

The Parent Connector

TITLE I NEWSLETTER

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2016



WALTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"In Pursuit of Excellence"

Back-to-School Tips for Parents

Starting the new school year can be a time of great excitement... and anxiety. Help calm your child's fears (and your own) with these teacher-approved tips.

Meet the new teacher.

For kids, one of the biggest back-to-school fears is *"Will I like my new teacher?"* Breaking the ice early on is one of the best ways to calm everyone's fears. Take advantage of your school's open house or back-to-school night. Some teachers welcome phone calls or e-mails — another great opportunity to get to know each other before the year begins. If personal contact with the teacher isn't possible, try locating the teacher's picture on a school website or in a yearbook, so your child can put a name with a face. If your child's teacher sends a welcome letter, be sure to read the letter.

Tour the school.

If your school hosts an open house, be sure to go. Familiarizing your child with her environment will help her avoid a nervous stomach on the first day. Together you can meet their teacher, find her desk, or explore the playground. With an older child, you might ask them to give you a tour of the school. This will help refresh their memory and yours.

Connect with friends.

A familiar friend can make all the difference when heading back to school. You might try calling parents from last year's class and find out which children are in your child's class this year. Refresh these relationships before school starts by scheduling a play date or a school carpool.

Tool up.

Obtain the class supply list and take a special shopping trip with your child. Having the right tools will help him feel prepared. While keeping basic needs in mind, allow for a couple of splurges like a cool notebook or a favorite-colored pen. These simple pleasures make going back to school a lot more fun. School supply lists also provide great insight into the schoolwork ahead. Get your child excited about upcoming projects by explaining how new supplies might be used. Let them practice using supplies that they're not used before — such as colored pencils or a protractor — so they will be comfortable using them in class.

Avoid last-minute drilling.

When it's almost time to stop playing, give a five-minute warning. Giving clear messages to your child is very important. Review home and routines on a regular basis.

Chat about today's events and tomorrow's plans.

While it is important to support learning throughout the summer, don't spend the last weeks of summer vacation reviewing last year's curriculum. All kids need some down time before the rigors of school begin. For some kids, last-minute drills can heighten anxiety, reminding them of what they've forgotten instead of what they remember.

Ease into the routine.

Switching from a summer to a school schedule can be stressful to everyone in the household. Avoid first-day-of-school mayhem by practicing your routine a few days in advance. Set the alarm clock, go through your morning rituals, and get in the car or to the bus stop on time. Routines help children feel comfortable, and establishing a solid school routine will make the first day of school go much smoother.



Calendar

August

- 3 First Day of School
- 18 EL Parent Night
WPES 5-6:15pm – Rm#227
- 23 EL Parent Night
YES 5:00pm - Cafeteria
- 24 EL Parent Night
LES 6:30-6:55pm and
7-7:25pm – Room#
- 25 Grandparents Raising
Grandchildren 12-1:30pm
Rivers of Mercy Church
- 31 Progress Reports for Quarter I

September

- 1 EL Parent Meeting
MES 5-5:30pm – Media Center
- 5 Holiday/Labor Day
- 8 EL Parent Meeting
BCES 6-7:25pm - Cafeteria

October

- 5-6 8-Week Exams
- 6 End Quarter I
- 7 Teacher Workday/Student
Holiday
- 10 - 14 Fall Intersession
- 17 1st Day Quarter II
- 20 Report Cards Issued

November

- 10 Progress Reports
for Quarter II
- 11 Holiday/Veterans Day
- 21 - 25 Holidays/Thanksgiving

December

- 20-21 Exam Days
- 21 End Quarter II/End Semester
- 22 - 30 Winter Break
- 25 Christmas Day

January

- 1 New Years Day
- 2 - 6 Winter Break
- 9 1st Day Semester II
- 12 Report Cards Issued
for Semester I
- 16 Holiday/Martin Luther
King, Jr.
- 25 100 Days

School-wide Title I Schools in Walton County School System are: Atha Road Elementary, Carver Middle School, Harmony Elementary, Monroe Area High School, Monroe Elementary, Walker Park Elementary, Walnut Grove Elementary, and Youth Middle School.

Targeted Assistance School in Walton County: Bay Creek Elementary and Loganville Middle.

The Walton County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission to its programs, services or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. For additional information or referral to the appropriate system coordinator, contact the system coordinator: Dr. Lance Young at 200 Double Springs Church Road, Monroe, GA 30656, or at 770-266-4410.

Si usted necesita ayuda con la traducción de esta carta, por favor comuníquese con la Señora Eleanor Scott en Walton County

WCSD Homeless Program McKinney-Vento Act

Are you or someone you know homeless? The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes children and youth who are: sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (or doubled up); living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or waiting foster care placement.

Children and youth who have a primary night time residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, and migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you think any of these apply to your family, please notify Gina Meadows, Homeless Coordinator at 770-266-4508

Did you know.....?

About our PARENT RESOURCE CENTERS!

All Title I schools have a Parent Resource Center which is usually located in the Media Center. You can check out books and other resources to help you engage with your child's education. A free computer is also available for your use. Be sure to check the Parent Resource Bulletin Board and flyers for Title I information, upcoming parent events, parenting and homework tips, as well as community resources.

District Parent Coordinator

Donna M. Hawk: 770-266-4530 donna.hawk@walton.k12.ga.us - Title I



Department of Special Education



Special Needs Database

Parent to Parent's comprehensive resource database contains over 5,000 resources in over 150 categories. The Special Needs Database is a user-friendly, online searchable resource available to individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals throughout Georgia. You can search online or call them at 1-800-229-2038 and they will search for you! <http://p2pga.org/index.php/database>

WCSD Special Needs Resource Room

Did you know that we have a small lending library of special needs books that you can check out? We also have many brochures & flyers of various resources in the community. Please call Bonnie Morris at 770-266-4532 to schedule a time to visit.

Please welcome our **new Parent Mentor!** Bonnie Morris is available to assist parents with locating information and resources; provide confidential support for parental concerns and questions; provide information on the special education process of referral, evaluation and placement.....and so much more. Contact her at (770)266-4532 or bonnie.morris@walton.k12.ga.us.

The mission of the Parent Advisory Council is to be the liaison in each of our schools for parents of children with disabilities. PAC members help share information, support Exceptional Children's Week and create the link to our families.

The mission of the Walton County Navigator Team is to support families that have children or young adults with disabilities through a statewide volunteer parent network. Their goal is to provide families with comprehensive resources, increased access to education, advocacy and local resources that meet their specialized needs.

The 11th Annual Jingle Jog is just around the corner!

Come out and be a part of either the Fun Run or the 5K.... or just come out and cheer them on! Holiday Vendors will be in the Loganville High School cafeteria for your Holiday shopping convenience. Be a part of something great for our kids as this is the only fundraiser for the local Stone Soup.

Stone Soup Summer Camp and supports so many kids in being able to have a quality and super fun camp experience. We also support travel for Special Olympics.

Please let us know if you need special assistance (such as child care) so that you can participate in your child's IEP meetings.

For more information and resources, please visit the Exceptional Education Department's section on the Walton County School District's website: www.walton.k12.ga.us

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren hosts monthly support groups at the Rivers of Mercy Church (714 Davis Street, Monroe, GA) on the 4th Thursday of every month. Support groups are open to all relative caregivers in the community to help provide connection and information. Speakers from local organizations are invited to present information on resources that will be helpful to the families.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: August 25, September 22, October 27, and November 17, 2016 12 Noon – 1:30 p.m.