

FRAGA Gab



From The Director's Desk By Paula Bacon, Director

Good news in so many areas of our program and in Head Start!

Funding: We are so excited and amazed that the Congressional leaders announced that they had struck a deal finalizing federal funding for Fiscal Year 2017. Details of the deal were released and it includes an **\$85 million increase to Head Start**. The \$85 million increase is allocated specifically to support the Head Start and Early Head Start workforce through a cost-of-living adjustment! We haven't heard how much the increase will be yet, however, considering the rumors were cuts up to 18% any increase is a surprise!

CNI #147 - Murray County: We are so excited that our child care partner in Murray County just received notification that their latest Quality Rated review resulted in moving from a 2-star center to a 3-star!! One of the EHS classes was chosen for the observations. As we all know this takes a lot of work and dedication to reach this level. Congratulations to CNI and our Murray staff who are working so well together to reach this accomplishment!

Trion HS/EHS: We received our notice of award for the carry-over balance of funds in the amount of \$248,589 to renovate and relocate 3 classes from Chattooga Early to Trion. This site will replace the Chattooga HS site we lost last August and will help us better meet the needs of the children and families in Chattooga County.

Ringgold EHS/Fort Oglethorpe EHS: We are excited that in May Ringgold EHS will have a new "odor-free" home at the Performance Learning Center in Fort Oglethorpe. We will be on site where there is a large population of teen parents and pregnant teens which is exactly what this center was created to serve.

Although this year has had many rocky places and obstacles to overcome, it appears we have finally passed that and are being rewarded for everyone's hard work!



**Family Resource Agency
of North Georgia**
Head Start/Early Head Start
Pre-K Program

***We Build
GREAT
Children!***

Inside this issue

Melissa's Page	2
Family Matters	2
Employee of the Month	2
Caught in the Act.....	2
In the Spotlight.....	3
Child Development News ..	4
Week of the Young Child ..	5
Happy Birthday Pre-K.....	6
Happy Birthday HS	7
Coach's Corner	8





Melissa's Page

By Melissa Metcalf, Asst. Director

Pre-K application: The grant application has been submitted for our 5 classes for the 2017-18 school year.

Volunteer Luncheon: Each year, we recognize volunteers who have made great contributions to our program this year by giving of their time and energy. Our Volunteer Appreciation Event was held at Tennessee Valley Railroad and it was wonderful! Sandy Matheson was our guest speaker and we presented our volunteers with awards. Afterward, parents and staff enjoyed lunch by Jason's Deli and a train ride. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

Community Assessment: The 2017 update is complete! Each year, the Performance Standards require us to evaluate data related to various demographics in our region (such as population, high school graduation rate, and others) in order to determine our service area's specific needs. This is an important part of how we craft our program, shaping our services to fit the needs of our communities.

Hope everyone has a SAFE, FUN, and RELAXING Summer!!

Employee of the Month:

Sandy Boydston

EHS Teacher at Dade HS/EHS



"Sandy is an example of what a true teacher, leader, mother, and role model should be. She shows her co-workers true character and it rubs off on others. She is always there when you need her.

She always has a positive attitude. She always does her job with the best of her abilities. She takes pride in her job. She is the best!! Thank you for all that you do!"



Family Matters

By Talisyn Ridley, Family Services Coordinator

This is a busy month for the Family Service Specialists. They are wrapping up the school year by helping families prepare for the next school year transition. This may include working with families to complete a re-enrollment application, talking to families about moving a child from Early Head Start to Head Start, or the steps needed to transition a child to Kindergarten. Families may need help preparing their child to meet a new teacher in a new classroom or move to a new school next year altogether. Whatever the need, our Family Service Specialists are available to assist, guide, and answer questions to help make the transition for families and children as smooth as possible!

~Submitted by: Angela Cope, FSS Quality Mentor

Caught in the Act!

Malia Keener and Glenn Elrod



Malia Keener, Food Service Manager at Whitfield HS/EHS and Glenn Elrod, Operations Manager at Admin. Malia and Glenn are Caught in the Act for May for going Above and Beyond their job duties. With the moving of Ringgold EHS, Malia asked Glenn about the food that reminded at the center. Glenn contacted Retha Aters, Nutrition Specialist, and it was decided that the food would be moved from Ringgold EHS and distributed to the other centers with in Catoosa County.





In the Spotlight

Dade HS/EHS

In partnership with NHTSA's Healthy Living Ambassador, Top Chef judge Hugh Acheson, Head Start programs all over the nation are now able to apply for a Garden Grant from NHTSA to help them begin their own center garden!

Dade HS/EHS has been awarded the Garden Grant for a full box garden. NHTSA's Garden Grants Project aims to foster an exciting hands-on experience for Head Start children and families that will increase their appreciation and understanding for healthy foods and nutrition.

Top Chef judge Hugh Acheson visited Dade on May 18th and read Scholastic books to the children as part of the Community Reading Day. He also talked to the children and parents about nutrition, the benefits of the new garden, and announced they have received the grant.

CONGRATULATIONS DADE HS/EHS!!!



Child Development News

During Jerry's recent visit to complete the MOC Review on the CCP classrooms he noted that he saw several strengths within our CCP classrooms:

- On-Going Quality Monitoring system.
- Comprehensive.
- Consistent .
- Coaching Model.
- Reliable follow through.
- Communication with Partners and mutual respect which is one of the hallmarks of a true partnership and one of the things OHS is hoping has been a result of the project (and has not always been) .
- High Quality services to children in every classroom .
- Well equipped classrooms and very well designed, safe facilities .
- Really happy children who adjusted quickly to a stranger .
- Highly engaged staff who appeared to enjoy their role in the classroom.



Here are some of the highlights from the other CCP sites:

WD. Tooth brushing . Jerry said that tooth brushing was done really well, lots of engagement with the children during this time and open-ended questions. He stated that if it had been a CLASS observation they would have scored very high.

TA. Positive Interactions. Jerry praised the interactions between the staff and the children, everything seemed to flow very smoothly throughout the classrooms.

CC. Positive Interactions and Choosy. Jerry praised the interactions between the staff and the children. Jerry enjoyed seeing our Choosy Nutrition program at this site.

MC. Positive Interactions and Relationship w/ partner. Jerry praised the interactions between the staff and the children. He stated that the Director of the daycare really showed an appreciation for the CM that oversees her CCP classrooms and it is evident to see that they have a strong relationship.

With ALL of the POSITIVE feedback that we were given ,we just wanted to take the time to say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our CCP teachers, Directors, CM/CS's and any other staff involved in keeping the CCP classrooms running smoothly. All of your hard work and dedication has really paid off and it showed during our visit from Jerry Parr.



Congratulations to Damian Brown of Battlewood HS and Liam Garcia of Whitfield Dalton HS, they had PERFECT ATTENDANCE! They were presented with certificates and a Whoo Hoo Bear.





Week of the Young Child

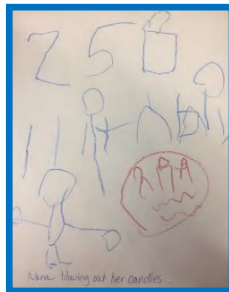
The Week of the Young Child was celebrated on April 24-28, 2017.

Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families.

Thank you to everyone who shared pictures with us!!

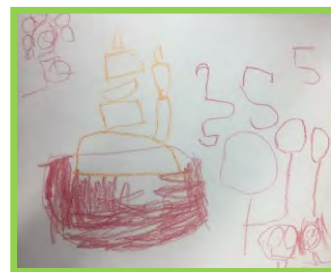
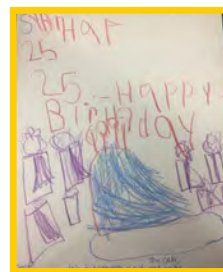
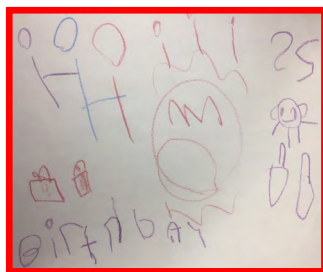


Happy Birthday Pre-K!



During the 2016–2017 school year, Georgia's Pre-K Program celebrated its 25th anniversary. To help celebrate their "birthday party" DECAL asked for artwork from children currently enrolled in Georgia's Pre-K.

Here are a few examples of the creative art work our children made to celebrate the anniversary.





Happy 52nd Birthday Head Start!

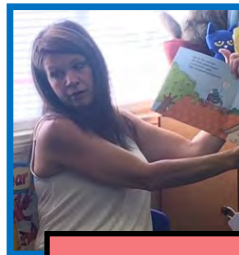


In honor of Head Start's birthday on May 18th, National Head Start Association partnered with Scholastic Books to organize 1,000 community reading days across the country. This was an amazing opportunity to unite the Head Start field and highlight the importance of local engagement in Head Start classrooms.

We selected several centers to participate in the Community Reading Days. The centers invited a local elected official or community leader to read aloud with a class using the new books donated by Scholastic.



Murray HS/EHS



Dalton Heritage HS/Pre-K



Murray HS/EHS: Murray County Commissioner Greg Hogan visited Murray HS/EHS and read books to the classrooms.

Dalton Heritage HS/Pre-K: Sonya Jones, wife of District 3-Whitfield County Commissioner Greg Jones read books and danced with the children.

Rock Spring HS/EHS: Rock Spring HS/EHS had three visitors for Community Reading Day. Sheriff Wilson visited the 2/3 year old room with Casee Brewer and Tiffany Chapman. Magistrate Judge Shelia Thompson spend time with the 3/5yr old room with Rebecca Lee. Probate Judge Christy Anderson read to the 6wks/2yr old room with Leslie Kendrick and Ashton Flick.



Rock Spring HS/EHS



**Family Resource Agency
of North Georgia**

403 Chickamauga Ave, Suite 201
Rossville, GA 30741

**Phone: 706-861-0105
Fax: 706-861-3627**

**ENROLLMENT:
enrollment@fragahs.com**

**VISIT US ONLINE AT:
www.fragahs.com**



FRAGA HEAD START



Coach's Corner

By Sara Davis, Mentor/Coach

"Everybody on the rug", by May you are bored with Large Group time as much as the children in your classroom! Hopefully, you'll get some new refreshing ideas from this article on creating a new approach to a fun and effective Storytime during Large Group.

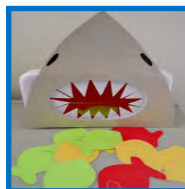
Make sure the book you choose is a good quality book. Remember quantity is not always quality. Read through the book and if you aren't able to come up with some solid questions and create attention captivating suspense, leave it on the shelf and keep searching! The book you choose should be flagged (by you) with reminders of where to stop and ask higher order thinking questions. Really know your book ahead of time. Use the cover of the book to create suspense and great questions. Book time in Large Group should help create lifetime readers. You are teaching the children what to look for in a book, how to approach stories effectively for knowledge, and a love of reading. If you are passionate about this part of Large Group, your library center will be a favorite center. Make Storytime interactive. If you can captivate their attention you will not have behavior issues or a crowd control problem. Have props that you use for certain themes. This doesn't have to be expensive or hard!

As a Pre-K teacher, I had silly animal slippers that I would bring and put on as an attention getter at the beginning of Storytime. You could have a fabric bag full of items, special hats, or felt pieces. Have fun with this! I would love to see pictures of what you come up with on your own to make Storytime amazing in your classroom!

Here are some ideas for your classroom:



This fabric bag is from Hobby Lobby for \$4.99.



The shark is mounted on a wipe container. All of the items are made of felt.



The Harvest Time felt pieces are from Felt Story Time on Etsy.



The Turtle Slippers are from Walmart.

