

# FRAGA Gab



## ***From The Director's Desk***

*By Paula Bacon, Director*

We are excited to have approval from the city of Trion in Chattooga County to rent a previous Pre-K building to relocate some of our classes! We are in the process of getting bids for renovation so we can complete a request for funding and approval from the Office of Head Start. This has been a long process to find a new "home" and we are eager to make this change.

In the past two weeks, several of us have attended training on the new performance standards on two separate occasions. We will be meeting with our TN program to compare the information we've all received and further develop policies and procedures to continue implementing the changes. We were pleased to find we are well ahead of many other programs on our implementation.



## ***Melissa's Page***

*By Melissa Metcalf, Asst. Director*

**Dalton Heritage Pre-K Visit.** Congratulations to the Dalton Heritage staff for an exemplary GRC Audit in January. Judy Blasengame, Bright From The Start Pre-K consultant, said in her email "I had a fabulous visit at Dalton Heritage on Monday! Elizabeth and Amy are doing a tremendous job. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with them. Great work, Kaye!"

**EHS Surveys.** We will be gearing up soon to send out the surveys for the EHS Summer program. This is an important part of our program planning every year so that we can provide the appropriate number of classrooms needed by our EHS families during the summer months.

**Community Assessment.** *Did you know...?*

- We do a broad, comprehensive update at least once over the five-year grant period but that we are required to update our data annually?
- That it is a Performance Standard? (1302.11)
- That we use the information we gather for the Community Assessment to make important decisions about program options, future partnerships and where our services are most needed in our service area?

**Evaluations.** We will be gearing up and starting to send out information about your annual evaluation for the 2016-17 school year.



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

***We Build  
GREAT  
Children!***

### **Inside this issue**

Employee of the Month .	2
<b>NEW! BUSTED!</b> .....	3
Caught In The Act.....	3
Family Matters .....	4
Quality Corner .....	4
Child Dev. News .....	5
Coach's Corner .....	5
CLASS Newsletter .....	6

## February Employee of the Month: Angie Mathis



Employee of the Month for February 2017 is **Angie Mathis**, HS Teacher at Dalton Heritage HS/Pre-K.

*"Angie goes above and beyond daily to make sure everyone has what they need. She helps call subs to ensure the center is covered and she even helps me find subs for other centers. She is a Peer-to-Peer trainer for new staff as well as currently employed staff.*

*In a rush to another center, I accidentally threw my laptop in the dumpster with the trash. Angie went looking for my laptop when I realized what I had done. She had to go dumpster diving for my laptop! She is the BEST!"*



You  
Are  
So...



On 1/26/17 Barbie Fitzpatrick and Amanda Cooper were BUSTED for their positive interactions with the children in their classroom as well as following the appropriate safety and hygiene procedures at meal-time. Barbie interacted with the children on the rug engaging them in questions and conversation while Amanda prepared breakfast. Amanda followed the appropriate procedures by wearing her gloves and hairnet. Barbie sent the children to wash their hands 1 by 1 before sitting at the table. WAY TO GO Barbie and Amanda! Keep up the AWESOME work.

*~Submitted by: Michelle Howard, CDM*



## Caught In The Act!



Leslie King, Scott Walters, Maddie Lewis, Laura Hughes, Crystal Denton, Erica Kirby, Kim Cordell, Denise Butler, Raven Cochran, Kathie Ufford, Gwen Parrott, Judy Smith, at Battlefield Primary, Battlewood HS/EHS, Cloud Springs Pre-K, and Lakeview HS/EHS (*photo, left*). We have been extremely short staffed this year, and the last day before Christmas break was a very challenging one for all of us, with teachers leaving for appointments, and routines changing. I want to thank all of my staff that made it through that last week. Thank you for all that you do, and for working as a team.



Tammie Harris, Family Service Specialist at South Walker HS/EHS/Pre-K (*photo, left*). Tammie stepped in to help a family in need of clothing for some of the children in the home. Tammie is so genuine and always willing to go the extra mile for anyone. Her smiles and giggles keep everyone happy and upbeat! It's wonderful to work side by side with her daily!



Jamie Brown, Pre-K Teacher at South Walker HS/EHS/Pre-K (*photo, left*). Jamie has offered assistance with resources that she has gathered. She found a website that contains many homemade books to increase the selection of books needed for the classroom. She just recently helped a parent with the understanding her child's IEP.



Yasmin Soto, EHS Teacher at Whitfield HS/EHS/Pre-K (*photo, left*). Yasmin is such a helpful person. She is willing to help her co-workers on the computer. She shares her knowledge with the whole group of us. She is very patient no matter how many times we ask how to log-in to a site. She is always right there when we need her.



Margarita Azua, Substitute at Whitfield HS/EHS/Pre-K (*photo, left*). Margarita has only worked for us for a short time, but she is a joy to see every morning. She is always smiling and taking the time to see how everyone is doing. Lately, I have noticed our trash has been missing at the end of the day, Margarita had been taking it out for us. It was such a nice surprise!



Ashley Griffith, Center Manager at Whitfield HS/EHS and Valley Point HS/EHS (*photo, left*). When I was asked to set up a tour of one of our Head Start classrooms by DECAL and the Georgia Department of Education, Ashley graciously welcomed us into her center. When I originally asked if she would be willing to host our little crew, I thought that it would be around 4 or 5 people. It turned out to be over 20 people. Ashley quickly found us a meeting area and answered as many questions that were asked regarding Head Start. She showed great poise and expertise under pressure and I truly appreciate how well she represents our Agency in the community.





## Family Matters

By Talisyn Ridley, Family Services Coordinator

Greetings FRAGA Family,

It is hard to believe that January has come and gone! With the new year comes new challenges and new opportunities to grow and develop as a team to serve our families. I look forward to emphasizing our strengths to make Family Service the best we can be. Join me in welcoming the newest FSS: **Leslie King (LV), Tammy Franklin (WD), Mandy Hickman (CC), Rose Gordon (DA), and Lily Tipton (TA).**

Here is some important information for February:

**Dental Health Month.** Did you know that a child is at risk for tooth decay as soon as the first tooth starts coming in? Tooth decay can be prevented when good oral health habits start early. Head Start staff can help families understand the importance of oral health. They can also teach families how to keep their teeth healthy.

**Growth Assessments.** Family Service staff will be conducting our second round of Growth Assessments for the school year. Growth Assessments help to determine if the child is under or overweight.

**Enrollment Applications- 2017/2018.** All Family Service staff will be taking new enrollment applications for the 2017/2018 new school year. Please help us to spread the word to the families in our communities.



## QUALITY CORNER

*It is hard to believe that we are this far into the school year. With that said, Packet C's are under way. Please remember to refer to the ITERS and ECERS resources you have at your center to prepare for this packet. A big thank you to Kelly Dodds from RP for sending in an activity for the Resource Website. Please remember to use the Resource Website and to send in all the wonderful activities you complete in your classroom. The monthly theme for February is Animals, here are a few ideas for your lessons!*

1. *Wash your pet! Sensory play is a wonderful way for kids to explore and learn about the world around them. It's the perfect way to invite them to learn using their senses, engage in imaginary play, and even learn some life skills along the way (see photo below).*
2. *Set up a Pet Shop as a second dramatic play! Through pretend play, children will identify animals, practice counting skills, and develop critical thinking skills appropriate for their age (see photo below).*



~Submitted by Betsy Taggart, QM, Brandy Young, QM & Karen Mussared, QM





## **Child Development News**

*By Stephenie Mitchell, Child Dev Manager*

I would like to take this time to recognize the Peer Trainers for FRAGAHS . The Peer Trainers are as follows; **Renee Anderson (SW), Leslie Kendrick (RS), Christine Leavey (MV), Rebecca Lee (RS), Ann York (RE), Crystal Denton (BP), Kelly Dodd (RP), Dana Brannon (MU), Tiffany Mills (MI), Maria Pineda (WH), Brittany Kinsey (PC), Angie Mathis (DH), and Tabitha Icenogle (DA).**

These Teaching Staff were selected as Peer Trainers based on overall packet visit scores, CLASS scores, TPITOS scores and overall job performance. These staff train both New Hires and Current Staff. Because of their hard work and dedication to the Peer Training process, overall staff who have went through Peer Training this program year, scored over a 90% percent on their Packet A visits and scored well on CLASS and TPITOS observations. In great part, due to these Peer Trainers; Peer Trainees are successful in their positions. So, **JOB WELL DONE** to all of the Peer Trainers who put in the time and effort into their Peer Trainees and a **THANK YOU** to the CM's/CS's who have been flexible in putting their trust into the process and put the success of their employees first. It is staff like you who truly exemplify **TEAM!! I APPRECIATE all you do, everyday.**



## **Coach's Corner**

*By Sara Davis, Mentor/Coach*

Here's a tip on making mealtime a teachable time. I coach teachers on this but its wonderful practice as parents too! Here are a few ways:

- Consider relating back to the child's life by asking questions like...Have you ever helped cook something? How did you know what to do first? Did you use a recipe? A recipe is the instructions for making food. How did you mix the ingredients?
- Incorporate Math. How many crackers do you have? How many do I have? What if we combined them, or added them together, how many would we have? How did you come up with that answer?
- That's great! You tried a new food. Did you like it? Why or why not? Can you remember another time you tried something new?
- What kinds of things do you eat at home? Who makes that for you? How does she make it? I make something similar to that for my family. This is how I do it..
- How can you tell if the food is hot? Do you see the steam coming from the food? Steam kind of looks like smoke. Steam is caused by the moisture in the food turning to a vapor.
- Consider adding new vocabulary. Milk is shipped to stores from a dairy farm. A dairy farmer takes the milk from the cows and sends it to be pasteurized, that means that it is heated to a high temperature to kill bacteria.
- Introduce a new word to describe foods-delicious, scrumptious, tasty, yummy, delectable, etc.
- Introduce them to taste words-spicy, sweet, bitter, salty, etc.
- Practice self-talk. I'm eating my vegetables; I'm sitting beside my good friend, Sarah; I'm trying a new food and I'm feeling a little nervous about it.
- When reminding children of a rule like ' we sit on our bottoms at the lunch table' add some intentional questions like...What might happen if you lean back too far? Has that ever happened to you before? Can you remember a time when you lost your balance?

Try these tips and make your mealtime conversations an extension of the classroom learning environment or to start conversation at your dinner table at home.

**Family Resource Agency  
of North Georgia**

403 Chickamauga Ave, Suite 201  
Rossville, GA 30741

Phone: 706-861-0105

**ENROLLMENT:**  
enrollment@fragahs.com



**VISIT US ONLINE AT:**  
[www.fragahs.com](http://www.fragahs.com)



**CLASS Newsletter**

By Nadine Talbot, CLASS Specialist

CLASS Scores Agency Wide are looking great! Keep up the awesome work!

We are discussing the **Instructional Support** Domain:

Research on children’s cognitive and language development show a distinction between simply learning facts and gaining usable knowledge (learning how facts are interconnected, organized, and conditioned on one another (National Research Council, 1999) – noting that gaining usable knowledge is the more important of the two when it comes to cognitive development.

The three dimensions in Instructional Support are:

**Concept Development:** How teachers use instructional discussions and activities to promote students’ higher-order thinking skills in contrast to a focus on rote instruction.

**Quality of Feedback:** How teachers extend students’ learning through their responses to students’ ideas, comments, and work.

**Language Modeling:** The extent to which teachers facilitate and encourage students’ language. Language rich classrooms can be an important supplement to the language children hear in their home environment.



*HIP, HIP, HOORAY...Mountain View HS/EHS/Pre-K made it to the 100th day!! Look what a wonderful job the parents and children did on their 100th day posters! (pictured above)*

**Congratulations to Cloud Springs,  
Morris Innovative, and Ringgold EHS for getting a  
PERFECT Licensing Visit!**

You should be very proud of your accomplishment.  
To receive a perfect license visit you have to be striving to give the highest quality care every single day. Sometimes that means pushing yourselves and each other even when your tired. We appreciate your hard work and dedication!

**THANK YOU!**

