Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year and sent home with students being served with Title I funds at Douglas County schools. These schools include Annette Winn Elementary, Beulah Elementary, Bright Star Elementary, Burnett Elementary, Chestnut Log Middle, Eastside Elementary, Factory Shoals Elementary, Lithia Springs Elementary, North Douglas Elementary, Stewart Middle, Sweetwater Elementary, Turner Middle and Youth Villages - Inner Harbour Campus. For more information, please visit dcsga.org or contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@dcsga.org

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Winter Break Worries: Things to do Over the Winter Holidays to Keep Your Student Engaged
By Meagan Bowlick, Teacher, Bright Star Elementary School

Winter break is coming and the one thing on every parent’s mind is…. What in the world will I do with my student while they are at home? Breaks should still be learning opportunities for students even when they are not at school. There are a ton of different educational activities that students can do while at home on break!

Read, Read, Read! Reading is what drives learning for students. Over the holiday season, students can read in many different ways to help strengthen their fluency, word recognition, retelling skills, and much more. Here are some ideas to make reading fun over the holidays: Have students read recipes to you as you are cooking those yummy holiday treats. This will also help to incorporate math by talking with your student about measurements! Have your child read the shopping ads that come out and allow them to circle a few items that they would really like to see under the Christmas tree! Students who have access to the internet can read books online via MyOn or other reading platforms! What better way to fall asleep on cold winter nights than by snuggling up with a good book. Read with or to your child nightly while tucking them in. Have them point out sight words in the text and ask them questions along the way to work on comprehension skills! Your students thrive on one on one time so what better way to meet their needs than with reading!

We can’t forget to incorporate math over the holidays! Help your child measure the Christmas gifts. Then determine how much wrapping paper will be needed to cover the present completely. This helps to incorporate measurement! Kids can measure and cut out the appropriate amount of wrapping paper, ribbon, and gift tags to fit the present! This will help your child with mathematical process and help you with wrapping. You could also get your student in the kitchen and have them measure out ingredients and help you bake those delicious holiday treats! Measurement is a math term that starts in kindergarten and goes up into high school. Having kitchen help would help your student memorize basic measurements and conversions as well as provide you both with quality time together!

Reading and math are two great ways to keep your child engaged and learning

Continued on page 3
Reading Over the Holiday Break

There are many opportunities to keep your child(ren) reading while they are out on the holiday break. Here are a few:

- For younger children, here are many holiday books that can be shared together. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or Christmas, there are dozens of stories related to these holidays. Your local library is a great resource for these kind of books.
- Enlist your child’s help in the kitchen. Look over recipes in cook books or online. Have your child read the recipes, then decide together which recipes to try.
- Do you receive holiday cards from friends and family? If so, have your child read these cards out loud to you and the rest of your family.

Upcoming Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>Semester ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 23-January 3</td>
<td>System Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>Teacher Work Day</td>
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<td>January 7</td>
<td>Students return; 2\textsuperscript{nd} semester begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Report cards issued, all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>System Holiday</td>
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Let’s keep those Math Minds sharp over the break! Solve the following word problems. Find more math resources at [www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com)

**Grades K-2**
On a cold winter’s day, Suresh and his sister came in from playing in the snow and wanted to warm up with some yummy hot chocolate with lots of marshmallows. Suresh put 8 marshmallows in his cup and gave his sister 4 marshmallows for her cup. When his little sister complained, their mother said they must each have the same number of marshmallows. How can Suresh and his sister divide the marshmallows equally?

**Grades 3-5**
Frostbite Valley School had a Winter Carnival. Three teams entered the cross-country ski race: Snow Bunnies, Yetis, and Polar Bears. Each team had 3 skiers. Skiers scored points according to the order in which they crossed the finish line. The winner scored 8 points, the second finisher 7 points, and so forth, down to no points for last place. The first two Snow Bunnies to finish were so close together that the judges had to watch the video to determine their places. A Polar Bear broke his pole and finished last. When the points were totaled, all 3 teams had the same score. List the order in which the 9 skiers finished by team. Explain how you found your answer and how you know it is correct.

**Grades 6-8**
It’s been a very snowy winter in Vermont. During a recent span of days, some snow fell on twelve of the days. Snow in the morning was always followed by a clear afternoon, and snow in the afternoon was always preceded by a clear morning. In all, eight mornings and fourteen afternoons were clear during the span.
How many days were in the span of time?
How many of those days had no snow fall at all?
Use Online Learning When Your Student is on Break From School

By: Juanita McClendon, Teacher, Burnett Elementary School

Do you want to help your student continue to learn while they are on a break from school? Did you know that students can continue to learn and grow even while on break from school?

Students need consistent instruction to continue to build on their basic skills such as reading fundamentals, math computation, and comprehension. When students spend time away from the learning environment, they can lose some of the knowledge they have gained. This can cause them to fall behind in their learning. Using online learning resources while your child is away from school can help with that, and it is also engaging for students.

Our county has many great resources to continue student education in and out of the classroom. Did you know that your student has a Google Drive through the school? The Google Drive platform has lots of resources that your child’s school uses and your student can access it at home.

Since students prefer to be online either with gaming or social media. Let’s utilize their computer time and gear it towards growing their education. Here are some great online learning sites that are great to utilize at home during any break from school.

- www.mobymax.com
- www.Myon.com
- www.Educationgalaxy.com
- www.nitrotype.com
- www.coolmath.com
- https://pbskids.org/games/math/
- https://www.ixl.com/math/
- www.prodigy.com
- www.mathmagician.com
- www.abcya.com

over the holiday breaks. But that is not all that you can do. Here is a list of other great ideas to keep your student engaged and learning even while at home: craft day, make slime and other easy crafts, have a puppet show with socks, complete a puzzle, write thank you cards for gifts already gotten, go on a flashlight scavenger hunt, make a magazine collage of favorite books or toys, play dominoes and add up your lines, cut paper snowflakes to decorate the tree with and work on fine motor skills, watch a favorite movie and compare it to a book, and so much more! There is no end to the activities that your students can do while on break! When in doubt, Google it!

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 https://www.dcssga.org/ or scan this QR code to access the website with the resources listed.
## Upcoming Workshops

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Parent Resource Center</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Workshop Details</th>
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| Annette Winn Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122 | (770) 651-3100 | **Academic Parent Teacher Teams Meeting 2**
  Tuesday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 22, 2020 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.  |
| Beulah Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 1150 Burnt Hickory Road, Douglasville, GA 30134 | (770) 651-3300 | **Family Math Night**
  Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM
  Join us to learn about different math topics and some math strategies you can use at home. Come play math games and make and take math activities. Hope to see you for our Family Math Night!  |
| Bright Star Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 6300 John West Road, Douglasville, GA 30134 | (770) 651-3400 | **International Night (Wax Museum)**
  Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 5:30 PM
  Parents will be invited to learn about different cultures that are represented within our school. Grade levels will highlight a standard specific culture that the students learn about.  |
| Burnett Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134 | (770) 651-3500 | **GMAS Fireside Chat**
  Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 5:00 PM
  Parents will receive information about how to help their child become prepared for the GMAS as well as implications toward promotion and retention.  |
| Chestnut Log Middle School | Parent Resource Center | 2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135 | (770) 651-5100 | **GMAS Test Prep Night**
  Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM
  Want to know more about Georgia Milestone Assessment System? Come out and learn about different strategies to help all students for the GMAS.  |
| Eastside Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134 | (770) 651-3800 | **STEMulate Your Mind in Class and at Home**
  Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 5:30 PM
  Families will participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities as well as learn how STEM has an impact on the world that we live in.  |
| Factory Shoals Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 2375 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122 | (770) 651-3900 | **Literacy and Lexiles**
  Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 4:30 PM
  Students and families can enjoy a fun filled afternoon with activities that focus on reading and writing. Parents will learn how to match books to their child’s reading level and will be given resources to support reading at home.  |
| Lithia Springs Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122 | (770) 651-4100 | **Academic Parent Teacher Teams Meeting 2**
  Monday-Tuesday, January 27 and 28, 2020 at 6:00 PM
  Grades K, 1, 2 and 3 families will be trained to support children’s academic goals by linking home and school learning.  |
| North Douglas Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134 | (770) 651-4800 | **STEM Night**
  Tuesday, January 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM
  Join us for a night of hands-on science, math and engineering activities for students and families to complete together. The event includes a range of activities covering different STEM topics and connections to exciting STEM careers.  |
| Sweetwater Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122 | (770) 651-4600 | **Technology Talk**
  Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 9:30 AM (Grades K, 2 and 4)
  Wednesday, January 17, 2020 at 9:30 AM (Grade 1, 3 and 5)
  Administrative staff will demonstrate some of the great technology our students and teachers use every day. Learn how to use technology to help your child at home.  |
| Stewart Middle School | Parent Resource Center | 8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134 | (770) 651-5400 | **Georgia Milestones Test Prep Meeting**
  Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM
  Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM
  Come out and learn important test taking tips and strategies for the Georgia Milestones Assessment.  |
| Sweetwater Elementary School | Parent Resource Center | 2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122 | (770) 651-4600 | **Milestones Testing Early Prep**
  Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM
  The GMAS Early Prep Family workshop will allow parents to have plenty of time to work with their student(s) to ensure a successful pass. Workshop presenters will provide test taking strategies, student testing tips and supplemental materials for student use at home.  |