

Message from the Mill



News from Puckett's Mill Elementary August 2011

SCHOOL NEWS

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! We are excited about seeing you at Open House on Thursday, August 4th, from 8-11 am. Please make sure that you have gone to our school website (www.puckettsmill.org) to complete the electronic registration information. This is for ALL students, new and returning. We must have this information before school begins. We will have computers available in the cafeteria for you to complete this information prior to visiting teachers. Please also take the time to make a donation to our school and PTA through Meal-Pay Plus. We are able to provide materials and experiences above and beyond because of your generosity!

CLUBS

In your Summer Packet, you received information about all available clubs for the school year. Many registrations and meetings begin in August. Please see the registration forms included in this newsletter and adhere to the deadlines. Extracurricular activities can be a wonderful way for children to explore a variety of interests while gaining new knowledge and skills. We hope many of you will take advantage of these opportunities!

WELCOME BACK PICNIC

Friday, August 12th from 5pm-8pm, we will officially welcome everyone back to school with our 4th Annual Welcome Back Picnic. This year Chick-Fil-A and Carvel Ice Cream will be selling food onsite. Kids All-Star DJ will be providing the music and will teach the children a few dances too.

BOOK FAIR

Reading is Out of This World! Let's celebrate our love for reading with Scholastic. This fall's book fair features some new titles as well as some faithful favorites.

Our fall book fair will begin August 15th - 19th. But if you can't wait to purchase all your favorites, we'll be open for business during the PMES Welcome Back Picnic. The hours are 4:00pm - 8:00pm so be the first to grab the latest titles. See you at the book fair!

ROOM PARENT MEETING

Monday, August 15th at 9am, we will have our first room parent meeting of the year in the cafeteria. We will review some new and exciting changes to help support our lead parents in the classroom.

CURRICULUM NIGHTS

Curriculum Night is a time for **parents** to come to their child's school to learn about all of the important things he/she will be learning and be expected to do throughout the year! You will learn about...
GCPS Academic Knowledge and Skills - AKS (what your child is expected to learn); Discipline (schoolwide rules and classroom rules); Homework expectations; Communication (from school to home and from home to school); Grading scales; Attendance policies; Student recognition programs; Many more important facts about your child's classroom and Puckett's Mill

SUMMER READING CELEBRATIONS

Welcome back my Sparrowhawk Readers! School is just about in, which means it's time to celebrate our summer reading goals. During the first week of school, please be sure to drop off your signed reading log in the basket in front of Mrs. Mays' office. Once all logs are collected, you'll receive a personal invitation to celebrate your achievements with Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Mays and your peers. Cookies and punch will be served. And let's not forget all the goodies you'll receive for being a super summer reader. So, we hope to see you at our annual Summer Reading Celebration on August 26th!

We're on the Web!
www.puckettsmill.org

August 2011

Thursday, 8/4

Open House, 8:00-11:00 am

Monday, 8/8

First day of School

Coffee and Kleenex, 8:15 am

Friday, 8/12

Welcome Back Picnic, 5-8 pm

August 12-18

Book Fair

Monday, 8/15

Room Parent Mtg, 9:00 am

Thursday, 8/18

Robotics Team, 2:45 pm

Curriculum Night,

Grades 3-5, 6:30 pm

Friday, 8/19

PTA Board Mtg, 10:00 am

Thursday, 8/25

Student Council Elections

Robotics Team, 2:45 pm

Curriculum Night,

Grades K-2, 6:30 pm

Friday, 8/26

Summer Reading Celebration

Monday, 8/29

Art Club, 7:00 am

21st Century Learning Club, 3:15 pm

Wednesday 8/31

Chess Club, 3:00 and 4:05 pm

Available Now!

Pay for school fees and activities online at mealpayplus.com!

Families at **Puckett's Mill Elementary** are encouraged to complete orientation at:



Now You Can Use MealpayPlus (mealpayplus.com) To:

- View/print documents required for the first day of school
- Make fee/contribution payments prior to registration
- Make all payments for all of your students in one location

Using MealpayPlus allows you to:

- Stop sending multiple checks to multiple schools
- Manage and keep track of all student payments
- Sign your students up for various activities

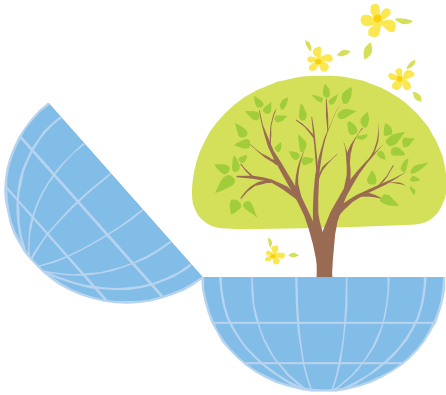
Easy one-time registration:

- Visit www.mealpayplus.com
- If you already have a MealpayPlus account, log in using your existing username and password
- If not, follow the onscreen instructions to create your FREE account

Visit
MealpayPlus
(www.mealpayplus.com)
online
to get started!

www.MealpayPlus.com

It's Time to Join the Environmental Club!!



Why? I care about my home, town and world. I want to learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle with my fellow students to create a better future for our community.

Who? Any 3rd or 4th grade student (limit 30 students –get your applications in early)

When? Third Thursday of each month (7:00-7:30 AM). The first club will meet on Thursday, Sept. 16th

Where? Science lab (K-2) downstairs

Dates? We will meet on the following dates: Sept. 15, Oct. 20, November 17, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 15 and April 19.

(Please print at home, sign and return the bottom portion of this form to Mrs. Smith)

Environmental Club Application

Name _____

Parent names _____

Contact phone number _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____

Email address _____

“There are no passengers on spaceship earth, only crew.” ~ Buckminster Fuller



Art Club

A new and exciting club for PMES 5th grade!
An in depth fun experience to the visual arts!

7AM
Mondays

Session 1: 8/29/2011 - 12/12/2011

Session 2: 1/23/2012 - 5/14/2012

PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must submit a portfolio containing 10 pieces of their best artwork. Students can NOT submit artwork created at PMES in previous years. Artwork must be 100% original. All mediums are accepted in 2D format. Actual 3D artwork will not be accepted. However, photographs of the 3D artwork are acceptable.

2 pencil drawings - focus on shading

2 landscape - medium of choice

2 still life - medium of choice

2 portrait or person - pencil or ink

2 pieces of choice - any medium - if 3D is chosen it must be a photograph of the work rather than the actual work

Please submit the portfolio to the Art Department for review. There is a \$25.00 club fee for club participants. This fee will include all materials specifically for art club, Art Club-shirt, and and/or Art Club party.



4 THINGS **You Should Know About** **Kid Chess** **at Puckett's Mill** **Elementary**



1. Chess will make your child smarter.

Chess has been proven to raise standardized test scores. Chess improves critical thinking, decision making, concentration, focus, memory and many other mental functions. A child who plays chess is better prepared for school, life, and his or her career. Simply put, **Kid Chess is a great investment in your child's future.**

2. Kids love Kid Chess.

I know, that's hard to believe, but Chess is a game, kids love games, and we make it **fun**. Kid Chess is the most popular elementary after-school program in Metro Atlanta. Kid friendly instructors and our professionally produced **cartoon lessons** entertain and engage the kids. Most students choose to stay with us for years.

3. Kid Chess is convenient.

The club meets **right here at the school right after school**. There's no hectic driving from one location to another. Kids just stay at their school in a safe and familiar environment.

4. Kid Chess is for everyone.

Kid Chess programs are designed for all skill levels. Students will be taught level-appropriate skills and lessons by our professional Chess Coaches, and they will have plenty of chances to play with kids of similar skills. From beginning players to advanced, everyone is welcome at Kid Chess.

Our Club Features:

- At least one trophy for each child
- Low student-teacher ratio allowing for individual attention
- State of the Art technology, including our website (www.kidchess.com) with puzzles, computer opponents, video lessons, instantly-graded quizzes, and other features to entertain and educate your child
- Tournaments / "Bughouse" (a version of team chess)
- And many other ways to learn and enjoy this great game.



Chess makes kids smart, we make it fun!

Tuition Fees and Registration Information

Fall meetings will be every Wednesday school is in session, beginning August 31st, and ending Wednesday, January 11th, 2012 (Trophy Day).

Fall Tuition for Wednesday 1st hour (3:00-4:00) is \$219 and 2nd hour (4:05-5:05) is \$165. Tuition for both 1st and 2nd hours combined (3:00-5:05) is only \$299. (The same material is not covered in both hours, as many students are double-enrolled.) Kindergarten students are eligible for 2nd hour only. 10% of all tuition funds are contributed back to the School!

If you would like to register or get more information, please call us at 770-575-5802 or email info@kidchess.com. You can also visit us or register online at www.kidchess.com. 2501 E. Piedmont Rd. Suite 160 Marietta, GA 30062

At Kid Chess, the Kid Comes First

We focus on the development of all participants, regardless of playing level.

Invest in your child's future ... Sign up NOW

Puckett's Mill Elementary Wednesday Chess Club Registration Form

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ Parents _____

Home # _____ Mobile # _____ Work # _____

E-Mail Address _____ ASP Yes / No
(E-mail is our primary form of communication with parents; we will NEVER sell or distribute your email address)

Emergency Contact _____ Emergency # _____

Please Circle One: 1st Hour (\$219) 2nd Hour (\$165) 1st-2nd Combined (\$299)

1st Hour Annual (\$418) 2nd Hour Annual (\$310) 1st-2nd Combined Annual (\$570)

I wish to pay by: Circle one: Visa / MasterCard / Amex -or - Check (amount) \$ _____

CC Number: _____ Expiration date _____

Name On Card: _____ Verification # _____



Please fill out & Remit to: Kid Chess, 2501 E. Piedmont Rd. Suite 160 Marietta, GA 30062.

Please make checks payable to "Kid Chess"

www.kidchess.com

Governor's Office of Highway Safety

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 24, 2011



For more information:

Katie Fallon, GOHHS Public Affairs
Officer: 404-463-0811
Cell: 404-329-7521
kfallon@gohhs.ga.gov

GEORGIA PREPARES FOR NEW BOOSTER SEAT LAW: **Parents and Caregivers Urged to Review New Rules**

(ATLANTA) According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death for children from 3 to 14 years old. In 2009 alone, car crashes in Georgia claimed the lives of 809 people age 5 and above, but also 10 young lives of passengers age 4 and below. In 2008, 1,487 children ages infant to 14 were killed in traffic crashes across the country.

"The good news is Georgia has added one more level of protection to keep our precious cargo safe," said Director Harris Blackwood of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHHS). "Because child safety seats are truly lifesaving devices when installed and buckled properly, a new law going into effect on July 1st now requires children to remain in a booster seat up to age 8."

That's why GOHHS is travelling all over the state during the week before July 1st to give parents and caregivers one more ~~opportunity~~ about the new law before it goes into effect. "We usually take the chance to highlight child passenger safety in September during the national safety week campaign, but this year, we have a more urgent message for parents and caregivers that just couldn't wait," said GOHHS Director Blackwood. "Whether it's a short trip to the grocery store or a road trip for summer vacation, children in Georgia, including 6 and 7-year-olds, will still need to be properly buckled in a booster seat."

The new law does have a few exceptions. Overall, it requires all children under 8 to be in an appropriate restraint while travelling in a vehicle. The only exemption is if the child is 4'8" tall or above. A child under 8 years of age and weighing at least 40 pounds is NOT exempt from the law. However, they may use a lap belt only instead of a booster seat if the following conditions occur: The vehicle is not equipped with lap and shoulder belts; or excluding the driver's seat, all seating positions with lap and shoulder belts are being used to restrain other children.

Those on the front line of traffic crashes here in Georgia know firsthand what the consequences of not properly buckling a child into the correct type of safety seat can be. In fact, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has reported that in the last four years, 95 percent of the 6 to 8-year-old patients they saw for injuries resulting from a traffic crash were improperly restrained.

Traffic enforcement officers know child safety seats and booster seats save lives because they offer the best protection for children in the event of a crash. NHTSA research shows that during the past 30 years, an estimated 8,959 children's lives were saved by child restraints from 1975 through 2008.

Unfortunately, nearly three-out-of-four child safety seats are not used properly nationwide, and that puts young children at unnecessary risk of being killed or injured. "As more families hit the road for summer vacation while school is out, we want to make sure all Georgia children return happy and healthy for the coming school year," said GOHHS Director Blackwood. "This new law is making sure our elementary-age kids get the extra protection they deserve."

Because there is no room for mistakes when dealing with the safety of a child, Director Blackwood wants to remind all parents of the following 4 Steps For Kids guidelines for determining which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

(MORE, MORE, MORE)

Governor's Office of Highway Safety Public Information Unit
Katie Fallon, Public Information Officer – 404-463-0811 – kfallon@gohhs.ga.gov
7 Martin Luther King Jr Dr. SE—8 suite 843—Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Visit us on the web at www.gaonlinehighwaysafety.org

Nathan Deal, Governor

Harris Blackwood, Director

Governor's Office of Highway Safety



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4 Steps for Kids

- For the best possible protection, keep infants in the back seat in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds;
- When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds);
- Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall);
- When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the chest).

And remember...all children under the age of 13 should ride in the back seat. The facts cannot be ignored—booster and child safety seats save lives. When used correctly in the second row, child safety seats are at least 80-percent effective in preventing fatalities! And restraint use for children transported by belted drivers continues to be higher than those driven by unbelted drivers. That's why all fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have laws requiring children to be restrained in child safety seats in motor vehicles.

"We can teach our kids to be responsible drivers and in turn, make sure the next generation is around to have kids of their own," said Director Blackwood. "But the only way they can grow up is to do everything we can to keep them safe. That includes keeping them in booster seats until the age of 8 and doing whatever is in our power to prevent tragedy."

To find a child safety seat inspection station nearest you, visit www.nhtsa.gov/carsafetycheck. Certified technicians will inspect your child safety seat and show you how to correctly install and use it. For details about highway safety programs in your community, visit our website at www.georgiahighwaysafety.org

(END RELEASE)

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