

# The Fox Print



Shallowford Falls Elementary School • 3529 Lassiter Road • Marietta, Georgia 30062 • 770-642-5610

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MS. ANGELLE

Felicia M. Angelle, Principal

We are off to a great start to the school year! Already we have had many things to think about and plan for the year. For example, we were thrilled to add an additional first grade class as that significantly reduced our teacher/student ratio for that grade level. As you may have noticed, we have low student ratios at Shallowford Falls because it is a priority to ensure the instructional success for all students.

We have already met with the PTA and Foundation representatives to express our school-wide goals for the year. We continue to place emphasis upon increasing our math scores on the CRCT and Writing scores on the state writing test. We are fortunate to have these parent groups that support us in our endeavors. Every year the PTA supports many instructional resources for our school such as Accelerated Reader, literacy and instructional materials, and performances. The Foundation supports science and technology by giving teacher grants, improving technology, providing a full-time Science Lab teacher, and a yearly subscription for IXL math, a strong internet program for our students to get extra reinforcement on math facts. This year they have also provided us with an online reading test, which will help our teachers confirm student reading level more often.

In addition, all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students attend weekly visits to our Writing Lab where they learn research-based strategies in writing. Our two Writing Coaches are paid through a grant. Our students experienced huge success last year on the CRCT and our school did exceptionally well under the new statewide college and career readiness performance index (CCRPI). We were ranked second in the county. This is the assessment instrument that replaces our former "Annual Yearly Progress" score. Our success is due to our dedicated teaching staff that continually goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure success for all of our children. Parents, thank you, too, for supporting our PTA and Foundation as they work together to help us make our vision for Shallowford Falls become a reality. We are amazed every day by the enthusiasm and support that you, as parents, convey in so many varied ways.

All of us at Shallowford Falls are looking forward to another productive and fun-filled school year!

## 2nd Annual YEARBOOK ART COVER CONTEST

Julie Lahti, Committee Chair

The 2nd Annual Shallowford Falls Yearbook Art Cover Contest is upon us! How would you like to see your child's artwork on the 2013/2014 yearbook cover? Or featured throughout the pages inside? This year's theme is "Foxes are WILD about Learning" (Jungle Theme). Entries must be original artwork on 8 1/2 by 11 inch card stock. Paper was sent home on September 13th. Turn the paper VERTICAL, our school name and year must be incorporated into the artwork. Any art medium can be used: markers, crayons or paint are recommended. Make sure your artist includes their name and grade on the BACK of the artwork. The entries are due to the front office by 3 p.m. by November 13th, 2013 in the box marked yearbook cover contest. The winning artwork will be featured on the cover of the yearbook and the artist will receive a FREE YEARBOOK!

## Partners in Education



## FROM THE PEN OF THE PTA PRESIDENT

Rachael Astorga, PTA President

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our Shallowford Falls family as we settle into the 2013-14 school year. I hope that you are able to find time to enjoy the first days of fall. It is easy to get caught up with new activities and sports and before we know it, the rush of the holidays is upon us. Use the extra hour of daylight we still have to spend time in the beautiful Georgia fall weather with your children!

Your PTA board has been busy since May planning out this school year's events and programs. One of our new events, the Kindergarten Playdates, was a big success. It was nice to welcome our newest members of the Shallowford Falls family with a fun playdate and popsicles! Our Meet & Greet and Ice Cream Social kicked off the first week of school. Coming up next month is our first annual Family Movie Night to take place on our new athletic fields.

If you have not had an opportunity to visit our new athletic fields, please take the time to see what the PTA accomplished with our \$20 for the Foxes fundraiser. Working together with Cobb County and the school district, we were able to correct the drainage issue plaguing our fields for years and re-sod the entire athletic field. It is now a beautiful green space that will benefit not just our school but also our community. We are continuing our efforts to beautify the school by installing a legacy brick paver adjacent to the fields. Leave your legacy by ordering an engraved brick that will be a permanent part of Shallowford Falls history.

You may have noticed that this year the PTA has changed direction in how we raise money for our programs and events. We have eliminated the traditional fundraiser and have simplified to a direct donation campaign. This allows the PTA to focus more of our energy to developing new programs and events and less time organizing fundraisers. Thank you to all families that purchased PTA memberships and made a donation. It's not too late to become a member!

To help you feel more connected to our school and the PTA, please visit our updated PTA website [www.shallowfordfallspta.com](http://www.shallowfordfallspta.com), like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @ShallowfordPTA. Our PTA Executive Board has an open door policy. We welcome any feedback you have to strengthen our mission, whether it is via an online resource or in person at one of our school-wide events or meetings. We are all volunteering our time because we feel that the Shallowford Falls children are well worth it. When your children see you investing in their school, their school will inevitably become more important to them. We look forward to working with you and for you!



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## Media Center Connection

Janice Kelley, Media Specialist

What a busy first few weeks we have had in the media center! We had students in for lessons earlier than ever before in August. We auditioned and selected over 70 students to work on our Fox 5 news crew. They have all had a turn and look like professionals already! All students have been trained on the iPads and several classes have been checking them out for use in the classrooms. In the media center, we had first and second graders learning how to program Daisy the Dinosaur to move, jump, skip, and turn on a coding app. Please remember to bookmark our Shallowford Falls website at <http://www.shallowfordfalls.typepad.com/>. Through this blog, you can stay in contact with your child's teachers, all PTA and Foundation activities, and the media center blog, which will link you our new resource, Cobb Digital Library. With one click, you will be linked to over 600 e-books, and many databases, which will help your child with research and projects all year. The user name is shallowford and the password is foxes. Be sure to look through these fantastic resources when you have the chance.

Our volunteers were here for our annual Volunteer Training, and we have a great lineup of people who come in and shelve books and take on many helpful tasks in the media center. Several of our crafty volunteers just finished modge-podging large letters so students can recognize the sections of the library more easily. Thanks to Christy Richards, Stephanie Johnson, Amanda Picchi, Melanie Nathan, and Clara Kim for coming in several times last week to work on that project.

Our fifth graders just completed a Civil War Day, in which they explored artifacts from the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield and the Marietta Museum of History. They even were able to try on clothes from the time period and taste a staple of the Civil War soldier's diet, hardtack. Look for their pictures on a bulletin board outside the media center.

Kindergartners have been discussing how to take care of books and how to tell the difference between fiction and non-fiction books. First graders are working on a packet of landforms, second is working on a foldable project about the Georgia regions. Third graders have been talking about the importance of putting together strong paragraphs, and fourth graders have been working on physical features and map skills.

Mark your calendars for our Fall Book Fair November 18-22. More information will be coming your way soon. Thanks for all your support of our Media Program!



Don't forget to bring in...



Kristy Preast, Committee Chair

We are well underway in another great year of Box Tops For Education collections. Last year, we earned More than \$2500 from Box Tops! We are trying to increase our earnings to \$3000 this year! Box Tops are on hundreds of everyday products, and many products at the beginning of the school year have bonus tops on them. By trimming the Box Top off of your packages, you will earn the school \$.10 from each one. The funds go directly to our PTA as another form of income. For a complete list of products with Box Tops, please visit the PTA website at <http://shallowfordfallspta.com/fundraisers/boxtops-for-education/>.

The first deadline for Box Tops for Education is November 1st. All Box Tops deposited in the bin in the foyer of the school by October 15th will be included in the first submission, in which we will receive a check in December for the total.

In addition to Box Tops For Education, we also collect Campbell's Labels for Education. These labels are on many Campbell's products and can help our school earn Campbell points to redeem for school and classroom supplies. You can find a list of participating products at <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/Earn-Points/Participating-Products>. Thank you to those that have helped trim and sort the Box Tops and Labels so far this school year; Sigrid Smith, Martha Cobb, Cindy Crabtree, Inez Sanchez and Beverly Carson. If you would like to help in trimming and counting, please contact Kristy Preast at [twokpz@comcast.net](mailto:twokpz@comcast.net) or 404-667-6774, and she will get you a "kit" to do at your own pace at home.

*The Volunteer Shindig. Get Involved!*

Jane Russell and Traci Lavelle, Committee CO-chairs

On September 3rd, the inaugural Volunteer Shindig was held at the Covington Ridge HOA. This was an opportunity for the PTA and Foundation to say THANK YOU to all of our parent volunteers and allow for committee chairpersons to fill open slots for their events. We had a great turn out, with more than 50 parent volunteers joining us for a glass of wine and some delicious food. A big thank you to the board members of the PTA and Foundation for providing the food and beverages. Another volunteer event will be held in January. Please be on the look out for an up-date in December.

## FOX DADS READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Kevin Springer, Committee Chair

A study by the National Center for Education showed that students perform better at school when their fathers are involved. This has sparked a growing trend of schools creating opportunities for fathers to be more active in school related activities. The dads group at Shallowford Falls is marking its inaugural year with a mission to make a difference both inside and outside the school.

With the majority of dads working outside the home, the dads group will aim to promote male role model involvement in the classroom, science lab and even in the hallways. This year will be the start of the Hall Host program where dads can sign up to give the children high-fives and words of encouragement on their way to and from lunch. The response to similar programs at other local schools has been incredible. The students see the guys in the halls as rock stars and participating dads said the response from students' was the best part of their day.

The newly renovated upper field is just the beginning of the upgrade to the school grounds. Our dads group will be volunteering their time and tools to build raised gardens for the science program, install the Legacy Brick Patio by the playground and restore the outdoor classroom, giving teachers the ability to take learning outside.

The 2013-14 school year marks the beginning of what Fox dads can do to make a positive impact both at Shallowford Falls Elementary and in the students' experience of learning. The dads group will partner with the PTA and teachers, ensuring that the sky is the limit on what we can accomplish.

## INCREASE THE PEACE

Bridget Karins and David Rollins, Counselors

On Wednesday, September 18th, Mrs. Karins and Mr. Rollins began recognizing *Increase the Peace* award recipients for the 2013-14 school year. The purpose of our *Increase the Peace* program is to recognize students for "peace making" behaviors with their peers in an effort to encourage a positive and safe learning environment.

There are many ways children may *Increase the Peace*. Last year, students were recognized by staff members for sharing with others, including those who are left out, being helpful, solving conflicts peacefully, working as a team, and using kind words. Our peacemakers will be easy to spot as they wear their peace pins proudly on their backpacks, lunch bags, shirts or jackets. In addition, this year, peacemakers will also win a coupon for a treat at McDonalds. We can't wait to see all of the ways our students continue to work to *Increase the Peace* this year.

**Both counselors, David Rollins and Bridget Karins, are available to all parents, guardians and their children. Feel free to contact them to set up a conference, ask questions or share concerns.**

## I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

Kelley Dodd, Committee Chair

Thank you to all families and staff of Shallowford Falls who supported the Ice Cream Social. It was wonderful to have such an amazing turnout! Everyone truly appeared to enjoy the scooped ice cream, all the sweet toppings, catching up with friends, and dancing to the Mrs. Douglas's tunes. A special thank you goes to all the wonderful volunteers that helped with set-up, serving, and clean-up. This event couldn't be possible without you!



## Foundation News



Sara Wynne, Communications Co-chair

What has your Foundation been up to?

### Science Lab

Our new science teacher, Catherine Mills, has gotten things off to a fun, and exciting start for our Shallowford Falls foxes. Kindergarten and first grade are learning about the “Tools of Science”, and what scientists do. Second grade is currently learning about states of matter, third grade has started their investigation of minerals, fourth grade has begun weather experiments, and fifth graders are having fun with water tension experiments! Please make sure to visit the Science Lab blog so you can keep up with all of the new and exciting things your children are learning. Don't forget to sign up to be a volunteer for your child's class <http://sfescience.com>.

### FAST

F.A.S.T. (Foundation After School Time) programs are off to a great start. We are thrilled to offer your children a wide variety of activities this semester. Many of our programs are already full. The next session of F.A.S.T. programs begin in January so sign up early to secure your child's placement.

### Donations

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful parents, teachers and staff members who were able contribute to the Foundation of Shallowford Falls. It is because of your donations that we are able to give our children greater opportunities in the areas of science and technology. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our website for more details: <http://sfefoundation.com/>.

### New Program

The Foundation is excited to announce that we have purchased the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) software for Shallowford Falls! SRI is a research-based, computer-adaptive assessment for all grades that measures students' levels of reading comprehension immediately. This wonderful tool will allow our teachers to create a picture of reader's strengths and weaknesses. In turn, they can examine this SRI data, and then tailor their instruction to support striving and advanced readers. Teachers will have the ability to quickly test the students in the computer lab several times throughout the year to measure their reading progress, and adjust their instruction for each student accordingly.



### HERE TO HELP

Keeley Bailey, LCSW, School Social Worker

Did you know that every school in Cobb County has a School Social Worker? I am glad to serve as the School Social Worker for the Shallowford Falls community while your regular School Social Worker is out on a medical leave. I also work at Pope High School, Hightower Trail Middle School, Tritt Elementary School and Murdock Elementary School. Many parents are not familiar with the services that their school social worker offers. Some of the basic services provided include support with immunizations and screenings, counseling, healthcare, mental health, economic assistance, school supplies, holiday assistance as well as attendance.

One of the most basic components of academic success is regular, prompt school attendance. Missing just 15 minutes a day from school can total up to six and a half days a year! Per GA Code 20-2-690.1, children between the ages of 6 -16 must enroll in a private, public, or home school program. School Social Workers are responsible for enforcing the Compulsory Attendance Law by working with students and families to alleviate the barriers which lead to excessive absences and tardies. The goal of the school social worker is to provide a link between home, school and community to provide all children with access to fulfill their potential by offering support and resources.

If your family is seeking economic resources, I would encourage you to visit our resource website at [www.cobbk12.org/FamilyResources](http://www.cobbk12.org/FamilyResources) for a variety of community resources which may help address your needs. Please feel free to contact me if I can support your student or family. I am looking forward to a great year at Shallowford Falls!

[keeley.bailey@cobbk12.org](mailto:keeley.bailey@cobbk12.org)  
770-578-7918

## From the Clinic

Pam Heath, RN, School Nurse

The school nurse would like to remind all parents of the Cobb County School Policies for sick children. A child with a fever cannot return to school until fever free for 24 hours. This policy is in place for children that vomit or have diarrhea also.

The nurse cannot accept medicine of any kind unless it is in the original box from the pharmacy. Please do not send medicine in baggies for children.

The single most important way to prevent the spread of disease is hand washing!

## GENEROUS FOXES

Katie Peters, Committee Chair

Thank you for supporting our September Community Outreach program of school supplies. It is not too late to donate any new school supplies! A collections bin is located in the main lobby of the school. Looking ahead, in October we will be collecting winter clothing items for our sister school, Hollydale Elementary. In November, we will be collecting donations items for Thanksgiving baskets by grade level. Keep an eye on the PTA website <http://shallowfordfallspta.com> and our *Quick as a Fox* newsletters for future details.

## REFLECTIONS

Melanie Nathan, Committee Chair

In its more than 40-year history, the Reflections program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works of art in six arts areas:

- Dance choreography
- Musical composition
- Film production
- Photography
- Literature
- Visual arts

Each year, the National PTA Reflections Program challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. This year's theme is "Believe, Dream, Inspire." Additional information, including official rules and National PTA entry form can be found on our PTA website, [www.shallowfordfallspta.com](http://www.shallowfordfallspta.com). Official entries are to be submitted to the media center on or before October 16th. For questions, please email [reflections@shallowfordfallspta.com](mailto:reflections@shallowfordfallspta.com).



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PTA REFLECTIONS

Editor and Graphic Designer: Anessia Foley • Proofreader: Julie Lahti • PTA President: Rachael Astorga  
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*The Fox Print* is a publication of the Shallowford Falls Elementary PTA.