



Georgia Preschool Association

The President's Corner

Karen Coffeen

Fall 2013

Happy Fall everyone! I hope that you've all had a smooth and easy start to your school year! It always seems to take a few weeks until all of the children, parents, and staff members are in the routine of school again (or for the first time for some of them!). By now hopefully everyone is calm and enjoying each day.

I want to thank everyone who came to the first annual conference at Jekyll Island! We had a great time and I hope that all of you who attended enjoyed being at the beach and learning a lot of new information to take home and put into practice from our wonderful keynote speaker, Shawn Brown, and the workshop presenters. We'll let you know when we've set the date for next year!

Safety and security seem to be on our minds a lot now. The events in the news have made us more aware of our responsibility to keep our children and staff members safe while they are in school. Some of you have already had security in place to control the access to your preschool and others are getting it in place so no one can just walk into the school. Besides that we are having lock down drills along with our other emergency drills so everyone knows what to do in case there is a situation.

The Department of Early Learning and Bright from the Start are about to add one more thing to our list of safety precautions. A bill (HB350) was passed by the Georgia legislature and signed by Governor Deal in May that requires everyone who works with children in a child care setting to have a national fingerprint background check.

I participated in a webinar hosted by Bright from the Start in early October to find out what is involved. They are taking feedback from the webinars and community meetings to make rule revisions to match the new law. A draft of the proposed rule will be sent out by November with another chance for people to make comments. The Bright from the Start Board will make the final decision on how the rules are written to comply with the law. The

law itself becomes effective on July 1, 2014 so that everyone has time to learn about it and what has to be done before then. I know that this new law and rules will be mandatory for licensed childcare and family care facilities in Georgia. I'm not sure if they will be required for exempt programs, but I'm sure they will be highly recommended.

Some of the highlights include:

1. Directors and employees hired on or after 1/1/14 will be required to have the national fingerprint background check. Employees are defined as people 17 years and older who are hired to work in a classroom and provide services to children (staff members and substitutes), as well as volunteers (including parents) who work in a classroom, any independent contractors who come to the school to provide ballet, music, gymnastics, etc. and therapists who are screening the children. Church staff members who often visit the preschool, have direct contact with and provide services for the children are also included in this category.
2. Current employees will have until 1/1/17 to have the same background check and have a satisfactory determination.
3. Beginning 1/1/19 all directors and employees will need a new national fingerprint background check every five years.
4. All of these background checks must be done through Bright from the Start and the director will get the result of satisfactory or unsatisfactory for each person. Fingerprint checks by other organizations, i.e. the FBI, will not be accepted.

If you have any questions on all of this you can check on the Bright from the Start website:

<http://decal.ga.gov/>.

I hope to see you at our next conference, February 28 & March 1 at the Cobb Galleria Centre!

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Chaplain's Message

We had a wonderful weekend in Jekyll Island for our first Georgia Preschool Association Conference in South Georgia! My husband came with me to take pictures at the conference. As he was photographing the speakers he couldn't help but be drawn to the beach.

Some of the photos he took are really close up of the trees, the sand etc... As I viewed the pictures I was drawn to these close ups. I

never stopped to really study the bark of a palm tree, the palm leaves, a sand spur or a caterpillar. I thought to myself how sad to walk by this beauty without noticing the awesome details. I've often heard "stop and smell the roses". But I need to really stop and see the amazing details as well.

The same is true for my day to day life. I am continually walking by beautiful and amazing people and

Cathy Mercier

things but never really taking the time to look "close up" at the miracle of it all.

As I move forward, my hope is that I will not walk by but be truly thankful for the miracle of creation and attention to the beautiful details of nature and of the people in my life. I thank God for each of you!



Understanding and Promoting the Development of Humor

Children, on average, laugh 200 times per day. Adults laugh 15 to 18 times a day. Serving and leading little people can give you the chance to make up your laughter deficit. We tend to think of humor as part of our genetic makeup, but a healthy sense of humor is a learned quality that is developed well in early childhood. Paul E McGhee, Ph.D. shares in *Understanding and Promoting the Development of Children's Humor*, "Humor is a form of play. It is intellectual play or play with ideas." A healthy sense of humor builds vocabulary, supports creative thinking, fosters social interaction skills, and promotes life skills necessary to cope with stress and hardships throughout the adolescent and adult years.

Early on, infants respond to physical stimuli like blowing raspberries or playing peek-a-boo. They enjoy silly faces and sounds and especially the faces of those they love. In toddler years, visual humor is very funny. Making faces, putting on a silly hat, or using an ordinary item in an extraordinary way will have toddlers laughing out loud. When

my grandson pushes the bubble mower, he is serious about mowing the yard, floor, or rug and he'll hardly laugh. But empty the bucket of bristle blocks onto the floor and place the empty bucket on his head and he'll run through the house squealing with delight.

KidsHealth.org reports, "Anything that disrupts a pattern or expectation is funny to a toddler." A diaper placed on your head, Daddy's shoes worn by a preschooler, or knocking yourself on the head with a pillow and pretending to fall over will amuse your little one.

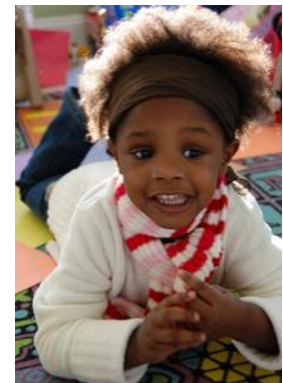
Other fun games you can play that will build a healthy sense of humor in a preschooler is Ring Around the Rosey, This Little Piggy, or Row, Row, Row your....Car. Changing the lyrics of familiar songs will also make them laugh. As a preschooler's vocabulary increases, so will opportunities to laugh.

Preschoolers are eager to show off new ways to be playful and they look to you for the proper response. One of the best ways to

teach a healthy sense of humor is to be playful yourself. Be willing to be silly, wear odd hats, sing familiar songs with odd lyrics, and laugh along with them. Laugh well and laugh loud.

So the next time a bucket is emptied on the floor and your preschooler treats an object differently from its original purpose, be ready to laugh with your preschooler. You just might have a future stand-up comedian in your presence.

DeDe Reilly, Director of Children's Ministry, Wesley Chapel UMC, Marietta GA



THE GIVING BOOK

Mercy me! What to do with all those advertisements and catalogs! Here's an idea you will love! And, it might encourage children to think about others rather than themselves. Encourage your students to discuss why they like to give gifts to others. How does it make them feel when they do something special for someone they love? Explain that they will each get to make a book of



things they would like to GIVE to others. You can use construction paper or cut wrapping paper into 8 ½" x 11" pieces. Lay two sheets of white paper on top of a piece of wrapping paper. Fold in half and staple. Provide children with catalogs and store advertisements. Let them cut out objects they would like to give others and glue them in their "Giving Books." Encourage them to label the presents with the recipient's name.

Adaptation: Use a gift bag to make a giving book. Cut the front and back off the bag. Cut paper the size of the bag and give a sheet to each child. After children draw or cut out pictures of presents they would like to give, staple their pictures in between the front and back of the bag to make a class book.

CHOIR OF ANGELS

Here's one more idea I had to share with you in case you need a quick costume for a school program. Cut the rim off a

paper plate. Attach a red construction paper bow. Cut a slit so it can open and be placed around the neck. Now, tell your students to shine their halos! (Use palm to make a circular motion over your head.)



Christmas is just around the corner! Dr. Jean shared these ideas and many more on her blog. Check it out-she has such fun learning activities!

Membership

Thank you to all the individuals and schools that have already joined the association this year. Your membership reflects most of the districts in the state and schools from public, private and faith based communities, center based as well as 1/2 day programs, small to extra large!!!! All have in common the mission of providing excellent learning experiences for children.

We are excited about the fall conference, *Let's Make Waves*, that took place at Jekyll Island on October 26th. This exciting

training event is one more opportunity planned by the association to give members additional excellent training at a low cost. Non-members who attended the event received free membership as a part of their registration. We welcomed the participants in that training event as new members of GPA and look forward to their attendance at the Winter conference in March 2014.

In the spring newsletter we set as our goal for membership this year 2,000. As of today we have

Tonie Sanders

1492 members. We are on our way but we need your help. Please spread the word about membership in GPA. For those teachers that you know who are working to obtain their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, GPA qualifies as your membership in a professional organization. The cost is only \$15.

We are looking forward to introducing our 2,000th member at the Winter conference!



GPA Newsletter is "Going Green in 2014!"

This will be our last printed newsletter.

Our goal in providing a newsletter is to keep our membership informed. We provide District Trainings and Annual Conference news, Accreditation and Membership information as well as articles of interest from our board members.

We will continue to provide this valuable information **digitally**.



We will email the membership the link to the newsletter. We will also provide a link on our website at georgiapreschool.org

We are finding in this digital age that it is advantageous to have the information at your fingertips; therefore, we are working hard to provide this material on our website so it can be accessed easily.

Our next newsletter will be Spring, 2014. You will receive an email delivered to the address you provided on your membership application. If you provided one general email address for your school, we ask the Principal



or Director to pass this information along to your staff.

We are looking forward to GOING GREEN!

District 3 Gayle Oliver

goliver@georgiapreschool.org

Community Involvement: a Wonderful Way to Advertise your Preschool

When numerous preschools are available in your location, how can a preschool advertise their program to potential new families in the area? Purchasing an ad in local papers or from other media sources such as radio or television stations is a possibility, but cost each time it is printed or broadcast. Word of mouth through visibility at community events provides positive public relations to all ages as well as a memorable activity for all generations.

St. Mark's Kindergarten in LaGrange continues a tradition of joining in community celebrations. Parents work together to build a float for preschoolers to ride on in the annual Christmas parade. During the summer families gather at the preschool for the little ones to cut, paint, and glitter creations for their entry in the Fourth of July Parade for Youth. Most recently a teacher and her family created and displayed scarecrows depicting St. Mark's children ready for trick or treating. The scarecrow display is part of the Downtown Fall Celebration in preparation for

the annual Chili Cook-Off and downtown trick or treating. The scarecrows provide a background for a cute photo for all children, present, past, and potential preschoolers.

When someone ask a realtor, a neighbor, or a businessman in the community to recommend a preschool, most often they remember seeing your preschool families involved in community life. Families working together and sharing community celebrations creates camaraderie that is priceless and impossible to purchase.



Art and The Advantage it Holds in the Early Childhood Program:

What makes art a key feature of a strong Early Care and Education Program? Art enriches, inspires and enables profound human expression to a child's emerging capacity for joy and sense of well-being. Art experience creates critical links for future achievement and foundational patterns and dispositions needed for success in school and life that are set up and reinforced. New capabilities are integrated and anchored within the brain, enabling children to unlock mysteries of our symbol system, make sense

of their world, and learn to live peaceably with others.

The arts develop the basic components of creativity such as originality elaboration, fluency and flexible thinking. These essential skills for success in school and in life enable us to solve problems, predict outcomes and develop ideas. Art in the early childhood classroom is integral and provides a balanced, quality core curriculum. As domains of development are closely interrelated, the skills and free flow of art influence and are influenced by what takes place in the other domains. These early experiences have profound effects, both cumula-

tive and delayed, on a child's development and learning.

Whether you are a parent whose child is enrolled in an early learning program, a teacher who implements one or a member of management, it is no surprise that the benefits offered to the young child are many. Hats off to all teachers who plan, execute and continue to deliver art on a regular basis.

Wishing you a wonderful Fall!

Laura

Fall is in the air and hopefully everyone is settled into the routine of school. There are so many "fall" projects and learning opportunities during this time of year. The smells of apple sauce simmering just makes you feel so good. Griffin First Baptist Weekday has been very busy with "apple orchard", painting with apples, counting and sorting apples and enjoying God's glorious love for each of us as each leaf turns another majestic color.

During the summer on July 24th we held the GPA District 6 Conference in Griffin for all the counties on the south side of Atlanta. We had a wonderful group of teachers and staff that attended. We had a fun time from the beginning with Dr. Bill Hardee, Senior Pastor at Griffin First Baptist, welcoming everyone to our Church and the Mayor of Griffin, JoAnn Todd welcoming everyone to Griffin. Karen Coffeen, President of the GPA

was here to provide information and benefits of joining GPA. Our presenters were DeDe Riley, Donna House, Georgia Fruechtenicht, Marcie Millholland, Karyn Watts, Crystal Hardy, Angie Michel, Jane Murdock and Denel James. The attendees gained not only knowledge, but had the opportunity to make new friends. There was lots of laughter and everyone seemed to be so excited. The date for next year's conference will be JULY 23, 2014.

We went to the beach! The Georgia Preschool Association hosted a one day conference in Jekyll Island on October 26, 2013. Check out the website for more information and pictures of our first conference at the beach!

www.georgiapreschool.org

Don't forget about the Georgia Preschool Association annual meeting at Cobb Galleria on February 28 and March 1, 2014. There will be many presenters

with various topics that will be of interest to you. The vendors always have a good display of the newest and best equipment, music, books, etc. for you to discover. There will be a "silent auction" in the exhibit hall that is always lots of fun. If anyone would be willing to donate tickets, passes, gifts, etc. from your area please let me know. I am Chairman of the Silent Auction.

If I can ever be of service to you in any way feel free to contact me at:

dianelamb@fbcgiffin.org;

770 228-7880 (work); 770 412-3144 (cell). Let me encourage you to get involved with the Georgia Preschool Association. The more you contribute to something the more you get out of it.

Happy Fall Y'all....

Diane Lamb

District 6 Representative

Taking it to the Next Level

Think about how you interact with children. Your voice, your use of new vocabulary, the way you ask questions, the opportunities you grab to make those eyes light up - are all part of being a great teacher.

There is nothing wrong with questions that have specific right or wrong answers. Preschool teachers ask "How many?" or "What color?" innumerable times as they teach basic concepts.

Sometimes there is only one right answer.

Try following up specific questions with more open-ended questions and comments to challenge the child further and promote higher-order thinking. If you find it hard to formulate open-ended questions, try posting a few or adding some cues to your lesson plans.

A few examples include:

- "What do you think?"
- "How do you know?"
- "What happens next?"

"I'm wondering why . . ."

"Tell me about . . ."

"Why do you think?"

"I noticed you . . ."

"What do you see when . . .?"

Teachers who do this help children reflect and describe their own thinking, use emerging vocabulary, and make connections between what they know and new information. They go beyond simple praise by noticing what the child is doing and encouraging them to think.

District 8 Susan Hogan

"Play is the highest form of research." Albert Einstein

In the push for more accountability in education, do you find yourself defending your position that children learn best through play? Are parents asking more and more, what are YOU teaching my child? Hopefully, your parents are enlightened and this dilemma is not confronting you and your early childhood classroom. However, if it is, here are few ideas that can be incorporated into your classroom newsletter to help parents understand that play and learning go hand in hand!

Pretend play - Imaginary play improves a child's language skills, boosts creativity, and allows performing "real life" activities in a safe, comfortable environment.

- Start a prop box of dress up clothes - male and female, costume jewelry, household items from the kitchen, etc. Encourage the parents to have a running dialog with the child during pretend play.
- Make puppets and have a family puppet show. Use your favorite children's book characters and adventures or make up your own.

- Act out "real life" scenarios such as playing restaurant, school, or library. Pretend to be the bus driver while running errands or the coach when playing family games.

Think like a detective - Observation and thinking skills are two important skills needed for school success! Encourage both by playing easy, fun guessing games.

- Place an item or toy inside a pillowcase. Have the child feel the item through the pillowcase and guess what it is. If the child has difficulty, give clues. Then exchange roles, have the child find a mystery item for the parent to guess.
- Together, with the child, make a list of household items with different textures (example - carpet, colander, vent). Make a crayon rubbing of a textured object from the list. Ask your child to find the "mystery item." Show the child how to do the crayon rub by holding paper over the item and rubbing gently so that the parent can then participate as the detective.

Let's chat! - Did you know that

just a simple conversation with a child builds reading and writing skills? Talk "up" to children. Use different, interesting words in conversing with children. Use lots of adjectives and adverbs throughout your conversation!

- Yummy, delicious, tasty, sweet, bitter, sour, salty
- Smooth, prickly, rough, sticky, soft, slippery, slimy, spiky
- Happy, funny, boring, sad, naughty, angry, worried, silly, grumpy, scary, lonely

Grandparents and Family History - Incorporate your family history into visits to grandparents and other relatives.

- Encourage children to ask about family stories and treasures that may be found at grandparent's house. Allow the child to ask questions, write a story, or do a family video and be available to assist as needed. There are lots of media options today to record family history!

Parents are the child's first and best teacher. Encourage and support your parents in this very important role!

The importance of brain development in the first few years of life is certainly not breaking news for early childhood professionals. However, the connection from research to classroom practices is often missing when it comes to curriculum and practices for far too many infant and toddler programs. Many programs attempt to create spaces for toddlers that mimic preschool classroom and curricula which can often lead to negative outcomes for children and an abundance of frustrations for teachers. After all, we know setting up toddler classrooms are different than setting up preschool classrooms but yet many teachers are at a loss of what exactly is best practice for

this age group.

As more children are moving into care at younger ages for longer periods of time it is important that programs for infant and toddlers are in place that lead to caregivers, parents, and children forming and sustaining deep responsive, and respectful relationships that are the hallmark of quality during this very sensitive period of development. The state of Georgia has recognized a need for improving quality and has just launched a new website to address the needs of providers throughout the state with a wealth of resources to help providers implement high quality infant and toddler care practices. The

website and resources are free and they have combined the best resources for this age group into one easy to navigate website.

The Georgia PITC network is an initiative of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and can be found at the web address: www.gapitc.org. The site provides professional resources for families and teachers and even includes a place to apply for technical assistance. For continuous program improvement, it is my hope that you will take time to review the website to gain new ideas, concepts, and skills for the benefit for infants and toddlers across the state.

District 10 Amy Wraga

awraga@georgiapreschool.org

Continuing education is successful with a variety of formats.

Big conferences: Our district is lucky to be close enough to Atlanta to enjoy the GPA winter conference as well as GAEYC and NAEYC. Each year I ask teachers to take 6 of their continuing education credits at a conference. When you attend a conference you gain a wide variety of knowledge, but you also have the opportunity to network with your peers, visit the exhibit hall, and perhaps bond with your coworkers on your drive. The conferences also offer several levels of training.

Local training: We had our first annual **Super Saturday in September** training this year. Frances Carlson, professor and author of Big Body Play, came to Athens for a 4 hour class. We had 40 attendees from our area enjoy learning about the importance of gross motor skill development. She shared great ideas for inside the classroom as well as outdoor play. We all learned how vigorous exercise

helps cognitive development.

We are also lucky to have an office of Quality Care for Children in Athens. They offer a variety of classes throughout the year, many are even free. You may have one of their offices or one of the Child Care Resource and Referral offices near your school.

***Reading assignments:** I have developed reading assignments for teachers and had them follow up by answering questions or doing a lesson from what they read. One of the best resources is the NAEYC journal "Teaching Young Children". This journal provides practical ideas and presents problems and solutions for teachers. The articles are short and give up to date practical classroom information. (Several of my teachers keep extra copies in their car and can read an article or two when they have a few spare minutes waiting in a car rider line, etc.)

***Video training:** We have a copy of Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum DVD. We initially watched the DVD at school as a

group and the teachers had a quiz/discussion about the segments. Now I use the video for new teachers to take home to view. We get together and follow up and discuss the segments.

***Specialized training:** These workshops can be especially good for teachers with lots of experience. For example: Handwriting Without Tears.

Online training: There are some good online training programs and now several organizations offer a blended CDA with some online and some classroom training. It is always good to check that the training is approved from Bright from the Start. I will have one teacher try a class and give me a critique before I let several try a new company.

I hope that this gives you some ideas to continue the education of your teachers,

(*These ideas are not Bright from the Start approved, but can be used as supplements to your program if you are a licensed center.)

Website: New and Improved!

We have a new website! We hope that you will find it easy to navigate so you can find the information you need!

Look in the [Membership](#) tab to find information and downloadable forms regarding becoming a member of GPA.

The [Officers](#) section gives you information about those who serve on the Executive Board of GPA. If you have questions or information you need from any of the officers, simply

click on their email and they will be happy to respond. In the [Conference and Trainings](#) tab you will find current information about upcoming conferences as well as District trainings in your area.

If you are considering accreditation, please visit the [Accreditation](#) tab and you will find contact information. Click on the emails and the officers will help guide you through the process.

Under the [News](#) tab you will find Legislative News, information about Career Opportunities, professional Articles of Interest and Parent and Teacher information.

We hope that you will find the new website informative and helpful. If you have any suggestions, please let us know! You may email our website developer at:

cmercier@georgiapreschool.org



Pictured at left is our newly redesigned website at georgiapreschool.org



We're On Facebook!

To help us communicate effectively with you, we have set up a Facebook page. Our posts will include updates, articles of interest, pictures and most importantly reminders of upcoming trainings and conferences.

Our Facebook page is named [Georgia Preschool Association](#) and you will recognize us by

our logo (pictured right).

If there is anything that would be helpful for us to include in our Facebook page, please let us know.

See you on Facebook!



Jekyll Island Fall Conference

Well, who doesn't like going to the beach!?!

The Georgia Preschool Board held its first 'annual' S GA conference at the beautiful new convention center at Jekyll Island. The goals of the conference were to make exciting training opportunities available to more teachers and to make membership in GPA more appealing to teachers who live in S GA by offering training in a convenient location.

The line-up of speakers was

outstanding with *Shawn Brown and his Super Fun Show* as our keynote. We gained the backing of the College of Education at Georgia Southern; two of their early childhood professors were presenters. We invited some of our favorite presenters to join us as well and we found that the S GA teachers loved them as much as we do! Everyone had fun!

The Hampton Inn provided special rates and a relaxing,

luxurious site for participants who traveled to the area. The island beaches, sunsets, and sea-food made the visit especially delightful.

In spite of all our preparations, trying anything new is always challenging and a little scary. We've decided it was definitely worth the effort and we are already making plans for next October. We're hope you will be there with us to have fun on the beach!



Many hands are needed to make GPA's Winter Conference successful. Some of the most important are our workshop hostesses who greet our presenters, help with anything they need,

answer questions and give out those all important stickers at the door.

We can always use a helping hand. If you are interested in being a hostess next year, just let me know and we'll add

your name to the list. You may pick the workshops you would like to hostess and get a reserved seat.

See you in 2014!

Janis Smith

jsmith@georgiapreschool.org



Georgia Preschool Association Executive Board

Seated: Diane Snyder, Helen Geesey, Karen Coffeen, Diane Lamb, Louise Clifford, Laura Newman

Standing L-R: Nancy Bulger, Denise Luders, Gayle Oliver, Linda Jenkins, Beth Hefner, Sallie Mann, Amy Wraga, Cathy Mercier, Dede Reilly, Betsy Primm, and Tonie Sanders.

Not Pictured: Janis Smith, Maria Abercrombie, Susan Hogan and Donna House



Winter Conference Update

Diane Snyder

"It's All Good!" - Our theme for the upcoming 2014 Georgia Preschool Conference is reflective of our keynote speaker, Eric Litwin, author of the "Pete the Cat" book series. He will delight us with the opening session of our 2014 Conference. You will be enlightened by "Dr. Bill" DeMeo as he helps with ways to deal with challenging behavior.

Feeling a little creative? Get those creative juices flowing with "Fun Science," "Even You can Write a Song!," "On Beyond, 'What Color is This?'," "Baby Arts Play," "The Intermingled Curriculum," or "Run, Run, as Fast as You Can: Not your Ordinary Gingerbread Man."

Want a little more "meat" to your sessions? Try "Circles of Concern - Securing Your Environment," "Red Flags in Preschool Development," "Appreciating Differences,"

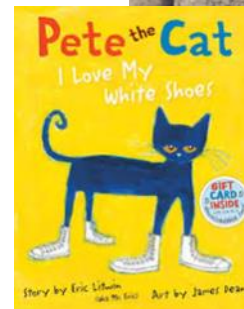
"Baby, Talk to Me," "GELDS 101 - Getting to Know the New Standards," or "Saving Your One Wild and Precious Life."

Georgia Preschool Association Annual Conference February 28 and March 1, 2014 Cobb Galleria Centre

Want to learn how to manage that classroom? How about "What to do When Nothing Else Works," "Identifying, Preventing, and Intervening with Young Children who Exhibit Inappropriate Behavior," "Child Guidance - What Really Works?," "The Preschool Child with Atypical Behaviors," or "Responding to Young Children Under Stress?"

The dates will be February 28 and March 1, 2014. The place

will be the Cobb Galleria Centre. The "who" will be "you!" Bring a friend, meet with other teachers, and learn lots to take back to your classroom. Most of all, be ready to have a fun time as we learn together that "It's All Good!"



GPA Conference Exhibit Hall

Karen Coffeen

We are looking forward to another great conference on February 28 and March 1, 2014! A part of that wonderful experience is the Exhibit Hall (don't we all love to shop?). We are inviting the exhibitors back from last year, some from previous years, and some new companies. We have easily accessible space again this year and we'll be bringing

back our fun Bingo so that you can win a prize just for visiting the vendors. A lot of the prizes are donated by the vendors, so you'll get a useful or fun prize—it's your choice! You can fill out as many Bingo cards as you can—the more you fill out the better your chance of winning a prize.

We would also like your input. If you would like to be an exhibitor, know of someone

else who would, or remember a company that has not been there for awhile; please contact me as soon as possible: Karen Coffeen

kcoffeen@georgiapreschool.org
or 770-590-0982.

You can also check the GPA website (www.georgiapreschool.org) for more conference and vendor information.

GPA Silent Auction-"A Silent Auction That Wasn't"

Join us for the Georgia Preschool Association's Silent Auction by doing more than just participating. We get comments every year asking the Silent Auction team to provide more items than just those that surround the metro Atlanta area. You can help! You can invite your own area's businesses to

donate items or gift certificates or passes. Remind them that more than 1,000 preschool professionals will be presented with their product and all proceeds promote the website which puts their name out there even more. You can also help by contacting Diane Lamb,

2014 GPA Silent Auction Chairperson, at:

dlamb@georgiapreschool.org, with an address and contact name of a business or non-profit in your area. Items are also donated by Exhibit Hall vendors, so be sure to stop by when you are joining us for the conference.



GPA Service Project

dreilly@georgiapreschool.org

Georgia Preschool Association has partnered again for the upcoming conference with Forever Fed, Inc. by collecting preschool-level books to stock a mobile reading club for at-risk neighborhoods in Cherokee County. Your generosity provided 99 books at the 2013 annual conference to begin a powerful ministry to aid in adult literacy. According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, a mother's level

of literacy directly affects the literacy of the children. Literacy is learned. Illiteracy is passed along by parents who cannot read or write. More troublesome is that 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate. As we in the business of preschool know, the fundamentals for being a good reader, cognitive and language skills are learned before children reach school

age. We will continue to partner with Forever Fed as we prepare for the 2014 GPA Conference. If you'd like more information, feel free to contact DeDe Reilly, Director of Children's Ministry, Wesley Chapel UMC, 4495 Sandy Plains Rd, Marietta, 30066, 404-493-1683, or by email at:

dreilly@georgiapreschool.org. Please plan to bring your books to the Galleria in the exhibit hall.

Georgia Preschool Association Distinguished Certificate of Recognition

Please complete the enclosed nomination form to honor someone who shows outstanding qualifications in the field of teaching preschoolers. This individual should stand out as an example and model

to others, one who is indeed distinguished and deserving. Respectfully,
Amy Wraga

awraga@georgiapreschool.org

Deadline for submitting this form is Friday, February 1, 2014.
(see page 13)

**GEORGIA PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATION
DISTINGUISHED CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
Nomination Form**

Please read the application carefully before beginning to complete the form. Selection will be based only on the information contained within this application. Please be thorough and concise. Copies may be made of this form. All areas must be filled out. Faxed copies will not be accepted.

NOMINEE:

Name: _____
First Middle Last

(This person must be a member of the Georgia Preschool Association when nominated).

POSITION: Choose one of the following categories:

Entire Staff, Director, Assistant Director, Teacher (age group), Assistant Teacher (age group),
Support Person, Rookie of the Year, or other _____

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Full Name of School: _____

Address: _____
Street Number Apt. Number

City State Zip County

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

District Number (refer back of this form, pg. 14) _____

Director's Name: _____ e-mail: _____

BRIEFLY STATE YOUR REASON FOR NOMINATING THIS INDIVIDUAL / GROUP:

Please limit your response to one additional typed page including the following information in your narrative:

- (1) Number of years individual has been teaching
- (2) Number of years with your staff
- (3) Function and position at your school
- (4) If the person is a teacher, specify the age group with whom they are working
- (5) Explain how you know the nominee: ie: is he/she your director, assistant director, co-worker, classroom assistant, child's teacher, etc.
- (6) Explain why you feel this person is deserving of this award including the unique qualities that make him/her an excellent teacher of young children
- (7) List any community services or outside volunteer activities with which the nominee may be involved
- (8) Give any other characteristics and /or qualities your nominee possesses that would make him/her outstanding in the teaching or working with young children.

INFORMATION OF INDIVIDUAL MAKING THIS NOMINATION

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street Number Apt. Number

State Zip County

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Application must be postmarked on or before Friday, February 1, 2014 to be accepted. The person nominating will be notified of the committee's decisions by e-mail. Be sure to give an e-mail address. In cases where the director will be receiving an award, he/she will not be notified to keep from spoiling the surprise.

Amy Wraga

awraga@georgiapreschool.org

P.O. Box 801567, Acworth, GA 30101

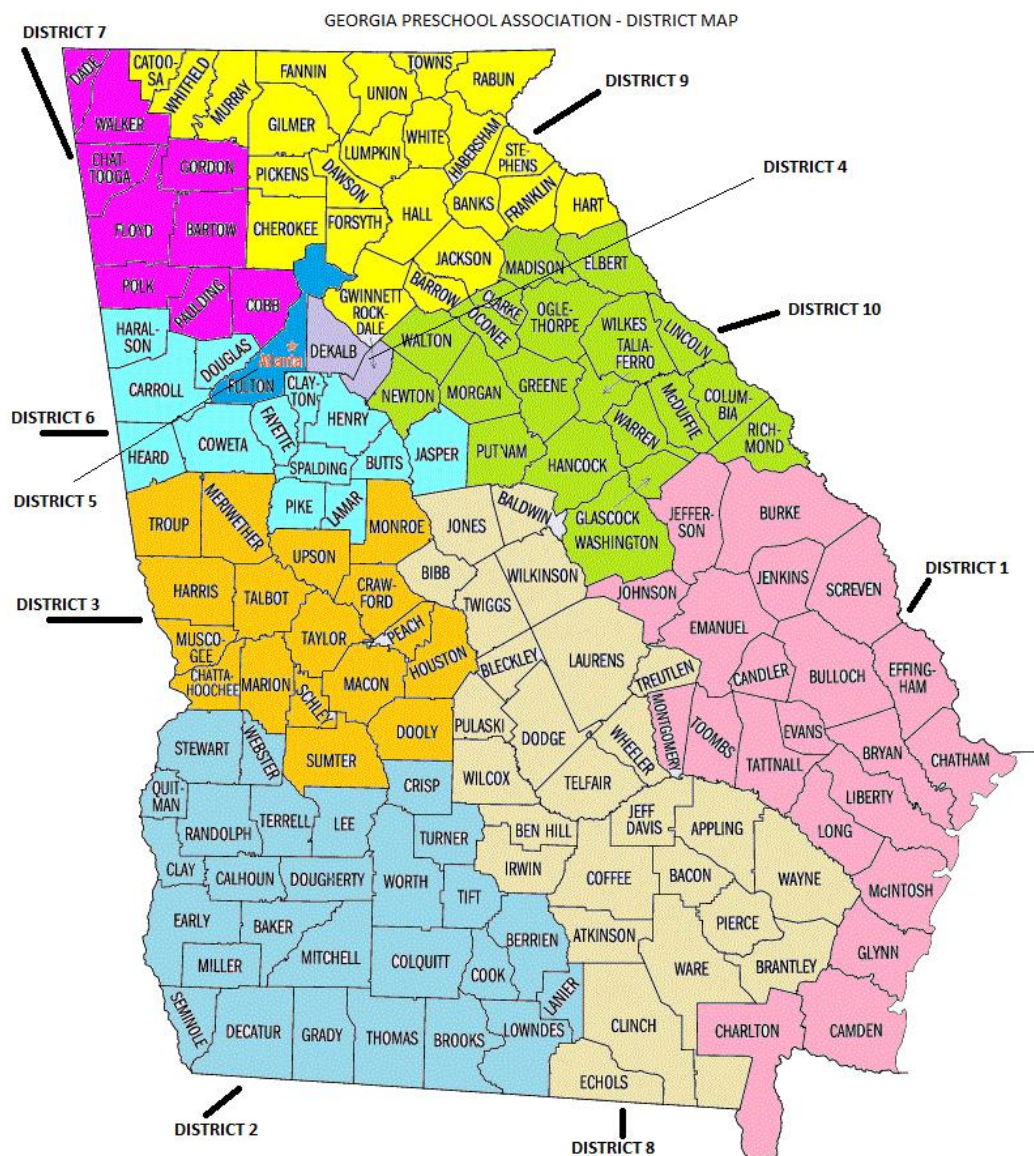
Georgia Preschool Association Distinguished Certificate of Recognition

Please fill out form on the back, place in an envelope and mail to:

Georgia Preschool Association
P.O. Box 801567
Acworth, GA 30101

Deadline for submitting this Distinguished Certificate of Recognition form is Friday, February 1, 2014.

See map below to locate your District:





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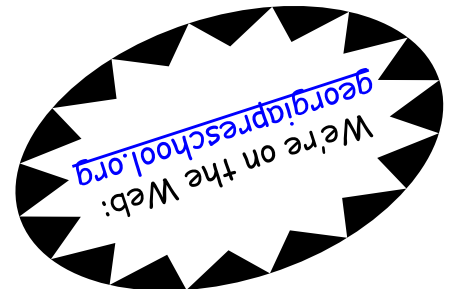
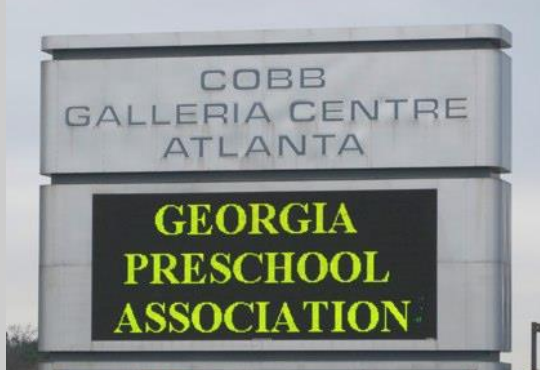
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