



FRAGA GAB



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

October 2011

Staff Of The Month



Melody Wingfield is the Office Manager at the Admin Office.

Staff of the Month for October is Melody Wingfield, Office Manager at Admin.

“Melody is a great team player because she always makes sure the Admin and center staff have what they need. When situations arise, she is always on top of it. She takes minutes, coordinates the PA’s and Administrative Assistant, and when the HR Coordinator is out, she makes sure that paperwork is ready for new staff orientations to be done, as well as taking care of the many other HR tasks. In addition, Melody serves on several committees, does tracking for the Education Department, and tracks almost all the different contracts and leases. These are just a few of her many duties. Because of this and so much more, Melody deserves Staff of the Month.”



CAUGHT *in the Act*



Mandy Hickman, FSS at Westside HS/EHS received not one, but two nominations for Caught In The Act. She is Second-in-Charge at her center and constantly makes sure things run smoothly while Kaye is at other centers. She also does the FSS work for Westside and has taken on the EHS FSS support since that position has been vacant. She is an awesome coworker and a joy to be around. She is “wearing many hats” right now and is doing an excellent job! Thanks, Mandy, for being so excellent!



Remember that your annual **Health Risk Assessment (HRA)** is coming due! The HRA requires you to visit your physician for a physical and lab work including fasting blood sugar, cholesterol panel, and weight/body mass measurements. As the holidays approach, more doctors are out of the office on leave, so be sure to call your physician and get your appointment set up. You will need to take the HRA form with you on the day of your visit for your doctor to fill out. Continuation of your

insurance coverage depends on completing the HRA. The HRA is required for any employee, spouse, and/or any dependent ages 18 years or older who is covered by Agency health insurance.

Data must be collected between August 1, 2011 and January 31, 2012. Completed forms must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **CATHERINE RICE — CONFIDENTIAL** and only then may they be given to your Center Manager to be delivered to the Admin Office. **Forms must be received by Catherine Rice by Tuesday, January 31, 2012.** A memo will be coming to your email shortly along with the form attached. The form will also be available online at www.fratn.com. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Rice at (423) 303-3519.

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PLEASE REMEMBER

- Are you checking your email daily? This is a new change for this Program Year. Be sure to check your email once per day so you don't miss out on important information regarding your benefits, payroll information, and program changes and/or requirements.
- Are you taking advantage of the Agency's Wellness Reimbursement option? FRA will reimburse you \$25.00/mo. towards the cost of a health club/gym membership or other fitness program when you participate in a minimum of (12) 30-min. sessions or (8) 45-min. sessions of exercise each month. This wonderful benefit not only pays you cash, but pays off in health rewards, too!



From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulgham, Director

FUNDING: Some hopeful news regarding future funding. The proposed Senate Appropriations Bill for FY 2012 funding includes comments about the importance of Head Start and increased funding:

“Head Start-Investments in early childhood education not only improve outcomes for low-income children and families, but save taxpayer dollars in the long-run through lower Federal and State welfare, special education, and criminal justice costs. The bill includes a \$340 million increase for Head Start, maintaining the recent expansion of 61,000 Head Start slots funded with Recovery Act funding in fiscal years 2009 and 2010. In total, Head Start will provide comprehensive early childhood services to 968,000 low-income children and families.”

This is because so many staff, parents and community people have contacted their legislators regarding the impact Head Start has on the lives of the families and children they serve and the need for continued support of the program. NHSA and state Head Start associations have also provided data to legislators documenting the effectiveness of the Head Start. Keep up your dialogue with Congress!

FALL CONFERENCE: The Georgia Head Start Association will again be having the state-wide Fall Conference in Dalton. They are so impressed with our area and the support our program gives to the conference that they just keep coming back!



By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

We are *piloting* a program called **Seeing Numbers** in the following HS classrooms: WS, WD, PC, and PI (thanks to the teaching staff in these classrooms for their dedication to our children). **Seeing Numbers** is an interactive new approach to the concept of numbers. This method encourages mathematical thinking using visual patterns of various shapes and colors in ten progressive modules. It promotes understanding of numbers, because children can see, understand and process the information. This concept works hand-in-hand with GOLD objective 20 - Uses number concepts and operations.

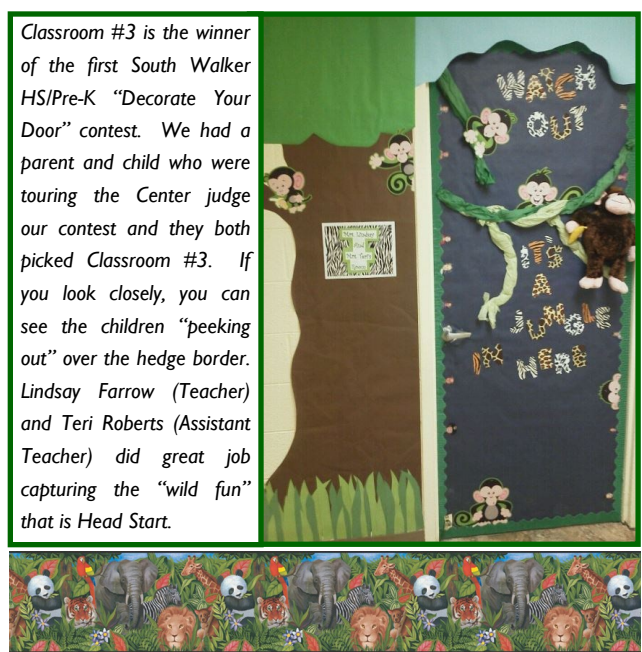
This program was developed by Dr. Sue Phelps, a retired math teacher who worked 25 years with Whitfield County Schools.

Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director



I am excited to announce that we will meet the October mandate for Head Start Teachers to all have an AA-ECE degree! I know many of you have put in a lot of hours and hard work to achieve this goal and you should be proud of your accomplishments. We are ahead of schedule for the Head Start Assistant Teachers to all have a CDA by 2013 and are on our way to meeting the mandate for 50% of the Head Start Teachers to have a BA-ECE. Becky will be taking volunteers for flex time to take classes toward the BA. Please remember that October 1, 2013 is only two years away and time seems to fly when you work for Head Start so that day will be here before you know it. If you haven't talked with Becky about options, now is the time to contact her.



Classroom #3 is the winner of the first South Walker HS/Pre-K “Decorate Your Door” contest. We had a parent and child who were touring the Center judge our contest and they both picked Classroom #3. If you look closely, you can see the children “peeking out” over the hedge border. Lindsay Farrow (Teacher) and Teri Roberts (Assistant Teacher) did great job capturing the “wild fun” that is Head Start.

"After a lot of work and a lot of experience, I came to the conclusion that we don't start our children correctly in mathematics," said Dr. Phelps regarding what led her to develop the curriculum.

In addition to having the **Seeing Numbers** curriculum itself, our teaching staff will receive training from Dr. Sue Phelps before implementing the program. This is the perfect example of why we are such a great program — we have staff that will “step up” to help children become more successful.

*Change starts when someone sees the next step.
~ William Drayton*





Think Pink!

By Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator

This has been a hectic first few weeks, but many of you have gone above and beyond your routine duties, and I appreciate it.

Linda Blevins at Mountain View was gracious to retrieve a form from the MV staff room to send to Kid's Station for their Mental Health training when they were needing it *immediately*.

At Lakeview, Judy Smith's class developed a "Children, Children, What Do You See?" book about the children in her class to send to their kindergarten Crayon Pals and it was well received. Great idea!

Joseph Burrage was witness to three non-verbal (and some non-mobile) children communicating using only grunts at our Pennville site.

A mother from last year's class at **Tiger Creek** told our teacher that her child "felt smart in kindergarten and loves it" and that was due to our wonderful class there last year.

Dade HS/EHS has a child who attended their center last year, now is in kindergarten, and is doing so well in reading that she will join the first grade class for their reading instruction. Great job, Dade!

Donna Blevins, Eva Neil and Kim Gardner came to my rescue one afternoon when I was working on a large project. They just noticed I was needing help (I didn't even ask them) and they stopped what they were doing to come help me.

These incidents and many others make Family Resource Agency an inspiring place to work. Thank you so much.



FRA Teacher of the Year, Karla Suttle, with Rebecca Fulgham, Director, upon receiving her award in September 2011. Karla will go on to represent the Agency at the State level competition.

Karla began her journey 24 years ago as an Assistant Teacher at South Walker Head Start. During that time, as Karla taught hundreds of children, she was also often a student. In 1993, she completed her CDA. In 2002, she earned her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Northwestern Technical

What does it take to create a Teacher Of The Year? For Karla Suttle, Teacher at South Walker HS and FRA Teacher of the Year recipient for 2011, it takes a healthy mix of past accomplishments, present actions, and future aims, all committed to one thing: the education and success of the young child.

Teacher of the Year Karla Suttle

By Melody Wingfield, Office Manager



(continued from below) College. Karla also obtained her CDL in addition to her degrees/certifications. Since the completion of her AA degree, Karla continues to seek out and take advantage of training opportunities — and the list is long!

The knowledge that Karla gathers is immediately put into action in her classroom. She coordinates community members — fire-fighters, librarians, philanthropic organizations at the local high school — to participate in classroom activities. It might be reading a book to the children, collecting gifts at the holidays, or a lesson in "stop, drop, and roll". Regardless, the children learn that their classroom actually extends into the community and the world is a wonderful place to learn. Karla works hard to keep parents apprised of their child's development and weekly activities, seeking a true partnership that contributes to the betterment of all involved.

All that past preparation and daily effort is geared towards one special aim: not just lifting her students up, but helping them fly. In her application essay, Karla said:

"As an educator, I am an influential figure in the children's lives. I teach them how to be effective communicators, help them to develop good character traits, morals and values, how to respect/treat others, and how to behave in society. It is my duty to assist my students in achieving a higher level of learning, and helping them to reach their highest potentials."



In the pursuit of her goal, Karla also shows great humility, noting that she could not do what she does without a caring and committed team surrounding her — her Assistant Teacher, Center Staff, and Center Manager all make the success possible.

Karla is the epitome of what makes Head Start and Early Head Start teachers the best in the nation. Her past is filled with education and experience and each present moment is not only an opportunity to learn but also to share her love and knowledge. The future of our nation and our world smiles and plays and counts and shares every day in Ms. Karla's classroom — and in every FRA Head Start classroom. Teachers like Karla Suttle are those that truly transcend time, for they know that each day in the classroom, each lesson learned, each choice made becomes part of a child — and that child's world — forever.

Thank you, Ms. Karla — because of you, and the rest of our teaching staff, the future looks bright!

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of North Georgia**

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**OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Minnie Turner
- 2 Angela Singleton
- 2 Nancy Dena
- 2 Alisha Brock
- 3 Sue Stephens
- 5 Malia Keener
- 5 Cecily Sims
- 6 Charlotte White
- 8 Michelle Holcombe
- 8 Julia Altman
- 8 Becca Fulgham
- 9 Shirley Thompson
- 10 Gladys Bentley
- 10 Amanda McNair
- 11 Roberta Derry
- 13 Beverly Bearden
- 15 Kimberly Cordell
- 17 LaRhonda Martin
- 17 Abby Tapp
- 18 Lisa Chambers
- 18 Craig Keener
- 21 Retha Aters
- 21 Nita Thatcher
- 21 Kaye Ralston
- 22 Patricia Underwood
- 23 Audrey Perry
- 24 Charlene McMichael
- 26 Ashley Griffith
- 29 Stacy Long
- 30 Greg Cargile
- 30 Jamie Goins
- 30 Malynaye Barragan

**CONGRATULATIONS to KARLA SUTTLE,
FRA's TEACHER OF THE YEAR!!**

We are excited about the upcoming meetings with our Resource Committee. They are coming up with some great ideas for lesson plans and classroom activities. We are working with them on how to organize and implement them so you all can start using them in your classrooms.

Special thanks to committee members: Barbie Fitzpatrick, Kelly Dodds, Angie Mathis, Nita Thatcher, Lilly Tipton, Ernestine Bonaparte, Tiffany Edgerton.



In the meantime, here is a cute idea to assist your children with letter recognition. Children can work with the whole eggs to learn the letters, and later, they can try to match up lowercase and uppercase halves to see if they can get the letters paired up "eggs-actly right".



~ Submitted by
Betsy Taggart
and
Martha Baker,
Quality Monitors

**Mountain View HS/EHS/
Pre-K.**

I would like to welcome our new staff on board. In classroom #1, we have two transfers, Rebecca Lee and Kandis Swafford. We have 4 new teaching staff: Karen Long in Class #1, Christina Leavey in Pre-K class #2, April Shadwick in Classroom #3, and Julianna Cowan in Class #6. I would also like to thank all the returning staff from last year — I hope this year is a joy for all of us.

We have a lot going on at the center! We had a breakfast for the grandparents, and we had around 100 grandparents come and enjoy breakfast with their grandchild(ren) (top photo).

We have a mobile library that we move around the center for the children to check out books to take home. The child is responsible for bringing that book back so they can check out another one. The children really enjoy the mobile library (middle photo).

This has been a very busy year to start off with, espe-



cially with the new lesson plans and GOLD. The teaching staff have said good things about completing the lesson plans and entering the GOLD observations. GOLD is a little time consuming but going well.

We have a lot of activities planned for the upcoming months. The staff and I hope that everyone enjoys the weather we are having. ~Submitted by Lisa Payne-Rice, CM.



Pioneer HS, Westside HS/EHS, Park Creek HS, Whitfield—Dalton HS/EHS.

This month Westside went to Kool Smiles and had such a great time (see bottom photo)! They heard a story, played, got their dental screenings, and were welcomed by such friendly staff there. Westside would like to welcome Ashley Trentham, the new Assistant Teacher for Full Day, and Heather McGuire, the new cook at Westside. Whitfield-Dalton would like to welcome our new FSS, Lorena Jimenez. We know you will all do a great job! ~Submitted by Kaye Ralston, CM.