



The Parent Connector

TITLE I & DEES NEWSLETTER



WALTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
"In Pursuit of Excellence"

November - December
2014



Parent Engagement Month

Thank You Letter to Georgia's Parents

By DR. JOHN BARGE

November is Parent Engagement Month in Georgia, and schools across the state are highlighting the role parents play in students' education. In addition, November 20th is National Parent Involvement Day, a time for all parents to consider how they can get more involved in the education of their children.

So far, it's been a busy year. We are moving forward on various initiatives that all, at the core, have the same goal: making sure all of Georgia's students have access to a high-quality education that will prepare them for college and 21st-century careers.

These initiatives will not be successful unless you are actively engaged in their implementation. Research is clear on this point: when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and ability levels achieve at the highest levels. Engaged parents can make the difference between a school that's barely getting by and a school that's thriving.

To assist you in this process, the Georgia Department of Education has launched the I CAN Play a Role Campaign for Title I schools and parents, with a goal of inspiring 50,000 parents to pledge greater involvement in their child's education. To participate in the campaign, choose from 15 different I CAN Play a Role pledge cards. Select the card that is the best match for you, or

choose multiple cards and pledge to get involved in different ways.

To access printable I CAN Play a Role pledge cards or additional Get the facts...get connected...GET INVOLVED! resources such as brochures, videos, calendars, letters, and tip sheets provided by the GaDOE, please contact our Parent Engagement office at 404-656-2633 or visit our website at: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Parent-Month.aspx>.

Also, during November, follow us on Twitter (@GaDOEParents) to receive daily strategies to improve family engagement in your school and like us on Facebook (GaDOEParentEngagement) to track the success of the campaign.

On behalf of our schools and school systems, I want to thank all the parents and families who have taken on the demanding job of being engaged in your child's education. Parents, the importance of your support is immeasurable. When we educators hit a bump, help us plow through it. We simply cannot succeed without you.

Dr. John Barge, a parent and a former school administrator, is Georgia's State School Superintendent.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 6 - District Title I / CLIP / FLP
- 7 - Progress Reports - Q2
- 10 - Holiday
- 11 - Board Meeting
- 18 - Partnership Meeting
- 24 - 28 Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

- 2 - Board Meeting
- 14 - WCSD Board Meeting
- 19 - End of Quarter
- 22 - 31 Winter Break

JANUARY

- 1 - Winter Break
- 2 - Student Holiday
- 5 - Q3 & Sem2 Start
- 7 - Report Cards Issued - Q2

Title I CLIP/FLP Program Meeting

9:00-11:30 AM @ WCSD BOE

ALL school district parents and community stakeholders are encouraged to attend and provide their input.

How much sleep children need:

- 1-3 years / 12-14 hours
- 3-5 years / 11-13 hours
- 5-12 years / 10-11 hours
- 13-18 years / 8-9 hours

Did You Know.....

Tips to help your child get enough sleep:

Routine: Create a routine with the same bedtime, lighting, and temperature each night.

Relax: Make it a relaxing time without TV or videos. Instead, read a book in bed before putting your child to sleep.

Just Say No: Avoid sugary bedtime snacks, especially caffeine.

Quiet Time: Read aloud a favorite, quiet picture book.



School-wide Title I Schools in Walton County School System are: Atha Road Elementary, Harmony Elementary, Carver Middle School, Loganville Elementary, Monroe Area High School, Monroe Elementary, Walker Park Elementary, Walnut Grove Elementary, Walnut Grove High School, and Youth Middle School.

Targeted Assistance School in Walton County: Loganville Middle School.

The Walton County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission to its programs, services or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. For additional information or referral to the appropriate system coordinator, contact the system coordinator: Wilma Widmer at 200 Double Springs Church Road, Monroe, Ga. 30656, or at 770-266-4410.

Ways Parents Can Help & Support Teachers

As the school year begins again it is important to remember how much you matter. While making sure your child has a healthy breakfast and a good night's rest are key components of success, your help and support in their education is just as important. It has been proven time and time again that a parent who takes an active interest in their child's education is one of the biggest contributors to that child reaching their full academic potential. Parents and teachers are truly partners, and when they work in conjunction with one another, they provide the greatest chance of academic success in a child. Here are four things to keep in mind when thinking about how you can support your child's teacher this year.

Educate yourself

Learn about your child's school and curriculum. Ask your child's teacher what the students will be learning this year and familiarize yourself with the subject matter.

Find out if there is a class website, blog, or Facebook page that you can join to stay up to date. There are also many free resources available online such as The U.S. Department of Education's 'Helping Your Child Series' which offers free booklets in different subject areas, such as science and mathematics, that are filled with lessons and activities that you can do with your child. To download this series and other helpful resources visit www2.ed.gov/parents.

Be available

One of the biggest ways to support your child's teacher is to simply keep in contact with them. Whether it is via telephone, e-mail, or face-to-face conversation - teachers appreciate when parents care enough to keep in contact. However, be sure not to overdo it. Your child's teacher often has dozens of students and it may be unrealistic for them to touch base with you every day. Aim to have a conversation with them once a month.

Forget your baggage

Parents can sometimes carry the negative experiences they have had with education and unknowingly pass these feelings and attitudes onto their children. Regardless of whether you look back at your school experience fondly or look back and cringe, be sure to impress a positive attitude about school onto your child. For example, instead of saying, "Wake up! You have go to school today," it may be better to say, "Wake up! You get to go to school today." The positive outlook your child has on school and education prompts them to come to school ready and excited to learn.

Encourage learning at home

Whether learning about different cultures at the grocery store, calculating the tip at a restaurant, or discussing what they are working on in school, make learning a constant part of your child's everyday life. The more your child practices these skills at home, the better they will do in school!

District Parent Coordinators

Donna Hawk: ARES, HES, MES, WES, CMS 770-266-4530 donna.hawk@walton.k12.ga.us - Title I

Kathy Ellington: WGES, YMS, MAHS, WGHS 770-207-3107 katherine.ellington@walton.k12.ga.us - Title I

Tonya McCullohs: LES, LMS 770-266-4532 tonya.mccullohs@walton.k12.ga.us - Title I & DEES Parent Mentor



DEES NEWS

Department of Education for Exceptional Students

November 1: Donut Dash 5K Run

Loganville Police Dept. - Loganville

November 15: Family Fun Day &

Resource Fair - Hammond Park

December 6: Stone Soup Holiday Camp

Faith Baptist Church, Monroe 10:00 - 2:00

December 11: Navigator/PAC Meeting

The Bridge of Georgia

December 13: Jingle Jog for Autism

5K Run - Loganville High School

January 21: PEEP Round-Up Screening

Walton County BOE

Parent Advisory Council * Elem

ARES—Chasity Stewart

BCES—Preston Towns

HES—Laquana Bloodsaw

LES—Angie Smith

MES—Gwen Sewell

SES—Tiffany Breshers

WGES—Crystal Herring

WPES—Shannan Lovelady

YES—Lisa Fogie, Co-chair Navigator Team

- **Donut Dash 5K Run** - Nov. 1st at Loganville Police Dept to support Special Olympics!

- **Family Fun Day - For families of children with disabilities.** Come and join us for a day filled with FUN! Cupcake Walk, Bounce Houses, Face Painting, Games, Hayride, Resource Fair & more...Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks, Popcorn & Cotton Candy...All FREE!!

- **PEEP (Preschool Exceptional Education Program) Round-Up** - As part of "Child Find" (a process that districts use to identify, locate, and evaluate all children in the district, birth through 21 who are suspected of having disabilities that may result in a need for special education and related services) Walton County schedules PEEP Round Up screening sessions four times per year or as needed. If you or your doctor suspect that your 3-5 year old child has a disability, you may contact Melanie Cooksey at 770-266-4502 to schedule the next available time for the Round-Up.

- Mark your calendars for the 9th Annual **Jingle Jog** on December 13th. Spots are still available for Sponsors, Vendors and Runners. Vendors will be in the Loganville High School cafeteria for your Holiday shopping convenience. Jingle Jog supports Stone Soup Summer Camp, as well as travel for Special Olympics.

- All interested persons are invited to the **Walton County Navigator Team** meetings. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the local community and help support families that have children or young adults with disabilities. Come be a part of helping to provide these families with comprehensive resources, increased access to education, advocacy and local resources that meet their specialized needs.

- For more information and resources, please visit the Exceptional Education Department's section on the Walton County School District's website: www.walton.k12.ga.us or contact the Parent Mentor, Tonya McCullohs, at: tonya.mccullohs@walton.k12.ga.us.

Parent Advisory Council * MS

CMS—Shannon Schussler

LMS—Kim Dawson

YMS—Sonya Bell

Parent Advisory Council * HS

LHS—Barbie Stephens

MAHS—Sue Rowe, Co-chair Navigator Team

WGHS—Joan Griggs