

# The Tucker Informer

Tucker Elementary School Perry, GA 31069

[www.hcbe.net/schools/te/index.html](http://www.hcbe.net/schools/te/index.html)

478 988-6278

Principal - Dr. Kim Halstead  
Assistant Principal – Dr. Kasandra King  
Assistant Principal for Instruction - Patricia Bolden  
Counselor – Dr. Melissa Thompson

JANUARY 2012  
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## Finding the Leader in You!

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY

- 1- New Year's Day
- 2- Student Holiday
- 3- Students Return to School
- 5- Chorus Meeting 7:30 AM
- 6- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cheer Club 7:30 AM  
Cup Stacker Meeting 7:30 AM  
Report Cards Go Home
- 12- Chorus Meeting 7:30 AM  
4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling Bee 1:00 PM
- 13- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Cheer Club 7:30 AM  
Cup Stackers Meeting 7:30 AM  
Book Club Meeting 7:30 AM
- 16- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 17- Reading Counts Store  
Stevi B's Pizza Night 4:00-8:00 PM
- 18- Reading Counts Store  
Club Pictures
- 19- Chorus Meeting 7:30 AM
- 20- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cheer Club 7:30 AM  
Cup Stacker Meeting 7:30 AM  
100<sup>th</sup> Day of School
- 24- Family Math Night 6:00-7:30 PM
- 26- Chorus Meeting 7:30 AM  
Hoops for Heart Begins
- 27- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Cheer Club 7:30 AM  
Cup Stackers Meeting 7:30 AM
- 30- Leadership Award Ceremony  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 9:00 AM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 1:00 PM
- 31- Leadership Award Ceremony  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 9:00 AM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 1:00 PM  
January Birthday Celebration  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical 6:30 PM

## Principal's News

Tucker families,

THANK YOU for an exceptional first half of the school year! I am so appreciative of your support of our school's student leadership initiatives. So many of our Tucker Elementary families have been a part of our PTO meetings as well as other events including musicals, luncheons, leadership day or student-led conferences. You are ALWAYS welcome at Tucker! Please drop-in to eat lunch or discuss your child's progress. ☺

I encourage you to use our 7 Habits leadership language (see the back cover of the student agenda and our website for additional information) in your home, particularly when working on homework or studying for tests. This is a great time to remind students to "put first things first" or "begin with the end in mind".

I want to make sure that you are aware that the Georgia Department of Education is in the process of updating the standards that are taught in each grade level. The Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) will be known as the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) next school year. \*\*To learn more about Georgia's curriculum go to the **Georgia Department of Education** website and select the GPS, CCGPS, CRCT, and "parent" links. This website contains information that will be very helpful in understanding the many changes in the way schools are teaching and assessing the core subjects of math, language arts (English and reading), social studies, and science.

Lastly, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your principal. It is my privilege and an absolute joy to synergize with 388 students and 60 staff members each week. Each Tucker Elementary student is a talented, unique, student leader and I treasure each day that we spend together as a Tucker family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Halstead  
Principal

## PTO News

### Santa Shop

Santa Shop was a great success! Thank you to all the parents and grandparents that volunteered their time to help PTO by decorating, wrapping gifts, and donating items. Tucker students had a great time shopping for their family and friends. PTO President Amy Newhouse has already started shopping and planning for next year's Santa Shop. ☺

### Butter Braid Fundraiser

Thank you for all who helped with the Butter Braid Fundraiser. 5<sup>th</sup> grader Chandler Stewart was the highest individual seller and he received a \$50.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card. Tucker PTO was able to raise \$3500 to apply towards the purchase and installation of materials to construct an outdoor basketball court for the playground. Construction will begin some time this month.

**Join us for our next PTO Meeting January 19, 2012  
at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria.  
Children are welcome to come.**

For more information please contact the school at  
988-6278 or email PTO at  
[tuckertigerpto@yahoo.com](mailto:tuckertigerpto@yahoo.com) .

## Parent Resource Room

The Parent Resource Center's goal is to provide the proper resources that will assist, guide, help and support parents with their children's education and promote parent involvement by encouraging parents to take an active role in their children's educational processes. The Parent Resource Center also maintains partnerships with local community organizations, faith-based organizations and agencies to bring additional resources into the schools and develop stronger ties between the schools, parents and the community. For more information contact Valarie Nodes at 988-6278 Ext. 23600, [valarie.nodes@hcbe.net](mailto:valarie.nodes@hcbe.net) or come by Room 204 Monday-Friday from 9:00-12:00.

## The Leader in Me

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People  
By Stephen R. Covey

### Habit 3: Put First Things First Work First, Then Play

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

Learn more about the 7 habits at

<http://www.theleaderinme.org/index.html>

## Parent Tips

### Family Night Fun

Fill the long, winter evenings with fun and games for you and the kids!

A family game night is one of the easiest and most satisfying events you can plan with your kids. If you make it a regular occurrence, even better! School vacations are custom-made for family fun nights.

Plan a game night once a week, twice a month, or monthly -- but schedule the evening so that everyone knows to be home, ready for some belly laughs and good-natured competition.

Turn off the television, let voicemail pick up the phone, and fix some simple snacks. This time is just for your family.

### Getting Started

Decide on several dates for family nights. Make sure everyone is available and willing to be home.

Mark the dates in the family calendar just as you would other appointments. Let your kids write in the dates -- they might want to decorate the calendar with stickers or colored markers.

Remind everyone a day or two before the first game night. It's important that both adults and children clear their schedules well in advance of family night. A last-minute conflict can be distressing for everyone. After the first evening, you and the kids will eagerly look forward to the next and reminders won't be as crucial.

Before you begin, check that your family's board games are intact. Buy new ones if necessary. Nothing spoils a game night faster than an unplayable game!

### Setting Up

Plan on a simple, easy evening meal. It might be fun to order pizza or cook a favorite pasta dinner as a family night tradition. Eat together and then, once supper is over, clear the table.

Put out several board games and as a group, decide on which one to play. Or let one child choose the game, alternating the privilege as the weeks progress.

Encourage everyone to play, regardless of skill level and age. Healthy competition is lots of fun, and when you're playing board games, easy laughs and harmless teasing are the norm.

### Reap the Rewards

A family game night will be something your kids remember as they grow up. Experts agree that relaxing family get-togethers are extremely beneficial to children as well as to parents.

This is a way to insure a few hours of time with the kids -- and time for them with you. We tend to be so programmed in our daily lives and our children are so committed to outside activities, family time suffers.

Pleasant evenings spent playing Monopoly, Clue, Sorry!, or Yahtzee may be just the ticket to your family's sense of harmony. Plus, everyone will have fun!

<http://www.familytime.com/ShowArticle.aspx?ArticleId=175&CI=17>