Late Sunday evening, he was found in a tree by a local farmer. When the farmer asked what happened, Liam replied that his chute failed to open.

"Well, if you had asked one of the locals before you jumped, they would have told you nothing opens here on a Sunday."

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Think Pink!

By Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator

Thank you Westside staff for wearing red in honor of February-American Heart Month, and the child who had successful heart surgery! Heart disease is the leading cause of death and disability in this country. Also, thank you to Anitra for your awareness that a child in your class was struggling with vision problems; speaking with the parents about your concerns; and ultimately seeing that the child was examined and fitted for glasses! We should all be aware that changes can occur with children throughout the year and don't hesitate to seek help if you see these changes.

Tiger Creek is leading the way again this year with transition activities with their kindergarten Crayon Pals! The pals will get together to make green eggs and ham in honor of Dr. Seuss week! Can YOUR center invite the pals over too? Can YOU invite the kindergarten teacher to come for a visit?

Gidget Griffin with South Walker is really leading the way with the children who are coming to her center with IEP's. She requested to be a part of a child's IEP meeting, even though the child was not yet coming to her center. This kind of proactive involvement will benefit the child, parents and classroom. Great Job Gidget!

Sherree Lovain gets the "Think Pink" award this month. She always has pink notes, pink paper clips and other pink things to show that she is a positive, progressive, upbeat and optimistic person. Thanks for your attitude!

Special Projects News

By Debbie McKissick, Special Projects Coordinator



REMINDER: LAST CALL FOR THE MARGO SOMMERS SCHOLARSHIPS! Applications are due by **March 15th**. If you have any questions about the scholarship or the application, please contact Debbie McKissick at (706) 419-7020 or email her at dmckissick@fragahs.com.

Who knew using your "noodle" could be so much fun? Our wonderful sales representative from Kaplan recently donated some Brain Noodles to our staff at the last In-Service. If you've never wrapped your "noodle" around a Brain Noodle, you're missing the fun! They look like huge pipe cleaners that you can bend into any shape, even letters. Here are some photos of a couple of our Head Start children "busy as B's" and having a great time using their noodles!



Dade HS/ EHS. Dade would like to welcome the following new staff to our center: Cristy Baker, Karen M u s s a r e d,

and Tracy Carson. Next week we will be doing our favorite week of the year "Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss." All the staff really get into it and the children have a great time. Please remember to let everyone you know to call in and support Head Start. Every call matters and you can make a difference. ~Submitted by Charlotte Cuticchia, CM.

Ringgold EHS / Tiger Creek HS. Wow, I can't believe that we are already almost finished with this school year! I would like to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication! I appreciate the job that you do each day. We would like to congratulate Mandy Hickman and wish her the best of luck in her new job title, we will miss you! We would also like to welcome Alisha Brock to Tiger Creek — welcome to our team we look forward to working with you!! ~Submitted by Sherree Lovain, CM.

Westside HS/EHS. February is American Heart Month, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's (NHLBI) continues to help increase awareness that

heart disease is the No.1 killer of women. On Friday, February 4, 2011, Westside HS/EHS wore red to show their support for women's heart disease awareness on National Wear Red Day. One of our children at Westside HS/EHS went through open heart surgery on January 26th, so the whole center wore red in support of heart disease.



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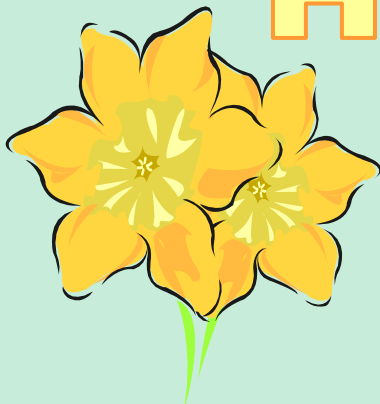
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- 3 Billie Beebe
- 4 Terri Caylor
- 4 Santana Walker
- 5 Candace Harris
- 6 Jenifer Hixson
- 9 Maria Ortega-Valdovinos
- 9 Cynthia Floyd
- 15 Kenneth Morgan
- 16 Heather Harris
- 18 Brandy Young
- 21 Doris Moore
- 21 Kathy Burns
- 22 Ronnie Joe Jones
- 24 Quantrell Coffey
- 24 Carl Quinn
- 27 Tamara LeSage
- 28 Charlotte Scott
- 29 Mildred Goodson
- 29 Judith Miller
- 30 Connie Davis
- 30 Kandis Swafford
- 31 Margarita Molina
- 31 Felicia Harris
- 31 Megan Tate

M
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EARTH DAY SONG

By: Sandra Moyer

Tune: If You're Happy And You Know It

If you love our world, clap your hands (clap, clap)
If you love our world, clap your hands (clap, clap)
If you love our world, really love our great big world;
If you love our world, clap your hands! (clap, clap)

If you love our world, plant new trees (new trees!)
If you love our world, plant new trees (new trees!)
If you love our world, plant new trees for birds and bees;
If you love our world, plant new trees! (new trees!)

If you love our world, recycle (recycle!)
If you love our world, recycle (recycle!)
If you love our world, then recycle and reuse;
If you love our world, recycle! (recycle!)

If you love our world do your part (do your part!)
If you love our world do your part (do your part!)
If you love our world, really love our great big world;
If you love our world, BE SMART! (be smart!!)

QUALITY CORNER

~ Submitted by
Betsy Taggart
and
Martha Baker,
Quality Monitors

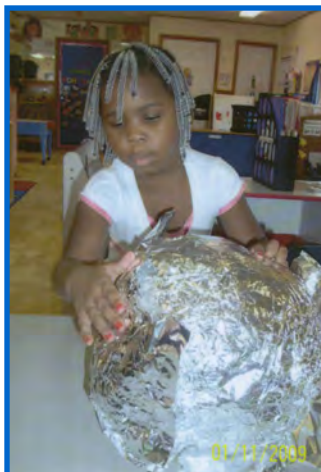


BEAN BAG GAME

Original Author Unknown

Play a game using bean bags as cans and a hula-hoop as the recycling bin. Stand in a circle around your "recycling bin" and sing this song to the tune of "Five In The Bed and The Little One Said":

There's a can in the bin and another goes in! Recycle! Recycle!
So _____ (child's name) **recycled and threw in a can.**
There's two cans in the bin, etc.



At Chattooga Head Start, there's a strange and wondrous experiment underway! Since the beginning of the Program Year in August 2010, each Monday has been designated "Tin Foil Day". Each child brings in a piece of tin foil to add to the tin foil ball being create by the classroom. How big is it, you ask? Well, in this case, pictures are better than words (see photo at left)! At the end of the year, the children will weigh and recycle the aluminum ball. Thanks to the teaching staff at Chattooga Head Start — Sue Stephens, Lindsey Taylor, Michelle Hall, and Jacqueline Shropshire — for leading our future scientists as they conduct their experiment!