



# FRAGA GAB



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia

Welcome Back — August 2011

## Staff Of The Month



Kaye Ralston is Center Manager at four Centers at FRA-GA.

Staff of the Month for July is Kaye Ralston, Center Manager at Park Creek HS, Pioneer HS, Westside HS/ EHS, and Whitfield-Dalton HS/EHS/.

*“Kaye took over Westside at the end of the 2010-11 Program Year. Westside has a kitchen, Full Day and EHS — none of which she has ever managed before. She has served on the CM Committee, helping to create new policies and procedures for use at all our Centers. Kaye is always compassionate to those around her and always willing to help in any way needed. Kaye demonstrates great spirit and attitude regardless of the challenges you bring to her. Even though she is busy with all of the centers she manages, she is still always available to help everyone and answer any questions we might have. She treats everyone with respect and is never in a bad mood. Overall, she is awesome!”*



Staff of the Month for August is Tamara LeSage, Human Resources Coordinator at Admin.

*“Tamara has been working very hard to get us ready for the new year with staff contracts, helping with the budget and revising the Program Plan, as well as preparing the annual orientation for Pre-Service.*

*“Her phone “rings off the hook” all day long, but somehow she still manages to get her work done, even though she has to stay late many days to do so. She will always stop whatever she is doing to help anyone in need. This makes her a great team member!*



Tamara LeSage is Human Resources Coordinator at the Administrative Office.

### IN THIS ISSUE

From The Director's Desk	2
Paula's Point of View	2
Melissa's Page	2
Think Pink!	3
Special Projects News	3
Center Stage	3
Quality Corner	4
Summer Birthdays	4



### PLEASE REMEMBER

- It is Agency Policy that **you must sign** your timesheet and any leave sheet before turning them in to your Center Manager. Timesheets and Leave Sheets not signed may not be approved for payroll!
- **Have you moved or changed your phone number over the summer?** If so, please request an Employee Information form from your Center Manager. Fax the filled out form with your changed information to Tamara LeSage, HR Coordinator, at (706) 419-7052 so we can update our records. Thank you!



## CAUGHT *in the Act*



**They're EVERYWHERE!** Every day around you, someone goes above and beyond to help someone in need... and we want to know who they are! If you catch someone going that extra mile, please remember to send in their name(s) to Debbie McKissick (dmckissick@fragahs.com) so that we can recognize them in the newsletter. You can submit an individual, or several, or even an entire Center! Feel free to send pictures along with your nomination. Who knows — maybe you'll be the one Caught In The Act!



## From The Director's Desk

By Rebecca Fulham, Director

Welcome back! I think most of us are ready for summer to end - even if it means getting back in full swing - because of the oppressive heat!

**BUDGET:** Funding is VERY tight this summer. The increase in costs for salaries + benefits for staff who have obtained credentials and degrees, the increased cost of EVERYTHING with no additional funding and the increased costs of unemployment benefits have made the budget very squeaky this year. And there is no relief in sight as we did not receive a COLA increase this year even though all these costs are rising.

**FUNDING:** The debt crisis is of great concern to everyone. It is going to affect us at least in that it makes it unlikely that Head Start will see any increases. No one really knows what effect it will have on the economy. At this point we will all need to be watching the news and checking the NHSA.org website to see when we need to contact our legislators to encourage them to support Head Start. President Obama is a big Head Start supporter, but funding levels are determined by a bill that has to go through both the House and the Senate. Please be sure and keep up with what is going on in Washington so you can weigh in with your opinion.

**UPCOMING YEAR:** The new Creative Curriculum will be put in place this year and along with it the Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessment system for Head Start. GOLD is aligned with the Revised Head Start Outcomes Framework. This means there will be more computers and more of the teaching job being done on the computer. The CLASS system will also become a part of our ongoing monitoring as it is now being used by both Head Start and Pre-K to assess classroom interactions. So this year will be a year of learning! Early Head Start Expansion will become part of our ongoing Early Head Start program. Yea! And there's no federal review this year, so we can start the year focusing on doing what we do!

Thank you for committing to the program for another year! Hope it's a rewarding one!



By Melissa Hankins, Child Development Coordinator

## Paula's Point Of View

By Paula Bacon, Assistant Director



Welcome back to the beginning of another great year! It has been a busy summer, but we received some very good news about several grants we submitted. In the spring we submitted 16 grant applications to Head Start Body Start requesting funds to purchase new playground equipment for many of the centers. The grants were for up to \$5000 each and we were so excited to find out we will receive 13 out of the 16 requests.

The following centers will be getting their equipment before December 2011: Battlewood HS, Cloud Springs HS, Chattooga HS, Dade HS, South Walker HS, Valley Point HS, and Westside EHS. The remaining centers will receive theirs some time in 2012: Lakeview HS, Tiger Creek HS, Mountain View HS, Dalton Heritage HS, Pioneer HS, and Dalton High Early. We will know more specific dates soon.

So look for some exciting new equipment at each of these locations. Some of the packages that were awarded are trike paths, climbers, nature packages, music packages and more. Each center receives one specific item based on the grant awards. In addition, we received \$5,000 in disaster relief assistance from the National Head Start Association to help move the playground at Ringgold Early Head Start due to the tornado damage.

Hopefully this good luck will continue and give us all a very successful new year!

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. We're looking forward to a great year and a successful implementation of some changes to our Lesson Plans and the new HS/EHS assessment tool, GOLD. We have training planned to help you implement these new tools. Be sure that you ask questions if there is something you don't understand. Change may be a constant in Head Start, but we are here to help you succeed through those changes!



I'd also like to welcome **Kenny Morgan** to his new position as Center Supervisor for Dalton Heritage Head Start. Kenny came to us as an FSS transfer from the Tennessee program last year and has moved up from that position to an FS/CD Specialist before taking the position as Center Supervisor. We are fortunate to have someone so experienced in both the Family Services and Child Dev. aspects of our program.



## Think Pink!

By Teresa Millican, Program Coordinator



Welcome to the 2011-2012 Program Year!! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer!

Are you ready for the transition of all these wonderful children into your class? Remember to use "The Kissing Hand" book and tell your parents about it, so they can kiss their child's

hand before they leave home as a reassurance to them. Thank you for contacting the parents of last year's students to see how they did their first weeks in kindergarten. Are you beginning to build a relationship with the kindergarten teacher you will be communicating with all year? You do a wonderful job of preparing the children for kindergarten. Right now that seems a long time away, but time will pass quickly!

Have you prepared your class to include the children with disabilities? You may need to change some things to help them adapt. If you need advice about the best way to do that, we will be glad to help you.

## Special Projects News

By Debbie McKissick, Special Projects Coordinator



The following Centers received "perfect" licensing visits during May and June: Battlewood HS/EHS, Dade HS/EHS, Mountain View HS/EHS/Pre-K, Pennville HS, Tiger Creek HS, Westside HS/EHS, and Whitfield HS/EHS. Congratulations to all the staff at these centers. It takes everyone doing exactly what they are supposed to at all times in order to be in compliance. Thank you so much for all the hard work you do!



### Chattooga EHS.

We had a GREAT summer session at Chattooga Early Head Start - filled with lots of fun! With all the hot weather, the kids' favorite day was always Water Play Day! The kids enjoyed getting themselves and each other wet. Sometimes they even got the staff wet — although I don't think anyone really minded.

Our big day was our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration on July 5th. Even though there was a lot of rain the day before, and the playground was VERY wet, we had our celebration indoors. All the kids were in our brick building and they had many different activities to choose from - fishing, skee-ball, parachute, ball toss, and face painting. The children also worked very hard to decorate their classroom for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the winner of our classroom

decorating contest was Classroom 5 with Ms. Amanda and Ms. Denise. The winner of our skee-ball competition was TK — he scored 250 points! Pretty good for an 18-month-old! (See more photos of the Chattooga EHS celebration on Page 4).



The summer also brought the resignation of Mr. Steven. Everyone here is sad to see him go, but he is moving on to bigger and better things at Roper! Ms. Lekesha will be moving over to teach at Chattooga Head Start and she will also be greatly missed. We wish them both all the very best! I would also like to wish a big warm welcome to Jay Lowry - he is coming to

us from Westside Head Start and will be our new Kitchen Assistant.

We are looking forward to a great year and would like to wish everyone in the Family Resource Agency Family a FANTASTIC start to the 2011-2012 school year! ~Amy Turner, CM.

### Ringgold EHS / Tiger Creek HS / Ringgold Primary HS / Kids Station HS.

I would like to welcome all of my staff back! I hope you all enjoyed your time off. I am looking forward to another successful year with a great team! With that said, I would like to welcome, Samantha McNabb to our team as the new assistant teacher for Tiger Creek. We are excited to have you on board. I would also like to say a special, Thank you to Stacy Long for handling things while I was on vacation, and also to Angie Smith and Tammy Franklin for working so hard to get all of centers enrolled! Great job ladies!! ~Sherree Lovain, CM

**Family Resource Agency  
of North Georgia**

403 Chickamauga Avenue, Suite 201  
Rossville, GA 30741

Tel: 706.861.0105  
Fax: 706.861.3627



[www.fragahs.com](http://www.fragahs.com)

Below, children attending the Summer Program at Chattooga EHS are "Moving and Learning" at the Center's 4th-of-July celebration. Parachute games, bean-bag toss, skee-ball, and fishing were just some of the fun to be had!

WELCOME BACK! You are all SWEET TARTS for everything you teach children. You deserve 100 GRAND every PAYDAY. We know sometimes kids act like AIRHEADS and NERDS, or like they're all from somewhere beyond the MILKY WAY (Us Quality Monitors, too!). You bring such ALMOND JOY when you teach about the WHATCHAMACALLITS and ignore their WHOPPERS. It must be hard to contain your SNICKERS when those little SUGAR BABIES tell you MOUNDS of stories. Sometimes it must seem like all that you do is SKOR papers. Most days you probably want to make like BABY RUTH and just run home. Thank you, teachers! You are the RIESEN our children are SMARTIES instead of DUM DUMS. You truly are LIFESAVERS!

With HUGS and KISSES, Betsy and Martha.

~ Author Unknown

**QUALITY CORNER**

~ Submitted by  
Betsy Taggart  
and  
Martha Baker,  
Quality Monitors



- 24 Karla Suttle
- 24 Angelie Thompson
- 26 Theresa Powell
- 27 Lilly Tipton
- 27 Jessica Kennedy
- 28 Traci Rogers
- 30 Julie Cothren

- 23 Phyllis Taylor
- 23 Paula Bacon
- 24 Ella Townsend
- 27 Ashley Miller
- 28 Kelly Dodds
- 29 Maudell Wheeler

- 13 Becky Edwards
- 14 Sarah White
- 14 Sandra Sharp
- 15 Teresa Sheram
- 15 Tina Bailey
- 15 Eddie Millican

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Christina Davis
- 2 Jacqueline Shropshire
- 3 Ann Flegal
- 12 Lekesha Veatch
- 14 Debbie Goodrum
- 15 Mimi Kozarcanin
- 17 Angie Mathis
- 17 Tifani Keith
- 17 Tiffany Cobb
- 18 Crystal Crabtree
- 19 Linda Blevins
- 21 Cherelle Etchison
- 24 Karen Burse

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Angie Smith
- 2 Oceana Thomas
- 6 Stacy Kirby
- 7 Brenda Collins
- 7 Denise Butler
- 10 Samantha McNabb
- 15 Joyce Williams
- 15 Rebecca Williams
- 17 Misty White
- 19 Mozelle Morman
- 21 Tomoko Shipman
- 21 Renae Duckworth
- 22 Jay Lowry

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Veola Dunaway
- 2 Nella Bell
- 2 Delma Sanders
- 2 Jessica Dunn
- 2 Bobby Roberts
- 5 Shayna Jones
- 6 Patricia Wimpy
- 6 Rachel McGinnis
- 7 Sonia Hall
- 8 Renee Lyons
- 10 Paul Whiddon
- 10 Caroline Ware
- 11 Kimberly Cope
- 13 Crystal Lynn

- 16 Lindsay Howard
- 19 Star Fraterman
- 20 Catherine Buce
- 21 Paula Hooton
- 21 Joseph Burrage
- 22 Lisa Claxton
- 22 Ashly Smith
- 22 Ashley Panelle
- 24 Angela Chastain
- 26 Ashley Davis
- 28 Deborah Minor
- 28 Ginger Vanpelt
- 29 Karen Lindsey
- 30 Brittany Cheatham