

Message from the Mill



News from Puckett's Mill Elementary September 2011

SCHOOL NEWS

Literacy Night

Thursday, September 1st is Literacy Night at PMES! We are so excited to welcome acclaimed children's author Dr. Lester Laminack! Plan to attend as you will not want to miss this event!

CogAT

Gwinnett County Schools will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) provided by our Board of Education to all first, third, and fifth grade students in September. Read more about CogAT on page 3.

Relay College Jersey Day

Our Relay for Life team would like to announce College Team Jersey day on Friday, September 2nd. We are encouraging students to donate \$1 to wear their favorite college team jersey to support our Relay for Life team while at the same time, supporting their favorite team! It is a win-win for everyone! We cannot wait to see which team has the most support.

Grandparents' Lunches

Invitations went out today in students' Friday Folders. We are looking forward to a great turn out during Grandparent's Lunches the week of September 12-16. Please return RSVPs so we will be prepared! Grandparents—We hope you will join PTA while you are here to help us

achieve 100% membership!!

Pinwheels for Peace

PW4P is an exciting art project, event, installation that all students at PMES are taking part in. It starts by exploring what peace is and understanding how artists use visual symbols, images, and artworks to help better our world. Students will create a pinwheel filled with their thoughts about peace, and then on September 21st, International World Peace Day, students will plant their pinwheels together to make a collective symbol of peace. There will be essays read and songs sang to elevate the experience. Pictures will be taken and added to the organization's website www.pinwheelsforpeace.com.

Fall Pictures

Fall Pictures will be on Wednesday, September 28th for grades K-2 and on Thursday, September 29th for grades 3-5. These pictures are pre-ordered and you will receive the forms in your child's Friday Folder soon. Even if you choose not to purchase, every child will have his/her picture taken for the yearbook.

Morning Car Riders

For safety reasons, please have children remain in your vehicle with you until the bell rings.

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

SCHOOL NEWS

New Parent Meeting

New Parent Meeting - If you have a child that is new to PMES in grades 1 - 5, you are invited to attend our New Parent Welcome Meeting on Thursday, September 29th, from 10:00 - 11:00. Please join us for refreshments and an opportunity to learn more about our school and community.

Great Days of Service

Our Sparrow Hawks Service Club will be collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste, for this year's Great Days of Service. We will be collecting these items from September 26th - 29th. Donations will benefit Gwinnett shelters, group homes, and food pantries.

PMES Yearbooks

Remember to order your Puckett's Mill Elementary School 2011-2012 Yearbook before September 15th, 2011. The price will increase for orders received after that date. The order form and personal ad space information sheet follow. Just send the completed order form with a check into the school in an envelope labeled "yearbook". Thank you!

School Nutrition Program

Starting on Monday, August 22nd, we began running a year-long Farm-2-School trivia quiz. The question and answers will be posted each month on the bulletin board in the cafeteria. **Answers, along with the student's name and homeroom,** should be placed in the big orange box in the cafeteria; pencils and paper will be nearby. Students may enter as many times as

they wish!! We will announce our first winner on Thursday, September 1st. The student with the correct answer will win two free tickets to the movies. Thank you for your help!

School Council

We want YOU on our School Council. The purpose of our School Council is to involve parents, educators, and members of the business community in a collaborative effort to improve public education. We meet four times per year: September 8th from 3:15-4:15; in November in conjunction with our Mill Creek Cluster Education Foundation; on February 2nd from 3:15-4:15; and April 10th at 6:30 pm at North Gwinnett High School as part of our GCPS Area Board Meeting. If you are interested, please plan on attending our first meeting of the year on September 8th!

Field Day T-Shirts

Field Day for Puckett's Mill Elementary will be October 6th (K,1,2) and October 7th (3,4) this year. To celebrate, we will be offering field day t-shirts to students. This year we will be utilizing an online order form and MealpayPlus to purchase shirts. The cost will be \$6.75 per shirt. Please go to our website, www.puckettsmill.org, to complete the online order form and payment. You will need to place separate orders if you have multiple children. Both order form and payment must be completed in order for your child to receive a shirt. All orders must be placed no later than Friday, September 16th. If you do not have access to MealpayPlus, please con-

September 2011

Monday, 9/1

Literacy Night, 6:00 K-2nd;
7:00 3rd -5th

Student Council, 7:30 am

Friday, 9/2

Relay College Jersey Day

Monday, 9/5

Labor Day-School Holiday

Wednesday, 9/7

Chess Club, 3:00 and 4:05 pm

Thursday, 9/8

School Council, 3:15 pm

Girl Scout Round Up, 5:15 pm

Boy Scout Round Up, 6:15 pm

Mon-Fri, 9/12-9/16

Grandparents' Lunches

Monday, 9/12

Art Club, 7:00 am

Service Club, 3:15 pm

Wednesday, 9/14

Chess Club, 3:00 and 4:05 pm

Thursday, 9/15

Environmental Club, 7:00 am

Friday, 9/16

PTA Board Mtg, 10:00 am

Sparky's Trot Fundraising Kick Off

Monday, 9/19

Art Club, 7:00 am

Tues-Thurs, 9/20-9/22

CogAT Testing, Grades 1, 3, 5

Wednesday, 9/21

Pinwheels for Peace

Chess Club, 3:00 and 4:05 pm

Monday, 9/26

Art Club, 7:00 am

21st Century Learning Club, 3:15 pm

Wednesday, 9/28

Fall Pictures, Grades K-2

Chess Club, 3:00 and 4:05 pm

All Pro Dads Breakfast, K-2 7:15 am

PUCKETT'S MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2442 S. PUCKETT'S MILL ROAD, DACULA, GEORGIA 30019

PHONE: 678-765-5110

FAX: 678-765-5240



J. ALVIN WILBANKS
CEO/SUPERINTENDENT

"Soaring Above the Rest"

MICHELLE FARMER
Principal

LESLEY PENDLETON
Assistant Principal

STEPHANIE STEWART
Assistant Principal

HEATHER HEIGL
Counselor

GINNA SMITH
Counselor

September 26, 2011

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Gwinnett County Schools will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) provided by our Board of Education to all first, third, and fifth grade students. The CogAT measures students' abilities in reasoning and problem solving using verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal assessments. Teachers use CogAT scores to determine if students are achieving to their potential and to identify their areas of strength.

Testing Schedule

Tuesday 9/20/11 Verbal

Wednesday 9/21/11 Quantitative

Thursday 9/22/11 Nonverbal

Testing begins daily at 8:15.

During the testing period, you can help your student's performance by doing the following: 1) have your child here each day to test 2) encourage your child to do his/her best; and 3) have your child well rested.

Results of the CogAT should arrive in December. Hopefully, your child's results will be included in his/her report card envelope at the end of the second nine week grading period.

Thank you for your continued support. Your cooperation during this important assessment period is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stewart

Stephanie Stewart
Assistant Principal

Grandparents' Lunch Schedule 2011-2012

	TIME	CLASS	CLASS
	2nd GRADE		
Monday 9/12	10:30-11:00	Lord	Kamhout
Tuesday 9/13	10:33-11:03	DiMuzio	Tharp
Wednesday 9/14	10:36-11:06	Powell	Fladger
Thursday 9/15	10:39-11:09	Wilker	Rogers
	1st GRADE		
Friday 9/16	10:57-11:27	Gainey	Hannahs
Monday 9/12	11:00-11:30	Doyle	Flowers
Tuesday 9/13	11:03-11:33	Killian	OPEN
Wednesday 9/14	11:06-11:36	Randall	Warren
	4th GRADE		
Thursday 9/15	11:24-11:54	Nannis	Stanton
Friday 9/16	11:27-11:57	Anderson	Southard
Monday 9/12	11:30-12:00	Phillips	Riker
Tuesday 9/13	11:33-12:03	Burkingstock	Westog
	3rd GRADE		
Wednesday 9/14	11:51-12:21	Sytsma	J. Yates
Thursday 9/15	11:54-12:24	Clinkscates	Parsons
Friday 9/16	11:57-12:27	Neely	Morgan
Monday 9/12	12:00-12:30	Williams	
	5th GRADE		
Tuesday 9/13	12:18-12:48	T. Yates	Fuhrmannek
Wednesday 9/14	12:21-12:51	Sotolongo	Thetford
Thursday 9/15	12:24-12:54	Hoffman	Black
Friday 9/16	12:27-12:57	Maddox	Crocker
	KINDERGARTEN		
Monday 9/12	12:45-1:15	McGiboney	Hunnicuttt
Tuesday 9/13	12:48-1:18	Deal	Wood
Wednesday 9/14	12:51-1:21	Randall	Hettesheimer
Thursday 9/15			Wilde

Sparky's Trot Fall Fundraiser Information

Date and Time: Thursday, October 6- 1st grade- 8:30am, 2nd grade- 9:30am, K- 11:30am

Friday, October 7- 4th grade- 10:15am, 3rd grade- 11:30am, 5th grade- 1:30pm

**Dates and times coordinate with the grade level field day. 5th grade will only do the Sparky Trot since their field day is in the spring.*

Distance and Location: $\frac{1}{2}$ mile run in front of the school (boys will run first and then the girls.)

Medals: Top 3 boys and Top 3 girls per grade

Award Ribbon: Ribbons will be given to everyone who runs the course under 8 minutes.

Kick-off and Money Collection Timeframe: September 16th-September 30th

Students will receive a formal collection sheet and mini script.

Incentive Prizes for money raised:

Everyone receives a participation ribbon- (white ribbon)

\$25- Puckett's Mill Water Bottle

\$50- Spirit wear T-shirt or Shorts

\$100- Punch card with free services from local vendors and a raffle ticket to win a Flip video camera (We will draw 5 names / grade)

\$150- Shoulder Sling Bag and raffle ticket to win an iTouch (We will draw 1 name per grade)

\$250- Spirit wear sweatshirt and raffle ticket to win an iPad (We will draw 1 name from the school)

Each additional \$50 above \$250 that a student raises will earn them another raffle ticket for the iPad 3G 16GB Wi-Fi

Additional Prizes:

1) The teacher whose class brings in the most money at the end of the each week per grade will receive 1 free poster making opportunity (We will have two weeks of collection.)

2) The class with the most money raised per grade will receive a pizza party and the teacher will receive a fleece zip up from Spirit wear

3) Top student from each class will win a spirit towel

4) Top 5 fundraisers within the school will receive a Family Fun Package

(i.e. Lake Lanier Magical Nights of Lights overnight stay package, Pizza every week for a year, Great Escape Family Fun Pack)

On Field Day, after the run, we will award the medals, draw and announce the winners of the Flip Video Cameras and iTouch, announce the winning class and teacher, and the individual class winners from that grade. All other awards will be given out to the students' in their classrooms. Awards/prizes will be based on funds raised by Tuesday, October 4th.

“Diversity Means...”

This is the Reflections theme for the upcoming year 2011-12. Diversity can mean how persons, places or objects are different or a variety of different things. The opposite of diversity is uniformity. Please refer to the definition below if you are trying to explain to your child.

Hopefully, this will help as your child works on their photography, musical composition, visual arts, film production, dance choreography and literature entries this Summer.

This year, a Consent Form is required if your child uses another person's likeness or voice in their entry. Please refer to the "How to Use the Consent Form" pages which explain all of your questions regarding the consent form. There are exceptions that are explained on the "How To" form. The Consent Form should be stapled to the entry form which will be turned in at our collection date in the Fall.

di·ver·si·ty

1. the state or fact of being diverse; difference; unlikeness.
2. variety; multiformity.
3. a point of difference.

Become a member of the **Puckett's Mill PTA!!**

There are many ways to get involved in the education of your child. A great way is to become a member of the PTA. By paying a fee of \$5.25 per year (that's less than 3 cents per school day) you can become a Puckett's Mill PTA member, a Gwinnett County PTA member, a Georgia PTA member and a National PTA member.

There are many benefits/advantages of becoming a PTA member on the national, state, and county levels. All provide discounts that you can take advantage of to help save money for your family. Please view the links below for more details on discounts that are offered to PTA members. Please consider becoming a part of this not-for-profit association that is vital to the success of your child's school.

Already we have 100% membership from our staff. Let's show our support by each of us becoming a member today!! Remember it pays to be a member of the PTA....literally!

National PTA: http://www.pta.org/local_leader/1981.htm (the username and password that is necessary to log onto this page is found on the back of your Puckett's Mill PTA membership card.)

Georgia PTA: <http://www.georgiapta.org/membership-benefits.html>

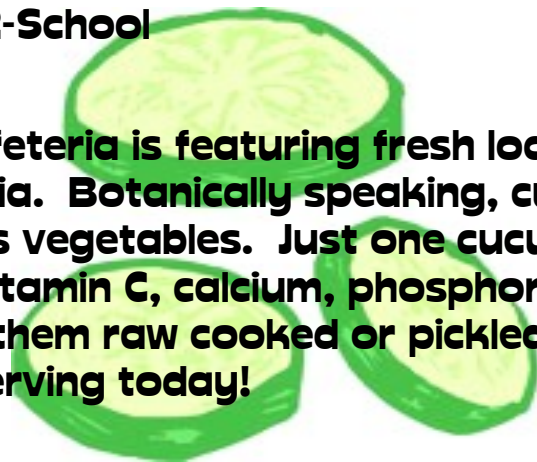
Gwinnett County PTA: Coming Soon

NEAT SY 12

Month	Topic**	"I Tried It" Bites*
August	From the Farm to the School	Watermelon
September	It All Begins with a Seed	Cucumber
October	Eat It All Up	Apple
November	Georgia Farm Animals	Sweet Potato
December	Georgia Vegetables	Broccoli
January	Georgia Herbs	Herbs
February	High-tech Farming	Hydroponic Greens
March	Nuts About Georgia	Carrots
April	Georgia Grains	Strawberry
May	Georgia Fruits	Peaches

September Farm-2-School

This month our cafeteria is featuring fresh local cucumbers grown right here in Georgia. Botanically speaking, cucumbers are a fruit, but we eat them as vegetables. Just one cucumber contains B vitamins, folic acid, Vitamin C, calcium, phosphorus, potassium and zinc. You can eat them raw cooked or pickled. Come on by and see what we are serving today!





HAWKS HOOPS BASKETBALL

- ❖ Girls 5TH, 6TH, and 7th grade in Mill Creek cluster schools
- ❖ Boys 6th & 7th grade in Mill Creek cluster schools
- ❖ **Tryouts are Sunday Sept. 18 and Sunday Sept. 25**
- ❖ Mill Creek High School gyms
- ❖ Arrive 20-30 minutes prior to start time for registration, warm up

Girls 5th grade – 1:00 to 2:30 Auxiliary Gym

Boys 6th grade – 1:30 to 3:00 Main Gym

Girls 6th grade – 2:45 to 4:15 Auxiliary Gym

Boys 7th grade – 3:30 to 5:00 Main gym

Girls 7th grade – 4:30 to 6:00 Auxiliary Gym

What do I need to do?

- ❖ Come to Mill Creek High School gyms Sept. 18 and 25 to tryout. Contact Hawks Hoops with any questions.

Who is Hawks Hoops?

- ❖ Goal is to provide a highly competitive youth basketball program and quality training designed to enhance the skills of the most serious minded basketball players
- ❖ Partner in education with Mill Creek High School
- ❖ We work with high school coaches to use same terminology and run similar or same plays
- ❖ Compete in Gwinnett Basketball League
- ❖ October to February season including approximately 30 practices

For More Information

- ❖ Boys – 6th & 7th contact Jim Dobbs at 678-925-8681 with questions.
- ❖ Girls – No pre-registration. Contact Mike LaFavers at 678-662-1964 with questions.

Mill Creek Community School

Fall 2011

Wanda Cain, Patricia Lowrie, Directors

Wanda Jackson, Secretary

E-mail: mill_creek_community_school@gwinnett.k12.ga.us

1:00pm-9:00pm Monday – Thursday

7:00am-3:00pm Friday

YOUTH CLASSES

Class	Day	Date(s)	Time	Fee
Art for Children (Ages 6-9)	TU	9/20-10/11	5:00-6:30pm	\$40 plus supplies
Art for Pre-Teens (Ages 10-13)	TU	9/20-10/11	7:00-8:30pm	\$40 plus supplies
2D/3D Design (High School)	TH	9/22-10/13	4:00-6:00pm	\$50 plus supplies
Ballet/Tap (Ages 3-5)	TH	9/1-9/29	5:00-5:45pm	\$53
Hip Hop (Ages 6-10)	TH	9/1-9/29	6:00-6:30pm	\$45
Ballet/Tap/Jazz (Ages 6-10)	TH	9/1-9/29	6:30-7:30pm	\$65
Hip Hop (Ages 11-14)	TH	9/1-9/29	7:30-8:00pm	\$45
Ballet/Tap (Ages 3-5)	TH	10/6-11/3	5:00-5:45pm	\$53
Hip Hop	TH	10/6-11/3	6:00-6:30pm	\$45
Ballet/Tap/Jazz (Ages 6-10)	TH	10/6-11/3	6:30-7:30pm	\$65
Hip Hop (Ages 11-14)	TH	10/6-11/3	7:30-8:00pm	\$45
Ballet/Tap (Ages 3-5)	TH	11/10-12/8	5:00-5:45pm	\$47
Hip Hop (Ages 6-10)	TH	11/10-12/8	6:00-6:30pm	\$36
Ballet/Tap/Jazz (Ages 6-11)	TH	11/10-12/8	6:30-7:30pm	\$52
Hip Hop (Ages 11-14)	TH	11/10-12/8	7:30-8:00pm	\$36
Kiddie Kooking (Ages 6-10)	TH	10/27-11/17	6:00-7:30pm	\$50
radKids (Ages 5-7)	W	10/3-11/7	6:00-7:00pm	\$20
radKids (Ages 8-11)	W	10/3-11/7	7:15-8:15pm	\$20
Tumbling for Children (Ages 3-6)	TU	9/27-10/25	6:00-7:00pm	\$60
Beginning Tumbling (Ages 6-10)	TU	9/27-10/25	7:00-8:00pm	\$60
Tumbling for Children (Ages 3-6)	TU	11/1-12/6	6:00-7:00pm	\$60
Beginning Tumbling (Ages 6-10)	TU	11/1-12/6	7:00-8:00pm	\$60

SPECIAL INTEREST FOR STUDENTS

SAT Prep Math	TU,TH	9/13-9/29	2:30-4:00pm	\$70
SAT Prep Verbal	M,W	9/12-9/28	2:30-4:00pm	\$70
SAT Prep Math	TU,TH	11/8-12/1	2:30-4:00pm	\$70
SAT Prep Verbal	M, W	11/7-11/30	2:30-4:00pm	\$70
SAT Prep Math	TU TH	2/21-3/8	2:30-4:00pm	\$70
SAT Prep Verbal	M W	2/15-3/7	2:30-4:00PM	\$70

**DRIVER EDUCATION: MUST PICK UP REGISTRATION FORMS IN THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL OFFICE. REGISTRATION FORMS CANNOT BE MAILED, FAXED, OR DOWNLOADED.

Driver's Education	M-F	9/19-9/30	2:30-5:30pm	\$345
Driver's Education	SAT	9/17-10/22	8:00-3:30pm	\$345

NO CLASS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH.

Driver's Education	M-F	10/17-10/28	2:30-5:30pm	\$345
Driver's Education	M-F	11/7-11/18	2:30-5:30pm	\$345
Driver's Education	M-F	11/28-12/09	2:30-5:30pm	\$345

ADULT CLASSES

Practical Couponing	W	9/21, 9/28	6:00-8:00pm	\$35
Practical Couponing	W	11/2, 11/9	6:00-8:00pm	\$35
Ceramics	TH	9/22-10/13	6:30-8:30pm	\$50
Computer Basics	M	9/19-10/10	6:30-8:30pm	\$50
Advanced Computer Basics	M	10/24-11/14	6:30-8:30pm	\$50
Intro to Photography	M W	9/12-9/21	6:00-9:00pm	\$70
Advanced Photography	M W	9/26-10/5	6:00-9:00pm	\$70
Creative Techniques Photography	TU TH	10/11 & 10/13	6:00-9:00pm	\$40
Advance Point & Shoot Photography	TH	9/29	6:00-9:00PM	\$30

SCHOOL PLUS CLASSES

Classes, dates and times to be announced.

Mill Creek Community School observes all Gwinnett County holidays. If Gwinnett County Schools close due to inclement weather, there will be no Community School classes. NO REFUNDS AFTER FIRST CLASS. **School closed on September 5th, October 10th, (Thanksgiving Holidays), November 21st – 25th, (Winter Break) December 19th – January 2nd.**

What is it?

The Annual PMES Talent Showcase is back! This year, the theme is "Talent Outside of the Box." We're looking for students who can take their gifts and present them in a creative, interesting, and innovative way. From singing to cycling and everywhere in-between! Students will be awarded bonus points for the creativity and preparedness of their audition.

Who Can Audition?

Any 4th or 5th Grade Student at PMES



Auditions-
September 29th
3:15-5:15

How do I audition?

- Complete the form and turn it into your CLASSROOM teacher by September 2nd
- Auditions AND Acts can be no longer than 2 minutes in length
- Students must have ALL materials needed at auditions
- This is a closed audition. Parent Pick-up will be in the car rider lane.

PMES Talent Showcase

PLEASE NOTE!

A limited number and a VARIETY of acts will be chosen by a panel of staff members to perform at the Talent Showcase at Mill Creek High School on November 3rd, 2011. Participants are REQUIRED to attend a dress rehearsal on November 1st from 5:30-8:00pm

(Return Bottom Portion to CLASSROOM TEACHER by Friday, September 2nd)

Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Performing With (if anyone): _____

Talent: _____ Props: _____

I give my child permission to stay after school to audition for the Talent Showcase on Thursday, September 29th, 2011. I have also previewed their audition to make sure it is elementary school appropriate _____