

Sugar Hill Happenings

December 2011

A Message from the Principal

Dear Sugar Hill families,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our second annual Thanksgiving Feast! Once again, we had a record amount of visitors. Having you here made the day extra special for our students and staff. Thank you for joining us! I continue to be so proud of our students and the hard work they do each day. I also continue to be in awe of the dedicated faculty here at Sugar Hill. Our teachers work hard every day to provide challenging and engaging lessons for our students.

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete the Parent Perception Survey next time you log onto the Parent Portal. You may also take the survey online in our Media Center. Your feedback is important to me as we are continuously looking for ways to grow and improve.

Please remember that my door is always open. Don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance. I look forward to an exciting second half of the year and hope to see you on Thursday, December 8 (6pm) at our PTA meeting and performance by the Sugar Hill Singers. Have a wonderful winter break!

Proud to be your principal,
Chris Godfrey



Common Core Standards and GEMS Oversight Review

Georgia DOE has adopted a new state curriculum, the

Administrative and Counseling Team

Principal- Chris Godfrey
Assistant Principal-Steve Kriete
Assistant Principal-Barb McNulty
K,2,4 Counselor-Erik Schmitt
1,3,5 Counselor-Kathy Bond

Important Dates

December 2: All Pro Dads at 7:00 a.m.
December 8: Chorus Program at 6:00 p.m.
December 12: Chick-Fil-A Night
December 14: Stevi B's Spirit Night
December 16: End of 2nd Nine Weeks
December 19-Jan 2: Winter Break

Math Online Tutorials



Who: 3-5 grade students
What: Free and Continuous Access to Online Tutorials
When: Ongoing

Through the support of Dr. Christopher Ray and his staff at Gwinnett County Online Campus, we are now able to offer free and continuous access to all online math tutorials for every GCPS family.

Instructions for Accessing the Tutorials

1. Go to the Gwinnett Online Campus Website : <http://www.gwinnettonlinecampus.com>
2. Click "LOGINS" in the upper right corner.
3. Username: sugarhillesmath
4. Password: sugarhillesmath
5. Select desired tutorial. (There will be a short overview for you to watch the first time)
6. For grade 4, click the "Content" tab in the upper left corner of the screen to begin the tutorial. For all other grades, you will be prompted to "Click here" to begin the tutorial.

Common Core Georgia Performance Standards

(CCGPS), for Language Arts (K-12) and Mathematics (K-12), along with technical literacy standards in Science (K-12), Social Studies (6-12), and Technical Education (6-12). CCGPS are planned for implementation beginning in 2012-2013 in Language Arts (K-12) and Mathematics (K-9). Proposed revisions to the Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) curriculum for 2012-2013 are aligned to the new CCGPS. Parents, staff and community members are invited and encouraged to review the proposed 2012-2013 AKS online and provide input on the recommended curriculum revisions. Beginning Nov. 14, you will be able to find directions for submitting feedback, along with the current 2011-2012 AKS and proposed 2012-2013 AKS. Comments will be accepted through Friday, December 2, 2011. The GEMS Oversight Committee will consider both staff and community suggestions at its annual meeting on March 1, 2012. GEMS recommendations will be made to CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks for final adoption consideration by the GCPD Board of Education.

Sugar Hill Singers



The Sugar Hill Singers have been working hard to prepare many fun songs over the past 3 months. They are ready to perform and will sound wonderful! Please join us for these events:

Saturday, December 3 - Sugar Hill Tree Lighting at the Sugar Hill Town Green - 5:30 pm. Cookies and visits with Santa in the Sugar Hill Community Center will follow the performance. Please remember that West Broad Street is closed so you will need to use Level Creek Road or Church Street.

Thursday, December 8 - The Sugar Hill Singers will perform after the PTA meeting. Happy Holidays! Everyone is invited.

Counselor's Corner

As we approach the holiday season there can be a mixture of excitement and higher levels of stress on everyone within the family. Here are some tips for making the holiday season as enjoyable and stress free as possible for the adults:

1. **Be realistic:** There is this feeling with the holidays that they have to be perfect or the same as last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals change also. Choose a few that are very important, and be open to new ones.
2. **Stick to a budget:** Before you go gift shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend. Stick to this budget. You can also try new ideas, such as donating to a charity in someone's name, give homemade gifts, or start a family gift exchange.
3. **Plan ahead:** Set aside specific days for shopping, baking visiting friends, and other activities.
4. **Learn to take a breather:** Make time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes without distractions may help to refresh you. Take a walk at night, listen to soothing music. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, and slowing your breathing.

Holiday Stress and Kids

What about making the holidays as stress-free as possible for kids??

1. Talk to your children about the meanings of the Holidays, whatever role they play within your family.
2. If buying presents always seems to cause stress, sit down with your children in front of catalogues and have them pick out gifts for family members and also for themselves. Make them aware of what to expect.
3. Limit T.V. as much as possible.
4. Have a routine. Try to stick to some type of schedule as much as possible
5. Try to keep the arguing to a minimum and focus on positive things. Children know when the adults are stressed and it can cause stress in them.



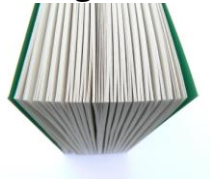
Monday, December 12 - The Sugar Hill Singers will perform for the patients at the Gwinnett Extended Care Center. We are glad to be able to share our music with the community.

Thank you to all Chorus parents for bringing your children each week for rehearsals. I love working with your children each week!

Musically yours,
Tiffany English
Music Specialist



@ Your Longhorn Library



Thank you to everyone who visited "To the Book Fair and Beyond!" You helped us celebrate reading with a bang! We are so grateful to the forty-five volunteers who helped us run the book fair and keep the media center available for book check out too! Volunteers donated over 390 hours to our Book Fair and Media Center! Our "Out of This World!" volunteers are: Aletha Height, Amanda Alligood, Amber Black, Amy James, Amy Leazer, Carol Gross, Cathy LaMont, Christine Peprah, Courtney Field, Debbie Toole, Debora Moore, Diana Lopez, Dru Carroll, Elizabeth Bryner, Elizabeth Murphy, Faye Upchurch (my mom), Grace Oshiotse, Heather Baxter, Jennifer McPherson, Jessica Baldwin, Joanie Bryson, Karen Greer, Kathryn Wang, Kelly Wilson, Kinnari Patel, Kristen Anderson, Kay Cho, Larissa Burke, Mary Wright, Megan Pack, Michelle Russell, Nicky Jeevanayagam, Patricia Tuazon, Rogena Lao, Sara Teems (Mrs. Teem's daughter), Sarah Jones, Shain Berry, Shannon Sutton, Shelley Jones, Sherri Baker, Tammy Bunch, Tanja Bendixon, Tim and Vicki Noel, and Tonya Philbrick. Also included in our thanks are the members of our student media committee: Sophia Cabrera, Michelle Cho, Tuari Claiborne, Fiona Jones, and Adathel Lenzer. They stayed late and came in early during the fair to help with our staff preview and restocking shelves

Lanier Cluster Education Foundation



Blue Jean Ball: Lake Lanier Islands Resort is the location for the Blue Jean Ball Saturday February 25, 2012. Lake Lanier Islands will be offering special room rates and golf packages for people that want to stay the night. So book the babysitter and get ready for a fun night raising money for the schools. **Tickets are now on sale for individuals as well as whole table**

sponsors. Click here for [TicketInfo](#) The event will be a fun filled evening to benefit the Lanier Cluster schools and consist of a cocktail hour, dinner, entertainment and a silent auction. This will be our main fundraising event for the Foundation.

Denim Wanted! The Foundation needs your denim. We are looking for donations of denim to be used to make the decorations for the Blue Jean Ball. Bins are set up in each school for these donations. We are accepting anything denim. Please make sure that they are clean prior to donating. Any donations that are not used will be donated to Goodwill.

We need items for the Blue Jean Ball silent auction to help make the evening a success. If you have a condo on the beach, have contacts with airlines, can donate a service (oil changes, car washes, Mary Kay), and more please contact Stacey Warchol with the event committee at: laniercef@gmail.com

Items already received: 20 field box seats from the Gwinnett Braves, the high school is putting together a prom package (so you Junior and Senior parents, get together to bid on this one!) to include dinner, prom tickets for 3 couples (and more), a football signed by all members of the 2011 Atlanta Falcons plus Coach Mike Smith and a helmet signed by Brent Grimes, cornerback for the Falcons, a stay at a condo in Costa Rica.

You can follow our progress as well as more information regarding ways to volunteer along with events, donations, gifts, supports, etc. on our [Facebook page](#) or our website [Lanier Cluster Education Foundation](#). If you are one of our fans, please ask five of your friends to like us on Facebook. This is the #1 way for us communicate. **Don't miss out on the fun! Like us today!**



each morning. Their help was invaluable!

Speaking of reading, our AR Widget shows we've read 104,820,807 words and 14,529 books! You can see an up-dated count on our Sugar Hill homepage. The AR Widget provides an up-to-date total of words and books read by Sugar Hill Longhorns.

One of the great new features of AR is Home Connect! It provides you with access to your child's AR record and AR Book Finder, a search engine for all AR books. Home Connect is easy to set up. Please contact me at 678-546-5512 or tammy_smith@gwinnett.k12.ga.us if you are interested.

Happy Reading!

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