

The Comet Connection

A newsletter for the families of W. C. Britt

Volume I, Issue V

February, 2010

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Principal's Corner

February 1, 2010

Greetings to the W. C. Britt Elementary School Community!

I am thrilled to report to you that the second semester is off to a great start. As I visit classrooms each day, I observe students engaged in challenging learning. Teachers are providing rigorous instruction using a variety of effective teaching strategies to differentiate and enhance learning. The excitement of learning using new technology is contagious. It is exciting to use interactive learning technology tools. I share the excitement of science students who use interactive technology to change sound wave lengths on interactive computer programs for hands-on learning. Math students are solving challenging problems in the Britt Galaxy Computer Lab as well as in classrooms. Learning has never been more fun and engaging!

I hope you will also take advantage of the technology available to you as a parent to enhance your child's learning. Thank you to all parents and students who are accessing the learning links from the Britt Elementary web page to review and enrich learning. The Parent Portal will be available to parents of Britt students by the end of February. More information about the Parent Portal is available on our school web page. I also encourage parents to take advantage of the many parent meetings planned throughout the school year. The Britt Parent Center is available to parents as well.

Faculty and staff members are making every effort to make sure every Britt student increases their reading skills as much as possible this school year. All students are expected to read during BRITT Time (Britt Reading in Total Togetherness) each day. During the month of February, students will have the opportunity to earn a very nice Britt Comet Cap in The Great Poetry Race. I ask that every parent help us in this important effort to increase reading skills by encouraging reading at home.

We are passionate about student learning at Britt Elementary. I can verify that our teachers are very skilled educators. They genuinely love children. Britt teachers go above and beyond the call of duty each day in planning and delivering instruction to meet the needs of your children. On behalf of the Britt Elementary faculty and staff, I want to thank you for choosing Britt Elementary and for the support you give our school. Together we can provide Britt Comets with a solid foundation for future learning opportunities.

With warmest regards,

Doris Jones

Looking Ahead

in February:

- Feb. 1 Reader's Rally
3:45-5:00 pm
- Feb. 3 & 4 Early Release Days
(12:50 pm) & Parent Confer-
ences
- Feb. 4 Pizza Hut Night
- Feb. 8 Reader's Rally
3:45-5:00 pm
- Feb. 8 Stevie B's Night 5-8pm
- Feb. 9 School Council Meeting
10:30-11:30 am
- Feb. 9 Zaxby's Snellville Family
Night 5-8 pm
- Feb. 11 First Grade Field Trip
to the Aurora Theatre
10:30 am-1:30 pm
- Feb. 11 PTA Health & Safety
Night 7 pm
- Feb. 12 School is in Session
(Flood Make-Up Day)
- Feb. 15 School is in Session
(Snow Make-Up Day)
- Feb. 16 Writing Workshop:
How to Write Specific Papers
(Gr. 2-5) at 7 pm
- Feb. 18 Parent Breakfast
(Grades K-2) 8:00-8:45 am
- Feb. 18 Steak & Shake Night
- Feb. 19 Parent Breakfast
(Grades 3-5) 8:00-8:45 am
- Feb. 19 Relay for Life Hat Day-
for a \$1.00 donation
- Feb. 22-26 Book Fair
- Feb. 23 & 25 Book Fair Family
Night 4-6 pm
- Feb. 23 PTA Bingo Night
5:30 pm
- Feb. 25 Parent Workshop:
Gang Awareness/Bullying 7 p.m.

DECEMBER AWARDS

Congratulations!



**GWEN WISE,
Shining Comet**

***Kind *Funny *Patient**
Gwen is always willing to go beyond her duties to show her kindness and patience to help others ~ especially our students. She gives them one-on-one attention to help them think about making better choices and showing them that we care at Britt!



**LEANDER BRYANT,
Technology Teacher
of the Month**

Ms. Bryant recently created a student technology project that ties together Science, Writing, and Reading AKS. She also uses classroom technology equipment such as the "ladybug", BrainPOP, and other web links to spice up her teaching while engaging her students. She shares Britt technology ideas with parents & teachers.



**SHANNON CAMPBELL,
Instructor of
the Month**

Ms. Campbell has truly taken the Math Workshop Model to heart. Her students work in small groups to solve exemplars using a variety of means. She floats from group to group providing support by teaching mini-lessons on demand or scaffolding the assignment. The students discuss and write about their solutions.

JANUARY AWARDS

Congratulations!



**Cecilia Kovacs,
Shining Comet**

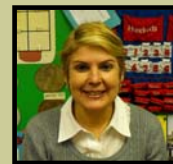
***Calm
*Diligent
*Essential**

Ms. Kovacs is very hard-working. She always remains calm and handles all situations well.



**DONNA GUEST,
Technology Teacher
of the Month**

Mrs. Guest uses technology to engage her students in all areas of instruction. Her favorite new technology tool is the digital visualizer or better known to some as the "ladybug." This allows her to face her students during the entire lesson. She says that this strategy keeps her students interested in the lesson.



**BEA BOKINA,
Instructor of
the Month**

Ms. Bokina treats all students with love and respect. She demonstrates a desire for all students to succeed. Walking into the classroom, one finds an active, creative, focused classroom where the AKS are taught using a variety of approaches. Ms. Bokina uses math exemplars along with manipulatives to teach math lessons.

Kindergarten AKS

LA-Recognize words in context; identify rhyming/non-rhyming words, and segment/blend phonemes. Begin to use subject/verb agreement and tense when speaking. **Writing**-Write a piece that involves one topic using letters & phonetically spelled words to share information.

MATH-Sequence ordinal numbers; count pennies to buy items; demonstrate equivalence. Ex. $4+1=3+2$

SCIENCE-Analyze time patterns & objects in the day & night sky; explain that the sun supplies heat & light to Earth; use tools & instruments for observing, measuring & manipulating objects.

SOCIAL STUDIES-Identify the purpose of President's Day & describe the people & events celebrated.

First Grade AKS

LA-Retell stories, identify cause/effect, main idea; identify synonyms, homophones, & read contractions; identify the beginning & end of a paragraph.

Writing-Use new words (Sitton & Fry spelling); use correct end punctuation, commas, apostrophes; add details; use dictionaries & glossaries for reference.

MATH-Count coins/bills; exchange equivalent amounts of coins & bills; identify fractions; use an inch & centimeter ruler to measure & compare lengths.

SCIENCE-Investigate properties of light, shadows, & sound.

SOCIAL STUDIES-Learn about Harriet Tubman, Theodore Roosevelt, & George Washington Carver.

Second Grade AKS

LA: Reading-Identify/infer main ideas, details, & cause-effect; recognize author's purpose; use a thesaurus, glossary, index, guide words in a dictionary, & appendix.

Writing-Write consistently in complete sentences with correct subject/verb agreement; use simple & compound sentences and conjunctions; use various resources including: an encyclopedia, the Internet, & books.

MATH-Count back change; add or subtract with coins; add or subtract two & three digit numbers; describe & classify 2D and 3D figures by vertices, edges, & angles; evaluate basic & compound shapes.

SCIENCE-Describe the universe as including the moon, sun, other stars, & planets; describe the physical attributes of stars (size, brightness, & patterns); identify gravity as the force that pulls objects towards the center of the Earth.

Third Grade AKS

LA: Reading-Use oral language to persuade; make & defend an opinion about a text; identify first & third person point of view; read a variety of genres (fiction, drama, non-fiction, and poetry).

Writing-Write a persuasive paper, stating a clear position/opinion with supporting details & relevant examples and facts; use positive, comparative, & superlative adverbs; use appropriate organizational structure to ensure coherence when writing. **MATH**-Determine perimeter of an object (summing sides); estimate & compare linear measurement (mile, kilometer, inch, 1/2 inch, & millimeter).

SCIENCE-Categorize ways to produce heat energy such as burning, rubbing (friction), & mixing one thing with another; investigate how insulation affects heating & cooling; investigate the transfer of heat energy for the sun to various materials.

SOCIAL STUDIES-Discuss the life and contributions of Eleanor Roosevelt, Frederick Douglass, Mary McLeod Bethune, & Thurgood Marshall; describe the four types of productive resources, explain that government provides goods & services in a market economy & pays them through taxes; give examples of interdependence & trade & explain how voluntary exchange benefits both parties.

Fourth Grade AKS

LA: Reading-Identify meter, rhyme, & rhythm in poetry; use imagery, sensory language, simile; idioms & figurative phrases; identify speaker of a poem. **Writing**-Focus on stating & supporting a clear position when writing a persuasive paper.

MATH-Identify geometric figures, parallel, and perpendicular lines; examine & compare angles & quadrilaterals; compare & order fractions.

SCIENCE-Observe & explain how force, friction, & gravity affect speed, direction, & motion using different sized objects; identify & compare simple machines (lever, pulley, wedge, inclined plane, screw, wheel & axle) & their uses.

SOCIAL STUDIES-Explain the Westward Expansion between 1801 - 1861; describe economic conditions & the effect on growth & expansion. Differentiate natural rights found in Declaration; compare & contrast the Preamble.

Fifth Grade AKS

LA: Reading- Distinguish between fact & opinion; read & make inferences from maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, captions, & illustrations.

Writing-Recognize & use modifiers (adjectives & adverbs); improve sentences by adding or deleting modifiers or phrases, & by combining sentences; use a range of appropriate writing strategies; utilize more than one source of information.

MATH-Derive formulas for the area & circumference of a circle; compute the area & circumference of a circle; use appropriate units to measure capacity; estimate & compute the volume of simple solids.

SCIENCE-Distinguish between physical changes & chemical changes; demonstrate examples of physical changes; recognize changes in state that are physical changes; investigate the properties of a substance before, during, & after a chemical change.

SOCIAL STUDIES-Define & explain primary economic activities within the United States since the turn of the 20th Century; explain how global economic activities contributed to the emergence of the United States as a world power; explain how the Great Depression & the New Deal affected the lives of Americans; describe how consumers and businesses interact in the United States economy over time.

Box Top Power!



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

A "Pies Will Fly" challenge has been issued at Britt Elementary.

If you collect Box Tops above and beyond our goal of \$1,300.00 to *reach the ultimate challenge of raising \$2,000.00*, pies will fly on Field Day in May.

That's right, meet this challenge and students will throw pies at Britt's fun-loving staff of Principals!

Thanks for your support! Let's make PIES FLY!

go2.gwinnett.k12.ga.us
an online resource for parents

Parent Portal



Dear Parents,

Art is messy! We are being as careful as we can in the art room to keep our clothes clean, but sometimes accidents happen. If you want to protect your child's clothes further, please send them in with an old shirt or apron. They can wear it to my room on art day. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Ms. Yurko

What is the Parent Portal?

Gwinnett County Public Schools' Parent Portal offers parents and guardians online, timely, and secure access to their child's grades and attendance. It also includes details on your child's discipline record and test history. In a nutshell, the Parent Portal is an easy-to-use communication tool that will allow you to take an even more active role in your child's education.

How do I sign up?

Many of you filled out the Parent Portal registration form during Open House or Curriculum Night. If you filled out a registration form already, you do not need to do anything further. When our school goes "live", you will receive an email with information on how to set up your Parent Portal account.

If you have not signed up for the Parent Portal, you will need to visit the Front Office to fill out a registration form. We are required to verify your information in person.

When will the Parent Portal be accessible?

Gwinnett County is working on a phased rollout of the Parent Portal. A few schools each week will go "live" with parents receiving access to the Portal. W.C. Britt Elementary is scheduled for the end of February.

For detailed information,
please visit our school website at
<http://www.wcbritt.org/parents/parentportal.htm>

Coach's Corner: Betsy Gresh, Literacy Coordinator and Coach K-5**The W.C. Britt Great Poetry Race****A Real Life Way to Develop Fluent Readers**

What is fluency, and how does it lead to overall improvements in reading? Fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly, expressively, with good phrasing, AND with good comprehension. A recent study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education found that fourth grade students' oral reading fluency is a strong predictor of silent reading comprehension. Moreover, the same study found that nearly half of the fourth graders studied had not achieved even a minimally acceptable level of reading fluency. Fortunately, our highly trained teachers at Britt Elementary work diligently every day to provide effective instruction in fluency to improve reading comprehension. But we need your help! We know that the more practice a student has for multiple readings of text, the more fluent they will become. Hence, the development of the W.C. Britt Great Poetry Race!!

Beginning this month, all Britt students are invited to participate in this project. Each grade level has selected a rigorous, challenging poem. Using the grade level AKS, lessons have been developed and implemented in which all students explore the meaning, sentence structure, rhyming words, sight words, vocabulary, and print concepts within a grade appropriate poem. After studying the poem, students will receive a copy of the poem with directions and spaces for ten signatures. To protect the copy from daily life mishaps, it will be enclosed inside a clear, plastic sleeve. After the student reads the poem, the person to whom the poem is read signs the student's Great Poetry Race form. The students who return their form by the end of the month -completed with signatures - will receive a royal blue Britt baseball cap. Another poem will be selected for every month thereafter in which gold metal stars will be awarded to pin to their cap.

We encourage your child to read to you, your neighbors, and their relatives. If the poem is read over the phone, it is acceptable for the parent to sign the form for that person. Many children enjoy taking their poems with them when they eat out or shop. There is usually a kind soul who would listen to them recite their poem! We can't wait to hear the stories about where and when the poem was read. If you find it difficult to find ten adults, please know that any of our staff would be more than happy to spend a minute or two listening to your child read. Just remember to send the form back in its sleeve to your child's teacher. We do not have any extra sheet protectors.

I wish to thank the South Gwinnett Cluster Foundation for providing the funds for our project. Without them, we would not have the monies to purchase the caps, pins, and plastic sleeve protectors. It is our hope that this project will not only increase our student's reading proficiently, but bring us together to celebrate the joys and importance of positive literacy encounters in our community. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

The Spring Book Fair: Feb. 22-26

Family nights: Tuesday, Feb. 23 and Thursday, Feb. 25 from 4:00-5:30 pm. Parent volunteers are needed. Contact Mrs. Chapman at 770-736-4433, if you are interested in helping.



The Gwinnett Reader's Rally will be held at Berkmar High School on Saturday, February 20th. It will begin at 9:00 am. Britt Elementary is sending ten 4th and 5th graders to compete against other Gwinnett County schools. For more information, contact Mrs. Chapman at 770-736-4433.

Counselor's Corner: Brenda Straus and not a perfect parent**Children & Discipline-There Are No Owner's Manuals**

All of us parents wonder what we are doing right and wrong in our discipline techniques. Here are some ideas that may help.

***Letting your children know what is expected of them** – They need to know why there are rules at school and at home. If you can emphasize that rules are usually for their safety and because of your genuine love for them, this can make all the difference. It is crucial to help them see that their behavior at school and at home is important to their learning so that they can grow up to be a successful, self-motivated, and happy adult.

***Letting them know what the consequences are ahead of time** – They need to know that there will be a reward or a punishment for their behavior. You may even want to talk with your child and have them help you come up with the consequence. You might be surprised. They can often be quite hard on themselves. Getting them involved can help them feel respected by you, which goes a long way because they truly do want to please you. The consequences are also something that should fit the misbehavior and something you can live with and follow through with. If you tell them they are on restriction from the T.V., their friends, and playing outside for 2 months, what will you do to entertain them at home? Will it punish you more than them? Is there anything else left to take away in case another misbehavior happens during those 2 months? Start with something small, that when taken away, seems like a big consequence to your child.

***Teach them about their “Conscience”** – Too much of what is on T.V. and in some video games is numbing our kids to this very important feeling. The conscience is what tells us right from wrong, that little voice inside that we sometimes ignore. Help them to recognize it when they are hurtful to others or neglect to do their homework. Ask them how it made them feel inside. Those bad, sad, and embarrassing feelings are natural consequences and are there to teach us.

***Be consistent** – Say what you mean and mean what you say. Be sure to enforce the consequences. If they know that you are not serious about their behavior, they won't care either. It is easier not to do anything and harder to reinforce the consequences. Enforcing consequences will teach your child to grow up knowing that there are consequences for their choices and that **they** are responsible for their choices and those consequences. They will grow up self-disciplined, knowing the difference between right and wrong.

***Don't forget the rewards** – Kids really do want to please us! They love praise! They soak up positive remarks, hugs, and smiles along the way! If they respect you and know you love them, discipline will be much easier! Catch them being good and let them know how proud you are of them. Think about what you need from those around you, your family, friends, the people you work with, and those you work for. If you were loved, respected, appreciated, and complimented, wouldn't you just about do anything for them?

***Lastly, we all make mistakes!** If you yell at your child, the words “I'm sorry” can go a long way to earn back respect with them. If you are really upset, sometimes telling your child that you need some time to calm down before you talk with them can also earn their respect and teach them too how to have self control. We are their role models. They learn from us. Our job is to do the best we can to ready them for the world. Picture in your mind what you want to see from your child when they become an adult. This can help guide you. There are no Owners Manuals! Keep trying, talk to others who you look up to, and read materials that are helpful. You can go to Britt's web page www.wcbritt.org/home.html and click on the Blue Box “School Success Ideas for Parents”. You might also consider visiting the Parent Center Library. There are many books and resources on various parenting topics that are available for check-out. Finally, look for Dr. Michele Borba's new book The Big Book of Parenting Solutions. She is wonderful and extremely knowledgeable! And always know that your school counselors are here to help you, as well.

When Are the Next Parent Workshops?

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Two important workshops are scheduled for February!

WRITING WORKSHOP: How to Write Specific Papers (Grades 2-5)

Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m.

Learn how you can help your child improve his/her writing skills on specific papers including, persuasive, narrative, informational, and descriptive. Students are invited to attend this workshop with their parents.

GANG AWARENESS & BULLYING WORKSHOP*

Thursday, February 25th at 7 p.m.

Presented by Pedro Vega, Gwinnett County Gang Task Force Officer

Learn about gang activity in Gwinnett County, how to recognize gang members, and how you can prevent your child from being bullied.

***This workshop is for parents only. (Childcare will be provided)**

To RSVP for these workshops, visit www.wcbritt.org and select "Parent Workshops" under the Title I Tab, or call Kathy Jackson at 678-639-3884 to reserve your spot. FREE childcare is available.

Comet Café Information

Gwinnett County School Nutrition Art Contest

And the WINNER IS . . .

Alison Jenny, from Mrs. Miller's class, is the talented district winner of the Gwinnett County School Nutrition Poster Contest. In art class, she designed an eye-catching poster with the theme "School Nutrition...A Family Affair." She was presented with a certificate of achievement on the Britt broadcast news. We are so proud of her! Her poster will be competing at the state level for a chance at a \$50 gift card for art supplies. We also had two honorable mentions **Avery Tyson** and **Skylar Smith**! Thanks to Ms. Yurko for making sure our students had the knowledge/ability, material, and time to compete. GOOD LUCK ALISON! We are all very proud of you!

Parents you are invited to our annual PARENT BREAKFAST

February 18 Grades: K-2

February 19 Grades: 3-5

Breakfast will be ready in the cafeteria for you and your child at 8 AM. The students will go through the student line and be charged their regular price: \$1 full pay - .30 reduced - free/free. We will have a special breakfast for you so join us for just \$1.25 which includes entrée, side, and a drink.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

Comet Café News

New Breakfast Menu started January 19

New Lunch Menu started January 25

Both menus are on our school web site. Our price still remains the same:

Breakfast: Served as soon as buses arrive \$1 full pay - .30 reduced - free/free

Lunch: \$1.75 full pay - .40 reduced – free/free

Call us with questions at 770-736-4428



Spelling Bee 2010



On Friday, January 15, 2010, excitement was in the air at Britt Elementary. It was on this day that the annual Britt Spelling Bee was held. This year was very special as we continued to celebrate 40 great years of teaching and learning at Britt Elementary. Sixteen class representatives had been preparing for this moment in time. One by one the students amazed the audience with their academic ability. After 12 rounds, there were only 2 students remaining. These two students continued in the Spelling Bee for an additional 19 rounds for a total of 31 rounds. What was the winning word you may ask? It was indelible.

We are proud to announce that **Anaiyah Edwards** from Ms. Miller's class was the First Runner Up. The Spelling Bee Champion was **Areej Shaheen** from Ms. Brown's class. Areej represented our school at the County Wide Spelling Bee on January 30. We are so proud of you, Areej!

At the conclusion of the Spelling Bee, Ms. Jones, Principal, presented both of these amazing students with trophies. All class winners and alternates were recognized. Each participant received certificates of achievement.

Thank you to all the staff members for organizing and supporting the Britt Spelling Bee. Thank you, also, to our incredible parents who encouraged and supported Spelling Bee participants.

Live Homework Help for FREE!

**Does your child need a FREE tutor
to help answer homework questions or prepare for a test?**

Live Homework Help from Tutor.com is available to Gwinnett County Public Library patrons from 4 pm – 10 pm every day for **grades K-12**.



Visit www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us Select *Homework Help* (left side under *Quick Links*). Once there, choose "[Click here](#)" to be taken to Tutor.com for FREE. Then, enter your 14 digit barcode from your library card and your PIN number. Identify the grade level and subject you need a tutor for, and wait your turn. This amazing service is also available in Spanish!

Have You Missed a Parent Workshop?



Life is busy and we understand! Sometimes, your schedule simply doesn't permit you to attend a parent workshop. Thanks to our Media Specialist, Carol Ann Chapman, a majority of our parent workshops are recorded and burned to DVD's. These free DVD's are available for you to check-out for a two week period from the Parent Center. Simply call **Kathy Jackson at 678-639-3884** to find out whether one of the workshops you missed is available on DVD. If it is available, you can either swing by the Parent Center and pick it up yourself, or Mrs. Jackson can deliver the DVD to your child so he/she can bring it home. Please note: We are unable to record parent workshops which have multiple break-out sessions for various grade levels.

Need-To-Know Highlights

Remember upcoming flood and snow make-up days

GCPS [amended the calendar](#) to include flood make-up days and additional snow make-up days.

- Flood days will be made up **Feb. 12** and **March 15**.
- The Jan. 8 snow day will be made up **Feb. 15**.
- Two snow make-up days— **April 2** and **May 27**— remain in the calendar.

Icy streets early in the new semester already have us pulling out our calendars. You may remember that GCPS amended the school calendar in October to include flood make-up days and additional snow make-up days after missing two school days in September for flooding.

- The days missed earlier in the fall due to the flooding in the Atlanta area will be made up on **Feb. 12** and **March 15**.
- The day missed due to inclement weather on Friday, **Jan. 8**, will be made up on **Feb. 15** (snow make-up day #1).
- The school calendar has two remaining days designated as snow make-up days.
- Should the district need to close again for inclement weather, those days would be made up on **April 2** (snow make-up day #2) and **May 27** (snow make-up day #3).
- If these make-up days are not used, **April 2** will be a holiday for students, and **May 27** will be a required staff development day.
- If **May 27** is used as a snow make-up day, post-planning days would shift accordingly.

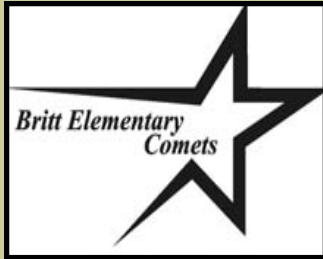
The [amended student-staff calendar](#) is available on Britt's web site as well as the GCPS web site.



MRT no longer GCPS promotion requirement for grades 4, 7

- GCPS is using open-ended math questions to measure higher-order thinking skills, adding math reasoning questions in future interim assessments at all levels.
- GCPS will not administer the Math Reasoning Test (MRT) for grades 4 and 7 in the spring, nor will the MRT be a promotion requirement. The [revised testing calendar](#) reflects these changes.

Mathematics reasoning is a critical component of rigorous instruction and assessment— a skill so important that GCPS is stepping up the development and pervasive use of open-ended math questions to measure students' understanding of these higher-order skills. In doing so, GCPS moves away from plans to test reasoning skills at some, but not all, grade levels. GCPS will not administer the system-developed Math Reasoning Test (MRT) this spring, nor will the MRT be used as a promotion requirement for grades 4 and 7 as originally planned. Instead, the school system will embed math reasoning questions in future interim assessments at *all* grade levels. The [revised testing calendar](#) is posted to Britt's web site as well as the GCPS web site for parents.



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The Comet Connection Newsletter

The Comet Connection
is a publication of
W. C. Britt
Elementary School for
Britt families.

Please e-mail questions
or comments to the
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Kathy_jackson@
gwinnett.k12.ga.us

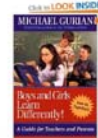
2009-2010 PTA Officers

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Jocelyn Touray	Co – President	tourayjo@comcast.net
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Janice Joseph	Vice President	janicejoseph98@aol.com
Yashica Weeks	Treasurer	yweeks1@comcast.net
Maureen Lawson	Secretary	moelaws@hotmail.com

Educational Resources in the Parent Center



Have you visited the
Parent Center
lately?



Parents can check-out free educational materials, including hand-held devices, folder games, CD's and DVD's, Success Maker Kits, board games, flashcards, Versa-Tile Kits, TAG Reader books and pens, Quantum Leap Pads and books, just to name a few. These materials are not only engaging, but can impact the academic achievement of your child. Materials are available for grades K-5 and address the subjects of Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Our Parent Center Library includes books, videos, pamphlets, and CD's on a variety of parenting topics, such as sibling rivalry, homework strategies, getting organized, how boys and girls learn differently, how to help your child with ADD/ADHD, discipline strategies, standardized tests, early literacy strategies, improving your child's self-esteem, bullying, single-parenting, test-taking strategies, note-taking, how to become a better listener, and more!

The Parent Center is located in the first trailer directly across from the gym. Kathy Jackson, a certified teacher and Parent Coordinator, is available to assist parents in selecting the right materials to support and enrich each child's learning needs. Materials can be checked-out for two weeks. For a complete inventory of items available, please visit www.wcbritt.org, click on the Title I Tab, then select the "Parent Center" tab to view the list. Ms. Jackson can be reached by email at: kathy_jackson@gwinnett.k12.ga.us or at 678-639-3884.

Parent Center Hours

Monday & Tuesday 8 am-4 pm
Wednesday & Friday 10 am-4 pm
Thursday 12 noon –7 pm

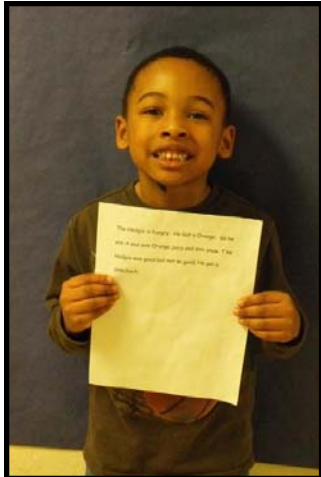
Title I Parent Survey Coming Soon!

Soon, your family will be receiving a Title I Parent Survey and we need your input! Each family is asked to complete one survey per household. It will be available in English and Spanish. The data will be used to help us determine ways we can improve our Title I Program. Please take the time to complete this survey. If you have internet service, a link to Survey Monkey will be sent to you. If you do not have email, a hard copy of the survey will be sent home with your child. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!

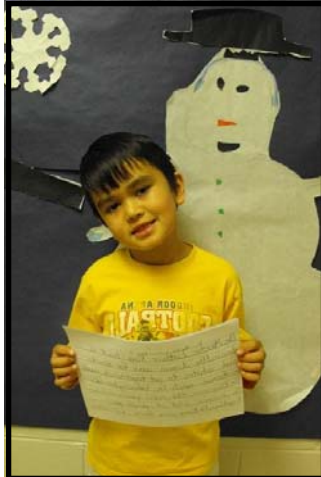
Deadline for completing the survey is Feb. 26.

**Congratulations to our Winners of the
Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition!**

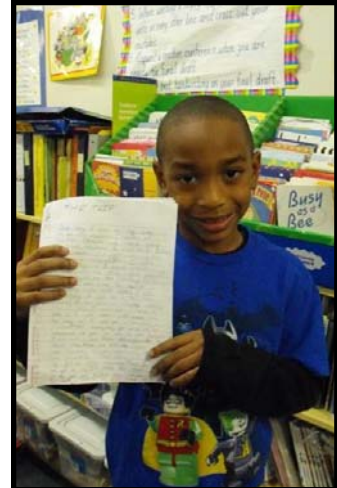
Every year the state of Georgia hosts the “Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition”. The purpose of this competition is to encourage and recognize student achievement in writing throughout Georgia. Each school may submit one writing entry per grade level. This year, we are proud to announce the winners for W.C. Britt Elementary school:



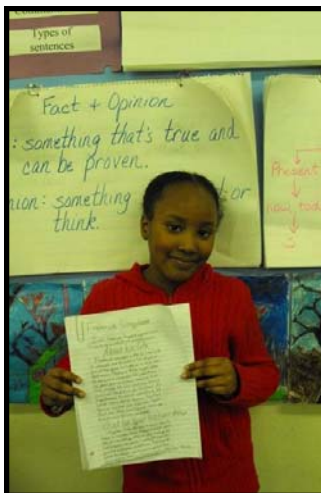
**Malik Clarke,
Kindergarten,
Ms. Voiles' Class**



**Jose Delgado,
First Grade,
Ms. Ward's Class**



**Jacari Rowe,
Second Grade,
Ms. Russell's Class**



**Aniya White,
Third Grade,
Ms. S. Brown's Class**



**Rosie Butler,
Fourth Grade,
Ms. C. Haynes' Class**



**Rachel Currie,
5th Grade
Ms. D. Brown's Class**

Congratulations to these outstanding students and the best of luck in the local and state competitions. We are so proud of you!

Technology News

SuccessMaker At-Home Kits

Britt Elementary uses an educational software product SuccessMaker Enterprise, from Pearson Education Technologies. SuccessMaker Enterprise constantly monitors each student’s performance and selects activities to fit the student’s needs with just the right instruction at just the right time.

Parents who are interested in having their children use the SuccessMaker At-Home program may lease the At-Home kit for a one-time user fee of **\$30.00**. This is the actual cost and is NOT a fundraiser for our school. This one-time fee provides a set of software on loan for your use at home. Only one kit is needed for each family no matter how many children you have enrolled at Britt. We ask that you return the kit if you move and/or when your youngest child completes 5th grade.

****System Requirements:**

- A 56-kbps modem (or faster connection)
- An Internet Service Provider (ISP)
- A workstation with at least 512 MB of memory
- Must have a computer DVD drive
- Windows 2000/XP/Vista (Note: will not run on Windows 7)
- Mac OS X requirements:
 - Mac OS 10.4.x with Safari 2.04 and JRE 1.5.x
 - Mac OS 10.5.x with Safari 3.04 and JRE 1.5.x
- To set your screen resolution to a minimum of 1024 X 768 for maximum viewing



If interested, please return the following information to Kelly Kuchek along with a check for \$30. Checks should be made out to Britt Elementary.

Parent Name:	
Parent Phone Number:	
Parent Email Address:	
Please create a Parent User Name and Password below.	
Example - User Name: jsmith Password: britt1	
Parent User Name: (maximum of 8 letters or numbers)	
Parent Password: (minimum of 4 letters or numbers)	

Student Info: (Please list ALL students attending Britt)

Student Name	Grade	Teacher