

The Fox Print



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

Volume 24

Issue 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM Ms. ANGELLE

Felicia M. Angelle, Principal

As another successful year comes to a close, this is the time of each year that is always bittersweet. Together we have achieved so much. I thank the PTA and Foundation for all of their involvement and contributions to our school. We are extremely fortunate to have two groups who work tirelessly to advocate for our school, teachers, staff, and community. Your help is vital in exposing our students to the current innovations in the ever-changing world of S.T.E.M. You came through in a big way by supporting us with donations of money, time, and talent, and also by showing up to enjoy all the PTA and Foundation events: Math Night, Fall Festival, Fun Run, Pancake Breakfast/Silent Auction, Car Raffle, S.T.E.M. Night, and the many other successful events that occurred throughout the school year. I have said numerous times that without these groups our school would not be nearly as GREAT. Our teachers and students are provided with many additional resources and programs that extend beyond what is provided by Cobb County – that is indeed amazing because Cobb County provides us with more resources and extra support than other public school systems. With your caring and involvement we have had an amazing and successful year. We give you our wholehearted thanks.

Looking ahead to 2015- 2016, the PTA and Foundation remain dedicated to the mission they have adopted: enhancing learning opportunities for Shallowford Falls' students in the area of S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). We look forward to taking the next steps to continue toward S.T.E.M. certification. With your support as well as the support of

our parents and community we will accomplish this feat. The generosity, support and dedication of many people continue to make our mission a reality and our school one of excellence. This school would not be the fine school that it is without the support of the PTA, Foundation, our parents and community. I am happy we will have the opportunity to keep up the good work.

A special thanks goes to our PTA and Foundation Executive Boards and Committee chairpersons who gave their time working diligently beginning last summer. Your expertise in planning events and determining what is best for our school made such a positive impact. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your part in the success of Shallowford Falls this year.

We are already planning our school activities for the 2015-2016 school year. Kindergarten class lists will be posted at 10:00 a.m. on July 29th, 2015. Grades 1-5 will be posted at 3:00 p.m. Kindergarten Play Date will be July 29th, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the playground for students and parents.

Mark your calendars for Meet and Greet on July 30th, 2015:

K: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

1st-5th grades: Last names A-K - 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

1st -5th grades: Last names L-Z - 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

I hope you have a refreshing summer. The first day of school is August 3, 2015.

SHALLOWFORD FALLS DADS GROUP

Kevin Springer and Mike Robbins, Co-chairs

The dads of Shallowford Falls continue to support the school, giving their time and sharing their talents. The Dads Group was originally created to increase involvement in the classroom and help with outside projects.

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of dads supporting the teachers and volunteering their time for events such as the Fall Festival and field day. The kids enjoy seeing the guys walking through the halls and are great at giving out high fives.

The dads have also helped with a number of outside projects. Whether it is spreading pine straw, clearing debris from the outside classroom or helping with a hammer and saw, the efforts of the dad volunteers do not go unnoticed. One of the projects was the construction of the beautiful gardens utilized by the science teacher, Mrs. Mills. She has incorporated this into her lesson plan and each grade has been able to plant seeds and watch their plants grow.

We hope to see the Dads Group grow and make Shallowford Falls even better. The time commitment is not much, but the impact is great! To keep up with upcoming opportunities, follow us on Twitter [@sfedadsgroup](https://twitter.com/sfedadsgroup).

FROM THE PEN OF THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Kimberly Lassiter and Katye Whalen, PTA Co-presidents



As the school year comes to an end, the PTA would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Without a community of dedicated parents and teachers, Shallowford Falls would not be the school that it is. Your assistance goes a long way in bringing so many great activities and programs to our school's teachers, students and families. Our school becomes a better place every day when parents lend a hand with their time, talents and financial contributions.

Because of the success of our first very own Fox Trot Fundraiser during the 2014/2015 school year, we were able to fund all of the PTA programs and activities this year, including over \$6,000 in S.T.E.M. training and learning resources, and an iPad in every classroom. The PTA funds so many programs and resources including Accelerated Reader software, 4th and 5th grade agendas, weekly readers, other grade level learning materials, plus so much more. The PTA also provides teacher incentives for their very active participation in our PTA membership and Fox Trot fundraiser. The teachers and staff are instrumental in our student's growth so we will continue to assist them in their classroom goals and projects.

We are also very proud of the many events that we sponsor and support at Shallowford Falls Elementary School. Hopefully you have had the pleasure of attending one or all of the following events: Kindergarten Play date, Meet and Greet, Newcomer's Coffee, Back To School Ice Cream Social, S.T.E.M. Math Night, Fall Family Movie Night, Family Dance, and Art Day.

On April 30th, our PTA was recognized by the 9th District, Georgia PTA and received the following awards: 1st Place - Outstanding Local Unit, Model PTA, Hearst Family-School Partnership "Communicating Effectively" and Best Ideas! In addition, on April 16th, we were recognized by the East Cobb County Council PTA and the Georgia PTA and awarded the following: Model PTA, Spectacular Eight, Best Ideas, Pacesetter, Early Bird, Visionary and Oak Tree! We are so proud of our school community; thank YOU for being part of it!

We are happily preparing again for the Fox Trot Fundraiser that will be school sponsored in the fall of 2015 to raise funds to continue the support of our S.T.E.M. initiative. Shallowford Falls is working diligently toward their goal of becoming S.T.E.M. certified so we will continue to ask for each and every family's support. We have many new and exciting programs and events that are in the works for the 2015/2016 school year. You will hear about many of these new events over the summer and when you return in August at our Meet & Greet. Stay connected with our PTA website, Facebook page and Twitter feed. We will continue posting updates throughout the summer.

We are excited to welcome several new people to our PTA Board for 2015/2016. Here is the slate of officers for the next school year: Co-Presidents – Erica Fokens and Therese Wicht; V.P. Programs & Events – Megan Gregory; V.P. Communications – Julie Lahti; V.P. Ways & Means – Lindsey Harris; V.P. Membership – Kevin Springer; Secretary – Megan Murray; Treasurer – Amy Grice; and Parliamentarian – Tara Millington.

A very special thanks go to departing board members: Kimberly Lassiter and Katye Whalen – Co-Presidents, Kelly Marcuzzi – VP of Membership, Kelley Dodd – VP of Events, and Jennifer Lubs – Treasurer. Thank you for your hard work and service. We are extremely appreciative of Mrs. Angelle and Mrs. Spiva for their continued support and partnership.

As the chaos of the end of the school year dies down and you are sitting poolside over the hot summer, we hope you will recharge and consider volunteering your time, in whatever capacity you can, to the Shallowford Falls PTA. It has been a pleasure to serve the Shallowford Falls community and we feel extremely thankful for our amazing administration and staff. We hope you have a fantastic summer!



Mirna Lee and Meredith Warlick, Co-presidents

S.T.E.M. Lab Spotlight



The S.T.E.M. Lab has been so busy! All classes enjoyed visiting the StarLab after we came back from Spring Break. Here are a few more activities that our students have experienced:

Kindergarten and 1st Grade have been working hard planting seeds in the Lab, and they are starting to transplant them into the garden beds outside of the S.T.E.M. Lab.

2nd Grade has been busy with critters! They have been looking at lifecycles, and have had chicken eggs, painted lady butterflies, ladybugs, tadpoles and earthworms in the S.T.E.M. Lab. The students have enjoyed watching them develop and grow. The students also did a S.T.E.M. project making birdhouses. The designs were fantastic and are now outside feeding our local birds!

3rd Grade started out this quarter exploring heat! They have been conducting experiments and going outside to harness the heat of the sun. We then moved into conservation. The students designed terrific water filtration systems as their S.T.E.M. project!

4th Grade has been finishing their unit on ecosystems. They explored food webs and food chains through outside games. We completed this unit by dissecting owl pellets! The students loved opening up the pellets and uncovering skeletons of prey.

5th Grade has been working on cells and microorganisms. They loved having Mrs. Jennifer Riser come visit and allow them to look at pond algae under microscopes. They took cheek swabs to look at up close and extracted strawberry DNA and grew bacteria.

The S.T.E.M. Lab and Teacher are funded 100% by the Foundation of Shallowford Falls through the generous donations of families and staff.

Thanks for keeping science alive at Shallowford!

Technology Lab Spotlight



In the Technology Lab, students have been working on their typing skills using the keyboard covers purchased by the Foundation. It has been really great to see their skills improve and their interest grow with the added challenge of the cover. Way to go Foxes - let's continue practice typing over the summer!

2014-15 Foundation S.T.E.M. Events – made possible by your donations!

Hour of Code

During the second week of December, our students joined over 10 million students around the world to explore the exciting world of computer



programming! Every grade level received coding instruction during their computer lab time. Third, fourth, and fifth grade explored computer animation programming with Scratch. First and second grade learned basic programming steps and computer logic with Tynker. Kindergarten had fun programming on the iPads on a coding app called The Foes.

Want to continue the learning at home? Visit <http://code.org/learn>.

2nd Annual Science Fair

We had a wonderful turnout for our second Science Fair in February. Our students did an excellent job preparing and presenting their hard work. Thank you to all who attended and to those that helped the students prepare their projects. This was an impressive collection of work! The top 3 projects from each grade advanced to the district science fair in March.



2nd Annual S.T.E.M. Night



Our second annual S.T.E.M. Night in April was a huge success! We were excited to see over half of our families attend this exciting event. There was science fun for the whole family, including lots of hands-on science experiments, StarLab, GBI and Magic of Science demonstrations, Computer Coding Games, iPad Lab with Osmos, Historic Scientists and much more! Special thanks go to our community volunteers from AkzoNobel, Novelis, Clorox, GBI, Lakeshore Learning, Pope National Honor Society, Lassiter National Honor Society, Georgia Tech RoboJackets as well as our many parent and teacher volunteers!

Science Olympiad



In March, our Science Olympiad team competed and won 3rd place against more than 30 teams from Cobb County! The Foundation is so proud to sponsor this team of bright students! Thank you to all the coaches and parents who have worked with our team this year. Our team advanced to the state Science Olympiad on May 16!

Math Olympiad



This was our first year of having Math Olympiad at Shallowford Falls. Students took five tests, one per month starting in November and ending in March. Each test had five advanced problems to solve. Overall score was kept for the season, and gold and silver pins and patches were awarded for achieving various scores. Our team did really well, with six students receiving patches and one coming very close to achieving a silver pin!

FAST (Foundation After School Time) Spotlight

We had so many incredible after school classes this year! Over 300 students participated in everything from sports, arts, science, music and chess! This year we had Challenge Island (creative science/S.T.E.M. program), Brainy Builders (a Lego physics class), S.M.Art Club (mural painting), Marietta Martial Arts, Kid Chess, Creative Writing, Cardio Kool Kids, Spanish, Guitar Club and the amazing Drama Kids Unlimited. All vendors donate 10% of registrations to the Foundation, so participating in these after school programs, instead of going to classes away from school, supports our school. This school year, we received \$8,000 from these amazing programs. Thank you for choosing these programs for your child! Look for these and several exciting new classes in the fall. More information and registration forms will be available in July on our website at sfefoundation.com.

Fundraising Success

The Foundation of Shallowford Falls has had another amazing year thanks to the support of the entire Shallowford Falls community. 39% of our families and staff gave over \$33,000 in Family Investment donations and corporate matching. The Super Raffle was also a huge success, raising \$24,500. The Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction, including Foxed In event, raised about \$17,200 with over 700 people attending. Other fundraising initiatives, which included Birthday Marquee Wishes, Teacher Movie Time, Zaxby's Spirit Nights, and Georgia Natural Gas/TrueBlue, raised a combined total of \$6,150. Thank you to everyone whose generous contributions of money, time and talent enabled Foundation fundraising events to be so successful. Your continued support will help us provide great programs, science and technology for all students at Shallowford Falls!

Congratulations to the newly elected Foundation Board for 2015-2016:

President – Mirna Lee, VP Programs – Debi Goodman, VP Fundraising – Jennifer Riser, VP Events – Melissa Amerault, Treasurer – Meredith Minano, VP Family Investment – Stacy Carnall, VP Communications – Allison Builder, Secretary – Jana Barry

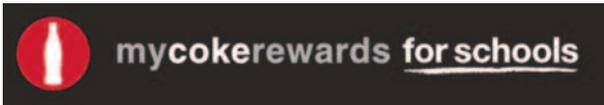
Special thanks go to departing Board Members for their service and dedication to fulfilling the Foundation mission:

Meredith Warlick (Co-President)
Andrea Mirsalimi (VP Fundraising)
Michelle O'Shaughnessy (VP Communications)
Wendy Mehta (Secretary)

Easy Way to Give Back

Did you know that if you shop on smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com, percent of your total amount purchased can come back to our school? Simply designate the Foundation of Shallowford Falls as the charitable organization of your choice or bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-5689024> and support our school every time you shop!

Don't forget
to bring in...



EASY MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL

By Kristin Kletzel, Committee Chair

Are you looking for an easy way to help Shallowford Falls earn money? Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education are the answer. They are both ways you can help the school with little effort.

Box Tops for Education (BTFE) provides direct funds twice yearly to help the school with whatever it needs. Since starting participation, Shallowford Falls has earned over \$19,000 through the program. To help, simply find the Box Top on one of hundreds of products, clip and send to school. There is a collection box in the front of the school by the office. Each Box Top is worth ten cents to the school. You can also go on line to www.boxtops4education.com and enter to win sweepstakes to earn Shallowford Falls extra Box Tops.

Labels for Education are another way to help the school get things they need, but works a little differently. Rather than receiving a check, Shallowford Falls accumulates point with which they can purchase items from a catalog provided by Labels for Education. The catalog has items ranging from sports and athletic equipment to arts and academic supplies. There are over 2,500 products that participate in the Labels for Education program. To help, simply collect the UPC from beverage/sauce caps from participating products and send to school. They can be placed in the same container as the Box Tops for Education located near the office.

Rather than points, Coca Cola now directly donates money to schools for their reward programs. All Coca Cola products have a code that can be redeemed for cash for Shallowford Falls. Simply create an account at www.mycokerewards.com, enter the codes from the Coca Cola products and choose to donate to Shallowford Falls. You can also drop off tops in the container outside the office.

Don't forget to save your box tops, labels and Coke codes over the summer for collection when school starts in August.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Janice Kelley, Media Specialist



We had a great response to our purple feet fundraiser in May. Our generous families contributed over \$1900 to the American Cancer Society to help cancer patients right here in Cobb County. Thank you to all for your support. Our winning class was Ms. Mello's, and they will get an ice cream party the last week of school. Also, thank you to Mick Maracuzzi and Lauren Lassiter for being Foot Man and Toe Girl to promote our purple feet campaign on the morning announcements.

MEDIA CENTER CONNECTION

Janice Kelley, Media Specialist

Our spring has been a whirlwind of activity in the Media Center. Our Under the Sea book fair was a fun and successful endeavor. Our family night started off with two great food trucks, and all had a fun time. Students in three classes won prizes for bringing in the most money for the All for Books promotion. Our students brought in \$481, which Scholastic matched in books, to donate to needy charities. Our thanks to Samantha Hoyer, Mick Marcuzzi, Paul Crowell, Bryce Horton, Reed Picchi, Lauren Lassiter and Madison Nathan for promoting the book fair on the morning news.

Our main focus these nine weeks was research in all grades. From plant research in kindergarten using the iPads to using ancestry.com to research our fifth graders' families, we've been learning how to use our online resources available through Cobb Digital Library.

We've also been signing up every student in the Scholastic "Read for the World Record" Challenge. You should have received the user names and passwords for your child to participate in recording minutes read on the Scholastic website (www.scholastic.com/summer) all summer long. Log them in using their user names and password and then change their password to **read**. Remember Cobb Digital Library this summer for eBooks in the many databases like Tumblebooks, Bookflix, Trueflix, and Freedom Flix. There's always something to read if you have our Shallowford Falls webpage bookmarked on your home computer or MackinVia's app on your iPad.

Research shows that students who don't read during the summer lose ground on their reading skills. So encourage your child to get into a habit of reading every day this summer. They are invited to go to the Mountain View Public Library and join their reading program as well. Check the media center blog for details of both reading programs. We are trying to earn the most minutes read in Cobb County, so get those minutes submitted online every day!

Thank you to all our fabulous volunteers who make our jobs easier in the Media Center. Christy Richards has been such a wonderful coordinator this year. She is moving on next year, and we will miss her "can do" attitude and dedication to our program. Lisa Podolski will be taking over and will be fabulous!

HEALTHY FOXES

Lindsey Harris, Committee Chair

Munch a Healthy Lunch Fair + Spring Walk-to-School Day = Success!!

Picture it... your child happily snacking on tasty guacamole, or at dinner trying to decide between fava beans and edamame for their veggie. Well, pinch yourself - it's not a dream! Every day during our Spring Munch-A-Healthy Lunch Fair, more than 500 kids tried out these fun, exotic dishes and more. We had a blast getting the kids to try these new flavors (not all peer pressure is bad!) and we can't wait to do it again next year.

A big thanks to Whole Foods for providing the delicious Kung Pao Tofu and Wheatberry Salad and to Fresh Market for providing the guacamole and Edamame-Chickpea salad. And, thank you to all of our parent volunteers who helped serve up our healthy snacks... nudging our Foxes into Healthy!

Our 2nd Annual Spring Walk-to-School Day was also fantastic! We had hundreds of kids, moms, dads and younger siblings arrive on time and on foot. An early morning, heart-pumping walk is a great way to start your day. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Let your Imagination Fly

Amy Grice, Reflections Chair

Get a head start on your PTA Reflections entry THIS SUMMER! Take a photo, write a story or poem, draw a picture, produce a film, or dance to show how you would "let your imagination fly!"

This is the PTA Reflections theme for 2015-2016 and we are looking to send more Shallowford Falls Foxes to county and state next year. Each year, our PTA challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. Supporting this program is one way you can encourage children's creativity, increase student achievement, and promote the arts in your home, our school and our community.

Reflections categories: Music Composition, Literature, Dance Choreography, Visual Arts, Photography and Film Production. For more information, contact Amy Grice at reflections@shallowfordfallspta.com.

Engaging Fox Families

Traci Lavelle, Committee Chair

The Family Engagement Committee made huge strides in getting parents involved this school year. We embraced technology in effectively collecting data in which parents wanted to be involved. This data provided instant access to all of our committee chairs in finding parents who wanted to volunteer their time. Last fall we held an amazing Math S.T.E.M. night. Families came out for a fun-filled night of activities that encompassed critical thinking skills and problem-solving strategies in the areas of Technology, Engineering and Math. We would like to thank John from Lakeshore Learning for his awesome display of merchandise on S.T.E.M.

products that are available in all stores plus a donation of S.T.E.M. kits to the school. The National Honor Society students at Pope High School were unbelievable assets in helping facilitate all of the student hands-on learning activities. Our last technology event was with all of our 4th grade students and ADP, Inc. Tim Lavelle, a parent of one of the 4th graders, and his team of ADP associates came in for the day to teach the students about HTML and how to build a website. Each student was provided with a thumb drive with their work plus other resources for the students and their parents to use at home.



TALENTED FOXES

Brenda Opie, Opie Marco Productions

The 2015 Shallowford Falls Talent Show was held at Simpson Middle School on Friday, March 27. The show was divided into 2 sessions. In our first session for Grades K-3, we had 30 fabulous acts with 50 of our students wowing us on stage with their courage, determination, and dazzling acts. There were singing and dancing acts, a cardio performance by our Cardio Cool Kids, piano solos, gymnastic routines, violin solos, hula-hoop routines, a jokester, cheerleading routine, and a humorous routine by one of our Brownie troops. A special thanks goes to Ms. Marco for being our delightful Master of Ceremonies.

Session Two belonged to our 4th and 5th graders who were amazing in their talent presentations. There were 26 acts and 102 students participating. A special thanks to two of our alumni, Emily Bayless and Margot Crowell, for opening our program up with a beautiful rendition of The Star Spangled Banner. As with the first session, we had many singing and dancing acts, hula-hoop routines, flute, violin, piano, guitar solos, and a gymnastic routine. James Cuffee, an alumnus, entertained us with an original song he had written. We were very impressed with our Foxtrotters as they were fabulous dancing to Authority Song. Two of the biggest crowd pleasers SFES Teachers' Act and Hello Muddah performed by Ms. Marco and Mrs. Douglas. A special thanks to Paul DeVigne, our Master of Ceremonies for our upper grade show, as he entertained the performers and audience with his wit and charm.

A special thanks to our Talent Show coaches: Brenda Opie, Diane Marco, Jennie Opie, Paul DeVigne, and Trish Douglas. The Drama Club of Opie Marco Productions sponsors this show. This was the 19th year of this very popular show. Also a special thanks goes out to the drama students who performed numbers from Peter Pan. We want to thank Trudi and Emily Bayless, Peggy Hatcher, for providing us with the best in sound. We also want to thank Simpson Middle School for sharing their stage and also thanks to our administrators, Ms. Angelle and Mrs. Spiva for their enthusiastic support.

We hope our students continue to bring joy to all of their family and friends by sharing their talents.



2nd Annual Family S.T.E.M. Night

Jennifer Riser, Committee Chair

The Foundation of Shallowford Falls hosted its second family S.T.E.M. Night on April 23rd. The event is a chance for parents, students and staff to experience some fun S.T.E.M.-related activities. There were 30 fun experiments in the gymnasium, demonstrations from local scientists and a chance to visit the ever-popular StarLab. There were even ten famous historical scientists roaming the halls (this continues to be the most popular event of the evening). New this year was a look at forensic science with a chemist from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Mr. T.J. Beck was back with his exciting "Magic of Science" show and scientists from Clorox were on site showing students the fun of science with several hands-on demonstrations. The Foundation was able to showcase the iPads and Osmos that were purchased this year with funds donated by our school community.

The night was extremely well attended and the enthusiasm of the students and parents alike continues to show how strongly the SFES community had adapted to the S.T.E.M. curriculum. Special thanks to the parents and teachers who volunteered to make the night possible and also to student volunteers from Pope and Lassiter High Schools.

ROOM PARENT CORNER

Toni Cole and Kelly Marcuzzi, Room Parent Coordinators

We would like to thank all of the parents that volunteered to be Room Parents this year and let you know that all of your hard work did not go unnoticed. We were able to do so many community service projects with the kids, and give our teachers a break by planning activities for the kids and keeping classroom activities and parties organized. If you would like to help next year, please consider volunteering to be a Room Parent for your child's class. This is a great way to get in some classroom time, meet other parents, and really participate in our wonderful school community. We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer!



CHARITY TALENT SHOW

Toni Samuelu, Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Samuelu and Mrs. McDonough's Kindergarten class hosted a Charity Talent Show on March 20, 2015 to raise money for UNICEF. The purpose was to guide students in a real-world service project using relevant and engaging activities that incorporated common core standards and performing arts. Our goal was to raise \$1,000 for UNICEF, an organization that was researched and chosen by the students. Nancy Callan explained, "The class picked UNICEF because they help children all over the world to get what they need". With support from their families, the students communicated their involvement and invited others to the charity show. Instead of charging admission, they collected donations at the door and online. The students exceeded their goal and raised \$1,333! Students were engaged in performance standards, learned about serving others, and had a BLAST! Mrs. Samuelu's class would like to thank their families and our administration for supporting their learning and involvement in this special class service project!

Partners in Education



Co-editors: Anessia Foley and Amy Dey • Proofreader: Julie Lahti • PTA Co-presidents: Kimberly Lassiter and Katye Whalen
 FSF Co-presidents: Mirna Lee and Meredith Warlick • Principal: Felicia M. Angelle • Assistant Principal: Jill Spiva

The Fox Print is a publication of the Shallowford Falls Elementary PTA and The Foundation of Shallowford Falls.