

FRAGA Gab



From The Director's Desk

By Paula Bacon, Director

We are already one month into our new school year and I've seen such great methods of teamwork. I want to specifically thank Chattooga HS/ EHS, Ops, Debbie, IT and Child Development for working together quickly and efficiently to get the HS classes moved and operational in record time! Everyone helped out, made sacrifices, and supported each other in this time of "crisis". I can't give a better example of teamwork!

We are finally able to move forward with renovations on LaFayette HS and EHS, as well as Lakeview EHS! It has been a long wait and it feels great to see progress being made. Hopefully by January at the latest, all three classes will be up and running!

The long awaited new HS performance standards were distributed and many take affect on November 7. We will be learning these together along with the rest of the nation and even the Office of Head Start. They are much more concise and easy to read. You will be hearing more about them throughout the year as we implement the new regulations.

As another way to improve morale and the atmosphere in our program, Admin and CM/CS's have started a four week training course on the 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace. It is our goal to improve the climate so that employees want to come to work and feel valued for the work they do. I hope to get good feedback over the next few months regarding changes that are being made. You do make a difference in the lives of our children and families!



Congratulations to Battlewood, Cloud Springs, Dade, Mountain View, South Walker and Valley Point! Licensing has already been to their centers and there were no citations!!

We are off to a great start!



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

***We Build
GREAT
Children!***

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QUALITY CORNER

Welcome back to the start of another great year! We're looking forward to collaborating with all our classrooms to build great children! Get ready EHS — we will now be completing the TPITOS observations along with the Mentor Coach. We are excited to take on this new observation tool. There have not been any changes to Packet A. For HS and Pre-K, we will be using the Fidelity Tool and Performance Standards, and for EHS we will be using the Implementation Checklist for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos and the Performance Standards. With this Packet, we will be using the T.E.M.P Recognition Scale. We cannot wait to see all the BLAZIN' FIRE Classrooms we have in our Agency!

T.E.M.P. Scores are:

100% - 98%	Blazin' Fire
97% - 94%	Smokin' Hot
93% - 90%	Warmin' Up

We would also like to recognize the following staff for sending in some great additions to the Teacher Resource Website: Gwen Yarbrough (Mountain View), Kaytlen Babbitt and Leah Byous (Treasures Academy), and Gwendolyn Parrot (Battlewood)! Thank you!

Have a great year!

"The best thing about being a Teacher is that it matters. The hardest thing about being a Teacher is that it matters every day." ~Todd Whitaker

*~Submitted by Betsy Taggart, QM
Brandy Young, QM and Karen Mussared, QM*



Melissa's Page

By Melissa Metcalf, Asst. Director

WELCOME BACK! I cannot believe that it is already September — WOW! Seems like just yesterday we were wishing you a great summer with your families. Things were very busy from June through August getting ready for the new program year. We had all of our usual scheduling and ordering and event planning — PLUS the Chattooga HS move. Now, we look forward to the new program year which will include:

- The addition of LaFayette HS and LaFayette EHS. These new sites are being developed through a partnership with Lafayette Housing Authority and will serve Walker County residents.
- The relocation of Chattooga HS. Currently, we have our HS sharing space with Chattooga EHS. It's a bit cramped, but our staff have done a great job (as always!) doing what needs to be done so we can deliver much-needed services to the families in our area. We are still working on a long-term solution to permanently relocate Chattooga HS.
- New Performance Standards. We knew they were coming soon and now — THEY'RE HERE. There have been some changes and we are working on adapting our policies and procedures to comply with these.

EHS INSTITUTE. We held our 3rd annual EHS Institute in July and it was a great success as always. Sherree really goes above and beyond each year ensuring we have great presenters and pertinent content to help enhance the skills of our staff.

PRE-SERVICE. Wasn't Jon Walker an amazing speaker?! He was upbeat, held everyone's interest for the entire length of his presentation, and really hit the nail on the head in so many areas where we face challenges as a team. Excellence and teamwork is about all of us contributing at our best level — and it's important that we have fun, too!



September Employee of the Month: Tammy Young



Employee of the Month for September 2016 is **Tammy Young, HS Teacher at Rock Spring HS/EHS:**

"Tammy is an asset to the Agency. She is always at work and on time every day. She greets the children and parents with a "Good Morning!" and a smile. The children adore her and are excited to come to school to learn and play.

"Tammy has taught me so many things and continues to mentor me every day. Tammy has set a great example for me and others. She makes me strive to be better. She is always willing to help out in anyway, whether it is staying to help for parent meetings or just to listen to others."

Congratulations!



Child Development News

By Stephenie Mitchell, Child Dev Manager

Hope everyone is off to a GREAT start this program year!

The early years of every child's development are the most crucial and now is the time to be laying the foundation for school readiness. Transitions are the cornerstone in preparing children to enter Kindergarten and this starts when the parent makes the decision to enroll their child in Head Start.

Make it a goal this program year to build those positive relationships with both the parent and the child. Be the foundation for every child's school success! Remember — BE INTENTIONAL! Teach with a purpose!

I look forward to hearing all the GREAT things you are doing in the classroom this year.

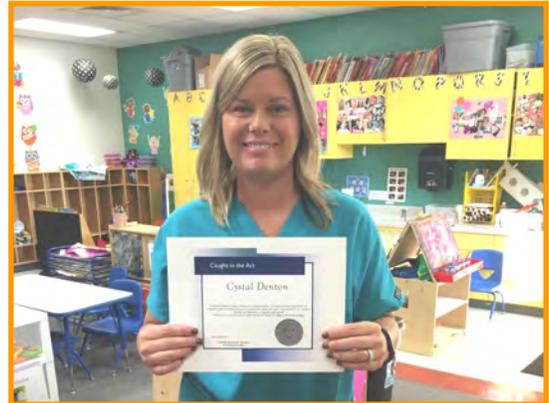
Did You Know...?

- Head Start was originally just an 8-week long demonstration project. That 8-week project just celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- Head Start was designed to break the cycle of poverty through a dual focus on both the child and the family.
- The first EHS grants were awarded in 1995.
- Head Start has served over 32 million children since 1965.
- From the beginning, Head Start has been unique in focusing on both the needs of the child and the needs of the family, knowing that family empowerment is critical to a child's success in school and life.
- **YOU** are part of the Head Start success story.



Caught In The Act!

Crystal Denton, HS Teacher at Battlefield Primary (photo, right). Crystal has been working in her classroom without a full-time assistant teacher during this hectic "new program year" period. With this said, she has handled it with grace and has even kept in contact with her assistant-in-training. She has remained positive and is looking forward to a great year ahead with her new assistant teacher.



Karen Mussared, Betsy Taggart, Brandy Young—Quality Mentors at Admin. (PHOTO, at right: left to right). The QMs went above and beyond during the CH move. They went down and assisted OPS and the Teaching Staff with packing and moving the CH classrooms to CE, assisted the Teachers with unpacking and setting up their classrooms to ensure that requirements were met, and answered their questions while helping them get settled into their new environment. And they did this all with a positive attitude. Also, the QMs went to SW for several days to help the Lead Teacher for the new LH classroom clean and set up her classroom since she currently does not have an Assistant Teacher. The QMs were more than willing to jump in and do whatever was needed to help support the team. They do a GREAT JOB and are a real asset to the Agency.



Tomoko Shipman, Teacher, and Jennifer Dawson, Assistant Teacher, Chattooga HS. (PHOTO at right). During the move to CE, Tomoko and Jennifer went above and beyond their job duties by helping out in the other HS classrooms, even though they also had to get their own rooms ready. They spent a large amount of time working in the Pre-K room by helping do bulletin boards, making sure everything was labeled, cleaning, and more. These two ladies did an awesome job helping out their co-teachers during a very trying time. Thank you for going above and beyond and for being team players to get your whole center ready for the first day of school.



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Enrollment Superstars!

In July, Family Resource Agency — in collaboration with Home Depot, The Cliffs apartment homes, and the Dalton/Whitfield County Family Connection — held an enrollment event in Whitfield County. With 7 FRAGA centers (a total of 24 classrooms), Whitfield County is the largest county in our area, service-wise. That means lots of available slots to serve children and families.

In the picture to the right, Elsa Avelar and Abigail Rico-Nunez decided to take the opportunity to deliver a direct service to some of the families at the apartment complex where they were recruiting. In this instance, the direct services provided were the original height and weight measurements Head Start requires for every child entering the program.



Enrollment is critical to our program's success. Without enrollment, there are no children and families to serve. Without enrollment, there are no children in classrooms to teach.

And it's not just the Family Services Staff that are responsible for enrollment — it's *everyone's* job to spread the word about Head Start, about Family Resource Agency, about the differences we can and do make in the lives of children and families in our communities. Simply sharing information about our program in the grocery checkout line, at church, on social media could end up making a life-changing difference in someone's life.

That said, to all the Family Services Staff who work hard to ensure that every funded slot is filled by the first day of classes — *THANK YOU!*

