



FRAGA GAB



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

May 2011

Staff Of The Month



Phyllis Taylor is the Administrative Assistant at the Administrative Office.

Staff of the Month for May is Phyllis Taylor, Administrative Assistant at the Administrative Office.

"Not only does Phyllis do her job, but she volunteers to help everyone else do their job as well.

"It doesn't matter what the task is, Phyllis is there to help. Entering purchase orders, organizing files, calling up community resource contacts, entering data into the human resources software system... Phyllis has been a "most valuable player" at Admin in many ways. When there's a deadline and you need an extra set of willing and competent hands, Phyllis is right there asking "How can I help?" She is a valuable asset to us all."

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CAUGHT in the Act



Kelly Fariss, FSS, Murray HS/EHS. Kelly holds the record for applications completed and checked for the next school year. She accomplished this while also helping at Dalton Heritage while an FSS there was out on extended leave. Kelly is always willing to go above and beyond to make sure we are in compliance and to help our families.



Carl Quinn, OPS. Carl Quinn took quick action recently getting our tricycles repaired and back to the Center. We had planned a tricycle race for Week of the Young Child. A few days before the race, we noticed a few of the trikes needed repair. Carl repaired them and had them back to the center the next day so that we could have the race. Thanks, Carl!



The **Week Of The Young Child**, now in its 40th year, is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we — as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation — will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

(Source: NAEYC website at www.naeyc.org)



PLEASE REMEMBER

- Due to power outage from the storms, the annual **Volunteer Awards Luncheon** has been rescheduled for Friday, May 20th. Same time, same place: 11am—1pm at The Car Barn.
- **Staff Appreciation Day** is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th at The Car Barn. Please be watching your email for additional information. We have a fun day planned for you!





From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulham, Director

Head Start Funding. As I am sure you have seen in the news, Congress voted to fund Head Start at the same level as current funding! Yea!!! This means we will receive the same amount for next year that we have this year. (Of course, costs are increasing



primarily due to gas prices, so we will have to do some "belt tightening".) Additionally, an increase of \$340 million was voted for Head Start. That will be to continue the classrooms that were originally funded by ARRA. Yea, again!!! These classes will be added to our base funding grant, so next year the Expansion will not be "Expansion". It will simply be an additional 6 EHS classrooms in our EHS program and we will have Head Start and Early Head Start (no EHS Expansion). This is very good news. For the year after that, we will again be asking Congress to maintain the same level of funding for Head Start. This means you will have another opportunity to be contacting legislators to tell them about the importance of Head Start! There will be no COLA increases this year. We are just grateful that Congress sees the value of Head Start and did not cut our funds as they had originally planned.

Beth Shropshire. We are all so saddened by the loss of Beth. She worked for our Agency for several years and was, I know, friends with many of you and had worked at different centers so has worked with many staff members. Our condolences to her family and our staff, children and families.

End of the Year. Wow. This has been a busy year! From starting off with a "perfect" review (YEA!) and implementation of the Expansion program to wondering if Head Start as we know it would exist next year! I am looking forward to attending as many of your year end activities as possible and seeing you at the Staff Appreciation Day!

Storms. There are no words to describe the last few days. Our thoughts and prayers go to everyone with the difficult things you and our families are having to deal with. Other Georgia Head Start directors, the Regional Office, the Georgia Collaboration Director, our Regional T/TA persons, some of our vendors, and the Cleveland Office have been calling to express their concerns and offers of assistance. Thank you to staff who had to evacuate the children to safe locations. We will be dealing with these issues for the next days, weeks, and even months with the devastation in Ringgold and Dade. Thank you all for your concern for each other, our families, and the Centers.

Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director



First I'd like to send thoughts and prayers to all the staff and families who have been touched by the recent tornado devastation in our area. All of our staff are safe but some have had damage to homes and property and there were some close calls.

We are all struggling to find ways to cope with the losses our communities are facing. I am so happy, though, to hear of the numerous volunteers and the compassion and caring being shown by so many. We will continue to work to insure our families and children still receive the services they need.

Secondly, I wanted to let you know that we were able to apply for 16 playground grants through Head Start Body Start. This grant is designed to add to or improve playgrounds to encourage more physical activity for the children. Grant winners are to be announced in June and although it is doubtful we would receive all 16, we are still hopeful that we get several. Keep your fingers crossed!



Melissa's Page

By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

I would like to **welcome Renee Lyons** as the new Center Manager for Lakeview HS/Pre-K, Cloud Springs HS and Battlewood HS/EHS. Renee has many years of experience with the Agency that she brings to her new role and we look forward to working with her.

I had the chance to **visit your Centers** during the month of April and really enjoyed my classroom visits. The children were all having a good time. Some of the fun things I was able to experience were: children playing with bugs on the playground, picking flowers, playing with bubbles, balls, drawing, painting, riding trikes, making eggs out of play dough, singing songs, using the computer to learn their shapes/colors/numbers, going to Bi-Lo, making lunch and reminding me I needed to pay, picture day. I was even involved in a fire drill — everything went smoothly. The teachers did a great job keeping the children calm by singing songs. I truly enjoyed every visit. Way to go, staff!

The Child Development Department met with the Tennessee Child Development department in April to "share the wealth" of ideas relating to how we provide services and meet goals.

(continued on page 4)



Think Pink!

By Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator

Thank you to Valley Point Head Start for inviting Mark Millican to read to your students during the Week of the Young Child. You have a very nice "temporary" center and all of you were wonderful with the children. The children were so polite and adorable! You are doing a great job!

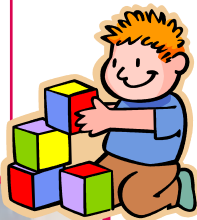
May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Have you used the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment manual with success? If you have, I would love to hear from you about the different concepts that worked for you. We all need new ideas and skills sometimes, and the DECA will give you some great tips for social and emotional challenges you face in your classroom.

Celebrate how far you have come this year with the children in your classroom! I am so impressed with the differences from August to May that I see in your centers. There has been remarkable progress with the children's social, emotional and intellectual areas. And physically, I see such growth in height that I have to pause to be sure I am just in a 3 and 4 year old class. It must be due to our outstanding breakfasts and lunches.

August and September can be very challenging, so rest during the summer and come back with the enthusiasm it takes to get through all the challenges during those months. In August, remember what it is like in your classroom now, and tell yourself that you will again see the difference you make by next May!

Rejoice and have fun this month because you have earned it! Your students will do extremely well next year BECAUSE YOU CARED for them this year! Thank you!

A Chattooga County Sheriff's Deputy stops in to read to the children at Chattooga EHS. One of the primary goals of WOYC is increasing community awareness of the importance of early childhood education.



Special Projects News

By Debbie McKissick, Special Projects Coordinator

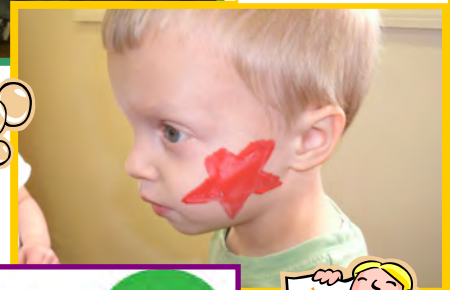


Family Resource Agency of North Georgia observed the Week of the Young Child (April 10-16, 2011) at all 22 of our centers in northwest Georgia. It was certainly a cause for celebration, as you can see by the wonderful pictures that were sent in from the centers.



These children from Murray EHS "a-door" celebrating the Week of the Young Child!

The stars don't just shine during Week of the Young Child — our children are stars every day at FRA!



OPS Maintenance Specialist, Greg Cargile and OPS Specialist, Eddie Millican, trade in their tools for tunes during WOYC 2011. Can you say:

FRAGApalooza?



Aren't they cute as a bug?! Bright shades of facepaint and brighter smiles adorn the faces of children at Chattooga EHS in honor of WOYC.

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of North Georgia**

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www.fragahs.com

- 4 Kimberly Davis
- 4 Tiffany Edgerton
- 5 Tina Castleberry
- 7 Amanda Hickman
- 8 Luz Hernandez
- 14 Harriet Cargile
- 14 Anitra Paul-Morris
- 14 Alison Lowe
- 16 Emily Rogers
- 16 Magan Trammel
- 17 Lisa Daniel
- 18 Sharron Crittenden
- 22 Casee Sizemore
- 23 Ann York
- 26 Sheila Cooper
- 27 Kimberly Flowers
- 31 Candie Lynch

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We cannot believe another school year is coming to an end — time flies! Hopefully, everyone will have a safe and happy summer, filled with sunshine! While you are out enjoying family time, here are a few ideas of things to do around the Chattanooga area:

Chattanooga Market: FREE on Saturdays!

Creative Discovery Museum: FREE every 2nd Thursday from 5:30pm—8:00pm.

Movies in Coolidge Park: FREE on Saturdays in July.

Chattanooga LookOuts: Wednesday home games: \$7 for your seat, hot dog and soda.

Chattanooga LookOuts: June 6 and July 18: Kids eat FREE!

And of course, do not forget other local favorites like: Warner Park Zoo, Chattanooga Aquarium, Lake Winnie, The Nature Center, The Riverpark, Chattanooga Ducks, IMAX, Rock City, Ruby Falls, and The Wilderness Outdoor Movie Theatre!

QUALITY

~ Submitted by
Betsy Taggart
and
Martha Baker,
Quality Monitors

CORNER

Happy Summer!



week of the young child woyc

I believe that
Children are our future —
Teach them well
And let them lead the way.



**Melissa's
Page**

... (continued from page 2)

We appreciate our sister program in Tennessee hosting our session and enjoyed our time collaborating!

The CM Committee and the Child Development Department will be working hard to get all the changes implemented for the new year from the Center Staff Committee as well as our new assessment tool, **GOLD**. The one thing in Head Start that is constant is change! These changes, however, are exciting and will help us continue to provide the very best services to our children and families. Stay tuned for more to come at our upcoming Pre-Service in August!

Last, but certainly not least, **thank you to the Chattanooga Elks** organization for their generous donation of a book for each classroom. Our community partners help to make our program the success that it is. We appreciate you!

If it takes a village to raise a child,
it takes a community
to create a successful program.

Thank You!

- ... Parents and Families
 - ... School and Community Partners
 - ... Vendors and Service Providers
 - ... Friends of Head Start
 - ... Regional Office Representatives
 - ... Family Resource Agency Staff
- We couldn't do it without **you!**