

Georgia Preschool Association

The President's Corner

Karen Coffeen

Spring 2014

Welcome to Spring! Hopefully we've had the last of our cold, wet, and snowy weather. It's time for warmer temperatures and lots of sunshine!

It was great to see everyone at our conference at the Galleria Feb. 28th & March 1st. I hope that everyone who attended had a fun, educational experience with lots of useful information to take home and apply in your school or classroom. Our goal is to provide quality training for teachers and directors. We also appreciate your feedback and hope that you will tell us about all of your experiences while you were at the Galleria. We always try to make the next conference better than the last one.

We all know that talking to the children in our care is very important to their development. An article in the NY Times, "The Power of

Talking to Your Baby" by Tina Rosenberg confirmed that belief with research and a new study. It also shows that we have to encourage the parents in our programs to talk to their children. Researchers are continuing to explore to determine "if the key to early learning is talking—specifically, a child's exposure to language spoken by parents and caretakers from birth to age three."

In 1995 Betty Hart and Todd R. Risley at the University of Kansas published a book, "Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children". They studied the differences in the way that parents of different socio-economic backgrounds talked to their babies—how they praised their children, what they talked about and if it was positive or negative.

They then examined how those children were doing in school at age 9. They found that the family's income and educational levels made a difference in the child's school performance because of the difference in the amount of talk. "Children whose families were on welfare heard about 600 words an hour. Working-class children heard 1200 words per hour and children from professional families heard 2100 words. By age 3, a poor child would have heard 30 million fewer words in his home environment than a child from a professional family. And the disparity mattered: the greater the number of words children heard from their parents or caregivers before they were 3, the higher their IQ and the better they did in school. TV talk not only didn't help, it was detrimental." (Continued next page)

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President's Corner (Continued from front page)

In February, 2013, the city of Providence R.I. won a \$5 million prize to encourage family conversation. They already had programs in place where nurses, mentors, therapists, and social workers visited pregnant women and new parents providing medical attention and advice. These home visitors will now be trained to encourage family conversation. They hope to improve the conversations with children in the homes they visit with the expected outcome of improving children's school achievement. They will do this by educating the parents on the importance of talking to their children,

as well as actually measuring those conversations. Knowing the importance of conversation with children is not instinct, but related to parent's access to the latest studies in books, the internet, pediatricians, childcare providers and educators. The measurement will be done with a special pocket voice recorder developed by Language Environment Analysis. It will count and source words spoken, count conversation, and weed out background noise and TV. The recordings will be deleted after the speech is counted for privacy. This will be the largest study to date using this device.

This and other studies will be able to prove the importance of conversation between children from birth to three with their parents and caregivers. It will also prove the difference it makes in a child's education. It will be our responsibility to be sure we are conscious of it in our classrooms as well as work to educate our parents to talk to their children at home, in the car, or whenever they are with them. Maybe we can reduce the amount of time the children spend on electronic devices and increase the amount of time they have a conversation with a significant adult in their life.

Chaplain's Message

Did you grow up during a time when children were "seen and not heard"? I did. I'm so thankful things have changed. Some of the most profound words I hear during the course of my day come directly from the children at our preschool.

Here is a glimpse of our morning drop off and what the children shared with me as they walked (and skipped) to class:

(3 boys walking in together...)

Boy 1: "I had to go the Doctor."

Boy 2: "I got a shot."

Boy 1: "I got a great big shot!"

Boy 3: "I fell down and had to get a Band-Aid but like the Pete the Cat says, I'm all good."

"Will you hold my hand and walk me to class?" (Absolutely, we all need someone to hold our hand and walk with us sometimes.)

"I have to hurry. Mommy says I'll be late for school and my teacher will miss me!" (And she would!)

Cathy Mercier

"I brought a cake today! I don't know why but it's a happy day!" (It was the letter C day. Indeed it was a happy day!)

A teacher was giving a hand stamp to each child. One of the children asked if she could give the stamps for the teacher. She then said emphatically: "You know I'm going to be a teacher when I grow up." (I wonder how many of our children will grow up to be teachers. I hope they have as much fun as I do! I love my job!)

Is Your Program Accredited?

GPA Supports Preschool Accreditation

Accreditation encourages excellence in preschool programs and presents evidence of quality in a program.

In our continuing effort to support excellence in programs for early childhood, the Georgia Preschool Association would like to recognize programs which have achieved accreditation on our web-site, and also,

provide information about types of accreditation that are available in our field.

Accreditation is a volunteer process validated by peer review and involving systematic self-evaluation against national or regional accepted standards. It denotes a benchmark of quality that is recognized by other educators and by parents seeking quality preschool experiences for their children.

If your school has achieved accreditation, please email the name of your school with address and include the accreditation organization with dates, to lclifford@georgiapreschool.org

Check out our web-site for information regarding different types of accreditation. If you have questions let us know at the above email address.

Georgia General Assembly Legislative Recap

The 2014 session of the Georgia General Assembly ended with a mixture of satisfaction and disappointment in terms of bills affecting children and youth. The following summary of bills that passed and ones that failed is excerpted from a compilation made by Brian Abernathy of the Georgia Center for Opportunity. His full legislative summary as well as a link to each bill referenced in the summary below is available at:

brian.abernathy@georgiaopportunity.org

Bills that Passed and were sent to the Governor:

HB 251: This bill prevents the sell of "e-cigarette" products to minors.

HB 697: This bill allows for the HOPE scholarship fund to cover 100% of tuition for students who have maintained satisfactory academic progress at a Georgia technical college.

HB 766: The "Work Based Learning Act" would permit schools - in collaboration with the Department of Labor and the Technical College System of Georgia - to award secondary credit for approved off campus work to students age 16 and over.

HB 772: This bill requires that adult applicants for and recipients of food

stamps or benefits under TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) submit to drug testing if a state caseworker from the Department of Family and Children Services determines that there is a "reasonable suspicion" of drug abuse. Eligibility of children under both programs is not affected by this legislation.

SB 98: Prevents coverage for abortions under qualified health plans offered within the state, including any exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act. This bill was amended to allow for consideration of an abortion if the mother's life is at stake.

Bills that Failed:

HB 885: This bill allows for the usage of medical cannabis derivatives for the treatment of patients who suffer from severe seizure disorders and encourages research on additional medical uses of cannabis. Despite many attempts at attaching this bill to other legislation, HB 885 was not passed.

SB 167: This bill calls for the creation of an advisory council to review Common Core Standards and propose changes that are "in the best interest of students, their parents, teachers, and taxpayers." Following this bill's "unfavorable recommendation" by the

House Education Committee, Sen. Ligon attempted to add this bill to HB 897. All three amendments that would have imported this bill into HB 897 failed on the Senate Floor.

SB 350: This bill would begin a process of privatizing child welfare services through contracts with community-based providers. Following the favorable recommendation of a more watered-down version of this bill by the House Judiciary Committee, Sen. Underman attempted to attach this bill to other legislation. Shortly before Sine Die, Gov. Deal appointed the "Child Welfare Reform Commission" to further study this issue.

SB 397: This bill, known as Ava's Law, mandates that state healthcare plans provide coverage children with autism. Following action in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, this bill was attached to HB 885-the Medical Marijuana Bill-and renamed the "Children's Care Act." Despite Sen. Underman's attempts to attach this bill to other legislation, SB 397 was caught in the battle between the House and the Senate and did not pass this year.

Submitted by: Betsy Primm



As the weather gets warmer each day, we can look around and see all of the new growth around us. As a professional, it is also a great time to evaluate our own personal or professional growth. I walked into an early Monday morning class of college students and asked the question, "What did you do this week-end that made you a better person or that helped you become more of a professional in your field?" I observed many drawn eyebrows and of course received very interesting answers. This sparked the conversation of personal and professional development and how it is important to any person that is a professional. NAEYC defines professional development as initial preparation and learning experiences designed to improve the knowledge, skills/behaviors, and attitudes/values of the early childhood workforce. NAEYC expands further that all professional development experiences should be based on specific outcomes that define what the professional should know and be able to do for young children and families as a

result of the training. Finally, there should be continuous assessment tied to the outcomes of these experiences. In other words, can you measure in some manner that the time you spent on the professional development really helped you to do better in your job or was it nothing more than to meet a requirement of training hours on a paper? Effective professional development can include community or college courses, professional conferences, observation with feedback from a colleague, mentoring, coaching, or even reading professional journals. So for the remaining of the year I encourage you to reflect and always ask yourself the question, "As a professional in the field, how am I growing?"

District Training:

Guidance from the Experts

Come preview the newest Chattahoochee Technical College DVD production featuring video conversations with national guidance expert Dan Gartrell. After the video presentation, faculty

from the Early Childhood Care and Education Department will conduct a Q & A session and provide tips and resources for positive classroom management. This course is free and a Bright from the Start accepted certificate will be issued to anyone attending the 2 hour session. Space is limited and reservations are required.

Locations and registration information:

September 9, 2014- 6:00-8:00pm at Chattahoochee Technical College/Canton Campus - 1645 Bluffs Pkwy, Canton GA 30114

September 16, 2014 from 6:00-8:00pm at Chattahoochee Technical College/Paulding Campus-400 Nathan Dean Blvd, Dallas Georgia 30132

To register:

please contact Maria Abercrombie at maria.abercrombie@chattahoocheetech.edu

"It's All Good", our recent conference in Atlanta, yielded a plethora of new ideas to stimulate our classrooms. One of our staffs' favorite meetings is sharing information about the workshops they attended. How refreshing it is to leave a conference with renewed energy and enthusiasm for our jobs. Spring time is a busy time of implementing these ideas, as well as special end of the year activities.

Most preschools are currently registering children for the next school year. The last week in July our teachers contact the family of each child in their class to arrange a classroom visit for the parents and child to meet the teachers, turn in forms families received in the mail, receive the parent

handbook, and any special information or procedures for a smooth beginning. Often these appointments are back to back and parents find themselves waiting in the hallway with their child as another family completes their appointment. A clipboard outside the director's office provides directions for parents to lead their child on a scavenger hunt through the 3 hallways while they wait. The excitement of the special time is not dampened by a wait, but instead utilized to tour the building and share a special conversation between the parents and child. Fortunately for us, our hallway walls have special paintings for a preschool in a church setting; an ark with animals boarding it, a tree with

a swing, flowers, rabbits, and birds, and several other murals. The scavenger hunt is questions about these murals: What color is ...? How many elephants? Which animal is taller the giraffe or the zebra? The children bring the completed scavenger hunt to the director's office and may select a treat from a treasure box. The momentum of starting a new year builds from the moment they enter the building; seeing and observing the murals, meeting the director, and visiting their new classroom. As Pete the Cat would say, "It's All Good."

What Does My Child Learn From Pretend Play?

For the young child, play and work involve similar and in some cases, the same actions:

Interacting with people, manipulating objects, and making discoveries that help them make sense of the world, *their* world. Pretend play is found in so many parts of your program, and at home where children carry out their daily routines and "important work"! While your child is on the playground or in the classroom, play is encouraged by a variety of realistic props where multiple opportunities to work through negative feelings and emotions take place. Additionally, the young child is

able to easily and frequently try out new and different roles in a very safe, nurturing and inviting academic learning environment. While at home, the environment is pre-established and easy to navigate.

Pretend play, as the experts define and know it, stimulates social, emotional, and language development, as well as strengthen your child's attention span and burgeoning listening skills. It is during pretend play where early learners master the talent of taking turns, playing cooperatively with others and gaining valuable interpersonal skills as they observe relationships and acquire an understanding for the important feelings of others. Finally,

with all the gains made in seemingly benign play, children are also developing problem-solving and creative-thinking skills in tandem with strengthening their self-image.

Happy Spring to ALL!

Laura Newman

Fulton County District Representative



First let me say to each of you, "where has this year gone?" It is so hard to believe that we are already into the month of April. What a year we have had so far. I love the beautiful flowers and trees that are blooming. It is always such a time of renewal with beautiful colors and good fresh air. We have been kite flying and bird watching and just enjoying nature.

Let me share this with you. We added thirty minutes to our schedule to make up a little of the time we missed on those "snow" days. This has turned out to be a very popular thing with our parents. Most everyone stays that extra time. This is just an idea you might consider if your school has to cancel a number of days next year.

The GPA Conference that we attended on February 28 and March 1 was great. We had a little bit of a different set up

this year and the attendees were able to visit the vendors and also bid on items for the "silent auction". The different presenters did an amazing job and I know you gained information about new products from the vendors. I heard so many talking about the things they were learning and relearning. This is such a wonderful time to recharge your batteries.

The District 6 GPA Workshop will be held at Griffin First Baptist Church on WEDNESDAY, JULY 23. Be sure and mark you calendars now. We will be sending out more information very soon. This is a much smaller workshop and it really gives you a chance to meet other fellow teachers and share phone numbers with folks around where you live. You don't need to reinvent the wheel if someone has already invented it for us.

Let me again say that I am proud to be your District 6 Representative and President-Elect of the GPA. If I can ever be of assistance to you in any way, please feel free to give me a call.



Love Is An Open Door

We got our theme for the 2014 Training Event from the movie *Frozen*. Come engage in some "mental synchronization" with other early childhood professionals. Any one may come but a Georgia Preschool affiliated school may bring teachers for a discounted fee. If your school has never sent staff and you would like to be included, contact us to make sure you are on our email list. We will be emailing registration information to previous participants and posting it at our school website as well as the Georgia Preschool website. The District 7 Training Event is set for Tuesday, August 5, from 9 - 1:30 at St. Andrew UMC Preschool in Marietta.

We are excited to include subjects for a variety of early childhood interests. Dr. Julie Mauldin from GSU will share some exciting math activities. Dr. Robert Capuozzo (from UGA) will share ideas for parent involvement and

creative activities for toddlers. Jennifer Daniels (from the Learning Groove) will show us how to use music to with children with autism and sensory processing issues. Betsy Primm will lead a session for directors on dealing with difficult people and another for teachers on literacy. Merry Bentley-Barlow joins us with a session on cultural diversity and another on math in everyday routines that help prepare children for the common core expectations. Donna House will conduct a session for experienced teachers on intentionality. Maria Abercrombie has some new sessions on leadership and guidance. Natalie Jones will present separate story-based sessions for teachers of toddlers and preschoolers. We'll have a special networking session for music teachers and some information on a new music curriculum.

So far we have identified quite a few of our speakers but we're not done yet! We will be applying for approval from

the state 'Bright from the Start' office for 4 hours of training. Plan to join us and share great ideas with other teachers who think like you do!!

Contact us at: pre-school@standrewunitedmethodist.org or go to our website, standrewumcpreschool.com.

Jekyll Island Conference

Mark your calendars for October 25, 2014, for a chance to 'Ride the Waves' at Jekyll Island. We had so much fun last year that we've decided to hold another training conference at the beach. Our featured speaker is Jennifer Daniels from the Learning Groove. Her presentation on Literacy and Music will remind us that fun teaching instills a love of learning. Leave your inhibitions - if you have any left after working with kids!- at the door!

Children learn sharing and compassion when they share with others they do not see. When children hear about people who are hurting or lost or sad, they want to do something about it. We get the chance to help them learn that 'helping others' is a very good thing. In a previous preschool, children were invited to bring a canned good as an 'offering' to our weekly chapel time. In others, children made cards for the local nursing home, brought items for hygiene kits, sponsored a Compassion International Child, and collected items for Thanksgiving boxes and Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Serving and helping others can be experienced

when children race through the sanctuary with socks on their hands dusting the pews during S week, collecting leftover Halloween candy to be sent to our troops serving overseas, and collecting socks and coats for local charities during the coldest months of the year. Never underestimate nor squelch the desire of a little person to reach out when he or she hears of a need. It's a healthy way to respond to the hurts and needy of our communities. And if we can offer many opportunities to our little people to go with their hearts and respond in a tangible way, we and the world will be the better for it. I'd love to hear how you are giving your pre-

schoolers an opportunity to respond to the needs of your community. Email me at dedereilly@comcast.net and I'll share your ideas in the next newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted by DeDe Reilly, Children's Ministry Director, Wesley Chapel UMC, Marietta Georgia, you can follow DeDe at her blog located at <http://dedebullreilly.wordpress.com/>

**District 10 Amy Wraga**awraga@georgiapreschool.org

There are many benefits to your schools using college interns!

Many of the schools in Athens are used for student practicums and student teaching. The interns are assigned a classroom for the semester to learn about the practical aspects of teaching. As the semester goes on they teach lessons, work on art projects, and watch the children grow and develop. They are able to do assignments and try teaching techniques with the children. The students add a wonderful energetic youth to the classroom and fresh ideas from their courses. Our teachers have the benefit of another adult in the classroom to help with projects or special needs children. The parents often use our interns for babysitting. These programs become a winning experience for everyone involved.

We have also supported UGA when a senior or graduate student is doing a research project. Our parents have participated in student's surveys on children's health, development and learning. The parents have an opportunity to learn a new parenting skill and help their child.

We are fortunate to have the largest university in our town, but I encourage directors to contact their local colleges or tech schools. Another alternative is your local high schools' early childhood programs. They may have a work study for a senior or want to conduct a field trip to your school. As a director I have had the privilege of being on a panel of directors for several Birth to Five classes. You may have a teacher with a special skill or talent that they could share with students.

I encourage directors to contact their college or technical schools about interns. However, there are some logistics to keep in mind. If the interns need to photograph or videotape children for their projects be sure to have permission from all the families. The interns should not be left alone with a child but have a teacher supervising them at all times. The interns should be expected to be professional and follow all of your school's personnel policies. The college interns have passed a criminal background check in order to be in a program; however, if you are in a licensed child care center they would need the new fingerprinting required by Bright

from the Start. We have had interns at our school for the last 6 years, most have found that they love working with young children, some have found other careers. All of them had the benefit of working in a classroom to compliment what they were learning in their courses.

Hosting interns is a great way to support the community and foster a new teacher in the field of early childhood.



Distinguished Service Awards

Amy Wraga

Do you know an outstanding teacher?

Would you like them to be recognized by their peers and have a complimentary registration to our annual conference?

Each year Georgia Preschool awards certificates of recognition to those members who have distinguished themselves as going the extra mile at

their jobs. Beginning in 2015 we will honor those individuals with a certificate on Friday morning at the conference, an informational paragraph in the program and a **complimentary registration to the conference at the Cobb Galleria in February.**

How can you nominate an individual? Complete the nomination form (see

page 9 and 10) and return by **December 1st, 2014.**

We accept applications all year from current GPA members. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this process. awraga@georgiapreschool.org

Distinguished Service Award Winner: Kimberly Ann Jones

Kimberly Ann Jones

2014 Distinguished Certificate of Recognition Winner

Kim is finishing her 6th year teaching at Griffin First United Methodist

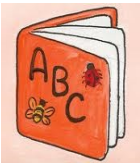
Preschool. She is a creative teacher who mentors coworkers and organizes the schools biggest fundraising event.

She has gone above her regular duties to include children with physical

disabilities and autism in her class. Outside of school she volunteers in her community and her own children's schools.

Service Project: Forever Fed Inc.

DeDe Reilly



Georgia Preschool Association partnered 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 books at the annual conference to begin a powerful ministry to aid in adult literacy. According to the National Assess-

ment 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, or by email at dedereilly@comcast.net.



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

Eligibility:

- Any current member of the Georgia Preschool Association.
- Completed application by November 1st.
- Completed both pages of the application form.
- Applicant has not won this award in the past 5 years.

Nominee Information

Name of Nominee: _____

Position _____

School/Center _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip code _____ County: _____

Email _____ Cell _____

School/Center director _____ Email _____

Information of individual making nomination

The person nominating will be notified of the committee's decisions by e-mail

Name _____ Position _____

School/Center _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip code _____ County _____

Email _____ Cell _____

Return applications by December 1st to

Amy Wraga at awraga@georgiapreschool.org

**Or by mail: Georgia Preschool Association attn.: awards
P.O. Box 801567, Acworth, GA 30101**

Name of nominee_____

1. How has this candidate inspired children of all backgrounds and abilities to learn in your school?

(If an administrator: How do the skills and talents of this nominee translate into a better experience for young children?)

2. How has this candidate gained the respect and admiration of children, parents and colleagues?

3. What special skills and talents does this candidate possess that impact the children's physical, emotional and social growth?

4. What special contribution does this candidate make to your school that is not a requirement?

Additional information that makes this candidate distinguished:

"It's All Good" is the way we feel about the 2014 Georgia Preschool Association Conference. Between attendees, consultants, exhibitors and Board members we had over 1,000 people attending our conference this year! With a wide variety of topics and presenters we had a diverse group of workshops and our Silent Auction was a very popular event, bringing in over \$2,000 to help with the cost of our web site. We hope you found something to help you be a better teacher and that you found the conference to be valuable in your career as a preschool professional!

One new development for this year was to include lunches in the registration price. Friday's distribution left much to be desired, but the Cobb Galleria stepped up to the plate on Saturday to make sure

our folks were served quickly and efficiently. Most everyone really enjoyed having lunch readily available and having the extra time to shop in the Exhibit Hall or just to network with other teachers. Our Exhibitors

Georgia Preschool Association Annual Conference February 27 and 28, 2015 Cobb Galleria Centre

were thrilled that more people spent time in the Exhibit Hall than in years past.

Each year, our Conference is planned and run by volunteers. These folks spend countless hours preparing and planning the Conference and the only

motivation they have is the satisfaction of knowing that thousands of Georgia's preschoolers are helped by the teachers learning how to do their job in a better way! Be sure to thank the Training Committee members for all their hard work in planning the conference each year. After 15 years of planning, I have been so charged up by seeing the teachers enjoy learning and having fun with each other and it motivates me to do it for another year. It makes it all worthwhile! Thank you for participating in the GPA

Annual Conference. Visit the photo album on our website to see pictures! If you missed this, year, make plans to attend next year's conference to be held at the Cobb Galleria Centre on February 27 & 28, 2015.



Hostesses Make A Difference!

Janis Smith

One of Georgia Preschool's strongest characteristics is the quality of the consultants we are able to provide at our Winter and Fall Conferences. One of the reasons consultants are happy to return to work with us because of the warm hospitality we provide and our hostesses are responsible for that hospitality.

Thank you to all who served as host-

esses at the Winter 2014 Conference. Not only did you provide a warm and friendly contact with the consultants, you gave us important insight as to the quality of the workshop through your evaluations.

We are always in need of hostesses, if you would like to be one, please contact Janis Smith through the GPA website.



GPA Silent Auction

Diane Lamb

Hopefully, all of you who participated in the "silent auction" got home with all your treasures. Some of you needed a U-Haul to get all your items home! This is always a fun project for the Georgia Preschool Association, and it also helps raise funds to pay for the website.

First, let me thank all of you who participated by purchasing items and also many, many thanks to those who donated the items. We had a very large variety of items and lots and lots of tickets at various venues. It is fun to see the excitement of everyone watching the bid sheets and

making sure their name and amount appeared in the final bid line. Your enthusiasm is contagious! That is what being involved in GPA and education is all about. You are in it because you love what you are doing and you make a difference in the lives you touch/teach.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Lynn Pitts, Administrative Assistant at Griffin First Baptist Weekday who worked tirelessly before, during and after the "silent auction" project. She is a real asset to GPA, but especially a real asset to me. Thank you, Lynn.

Now let me share the really good news with you. The "silent auction" netted over \$2,000.00. It just gets bigger and better each year. Again, thank all of you who made this possible. If you have any suggestions for the "silent auction" feel free to email or call me. All advice is appreciated!

Diane Lamb

District 6 Representative and Silent Auction Chairman

dianelamb@fbcgriffin.org

770 228-7880

GPA Conference Exhibit Hall

Karen Coffeen

Thank you to everyone who attended the conference and came in to shop and gather information in the exhibit hall. The exhibitors were happy to see you and appreciated the time you took to look at and purchase their products as well as listen to the descriptions of their services. I hope that you enjoyed the Exhibit Hall Bingo. We did! We gave away 20 prizes!

I would also like to thank all 33 of the exhibitors who had a booth in the exhibit hall. We appreciate their support of the GA Preschool Association. The companies that were represented included: Abrams Learning Trends, Alliance Theater, Alpha Skills, Applied Nano Services,

CCEI Online, Chattahoochee Nature Center, ChildCare Careers, Color Soundation, Discount School Supply, Doctors For Health & Wellness Foundation, Early Childhood Training on Demand, Follett, Fun Science, GA Student Finance Com./Path2College, GAYC, GPA, Healthy Green Schools, Kado Kid, Kyle Taft, Lakeshore Learning Store of East Cobb, LM Speech, Origami Owl, Pampered Chef, Playball, ProSolutions Training, Sophia Academy, Southern Fundraising, Tags for Kids/Sassy Tassy, The School Box, The School Place of Roswell, Thirty One, Zoo Atlanta, and Zoo-phonics.

If you would like more information on any of these companies please check

out the website:

www.georgiapreschool.org or contact me at the contact information below. Also, if you have any companies that you would like to see in the exhibit hall next year, please send me their name and contact information if you have it. We want next year's exhibit hall to be better than ever!

Karen Coffeen

Exhibit Hall Chairperson

kcoffeen@georgiapreschool.org or

770-590-0982



Next GPA Annual Conference: Feb. 27 & 28, 2015

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Beginning Reading Instruction: May 30-31, 2014
Atlanta Speech School
Workshop Leaders: Betsy Primm and Donna House
Please visit georgiapreschool.org for detailed information

District 1: September 9, 2014
6:00-8:00pm
Chattahoochee Technical College/Canton Campus
1645 Bluffs Pkwy, Canton GA 30114

September 16, 2014
6:00-8:00pm
Chattahoochee Technical College/Paulding Campus
400 Nathan Dean Blvd, Dallas Georgia 30132

To register: please contact Maria Abercrombie
at maria.abercrombie@chattahoocheetech.edu

District 5: October 10, 2014
2 hours BFTS credit
Child Development Association, Roswell
(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)

District 6: July 23, 2014
5 hours BFTS credit
First Baptist Weekday of Griffin
(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)

District 7: August 5, 2014
4 hours BFTS credit
St. Andrew UMC Preschool, Marietta
(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)

GPA Conference in Jekyll Island: October 25, 2014
"Ride the Waves"
Featured Speaker: Jennifer Daniels
Jekyll Island Convention Center
(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)

For more information or to contact your District Representative about these training opportunities please go to the GPA website at georgiapreschool.org To find out which district you are located, please go to the website *membership tab* for a district chart.