



# HEMBREE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE DESK OF KALPANA RAJU

JANUARY 13, 2012

Dear Parents,

My staff and I wish each one of you a happy and prosperous New Year! I also welcome all of our new students and their families to Hembree Springs! Can you imagine that we are already thirteen days into the new year? Remember that school will be closed on Monday, January 16, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. Looking ahead at this semester, we have many fun and enriching events planned: Science Days, Science/ Writing/Art Fair, book clubs, Field Day, field trips, and so much more! Stay tuned and don't forget to read this newsletter every Friday.

You should have received your child's report card this week. Please take a few minutes and discuss it with him/her. Also, if you have any questions, please set up a conference with the teacher. Please let us know if your phone or e-mail contacts have changed. You can e-mail your child's teacher or our data clerk, Mrs. Kathy Simontis.

Take care,

*Kali Raju*

School Closed  
Monday,  
January 16  
for  
MLK Jr.  
Holiday

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>January 16</b>	<b>MLK Jr. Holiday – No School</b>
January 17	Linda Schultz Community Mtg @ Holcomb Bridge MS; 9:30 a.m.
January 18	LSAC Meeting; 7:30 a.m.
January 19	Tellus Museum – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade; 8:45 a.m. Chorus Rehearsal; 2:20 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. FCBOE Board Mtg @ Dunwoody Springs; 5 p.m.
January 24	El Porton Family Night; 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
January 26	No Chorus Rehearsal
January 27	Kindergarten Science Day
February 2	Center for Puppetry Arts – 1 <sup>st</sup> ; 8:45 a.m. Teaching Museum – 4 <sup>th</sup> ; 8:45 a.m. Rising 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Coffee at Elkins Pointe MS; 10 a.m. Chorus Rehearsal; 2:20 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
February 8	LSAC Meeting; 7:30 a.m.

## GIVING TREE THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generous support of the Giving Tree, we were able to provide 296 gifts and \$530 in gift cards for the North Fulton Charities Holiday program. This was our biggest year yet! What an outstanding way to show how much Hembree Springs' families care. Please let your children know how much their efforts are appreciated and what a difference they made for so many families and children in our community. Thank you!

## CHANGES IN SCIENCE DAYS

Please note the following changes: Kindergarten Science Day has been changed from January 20 to January 27. First and Second Grade Science Day has been changed from February 3 to February 10. Please look for more details in upcoming highlights as well as information and sign-up sheets in your child's folder. We need many volunteers and would love to see YOU here to help our budding scientists.

## SPELLING BEE WINNER

Hembree Springs crowned a new Spelling Bee champion on January 6, 2012. Kayleigh Monahan spelled words such as sequel and jealousy to win against fierce competition. Neil Kochhar was the runner-up for the bee. Eighteen fourth and fifth grade students represented their homerooms in the Spelling Bee. They are: Thomas Penhalegon, Kristin Andeweg, Neil Kochhar, Athena Cira, Jeziah Robinson, Lani Laskowski, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Cameron Chism, Josh Robinson, Caroline Burns, Kristin Dippolito, Kayleigh Monahan, Gabrielle Riddick, Sarah Giron, Will Newsom, Jordan Widis, Rebecca Choi, and Miles Wallace. Our school winner, Kayleigh Monahan, will compete in the Fulton County Spelling Bee on February 2 at Mount Olive Elementary. Good luck to Kayleigh!

## FIFTH ANNUAL DRIPPY DROPPERSON COLORING BOOK CONTEST

Congratulations to Grace Traber in Ms. Cruz's third grade class! Grace was chosen out of over 140 entries as one of the twelve winners in the Fifth Annual Drippy Dropperson Contest about water conservation. She is invited to the awards ceremony for the unveiling of the coloring book and will be recognized in front of Roswell's Mayor and Council on Tuesday, February 28.

## JANUARY FAMILY SPIRIT NIGHT

Our next Family Spirit Night is Tuesday, January 24, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at El Porton. Hope to see everyone there to kick-off the second semester with salsa and spirit!

**WORKING TOGETHER TO LEARN AND GROW BEYOND OUR DREAMS!**

## **BOX TOPS CONTEST GOING ON NOW**

It's that time again! Gather up all of the Box Tops you have been saving, place them in a bag, and turn them in to the designated box at the front of the school. Make sure you label your bag with your name and your teacher's name because the class with the most Box Tops will win a prize! All Box Tops are due by February 16. If you have any questions, please e-mail Jennifer Hasson at [jhasson@me.com](mailto:jhasson@me.com). Remember, you can make purchases through the Box Top Marketplace and earn extra Box Tops for your child's class! The Box Tops really do add up! We earned almost \$1,300 in the fall. Let's see if we can do even better! If everyone turns in 50 Box Tops, it is \$4,000 for our school!

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TEACHER AND STAFF BIRTHDAYS**

Would you like to help the teachers and staff of Hembree Springs celebrate their birthdays? If you can volunteer by making or purchasing cakes or cupcakes and/or delivering them on or near their birthday, please e-mail Stephanie Coelho at [stephanie.thirtyone@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.thirtyone@gmail.com) or call her at 678-522-0375.

## **HARDSHIP TRANSFER APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE** **Deadline: February 15**

Applications are available for parents who wish to apply for a 2012-13 hardship transfer or to renew a current hardship to another Fulton elementary, middle, or high school. Parents can use the online form at <http://fultonschoolsplanung.net/transferapp.aspx> to enter their information and then print it to obtain signatures and/or supporting documentation.

The deadline for submitting a transfer application is February 15, by 4:30 p.m. No exceptions or extensions will be granted. All requests must be received or postmarked by this date and time. **Applications can be sent by mail, fax, or hand delivered to:** *Fulton County Schools' Student Assignment Office, c/o Meadows Operations Center, 5270 Northfield Blvd., College Park, GA, 30349, (FAX) 404-763-5546.*

The February 15 deadline applies to students and parents seeking a hardship transfer for medical reasons, curriculum differences, or child care situations.

## **ATTENDANCE MYTHS**

Does it really matter if my child misses a few extra days each year? Here is another myth about student attendance. *"We don't need to worry about attendance until middle or high school."*

- While absenteeism is more widespread in middle and high school, it still affects vast numbers of younger students.
- Data shows that standardized test scores are significantly affected by elementary students' attendance patterns, to the point that the number of absences is related to the student's chances of "passing" the CRCT (Meets or Exceeds).
- Elementary students' school attendance habits often carry over into middle and high school.

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

### **Honesty**

The character word for the month of January at HSES is "Honesty." Teachers and the Hawks Talk morning news will be focusing on how students can practice being honest.

Although lying is a normal part of a child's development, it's not something we should overlook. When your child tells a lie, use it as an opportunity to talk about why being truthful is so important. Calling her a liar or raising your voice may cause your child to keep lying in order to avoid blame. To encourage truth-telling, try removing the consequences. Say, "No matter what you did, I won't get angry as long as you tell the truth." Many kids lie because they know they've done something wrong and don't want to disappoint you and/or be punished. Focus on what you want your child to learn – being honest. When your child tells the truth about something she's done wrong, be sure to praise him/her.

"Pro-social lies" – avoiding the truth to spare someone's feelings – are normal and pretty much accepted. But don't expect your take-everything-literally child to understand until they reach 6-7 years of age. If you tell your younger children, "you must never tell a lie," but then tell them to tell to grandma that the inedible cookies are delicious, it's confusing! Set a good example by being honest yourself.

It's never too early to teach your kids honesty. Review stories like "Pinocchio" and "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." Talk about why it is wrong to lie – that it makes you sad when she says things that aren't true. When your child realizes that telling the truth is something you value, that's something they'll strive to reach.

Read more from Amanda Rock's article *Truth and Consequences*: <http://preschoolers.about.com/od/behaviordiscipline/a/lying.htm>

## **YOGA CLASSES FOR KIDS**

Center of Motion Yoga is excited to offer yoga classes for kids as an after school enrichment program at Hembree Springs. Students will learn basic yoga poses and sequences while stretching and strengthening their bodies and having a lot of fun. No previous experience is necessary and Center of Motion will provide all equipment. Yoga is a fun and easy form of exercise for all children. Classes will begin on January 19 and will run for 12 weeks. The cost is \$120 per child with a 10% discount for siblings. For more information or to register and pay, please visit [www.centerofmotionyoga.com](http://www.centerofmotionyoga.com). If you have any questions, please call Katie at 404-217-8805.

*Equal opportunity employer and service provider.  
Reasonable accommodations and modifications made for the disabled.  
404-763-4585 TTY 1-800-255-0135*