



**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**



# **FAMILY MATTERS!**

**4PM - 8PM**

**NOV. 13 MIMOSA ES & NOV. 14 GULLATT ES**



**FREE FOR ALL ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE,  
& HIGH SCHOOL FAMILIES**

# **FALL 2024**

# SCHEDULE

## 4:00 PM

- Doors open
- Browse vendors

## 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM

- Session Block Begins
  - Feel free to go to more than one session
  - Don't forget to get your passport stamped!

## 5:45 - 6:30 PM

- FREE Dinner
  - In the cafeteria
- Student Performances
  - In the cafeteria and other designated areas
- Food Pantry
  - Available to all families while supplies last
- Free Books
  - Available to all families

## 6:45 - 8:00 PM

- Session Rotation Begins
  - Feel free to go to more than one session.
  - Don't forget to get your passport stamped.
- Be sure to exchange your passport for tickets to enter a drawing for a chance to win prizes before exiting the school.

## NOTES

## Vendors

- Vendors are available from 4:00 PM - 6:45 PM

## Pictures

- Be sure to take photos of your evening and post them online with the hashtag:
- #FCSFamilyMatters



# SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

## LET'S MOVE

- ¡Olé! Flamenco Dance & Rhythm
- Family Chair Yoga
- Drones & Beyond

## THE ARTS

- Oriental Watercolor Hands-On Experience
- Pipe Cleaners, Play Dough, and Pencils...Oh My!
- Puppet Power! Traveling the Silk Road of Asia
- An Attitude of Gratitude! Create Family Keepsakes
- Marbling Fun!

## STUDENT SUPPORTS

- Ready, Set, Goal! Goal Setting & Playing Together
- Sensory Room: A Calming Space to Support All Students' Sensory Needs
- Harmony at Home: Music Therapy for Family Connection
- Visual Aids for the Home Environment

## ELA

- Vocabulary Matters: Accelerating Student Success Through Words

## CTAE

Career, Technology,  
Agriculture, &  
Engineering

- Good Eats Without Using Heat
- Green Thumb Adventures
- Jr. Chefs! Healthy After School Snacks
- Drive a Robot
- Robot Revolution: Crafting with Straws!
- Design & Shine: Adobe Express for the Whole Family!

## SCIENCE

- The Science of Angry Birds: Become a Master of Motion!
- Georgia Wildlife Journey
- Finding Focus & Balance with Japanese Kendama & Juggling
- H2Olympics
- Growing STEAM in Our Community

## ELEVATE "U" HUB FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

- How Hip Hop Music Influences ELA?
- The Scholarship Academy - Financial Aid Quiz Bowl
- Mini College Fair
- Mini Mane Masters: A Junior Cosmetology Workshop
- Student Success Skills Family Zone

## MATH

- Math at the Movies
- Mathematical Masterpieces: Crafting Origami with Precision



M E E T

# Our Team

## *Family Engagement*



**SanChea  
Simmons-Harris  
Specialist I**

**Tonya  
Park  
Specialist II**

**Catherine Harrper  
Director  
Federal Programs**

**Becca  
Goddard  
Coordinator**

**Lisa  
Humphrey  
Specialist I**





LET'S  
MOVE!

# ¡OLÉ! FLAMENCO

## DANCE & RHYTHM

### Mimosa & Gullatt

Experience the energy of flamenco in this fun-filled session! Begin with palmas—the rhythmic handclapping flamenco artists use—then challenge friends and family to the contratiempos handclapping game.

Dive into dance moves featuring swirling hands and powerful golpes (stomps), and sing along to a simple Spanish song. Wrap up with a group performance to showcase your new rhythm and flair. ¡Vamos a bailar!



Julie Galle is a flamenco dancer who has performed and taught flamenco across the U.S.A. and in Spain. She teaches flamenco dance and history as part of Emory University's curriculum and uses the art of flamenco to teach to Core Curriculum in K-12 schools as a teaching artist with the GCA STEAM seal. She is a published scholar in flamenco history and its African origins.



# FAMILY CHAIR YOGA



**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**

**G**et the wiggles out and move your body!

Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced while sitting on a chair or using a chair for support. Ready to stretch, strengthen, and relax? In this playful chair yoga session, everyone from kids to grandparents can join in on seated and supported poses that build flexibility and boost energy. Discover moves to help reduce stress and bring a sense of calm, all while having fun side by side! Chair yoga is an easy and accessible way for families to enjoy the benefits of yoga together. Come ready to unwind, laugh, and connect!



**TeMika Grooms, Certified Yoga Instructor**

TeMika Grooms is a 200-hour Certified Yoga Instructor, Level II Reiki Practitioner, and Artist based in the metropolitan Atlanta area. TeMika chose the healing arts to heal her own body from over-use, injury, and blocked emotions. For her, practicing yoga, meditation and art have been life-changing. She enjoys sharing this experience with people of all sizes, ages, and brings a wealth of knowledge in providing modifications in diverse populations.

# JROTC: KNIGHTS Lead the Way!

# DRONES & BEYOND



## Mimosa



Join our FCS' very own JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps) and develop your leadership skills! Families will rotate interactive stations, gaining real-world insights and building confidence in STEM and other focus areas.

- **Customs and Courtesies:** Practice flag folding and saluting.
- **Drill and Ceremony:** Learn to march in formation with step-by-step instructions.
- **Physical Training:** Experience basic fitness drills to build strength and resilience.
- **Aviation Basics:** Explore aviation by learning the fundamentals of drone flying.

Maj. Thomas Knothe, Centennial High School, was commissioned in 2004 through Army ROTC at Auburn University and served in leadership roles across Fort Hood, Fort Carson, and Fort Campbell, deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan as an instructor at Fort Lee, Maj. Thomas commanded in the 2nd SFAB and became an APMS at Georgia Tech. After retiring, he became Centennial High School's JROTC Senior Army Instructor. He holds a BS from Auburn and an MBA from Trident University. His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (5 OLC), and the Combat Action Badge. He and his wife, Amanda, have three children.



SFC Gary Gary Critser, Centennial High School, retired from the United States in 2012 after serving 24 years. Shortly after, he began the journey as an Army JROTC Instructor teaching in Chicago Public Schools and Southeastern Illinois before making Northern Georgia home. SFC Critser has been at Centennial HS for four years now. He is married to Sara, who is a proud educator in Cherokee County, and they have three children & a Golden Doodle named Sarge living at home.





# JROTC: TROJANS Lead the Way!

# DRONES & BEYOND



Gullatt

Join our FCS' very own JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps) and develop your leadership skills! Families will rotate interactive stations, gaining real-world insights and building confidence in STEM and other focus areas.

- **Customs and Courtesies:** Practice flag folding and saluting.
- **Drill and Ceremony:** Learn to march in formation with step-by-step instructions.
- **Physical Training:** Experience basic fitness drills to build strength and resilience.
- **Aviation Basics:** Explore aviation by learning the fundamentals of drone flying.

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Mariah Singleton, a senior at Banneker, serves as Battalion Commander for the Trojan JROTC Program. An honor roll student, she has dedicated four years to JROTC, excelling on the Raider, Drill, and Color Guard teams. After graduation, Cadet Singleton plans to study chemical engineering with a minor in military science/ROTC.



Cadet Captain Brian Brown, a senior in the Trojan Battalion, has led the Drone Team since its start, earning multiple awards in Fulton County competitions. He also serves as Raider Team Captain and Color Guard Captain. After graduation, Cadet Brown plans to attend Georgia Military College.



Cadet Command Sergeant Major Amari Robinson, a senior at Banneker, has been in JROTC since freshman year. He serves as the senior NCO on the Trojan Battalion Staff and co-captain of the Raider Team. After graduation, Cadet Robinson aims to attend the Air Force Academy and become a commissioned officer.







# THE ARTS



# ORIENTAL WATERCOLOR HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Mimosa &  
Gullatt

Immerse your family in the art and culture of the Oriental Watercolor Hands-on Experience session. This unique event invites families to explore traditional watercolor painting techniques inspired by Eastern artistry. Families will learn brush techniques, create beautiful artwork together, and gain insight into the cultural significance of this timeless art form.

Enjoy quality family bonding time, express your creativity, and leave with your very own masterpiece to cherish at home. No prior experience needed—just bring your enthusiasm and creativity!

Tehwan Tso teaches Chinese brush painting workshops through the Cobb County Artist in School Program and Fulton County Teaching Museum. In 2010, she was awarded the Cobb County Ovation Award in visual arts and served as a grant application panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts in 2012. She taught at many art centers and schools -- Callaway Garden, The Art Place, The Art Station, Chastain Art Center, Young Audiences at the Woodruff Arts Center, etc. for over 30 years.



Tehwan Tso

# PIPE CLEANERS, PLAY DOUGH, AND PENCILS ...OH MY!

Mimosa &  
Gullatt



Join us for a fun, hands-on session focused on boosting fine motor skills for young learners ages 3–6. Through engaging Make and Take activities, families will explore three creative stations:

## Station 1: Bracelets

Create personalized bracelets using pipe cleaners, beads, and short straw pieces. Extend the fun by using small pipe cleaner pieces in playdough.

## Station 2: Fine Motor Mats

Fill lines on fine motor cards with pompoms, playdough, and pasta using tweezers, building precision and coordination.

## Station 3: Hair Salon Cutting

Trace zigzag, straight, and swirly lines with golf pencils, add rainbow tracing with markers, and cut along dotted lines for cutting practice.

Join us for this interactive session and leave with fun creations and fine motor activities to try at home!



My name is Jenate Morris, and I am an Early Childhood Transition Coach. I provide support and assistance to Pre-Kindergarten children and families by coordinating services between schools and communities. I plan parent workshops that provide academic standards and skills, resources, and activities for schools, parents in the community, and stakeholders to increase school readiness and parent engagement.



# Puppetry of Asia

3

## Mimosa & Gullatt

Traveling  
the Silk Road

**EXPERIENCE  
PUPPET POWER!**

Celebrate the art and science of puppetry! Adventure along the Silk Road with Mr. Damon and Fidget the Squirrel as we explore fascinating Asian puppetry traditions!

This performance includes mythical storytelling, authentic musical instruments and cultural traditions, comedy, and audience participation. This is a favorite among teachers and students for its entertaining demonstration of history, music, stories, and puppetry traditions of Asian cultures!

Students can make and take home their own shadow puppet.

**CAPTIVATING  
PERFORMANCE!**



**MR. DAMON**

Mr. Damon creates dynamic, interactive puppetry experiences and puppetry workshops for theaters, schools and libraries. He has performed shadow puppet sequences for Marvel's Hawkeye (on Disney+) and is the Lead Teaching Artist at the Center for Puppetry Arts.



**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**



# AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE!

**Create Keepsake Gratitude Boxes**

Join us for an engaging family session focused on fostering gratitude and connection. Through this hands-on activity, parents and children will create personalized gratitude boxes using fun materials like stickers, foam letters, and drawings.

Each family member will write messages of appreciation, jokes, and encouraging words to add to the box, creating a meaningful keepsake that can be revisited and added to over time.

Practicing gratitude enhances relationships, boosts communication, and brings joy into the home. Research suggests that gratitude can lead to improved mental and physical health, contributing to the overall well-being of family members. Come and build stronger family bonds while discovering the power of an “attitude of gratitude”!

Hello, I'm Jamie Webster, owner of Truly Crafty. As a mother and 4th-grade teacher in Atlanta, I've always loved nurturing creativity through arts and crafts. Growing up in Guyana, my passion for children and the arts led me to teaching and dance. Truly Crafty lets me share this passion and inspire creativity in others.





**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**

# MARBLING FUN!



Neha Bhatt is a teaching artist for fiber arts. She enjoys teaching many different surface pattern design techniques to people who are interested in learning the art in an easy and fun way. She believes that fiber arts are a great way to make unique and personalized things using each one creative method.

**M**arbling on paper is a fun way to create beautiful art!

Marbling or Ebru art is an age old surface pattern design art. Marbling tools used for making fun patterns on paper is a great way to teach about surface pattern design.

Participants will have a lot of fun making patterns on watercolor paper.





# STUDENT SUPPORTS



# READY, SET, GOAL!

## GOAL SETTING & PLAYING TOGETHER

Mimosa &  
Gullatt

This hands-on session is all about bringing elementary families together to set inspiring goals and enjoy quality playtime that strengthens bonds. Create a colorful vision board with your child. Watch your child's face light up as you plan your future together and leave with a special keepsake that will remind you both to dream big!

**Jump into interactive games and crafts** that will have you laughing, learning, and connecting with your child. Discover simple yet powerful activities that boost your child's skills while building precious memories.

See how playing with your child can make learning exciting and meaningful.



**Jeannie Adams Myers, Ed.S.,** Director leads educational and enrichment programs for Latino children and families in Atlanta and is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment that supports students' academic, social, and emotional growth.



**Gloria Perez, Director of Family Engagement & Leadership,** builds strong relationships with families and empowers them through leadership development to engage actively in their children's education and community.



**Lizbeth Zamora - Director of Youth Programs** oversees the Youth Service and Leadership Pathway. She is passionate about empowering Latino students to reach their full potential.

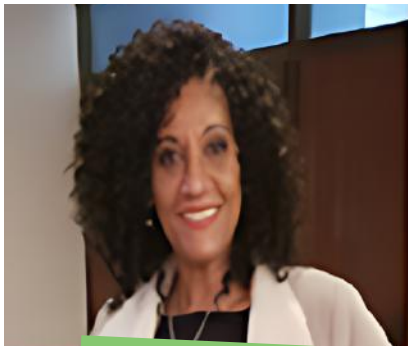
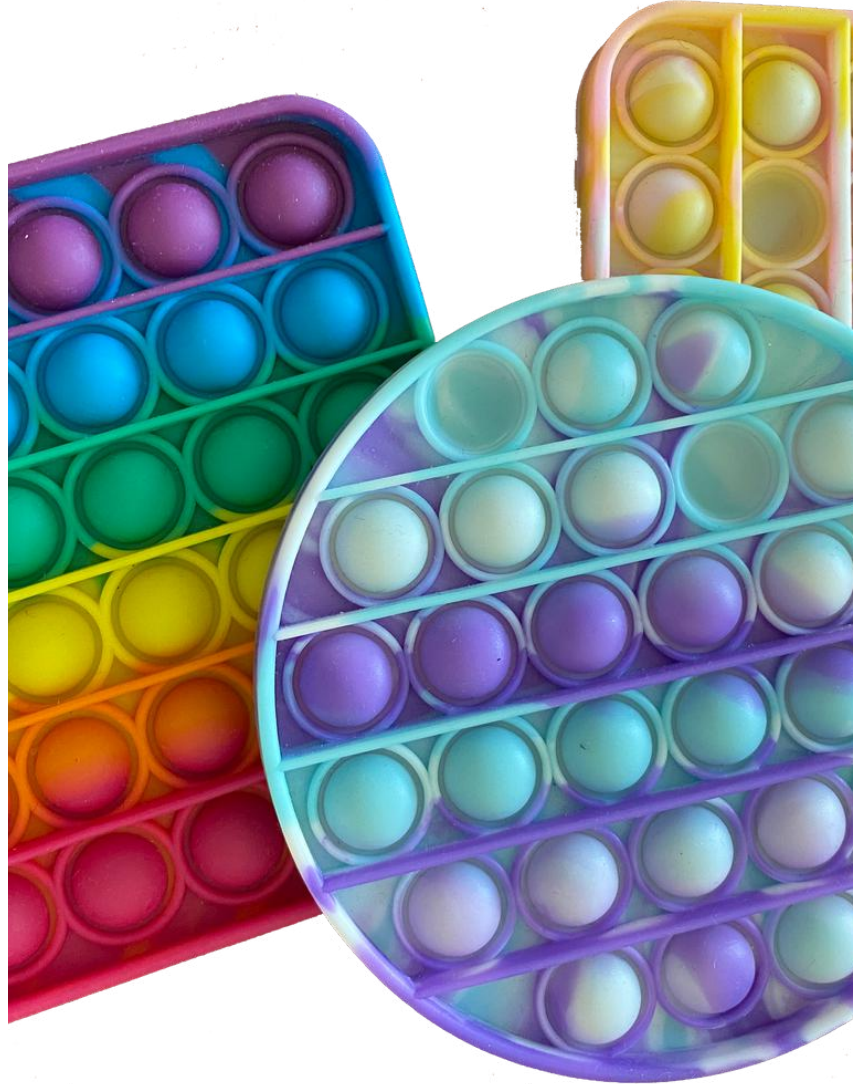
# SENSORY ROOM:

Mimosa & Gullatt

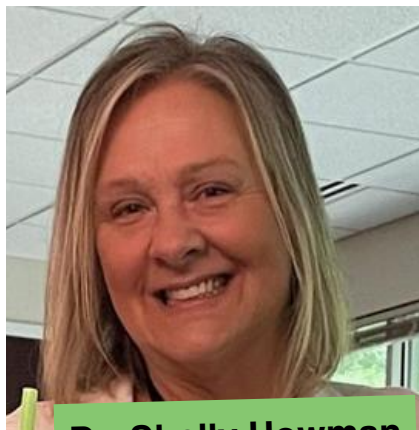
A Calming Space to Support All Students' Sensory Needs

As you enter the sensory room, you'll find a range of activity stations catering to touch, sight, sound, and even smell. Each station offers a different sensory experience, giving visitors the freedom to explore what feels most calming or engaging for them.

Every station in the sensory room is designed to promote relaxation, sensory regulation, and pure enjoyment. The room invites everyone to take their time, try out each activity, and find their own unique path to calm and comfort.



Dr. Gayle M. Lindsay



Dr. Shelly Howman



# HARMONY AT HOME:

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Gullatt

## Music Therapy for Family Connection

Experience the joy and therapeutic power of music in this engaging session designed for families of all grade levels. Join us as students and parents discover how making music together can strengthen bonds and create lasting memories. No experience is needed—just come ready to play, sing, and explore fun, interactive musical activities that bring everyone closer. This session will show how music can be a powerful tool for connection and well-being. Don't miss this opportunity to harmonize and share smiles with your loved ones!

The FCS Music Therapy department proudly supports the Fulton County School System's mission to educate students to be responsible, productive citizens who through continuous learning will be able to adapt to an ever-changing, global society. Music Therapists use music and music based interventions to target student needs.



# VISUAL AIDS FOR THE HOME ENVIRONMENT

Mimosa & Gullatt



The Autism/Intellectual Disabilities Department of Services for Exceptional Children will be presenting on the use of visual aids for the home environment. Participants will learn about the importance of visuals to support communication and problematic behaviors for students with disabilities. Facilitators will model the use of visuals and provide real-life examples of at-home use for families. There will be giveaway prizes for participants, as well.

Jessie Morris Leyden is the Coordinator for the Autism and Intellectual Disability program for Fulton County Schools. An Atlanta native, she holds degrees from Oglethorpe University, GSU, and UWA. A 2018 Cobb County Teacher of the Year, Jessie has also served as an SDI Coach and AU/ID Program IST before her current role.



Jasmine Withers is a Program IST specializing in Autism and Intellectual Disabilities. She holds a B.S. in Early Childhood Development from Purdue, an M.Ed. in Special Education from Walden, and an Ed.S. in Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis. Jasmine's background includes teaching, career transition facilitation, and curriculum software administration.



Lisa Werner is a Program IST for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities programs. She holds a Bachelor's in Education and multiple Master's degrees. Joining Fulton in 2009, Lisa began as a substitute, earned her Master's in Adapted Curriculum, and advanced from parapro to teacher. Named Teacher of the Year in 2019, she later served as an SDI Coach before her current role.





A hand is pouring a green liquid from a graduated cylinder into a beaker. The beaker contains water and several green, spherical particles. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with a person in a white lab coat. The word "SCIENCE" is overlaid in large, green, outlined letters.

# SCIENCE



# THE SCIENCE OF

# ANGRY BIRDS



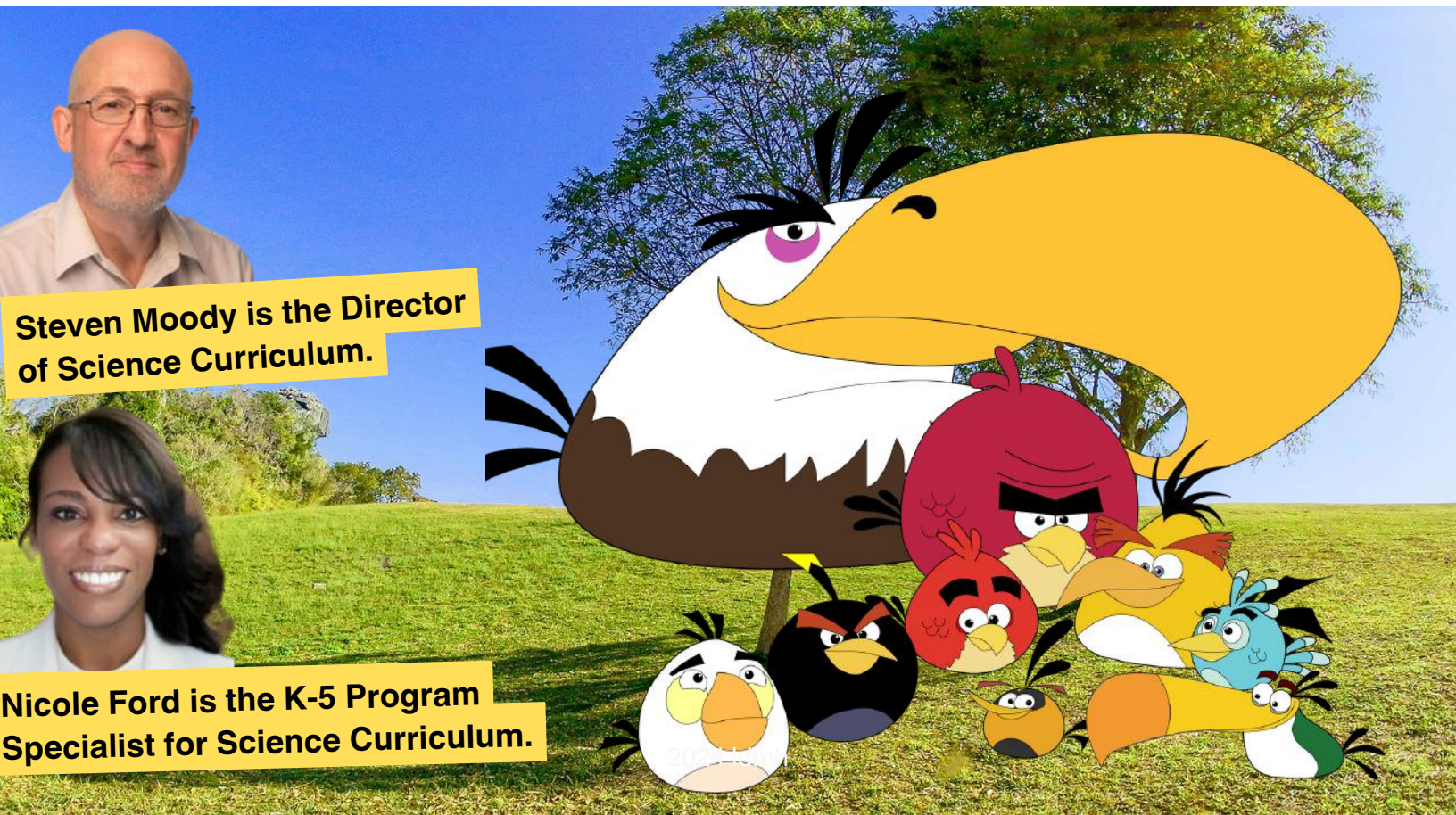
**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**

## BECOME A MASTER OF MOTION!

Get ready to dive into the exciting world of physics with everyone's favorite game, Angry Birds! In this hands-on session, we'll explore the science behind the slingshot mechanism that sends those birds flying through the air. Using real-life concepts like potential energy (stored energy in the stretched slingshot), kinetic energy (the energy of motion when the bird is released), and the forces of gravity and trajectory, we'll break down how the Angry Birds use physics to smash through obstacles and knock over those pesky pigs.

Through fun experiments, you'll learn how the angle of release, the tension in the slingshot, and the mass of the birds all affect how far and fast they fly. Plus, you'll get to test your own "Angry Bird-style" launcher to see how you can control the speed, distance, and accuracy—just like in the game!

Prepare for an interactive adventure where science takes flight, and you become the master of motion!



**Steven Moody is the Director  
of Science Curriculum.**

**Nicole Ford is the K-5 Program  
Specialist for Science Curriculum.**



# GEORGIA WILDLIFE JOURNEY

## Mimosa Only

Join the Chattahoochee Nature Center for an up-close encounter with fascinating animals from Georgia's Piedmont region! In this engaging program, students will meet a live opossum, snake, and bird of prey, learning how each creature's unique adaptations help it survive and thrive in its natural habitat. Through interactive presentations, we'll also explore challenges these animals face in the wild and discuss simple actions we can take to protect their environments. Get ready to discover the rich biodiversity of the Piedmont and how we can all play a part in supporting local wildlife!ween the headline and the article itself.



# FINDING FOCUS & BALANCE WITH Japanese Kendama & Juggling!

Mimosa & Gullatt



Join us for an interactive session where families will explore the art of juggling and Japanese Kendama, blending fun with learning! Through exciting demonstrations of juggling, plate spinning, and Kendama, participants will see Newton's Laws of Motion, friction, momentum, and reactions in action. Kids will try hands-on activities like scarf and beanbag juggling, plate spinning, and mastering the Kendama's tricks, while learning about balance and focus. This engaging session combines math, STEM, world geography, and physical education, fostering both skill development and mental well-being. Special giveaways included.

Ron Anglin is an educational Juggler with a Master's Degree. Ron worked for the Big Apple Circus Clown Care and Laughter League as Supervisor at Piedmont Columbus Hospital. He taught circus arts for Cirque du Soleil's outreach program for "at risk" youth. After the Pandemic, Ron began leading school grief therapy groups for Kate's Club.





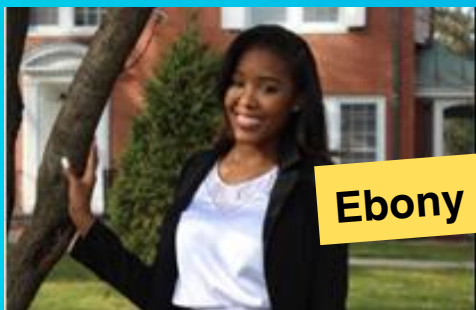
# H<sub>2</sub>OLYMPICS

**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**



Get ready to compete in a thrilling Water Olympics! In this action-packed session, students explore the fascinating properties of water—adhesion and cohesion—through hands-on challenges. From making water defying gravity to racing tiny soap-powered boats, participants will learn how these properties show up in our everyday lives. Are you ready to compete? Join the challenges and test water’s stickiness, dive into activities like balancing pennies on a drop of water, floating paper clips and more.

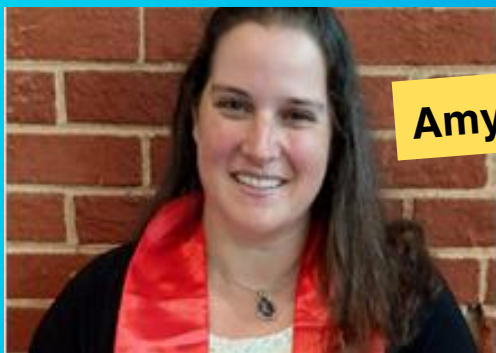
Discover why water’s adhesive and cohesive qualities are essential to life, from the way plants absorb water to how bugs “walk” on it! Join us to uncover the mysteries of water while competing for gold in the H<sub>2</sub>Olympics!



**Ebony Jones**



**Dexter Norris**



**Amy Warnock**



**Sabrina Attimy**

# GROWING STEAM IN OUR COMMUNITY!

**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**

**Get ready for an unforgettable night of fun and learning at Growing STEAM in Our Community! This interactive family session is packed with hands-on activities that will inspire curiosity and creativity in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.**

**Science: Balloon Blowing Magic**  
Watch as antacid tablets create a fizzy reaction that blows up a balloon right before your eyes!  
**Takeaway: Your own balloon and bottle to keep experimenting at home!**

**Technology: Polaroid & Lego Fun**  
Build a unique animal with Legos, snap a Polaroid of your creation, and create a fun social media post to share.

**Takeaway: Your mini Lego creation and Polaroid masterpiece!**



Natasha Smith, Assistant Principal at Love T. Nolan ES. Ms. Smith has committed her life to teaching, motivating, and inspiring the lives of children first while mentoring, teaching, and coaching adults to support children's education. She is also a STEM.STEAM specialist who has been an educator for over 15 years.



A young man with short dark hair, wearing a light green zip-up hoodie over a red shirt, is smiling at the camera. He is sitting at a desk, holding a yellow pencil over an open notebook. In the background, other students are blurred. The word "ELA" is overlaid in large, green, outlined letters.

ELA

# VOCABULARY MATTERS: ACCELERATING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH WORDS

Join us for an interactive session designed to build students' vocabulary skills in fun, engaging ways! Tailored for Grades K-8, this session features hands-on station activities where students will expand their vocabulary and gain tools for stronger reading and language comprehension. Parents will also receive a helpful flyer packed with tips and facts about supporting vocabulary growth at home.

**Station Highlight: Mood Swing – Exploring the Emotional Power of Words**

At this station, participants will dive into the emotions behind words, discovering how understanding a word's "mood" can make them more powerful readers and communicators.



Mrs. Hollins, an instructional leader and college access advocate with over ten years of experience, specializes in literacy instruction, college advising, and educational technology. As an ELA School Improvement Coach, she leads professional development, supports PLCs, and coaches teachers using data-driven strategies to improve student outcomes while fostering strong relationships with families and stakeholders.





# ELEVATE "U" HUB

**Middle & High School**





**SOUL FOOD  
CYPHER**

**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**

# HOW HIP HOP MUSIC INFLUENCES ELA?

Experience the power of hip-hop and its impact on literacy at Family Matters: Soul Food Cypher, a unique session designed to engage families in grades 9-12 through creativity and collaboration. Join us for an unforgettable Family Engagement Night where parents, caretakers, and students will connect through dynamic, interactive activities that blend English Language

Arts (ELA) with the energy of hip-hop and spoken word.

Soul Food Cypher is a 501-(c) (3) non-profit organization that utilizes freestyle rap and lyricism to transform individuals and communities. We showcase the positive aspects of rap through our cypher events, tournaments, and community outreach.

## Ahmariah Jackson

An educator in the Atlanta Independent School System, he has also founded the GRIOT CIRCLE; committed to fostering the best in our youth and teaching them empowerment through expression. Mr. Jackson is also a published author and poet who performs under the name, ANON The Griot.

## Monique Nunnally

An educator and founder of Teach X, is committed to social justice, economic empowerment, and student advocacy. Partnering with community leaders like Soul Food Cypher, she creates transformative programs that equip youth to become future change agents. She is an UGA graduate in English and African American Studies and has a Master's in Public Administration from West Georgia.



# The SCHOLARSHIP

## ACADEMY

### FINANCIAL AID QUIZ BOWL

**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**

Fast-Paced Fun for Your Future!\*\*

Join us for an action-packed hour of Financial Aid Quiz Bowl, where you'll tackle real-life challenges to get ahead in planning for college! In just 60 minutes, students will work in teams to calculate college costs, navigate the financial aid maze, and even pitch a scholarship idea to a mock committee.

This exciting, fast-paced session is designed to give you a crash course in financial aid essentials—making it fun, competitive, and practical for building a secure financial future. Get ready to dive in, score points, and master the skills you need for college success!



**Brian Cornelius**

The Scholarship Academy (TSA), a nonprofit, teaches low-income and first-generation high school students how to create realistic funding strategies, through in-school curriculum modules, financial aid counselor trainings, and access to innovate scholarship planning platform.

# MINI COLLEGE FAIR

Mimosa &  
Gullatt

**November is Georgia Apply to College (GAC) Month which means free applications to select Georgia Colleges & Universities!**

Meet representatives from top schools and programs!

- Atlanta Technical College
- Clark Atlanta University
- Georgia Military College
- Georgia Tech University
- Morehouse College
- National Guard
- Navy
- West Georgia University



CLARK ATLANTA  
UNIVERSITY





# STUDENT SUCCESS SKILLS FAMILY ZONE

Mimosa &  
Gullatt

Join us at the Student Success Skills Family Zone to discover practical, easy-to-use techniques that support students' well-being and development. This session introduces skill-building activities designed to boost students' confidence, resilience, and focus, helping them thrive in and out of the classroom. Perfect for families looking to reinforce positive habits, this interactive experience will provide tools to foster a supportive, growth-oriented environment at home.



Shamona Harrell

# CTAE



**Career, Technical, and  
Agricultural Education**



# GOOD EATS WITHOUT USING HEAT!

**Mimosa &  
Gullatt**

Join us for an interactive, hands-on culinary experience! In this session, elementary and middle school students will learn how to make fresh spring rolls using simple, safe techniques—no cooking required!

Guided by Culinary Arts Standards, students will practice food safety, basic knife skills, and the art of wrapping. With a variety of fresh ingredients, they'll create their own spring rolls, explore flavors from different cultures, and gain confidence in the kitchen.



I am honored to teach Culinary Arts at Tri-Cities High School, where I empower students to succeed. A proud product of Fulton County Schools and a 1992 Westlake High School graduate, I owe my passion for culinary education to Mrs. Connie Brice, who inspired me at South Fulton Vocational School.



# GREEN THUMB ADVENTURES



## Mimosa Only

Get ready to dive into the world of hydroponics!

In this exciting, hands-on session, you'll learn to grow plants without soil using the simple and sustainable Kratky method. Perfect for beginners, this low-maintenance system requires no pumps or electricity—just nutrient-rich water and a few easy steps!

Families will build their own Kratky Hydroponic System using provided kits, seeds, and a care guide. By the end, you'll have a mini garden to take home and watch flourish. Join us to discover how fun and accessible hydroponic gardening can be!



LaDonna Withrow is the agricultural education teacher at Hopewell Middle School in Milton, GA.

Ms. Withrow has been teaching agriculture for 10 years. As a graduate from Fort Valley State University, she started her career as a high school TAG teacher at Jackson High School. Soon after, she pursued her master's degree in Middle Grades Education where she started her career as a middle school agricultural education teacher. She has her specialist degree in Agriscience Education and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education. Ms. Withrow loves to teach agriculture and enjoys helping students to become leaders.



# JR. CHEFS! HEALTHY AFTER SCHOOL SNACKS

Jr. Chefs! Healthy After School Snacks, is an interactive and delicious session designed just for K-5 families. Dive into the fun world of hands-on cooking where parents and kids will learn how to create simple, nutritious, and tasty snacks that are perfect for after school. Our session will spark creativity in the kitchen and encourage healthy eating habits for the whole family. Get ready to chop, mix, and taste your way to becoming snack-time pros! Come hungry for learning and leave with recipes, skills, and memories to cherish.

Mimosa &  
Gullatt



Chef Patrick started as a fry cook at 15 and gained versatile culinary and hospitality experience through various roles, including positions at Applebee's, Marriott, and Sylvia's. Chef graduated from Le Cordon Bleu as a Certified Culinarian. He founded P. Alexander's a successful personal chef and catering business. He also teaches community-based culinary classes.



# DRIVE A ROBOT

**Mimosa**

Join the O.S.C.A.R. team for an exciting, interactive session where students of all grade levels can experience the thrill of driving a robot using an Xbox controller! This hands-on activity is designed to capture students' interest in STEM, with a special focus on robotics. No materials are needed—just bring your curiosity and get ready for a fun, engaging introduction to the world of robotics!



**My name is Mr. Almimar, and I am the engineering teacher at Roswell High School. I started teaching in 2001. I have taught college-level, middle school, and currently high school.**

**I am the coach for Team O.S.C.A.R (Roswell Robotics) a competition team.**



# ROBOT REVOLUTION: CRAFTING WITH STRAWS!

Gullatt

Get ready to dive into the exciting world of physics with Straw Robots! In this high-energy, hands-on session, families will build mini-robots using simple straws and see science come alive as they discover how forces make their creations move! By pushing and pulling on different parts of the robot, participants will see firsthand how force, friction, gravity, and resistance work together to drive—or stop—motion. This unforgettable activity transforms abstract physics concepts into an adventure, giving young learners a fun, memorable way to explore how things move. Don't miss this chance to build, test, and master the basics of force and motion!



With over 20 years in education, I've worked with students from 2nd to 8th grade, specializing in Early Intervention and Talented and Gifted programs. I'm passionate about Family Engagement and have supported fellow educators as a Teacher Support Specialist. My journey is driven by a love for teaching and building strong school community connections!



**Quinsine West**

I am a dedicated educator of 22 years and TAG Program Lead at C.H. Gullatt Elementary. I also support TAG students, advise the Go TIP program, and sponsor the Beta Club. At home, I'm a wife, mother to three beautiful daughters, and a proud fur mom. In my spare time, I love cooking, Netflix, working out, traveling, and reading. Teaching TAG is my passion, and I aim to inspire lifelong learning in my students!



**Natalie Jiles**

# DESIGN & SHINE: ADOBE EXPRESS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Mimosa &  
Gullatt

Join us for Design & Shine: Adobe Express for the Whole Family, where creativity meets technology! In this fun, hands-on session, parents and kids will explore Adobe Express, a user-friendly tool for making stunning multimedia projects. Learn how to create eye-catching posters, presentations, and even short videos together! We'll also take a quick peek at some of Adobe's exciting AI tools that make designing even easier.

Whether it's crafting a family video or designing a digital masterpiece, this session will spark creativity and show you how fun and simple multimedia creation can be!

Dr. William Wright is an Innovation Coach for Kennesaw State University's iTeach, a service unit inside the School of Instructional Technology and Innovation. He works with K12 districts, schools, and teachers to advance teaching and learning in ways that would not have been possible just a few years ago.



Zena Brown is an Instructional Technology Coach at Kennesaw State University, specializing in integrating technology to enhance teaching and learning. With a passion for fostering innovation, she supports educators in using digital tools to create engaging, effective classroom environments that promote student success and creativity.



Jennifer Grimes is an Innovation Coach for Kennesaw State University's iTeach, a service unit inside the School of Instructional Technology and Innovation. She is passionate about empowering families to explore their creativity using digital tools like Adobe Express and Canva.



KENNESAW STATE  
UNIVERSITY





MATH

# MATH AT THE MOVIES

Mimosa &  
Gullatt

Join us for Math at the Movies, an exciting session where families will explore how math is present in everyday activities—even during a movie theater visit!

Families will select a movie, visit the concessions for snacks, and practice math skills such as telling time, counting, comparing numbers, and adding/subtracting decimals as they move through the room.

Each family will complete an interactive booklet to guide their math journey, making learning fun and engaging. Plus, enjoy popcorn and a snack-sized candy treat as part of this immersive math adventure!



Andrea Powell



Gloria Yu





# MATHEMATICAL MASTERPIECES: CRAFTING ORIGAMI WITH PRECISION

Mimosa &  
Gullatt

Join us for an exciting and family-friendly session where math meets art! In Mathematical Masterpieces: Crafting Origami with Precision, families will fold, create, and have fun with the amazing art of origami. Using simple shapes and easy-to-follow steps, everyone will discover how geometry and symmetry come to life with each fold! This interactive session makes math accessible, creative, and hands-on as families work together to create beautiful paper masterpieces. Perfect for all ages, this session will spark curiosity, build new skills, and show how math can be a lot of fun when you turn it into art!



**Susan Baker, Director of Mathematics**

**Heather Cofield, Elementary Math Program Specialist**

**Angela Ergle, Elementary Math Program Specialist**

**Janita Ford, Elementary Math Program Specialist**

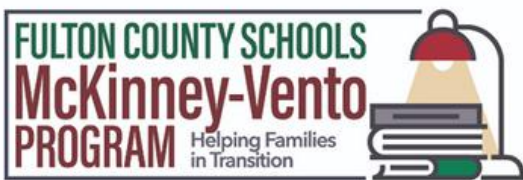
**Monique Johnson, Elementary Math Program Specialist**

**Tanja Beauford-Vernon, Middle School Math Program Specialist**

# VENDORS

We extend our sincerest appreciation to all the vendors whose contributions made our 2024 Family Matters event a tremendous success. Your support was essential, and we couldn't have done it without you—thank you for helping us make a lasting impact!

*Thank You*





# VENDORS

*Thank You*



ATLANTA AREA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.



girl scouts  
of greater atlanta



# VENDORS

*Thank You*





# VOLUNTEERS

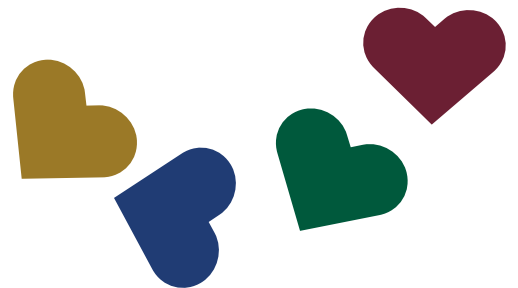
*Thank You*

To all of our incredible Family Matters volunteers, students, schools, and Admin Building staff: **THANK YOU** for your time, energy, and dedication in making Family Matters a success. Your commitment - from setup to support - made a real difference. Every moment spent welcoming families, assisting where needed, and keeping things running smoothly contributed to the event's impact. Thank you for showing our Families they Matter!

# STUDENTS

*Thank You*

To the heart of Fulton County Schools, our students, thank you for your splendid musical performances and routines. Thanks for your cheers to celebrate and welcome our families each night and for the other student volunteers willing and ready to assist where needed. A special thanks to our JROTC for serving your third consecutive year! All of you are a shining example of our community.



# SUPPORTERS

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Fulton Education Foundation for their incredible generosity in making this year's Family Matters Celebration possible. Their support is invaluable, and we couldn't be more appreciative.



**Thank you to the incredible Federal Programs Team for their unwavering support, which makes Family Matters possible. Special appreciation goes to Lashundra Jones, Darryl Inman, Cleo Jones, Harriet Perry, Lisa Mosley, Kelly Mastronardi, Marsha Anderson, Blanche Bello, Mayte Lara, and Wendy Newbold.**



**We also extend a sincere THANK YOU to all the dedicated Fulton County Schools staff who collaborated with us in the planning of Family Matters, your contribution is invaluable!**



**A HUGE thank you to the amazing faculty and staff at Mimosa and C.H. Gullatt Elementary Schools! Your generous contribution of facilities, time, and dedication is invaluable. Your commitment is at the heart of Family Matters' success. Thank you for making a lasting impact!**





**We're all ears for your  
feedback!**

**Because hey, your  
FAMILY Matters!**

**What made you smile?**

**What could use a little  
makeover magic?**

**Spill the tea!**

**Scan the QR  
code and let  
the magic  
happen!**









**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**



# **FAMILY MATTERS!**

# **SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**

