



# The Parent Post

Facilitating Family School Partnerships

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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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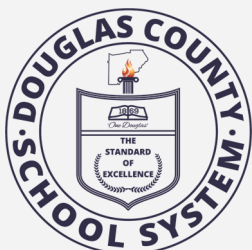
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## Holiday Learning for the Whole Family

By Patti Sullivan, Family Engagement Specialist, Douglas County School System

During this year’s holiday season, challenge your family to continue learning and make it a fun family activity. It doesn’t matter how old each member of your family is, they can continue to learn. Mom, dad, sister, brother, grandmother, grandfather – everyone can learn at their own level! Here are a few ideas to get started.

### Literacy

Ask all family members to find a holiday themed book to read. Whether it’s fiction or non-fiction, everyone spends 30 minutes a day reading their book. Time can be scheduled where you all do it together or you can trust that everyone will find their own time to read. Have a family check-in every few days to see what their stories are about or what they have learned so far while reading.

### Math

Host an ongoing Math competition over the holiday break by solving different types of math problems every day. The problems can be geared towards whatever level(s) mom, dad, grandmother, grandfather, sister or brother are on. You can use math facts, word problems, algebra, geometry or even math sudoku puzzles (a quick Google search can help or try [Sudoku.com](http://Sudoku.com)!). You can have teams or go head to head with your family members. At the end of the break, determine the winner. They can claim the “winner” title until the next competition.

### Science

Perform a science experiment over the holiday break! Since we don’t get very much snow in Georgia, create your own snowstorm in a jar (one video [HERE](#))! Be sure to ask all the questions before, during and after the experiment.

### Social Studies/Foreign Language

Each family member selects a country and does some research on it. What kind of government they have? What is the favorite sport of the country? How many people live there? What is the climate like? How do they celebrate the holidays? Family members can even learn a phrase or two from their country’s language ([Duolingo](#) can help!). The possibilities are endless! Each day or every few days, everyone will report what they have learned about their country. Discuss similarities and differences between the countries.

Whatever your family does over the holiday break to continue learning, do it together. Enjoy the holiday pace and make memories that will last a lifetime. We look forward to seeing you and all our students in 2024! Happy Holidays!



# 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.



## Reading and Writing Through the Holidays

By Julie King, ESOL Teacher, Annette Winn Elementary School

Our English Learners have had a wonderful year so far, full of hard work and so much progress! Although it is time for a holiday vacation, they don't need a break from learning! The holidays are a fantastic time to help your child continue to learn. If you have a computer or tablet with internet access, your child can work on Lexia Reading Core5 (K-5) or Lexia Power Up (6-12). However, there are many other ways to encourage reading and writing through the Holiday Break.

- ➔ Tell stories! Listening to stories is a great way to help your English learner build vocabulary. The holidays are a good time to share family stories. Your child could retell the stories they hear or draw a picture of the story.
- ➔ Another way to build reading skills is to listen to stories. [PBS kids](#) on YouTube offers many great choices that the whole family can enjoy. Storyline Online is another way to listen to stories (<https://storylineonline.net/>).
- ➔ Reading books in English as well as in your Home Language will also improve your English Learner's reading skills. The public library is a free resource for books for the whole family. You and your EL can choose to read a story for fun or find an informational book to learn something new. Our local public libraries also offer storytime and other fun activities for all ages. Check out the library [calendars](#) for more information.
- ➔ We love for our ELs to practice writing! There are many opportunities for authentic writing during the holidays. Your child could make a shopping list, write a thank you note for a gift, keep a journal of holiday events, or even write a letter to Santa. Even our youngest ELs can draw pictures and label them, or try to write the letter sounds they hear.
- ➔ One of the best parts of the holiday season is all of the delicious food! Following a recipe is a fun way to practice reading and math skills.
- ➔ Having a conversation in ANY language is valuable practice for your child. We want our Bilingual Super Heroes to use both languages for speaking and listening. Talk with your child as you ride in the car, work on chores at home, or shop for food.

As always, the ESOL teachers appreciate your continued support as we work together to help our English Learners achieve great things. Have a safe and happy holiday season! We look forward to more great learning in 2024!

## What Can we DO Over the Break?

By Jennifer Gramling, Family Engagement Contact, Sweetwater Elementary School

With the winter break coming up and our students being out of school for two weeks here are a few things that you can do in order to keep his or her brain working. Parents can promote literacy at home by engaging in activities that include: joint reading, drawing, singing, storytelling, reciting, game playing, and rhyming. You can tailor activities to your child's age and ability level and incorporate technology into your learning opportunities.

Activities parents can engage their children in at home:

- ❄️ **Virtual Field Trip** – Go on a virtual historical/national park tour and see something new. Here is a [list](#) of some free Georgia virtual field trips. Here is a [list](#) of virtual visits to some of our National Parks.
- ❄️ **Social-Emotional Learning** – Social-emotional activities can support distance learning at home. Use these [ideas](#) to support your lessons online and encourage families to make SEL a priority at home.
- ❄️ **Write or illustrate a Book** – Get families to work together to write and draw a book. Use [Book Creator](#) online (free for a limited time). Or you could try making a family newsletter.

# 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)

## **STEAM Night - Part 2 (IN-PERSON)**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Parents who attended STEAM Night 1 will return to work on the next step to completing their ceramic masterpieces.

## **Curriculum Night 2: Student Data and Language Arts/Reading (IN-PERSON)**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM & Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Teachers will review the objectives for Language Arts and Reading and also review students goals as it pertains to their most recent individual assessments. Teachers will set up parent-teacher conference appointments, share DOE activities, and demonstrate hands-on activities to work with at home and discuss goals for meeting 2.

**Beulah Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
1150 Burnt Hickory Road, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-3300 [bees.dcssga.org](http://bees.dcssga.org)

## **Math Night (IN-PERSON)**

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Come learn all about our new math standards! Learn new 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.

**Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-3500 [bues.dcssga.org](http://bues.dcssga.org)

## **Reading Under the Stars (IN-PERSON)**

Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Teachers will share the Georgia Standards of Excellence, communicate the content of the K-5th grade curriculum in reading/language arts and discuss the changes in the standards. Teachers will share information about Lexile levels and goals for each grade level, as well as various initiatives. Parents will have the opportunity to read grade level books (on Lexile level) with their students.

**Chestnut Log Middle School Parent Resource Center**  
2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-5100 [clms.dcssga.org](http://clms.dcssga.org)

## **Helping My Child Prepare for the GMAS (VIRTUAL)**

Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 5:30 PM

This workshop will help parents understand how to help their students at home so they can have a greater level of success on the GMAS tests.

**Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-3800 [eses.dcssga.org](http://eses.dcssga.org)

## **Writing Night (IN-PERSON)**

Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Parents and families who attend this workshop will gain valuable information about strategies to help their child write for success.

**Factory Shoals Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
2375 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122  
(770) 651-3900 [fes.dcssga.org](http://fes.dcssga.org)

## **Understanding GMAS for 3rd-5th Grades (IN-PERSON)**

Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Parents will hear music from the FSES and see art displayed by students in all grade levels. Parents of students in 3rd-5th grades will also get an introduction to the Georgia Milestones Assessment System and learn how to begin to help their child prepare for statewide testing that will take place in April.

**North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-4800 [ndes.dcssga.org](http://ndes.dcssga.org)

## **LEGO into the World of STEM! (IN-PERSON)**

Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM

LEGO into the world of STEM as we dive into becoming LEGO Masters! Students and families will participate in a LEGO-themed STEM night with various activities for our future Stingray engineers!

**Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center**  
8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-5400 [sms.dcssga.org](http://sms.dcssga.org)

## **Social/Emotional Learning, Health, Wellness and Academic Success**

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 5:30 PM (IN-PERSON)

Join us for a discussion on social and emotional learning and the effects of student health and awareness on academic success.

**Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center**  
2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122  
(770) 651-4600 [swes.dcssga.org](http://swes.dcssga.org)

## **Testing Tips (IN-PERSON)**

Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM

We will provide testing tips and show parents ways they can help their child prepare for the GMAS test at home.

**Turner Middle School Parent Resource Center**  
7101 Turner Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122  
(770) 651-5500 [tms.dcssga.org](http://tms.dcssga.org)

## **Milestone Testing - Early Prep (VIRTUAL)**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM

Join our workshop for parents and discover test taking strategies that can help your child as they prepare for the upcoming GMAS. We will also provide Georgia Department of Education Milestone resources.

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

## **A Lil' Slice of Data and Learning (Family Game Night) (IN-PERSON)**

Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Students will be sharing their personal data folders with parents on this night. Students will share where they began the year, where they are currently, and also their goals and action plans for the remainder of the year. After that, parents will complete a learning activity with their child and take one home.

**Visit YOUR Title I  
Parent Resource Center  
Today!**



# 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 or visit the school website.

## Bill Arp Elementary School

6550 Alexander Parkway, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-3200 [baes.dcssga.org](http://baes.dcssga.org)

### Science Night (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 6:00 PM

We will have hands-on science activities for students and families to participate in together, and DCSS Science Fair projects will be on display where the students who created them will conduct presentations and share their findings. School level winners will be announced and celebrated.

## Bright Star Elementary School

6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134  
(770) 651-3400 [bses.dcssga.org](http://bses.dcssga.org)

### Health/Wellness/Safety: New Year, New You (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 4:30 PM

We will have a session on wellness, internet safety and school safety. Each session will highlight important things that will keep our families safe and ready for a new year!

## Chapel Hill Elementary School

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

### Math Night or CHES Success Night (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 5:00 pm

Greetings Cheetahs! Please join us for our Spring Math CHES Success Night. Teachers will support parents with ways to assist their child based on students' performance on iReady, STAR and BEACON.

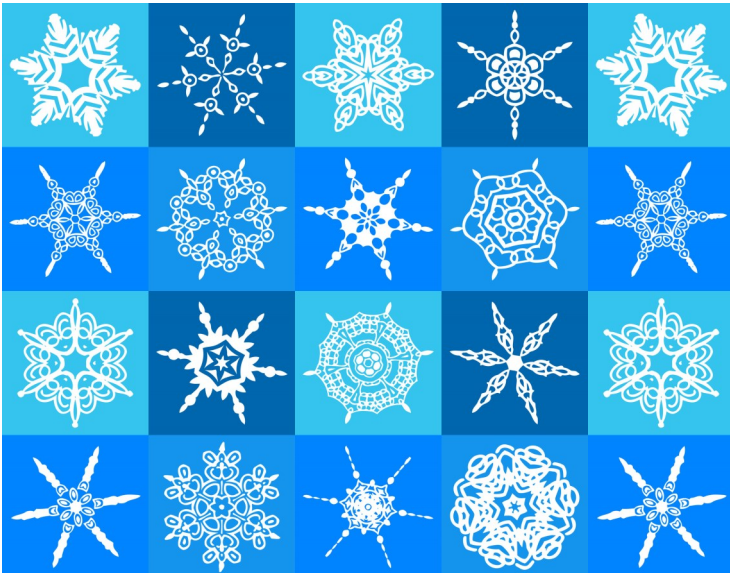
## Holly Springs Elementary School

4909 West Chapel Hill Road, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-4000 [hses.dcssga.org](http://hses.dcssga.org)

### Literacy Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM

This year, our annual literacy night will be combined with a science fair night, incorporating the SAMR (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, Redefinition) model to showcase the importance of technology in education. This event will be filled with interactive and educational activities that will not only enhance your child's literacy skills but also introduce them to the wonders of science and technology.



## Mason Creek Elementary School

3400 Johnston Road, Winston, GA 30187  
(770) 651-4900 [maes.dcssga.org](http://maes.dcssga.org)

### Spring Family "EXTREAM" Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM

We will have various members of the community come to our school to encourage kids to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, arts and math careers.

## Mt. Carmel Elementary School

2356 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-4200 [mces.dcssga.org](http://mces.dcssga.org)

### Grade Level Data Semester Recap (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM

We are excited to host our first semester recap. During this meeting, we will review grade level data. We will discuss trends that we have seen through the data for students in Grades K-5 and provide parents with various strategies that they can implement while at home to support their child.

## New Manchester Elementary School

2242 Old Lower River Road, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-4400 [nmes.dcssga.org](http://nmes.dcssga.org)

### A Firm Understanding of GMAS: Let our data speak for itself! (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

GMAS! GMAS! Come learn all about it! Join us on January 18th at 6:00 PM for an engaging presentation describing the ins and outs of the Georgia Milestones. Walk away with the inside scoop of the State of New Manchester Elementary, where the data says we are now and how we are moving forward. Remember, great schools have great parent involvement!

## South Douglas Elementary School

8299 Highway 166, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-4500 [sdes.dcssga.org](http://sdes.dcssga.org)

### Math Night (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun night of math games and make and take activities on January 30th at SDES. Activities will be aimed at helping students understand the new Georgia math standards.

## Yeager Middle School

4000 Kings Highway, Douglasville, GA 30135  
(770) 651-5600 [yms.dcssga.org](http://yms.dcssga.org)

### Parent Survey Data (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM

The Yeager Middle School staff will discuss frequently asked questions about school procedures, academics, and extracurricular activities.

## 2023-2024 School Year - Upcoming Important Dates

December 15	Semester ends
December 18-January 1	School Staff and Student Holidays
January 2	Teacher Work Day
January 3	Students return; 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester begins; report cards issued, all levels
January 15	MLK Day, Holiday for all