



# The Parent Post

Facilitating Family School Partnerships

Volume XIII, Issue 2 • December 13, 2021

Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year for students and families of the Douglas County School System. For more information, please visit [dcssga.org](http://dcssga.org) or contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email [patti.sullivan@dcssga.org](mailto:patti.sullivan@dcssga.org)

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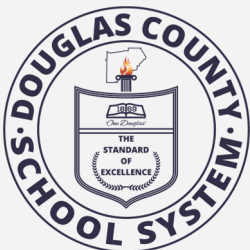
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## Love of Learning

By Elizabeth Story, ESOL Teacher and Family Engagement Contact,  
Beulah Elementary School

As we come to the end of the first academic semester, it is a great time to look back on your child's accomplishments and set goals for the remainder of the school year. Enjoy a well deserved school break with your family. I hope you become refreshed and excited about learning in a variety of ways. Here are some family oriented activities that will engage your family in learning.

Read! Read! Read! Reading a minimum of 20 minutes every day is very important. Reading aloud to your child has numerous benefits that will help your child now and for many years. Reading increases language development, gained and shared knowledge, and literacy skills. It is important to read aloud to children of all ages, even after your child can read on their own.



Look here for some reading websites:

- For beginning readers: Starfall.com: (<https://www.starfall.com/h/>) - Early literacy website that has videos and interactive activities for students learning to read.
- Freckle (District Title I schools, also: parents can create a Free account) - Reading and Math student self paced practice that adapts for "just right" level
- Lexia Core 5 or Power Up (EL students and Special Education students)
- FREE digital reading resources: <https://www.differentiatedteaching.com/free-websites-for-digital-reading/>

Read Holiday Stories - Read your favorite holiday stories to or with your children about your culture's (holiday) traditions! Students can then talk and write about the differences and similarities with other cultures. Explore and research other cultures and celebrations together on the internet or in books at the local library. Find a holiday that takes place this time of year that you didn't know about and teach someone new about what you learned.

Learning from relatives- Talk with and/or write an email to a relative. Ask about their lives as a child. What events did they experience in history? What can you learn from a relative about a topic you are learning about in school? Talk to them about their experiences and learn history from a first hand account.



Baking and Cooking- What a wonderful activity to do as a family. This is a great opportunity for family traditions and recipes to be passed down from generation to generation. Students will be using math skills, such as counting, fractions, and measurements. Students can work with family members to create a budget for buying ingredients for the recipes. Also, cooking increases vocabulary and helps children understand how food ingredients change while cooking. Additionally, children can learn where different foods are grown and the origin of different family recipes.

Visit a museum- There are so many great museums in our area, from history to art to science. Why not explore one this winter as a family? Here are two links to a variety of museums in the Atlanta

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area [The 5 Best Georgia Science Museums](#) and [Museums in Atlanta](#)



Virtual Field Trips. So many choices! Here are just a few websites your family will enjoy: [Best Virtual Field Trips](#), [Colonial Williamsburg](#) (virtual tours and videos) [Museum of the American Revolution](#) (virtual tours and interactive activities)

Go on a hike at [Kennesaw Mountain National Park](#) or [Sweetwater Creek State Park](#). Do you know the importance of these two parks close to us? Go check them out! You can enjoy the fresh air outdoors while getting exercise and learning local history.

Conduct science experiments as a family. These are some websites that are fun to explore: [Mystery Doug](#) (FREE to join. Weekly video and activities), [10 Easy Science Experiments - That Will Amaze Kids](#) and [www.sciencefun.org](http://www.sciencefun.org)



Here are just a few additional learning resources:

- Science A-Z (Title I schools in DCSS) - great resource for science
- Brain Pop (Title I schools in DCSS) - educational, engaging academic videos
- Flocabulary (EL students only) - This program offers educational hip hop songs, videos and activities for students to learn vocabulary in fun and effective ways.
- Khan Academy - (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>) Free - learn about math, art, computer programming, economics, physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, finance, history and more.

As a new year begins, continue to grow and I hope you are continuing to learn in various ways both inside and outside the classroom. Find topics that make you excited to explore and learn.

## School Based Health Center Opens in Douglas County

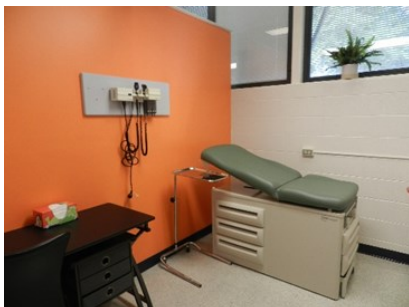
The Douglas County School-Based Health Center is located at 8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, in the lower level. The center provides a full range of healthcare services to help students enrolled in the Douglas County School System; as well as their siblings up to the age of 18 and their pre-school age siblings beginning at age three.



The center accepts insurance or charges parents for services based on a sliding scale. Services provided at the clinic include primary care, immunizations, laboratory services, [sports physicals](#), chronic disease management, health education, nutrition counseling, and behavioral and mental health. The space for the health center includes four exam rooms, a reception area, locked storage, and wheelchair accessibility.

The health center must have parental consent to treat a child and must follow all HIPAA and FERPA laws. FHCGA agrees to hold DCSS harmless from any liability, loss, damage, cost, or expense. DCSS's obligations are limited to providing the facility, utilities, room renovation labor, and the promotion of the health center.

The clinic will be open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday when school is in session, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



To make an appointment please contact 770-651-CARE(2273). You can also scan the QR code to make an online appointment.



**Dear Parents of English Learners:**

On **January 21, 2022** the Georgia Department of Education will be reviewing our school district’s language instruction educational services for students, like your son or daughter, who are learning English in school. In addition, the Department would like to learn more about the relationship and level of communication that our district has with parents that may speak languages other than English.

**Ms. Mariella Holmes**, the state bilingual Parent Liaison, will be calling some parents to have a conversation with them to learn about their experiences in our school district. As a result, you may be contacted by Ms. Holmes from the cell phone number **404-977-9449**. Please expect the telephone interview to last approximately 20 minutes.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this important conversation.

**Learning Does Not Take a Holiday!**

**By Julie King, ESOL Teacher, Annette Winn Elementary School**

As the holidays approach, they bring so much excitement for our English Learners and their families! Of course, everyone looks forward to those holiday breaks and fun traditions. However, students need to continue learning even when they are not in school. How can you help your child academically during the holidays? Make learning fun!

- Read with your child, and listen to your child read. There are many great holiday books available at your public library. Digital books are great, too. Try the free website, Epic Books (getepic.com).
- Since many of us spend time cooking and baking family favorites for holiday meals, get your child involved! Your English Learner can read the recipe and even use math skills to measure ingredients. Waiting for those cookies to bake will be another math lesson, as your child uses the clock to figure out when they will be done.
- Writing is another great skill to practice during the holidays. Encourage your child to write a letter to a family member or friend, or even Santa Claus! Even if your English Learner is not able to write words yet, she can draw a picture and tell you about it.
- In our ESOL classrooms, we are always working on speaking and listening. Spend some time talking with your child. Tell your child about past holidays or favorite memories. Encourage your child to talk as well!
- If you are traveling during the holidays, encourage your child to read signs, or pack a book for the trip. Your child could use a journal or notebook to write about the experience.
- Lexia, Nearpod, and Flocabulary will be available if your English Learner has access to a computer or tablet and Wi-Fi. Of course, we don’t want anyone to spend the whole break working!

Have a safe and relaxing holiday season! We look forward to more fantastic days of learning in 2022!

**Would you like to receive messages from the Douglas County School System in another language?**

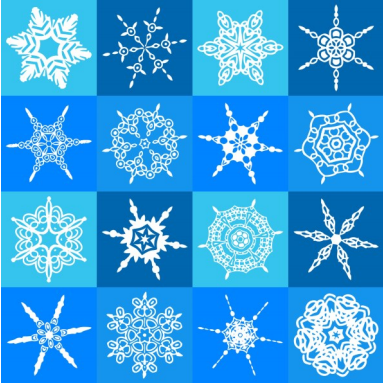
Please follow the easy steps below to change your language preference:

1. Log into Parent Portal: <https://campus.douglas.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/parents/douglas.jsp>
2. Click on Person Icon in the right hand corner of the screen
3. Click on Settings
4. Click on Contact Preferences
5. Choose your Preferred Language from the options.
6. Save
7. If your Preferred Language is not one of the options, please email [parent@dcssga.org](mailto:parent@dcssga.org).
8. If no language is chosen, the default language is English.
9. If you need assistance, please contact someone in the office at your school.

**Resources for Parents of English Learners!**

The Douglas County School System has posted new resources for parents of English Learners on our website. Our goal is to provide effective outreach to parents of our English Learners and to assist them in being involved in their child’s education. Please visit our website [here](#) or scan this QR code to access the website with the resources listed.





## 2021-2022 School Year - Upcoming Important Dates

December 17 Semester ends  
 December 20-January 3 Student Holidays  
 January 4 Teacher Work Day  
 January 5 Students return; 2<sup>nd</sup> semester begins; report cards issued, all levels  
 January 17 MLK Day, Holiday for all

### U P C O M I N G P A R E N T W O R K S H O P S

Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below.

#### Chapel Hill Elementary School

4433 Coursey Lake Road, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-3600 [ches.dcssga.org](http://ches.dcssga.org)

#### Grade Level Parent Involvement Nights (VIRTUAL-links provided by teachers)

Kindergarten: Decodable Readers - Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 3:30 PM

1<sup>st</sup> grade: Utilizing Classworks - Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 3:30 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Math Interactive Resources - Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 3:15 PM

4<sup>th</sup> grade: Science Fair & Study Skills - Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM

5<sup>th</sup> grade: STAR & Utilizing Classworks - Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:30 PM

#### Winston Elementary School

13691 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Winston, GA 30187  
(770) 651-4700 [wes.dcssga.org](http://wes.dcssga.org)

#### State of Winston Elementary and Upcoming Assessments (Facebook Live)

Friday, January 21, 2022 at 12:00 PM



### U P C O M I N G T I T L E I W O R K S H O P S

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location. Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below.

#### Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center

3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122  
(770) 651-3100 [awes.dcssga.org](http://awes.dcssga.org)

#### Academic Parent Teacher Teams Meeting 2 (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, January 25 and Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Grades K through 5 will meet with the parents of their child's homeroom to discuss data based on foundational skills they have chosen. They will then create and practice activities to work with their children at home and discuss goals for APTT meeting #3.

#### Chestnut Log Middle School Parent Resource Center

2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-5100 [clms.dcssga.org](http://clms.dcssga.org)

#### Math/STEM/Science Night (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Join us for a night of resources, games and activities that will showcase the CLMS Math, STEM and Science classes. The teachers from these core classes will be leading this meeting.

#### Beulah Elementary School Parent Resource Center

1150 Burnt Hickory Road, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-3300 [bees.dcssga.org](http://bees.dcssga.org)

#### Family Math Night

Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Come learn some new math strategies and games to help you assist your student at home. Join in the fun practicing math skills and games with your family, classmates and teachers.

#### Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center

8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-3800 [eses.dcssga.org](http://eses.dcssga.org)

#### Writing for Success! Workshop (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Families will participate in writing activities designed to gain an understanding of academic writing strategies.

#### Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center

8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-3500 [bues.dcssga.org](http://bues.dcssga.org)

#### Diving Into Data Goals + Plans = SUCCESS

Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Students will lead this meeting and share with their parents progress on various assignments, classwork and classroom data for the year. Students will lead the discussion with parents using their AVID binders.

#### Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center

8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-5400 [sms.dcssga.org](http://sms.dcssga.org)

#### Georgia Milestones Test Prep Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM

Come out and learn important test taking tips and strategies for the Georgia Milestones Assessment (GMAS).

