

CHEETAAL CHAT



CREEK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • VOLUME 9, ISSUE 18 • MAY 6, 2010

THE PRINCIPAL'S POINT

Dear Creek View Parents and Families,

I have heard many questions about how budget cuts affecting Fulton County Schools will impact Creek View. While it is difficult to answer all questions because the financial situation is fluid, I will summarize what I know to date. At last report, there was a gap of approximately \$120 million between income and expenses. In order to offset this deficit, a number of measures have been put in place:

- ◆ The maximum number of students assigned to classrooms next year will increase, reducing the number of teachers needed.
- ◆ Kindergarten classes will be capped at 22 (with a paraprofessional), grades 1-3 will cap at 23, grades 4 and 5 will cap at 30 students.
- ◆ The position of primary grade paraprofessional (those paraprofessionals assigned to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades) has been eliminated.
- ◆ The elementary instrumental music program (band and orchestra) has been eliminated.
- ◆ Custodial allocations have been revised, assigning 1 custodian per 30,000 square feet of building space (rather than the previous allocation of 1:25,000 square feet).
- ◆ Counselor allocations have been reduced.
- ◆ Special area teaching allocations (art, music, physical education), which are assigned as a function of the number of home rooms we have, will be reduced.
- ◆ Support personnel such as school psychologists, school social workers, and instructional support teachers have been reduced by 25%.

In order to implement the above changes, Fulton County Schools has been conducting a system-wide "reduction in force" (RIF), to bring the number of people on staff in line with the number of available positions. Reductions are being made based on performance, seniority, and by job function. Once the reduction in force is complete, some schools will have vacant positions and some will have more people than they have available positions. These imbalances in school assignments will be corrected through a surplus process; people will be transferred to schools where there are openings.

The direct impact on Creek View, as known at this time, will be a reduction in the number of home rooms K-5 from 45 to 41. Rather than having 1 full time counselor and one half time counselor, we will have just one full time counselor. We will continue to have paraprofessionals in kindergarten, physical education, the media center, and in special education, but we will not have paraprofessionals assisting in grades 1 through 3. We will continue to have a school social worker, a school psychologist, and instructional support teachers, but their time here will be reduced. While we will no longer offer band and orchestra to 4th and 5th grade students during school, students in all grades will continue to have general music education. However, until the system-wide reduction in force and subsequent surplus process is complete, it would be premature to speculate with regard to how many employees will be affected.

Clearly, I would prefer that we not be in this budget situation. We continue to have wonderful, hard working students, our dedicated and diligent staff delivering a strong academic program, strong parental and community support, and a quality facility for learning. With a bit of creativity and reorganization, we will certainly have the resources to continue to perform well and to improve that performance. I hope I have been able to answer your questions. More specific information can be found on the School System website under the Board menu item. [Click here](http://www.boarddocs.com/ga/fcss/Board.nsf) for a direct link to the Board Documents site. (<http://www.boarddocs.com/ga/fcss/Board.nsf>)

Matt Rogers

SCHOOL SPIRIT

5th Grade Spirit Week Fun Days

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Monday

Tye-Dye Day - Wear your most inventive tye-dye!

Tuesday

Crazy Hat Day! PLUS the 5th grade/Admin Baby Photo Contest

Wednesday

Memories and Keepsake Day - Bring your yearbook and Sharpie and wear your class t-shirt!

Thursday

Promotion Ceremony 8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (cafeteria)

Reception 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (gym); Carnival and Pizza Party 11:30 - 2:00 p.m. (play pad)

Reservation ONLY-Drop Off Pool Party - 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Windward Lake Club Pool

\$10.00 per child (in advance with permission slip) - 5th Graders Only

Friday

Outdoor picnic and ice cream party

Tuesday, May 18th
Fourth Grade Parties
11:00 - Noon

Wednesday, May 19th
Second Grade Parties
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Third Grade Parties
12:45 - 1:45 p.m.

Thursday, May 20th
Fifth Grade Carnival and Pizza Party
11:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, May 21st
First Grade Parties
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Kindergarten Parties
11:15 - 12:15 p.m.

2010 - 2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

First Semester

Aug. 23 First Day of School
Sept. 6 Labor Day Holiday
Oct. 11 Teacher Workday (students off)
Nov. 24-26 Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 22 End of First Semester
Dec. 23-Jan. 3 Winter Holidays
Jan. 4 Teacher Workday (students off)

Second Semester

Jan. 5 First Day of Second Semester
Jan. 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Feb. 21 Presidents Day Holiday (schools closed)
March 11 Teacher Workday (students off)
April 4-8 Spring Break
April 22 Student/Teacher Holiday (schools closed)
May 27 Last Day of School

Looking Forward...

Friday, May 7th
WRAD Day!

Tuesday, May 11th
Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
(By invitation-Media Center)
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 12th
National School Nurse Day
SAZ Open House
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**Thursday and Friday,
May 13th & 14th**
Safety Patrol to Chattanooga!

**Monday and Tuesday,
May 17th & 18th**
5th Grade Promotion Rehearsal
8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Cafeteria

Thursday, May 20th
5th Grade Promotion Ceremony
8:15 a.m.

Friday, May 21st
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Medication Pick Up from Heidi Osthoff

Please remember to pick up any medication that your child may have in the clinic by Friday, May 21st, 2010. Any medication left in the clinic at the end of the school year will be disposed of.

In preparation for next year, please have your health care provider update any Health Care Plans and Authorization to Administer Medication forms. The new forms are available in the clinic or you can go to www.creekviewinformation.blogspot.com and print off new forms.

Paisley The CVES Therapy Dog

Paisley, Creek View's therapy dog in training, is now 7 months old. She's been a joy to have at school and is a trusty friend and member of our school community.

Paisley has started her training with Russell Boston, the husband of Paula Boston, a 4th grade teacher. Mr. Boston volunteers with Canine Assistance, an organization that is headquartered in Milton, Georgia.

Canine Assistance was just featured in a wonderful special on PBS. If you'd like to find out more, or watch the program, check out www.pbs.org/dogs-eyes/.

We are very fortunate to have Mr. Boston working with Paisley.



Equal opportunity employer and service provider.

Cheetah Chat is published every other Thursday. Articles for consideration must be submitted by Friday of the preceding week. Articles submitted after deadline are subject to space availability. All submissions may be edited as space allows. Please send articles for consideration to: Erika Murphy (murphyel@fultonschools.org)