

December 2017

## WOODALL GNETS NEWSLETTER

The Woodall GNETS Program \* 1822 Shepherd Drive, Columbus, Georgia 31906 \* 706-748-3166 Office  
A community of lifelong learners, responsible citizens, and champions of success!

### Message from Mrs. L. Thornton - Director

It's hard to believe that it's already December! The time is just flying by.

We are so glad to be in this partnership with you and look forward to a very successful school year.

I would like to also wish you a very happy and peaceful holiday season. It's a wonderful time of year to get together with friends and family to celebrate and be thankful for all of the wonderful people in our lives.

Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. LaChrista Thornton  
Director of Woodall GNETS Program

### Woodall GNETS Mission Statement

To create a climate of co-operation and socio-emotional competence through explicit modeling of behaviors and expectations for students and staff.



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## Notes from the Desk of —

**Dr. Leon Rogers— Forensic / Licensed Clinical Social Worker**



### **Sociopathy, Mental Illness or Bad Behavior?**



“I don’t know what I’ve done wrong,” the parent told me. It was obvious that her son had been her central focus for many years. As a young child, she explained, he had few close friends because he had a reputation for being “mean.” She always hoped he would “grow out of it,” but now he was almost 13, with no diminution in either frequency, duration, or intensity. When I asked her what she meant by “mean,” she said, “I hate to admit it, but he is insensitive.” Across the board, she described her son as “rude and headstrong.” Along the way, he had been evaluated by several psychiatrists. The results were always the same: no indication of any mental illness.

Naturally, she often wondered if she and her husband were “bad” parents, which leads to a fundamental question: if the young boy did not suffer from any demonstrable psychiatric disorder, just what was his problem? My answer may sound heretical, coming from a clinician. After all, the conventional focus is to view misbehavior as psychopathology in need of therapy and medication; there is no such thing as a “bad” person, just someone who is mentally ill. But maybe this young boy was just not a nice person. Traditionally, mental health professionals are trained to see children as mere products of their environment who are intrinsically good until influenced otherwise; where there is chronic bad behavior, there must be mental illness or parental failure. According to Dr. Theodore Shapiro, pediatric psychiatrist, “the era of no bad child—only a bad parent—is gone. The emerging theme is that dysfunction is often found in the child. The family response may exacerbate and prolong it, but not wholly create it.”

When it came to discipline, she was permissive, while her husband was not a strong role model. But while I do not mean to let inept parents off the hook—sadly, there are all too many of them, from detached to merely apathetic—the fact remains that perfectly good parents can produce maladaptive, noxious children. Although the lack of structure and inconsistent discipline may not be enough to cause anyone to become a sociopath, it can trigger sociopathy in someone who is genetically predisposed to it, as sociopath children are particularly sensitive to incentive structures and perceived fairness (i.e., consistency and reciprocity).

In the final analysis, however, bad behavior does not automatically equal ineffective parenting, mental illness, or sociopathy. Regardless of how children are raised, not everyone will turn into a likable, kind person. Regarding personality formation, the commonly accepted notion is that an individual is shaped by nurture and not necessarily pre-decided by nature, and it is not always because of parental failure or an impoverished environment that a “bad” child is created.

**Notes from the Desk of —**  
**Dr. Vytoris Sanford— Instructional Specialist**

**Parent Guide to i-Ready**

**I-Ready is a supplementary, interactive online learning program that helps students build essential skills in reading and mathematics. i-Ready starts with a diagnostic test that identifies the specific skills each student needs to develop and measures academic growth through the school year. It also provides students with personalized online instruction and gives teachers guidance on how they can best support the needs of each and every student.**

**I-Ready encourages students to take ownership of their learning. Students get real-time feedback, see motivating messages, and earn credits after completing lessons that they can use to get rewards, such as games.**

**I-Ready's engaging environment draws students in right away and gets students of all ages excited about learning.**

**Dr. Sanford**



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## Notes from the Desk of —

### Mrs. Chauntell Beal—Behavioral Specialist

Greetings,

Parents I encourage you to question your child about the daily social skills lessons and activities. Students at Woodall have been very successful with working on their social skills using the Skillstreaming Program. This program is teaching our children and adolescents social skills necessary to lead effective and satisfying personal and interpersonal lives. Parents please continue to take time to check over your child point sheets. This is our bridge to connect the gap between home and school.

Each student receive a copy of their point sheet daily to be sent home. In the event, you don't receive a copy from your child please feel free to contact Mrs. Beal. Thank you parents for completing the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) and Behavior Assessment System for Children, Third Edition (BASC™-3). We must continue to work together for our students. Enjoy your holiday break!

*Merry Christmas*



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## Notes from the Desk of —

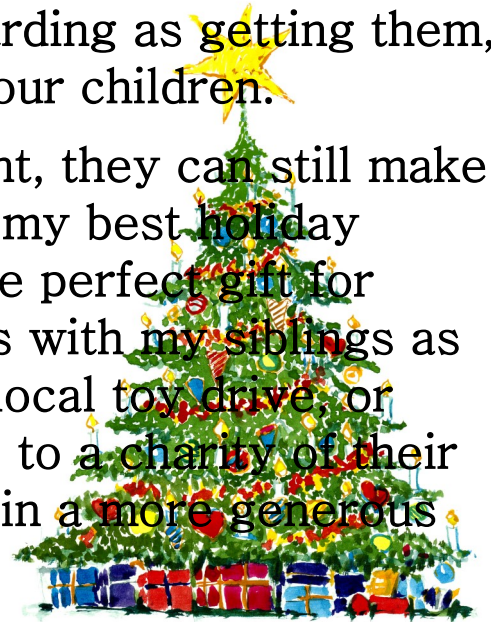
### Mrs. Sommer Lewis— Social Service Tech

We all look forward to holidays , but for children they can also be challenging. Unstructured time, departure from routine, and the demands of travel are unsettling for many kids. And difficulty meeting expectations for good behavior on special occasions can be upsetting for kids and frustrating for parents. Surviving the holiday hustle and bustle is often challenging.

It's easy for children to be smitten with the magic of the holidays. Fun presents. Extra sweets. A vacation from school—there's a lot to like. But with the freedom and excess of the season, sometimes kids can get a little carried away. For most families, there will be a point when the kids get overtired and cranky, or greedy about presents, or would rather play a video game than talk to Grandma. Here are some tips to keep kids happy and ready to enjoy whatever the season brings.

1. Gifts, gifts, gifts: Getting presents is a high point of the holidays for any kid, but they shouldn't be the only focus. As adults we know that giving presents can be just as rewarding as getting them, and we shouldn't wait to teach that lesson to our children.

Even when kids are too young to buy a present, they can still make one, or help you pick out something. Some of my best holiday memories are of helping my father look for the perfect gift for Mom, or combing the mall to look for presents with my siblings as we got older. Volunteering, participating in a local toy drive, or giving each of your kids a little money to give to a charity of their choice are all great ideas for getting children in a more generous mood.



## Notes from the Desk of —

### Mrs. Sommer Lewis— Social Service Tech

**3. Keep routines:** We love the holidays because they give us a break from the everyday, but that can also make them stressful, especially for kids who find routine comforting. Try to keep some things constant. Kids still need snack time, they still need special attention from you, and they still need a chance to unwind before bedtime.

**4. Remember they're kids:** Some holiday traditions depend on kids being on their best behavior: lengthy services, parties with lots of strangers, elaborate meals that may not appeal to picky eaters. Try to keep those to a minimum and customize festivities for your kids' frustration level. Don't schedule more than one demanding event in a day, and make sure to include physical activity and plenty of downtime. Your kids will be grateful — and so will you.

Here is a list of activities in the area that can fill your time with family fun during this holiday season:

**Broadway Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting December 1 @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm** He's making his list and checking twice, he's going to find out who is naughty or nice...Santa Claus is coming to Uptown!

**The Ludy's Christmas Light Spectacular** is over 200,000 Christmas lights dancing in sync to holiday music with 100% of the display handmade by the owner, Jerry Ludy. From Snowman Snowball fights, Striker the Elf, Gus the Cannonball Frog, to this year's new Ski Lift... you don't want to miss this local holiday tradition. Visitors drive over 4+ hours to visit the Light Spectacular. No charge to visit but donations are accepted for the Georgia Make-A-Wish Foundation. Begins at 6pm on Thanksgiving night and runs through New Year's Eve. Sunday thru Thursday, 6pm to 10pm and Fridays & Saturdays, 6pm to 10:30pm. 5784 Ironstone Dr Columbus, GA 31907

**Free Play at Bricks & Minifigs December 21 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm** School's out for Christmas and the party room will be open so bring in the Kids, play for FREE, build to the limits of your imagination!! Children under 5 should be supervised by a parent.



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The Polar Express 3D is returning to the Giant Screen Theater inside the National Infantry Museum every weekend beginning December 9, 2017! Our sensory sensitive showing will be on December 16th at 2pm. Cuddle up in your favorite pajamas and enjoy this family friendly tradition that is sure to put you in the holiday spirit. This year, every child wearing pajamas will receive a free hot chocolate on the museum! The train's conductor will make appearances at many of the screenings to punch exclusive golden tickets prior to the film. December 9: 11:30am, 2pm December 10: 2pm and 5pm December 15: 5pm December 16: 11:30am, 2pm (Sensory) December 17: 2pm and 5pm December 22: 2pm and 5pm December 23: 2pm and 5pm Ticket Pricing: \$10 general admission \$9 student/senior/military \$8 children (4-12) Children under 4 are free.

National Infantry Museum Kid's FREE Winter Film Fest NIM Kids is hosting the 2017 NIM Kids Film Fest (Winter Edition) December 26 through January 6. The films are FREE to the public! Admission is on a first come, first seated basis. Concessions will open prior to the first showing. Specials will be available, including a Snack Pack ( popcorn, fruit snack, and 16 oz. drink) for \$5. MOVIE TIMES: Tuesday, Dec 26: 10:00am: The Wild Life; 2:00pm: Cars 3. (sensory showing). Wednesday, Dec 27: 10:00pm: Cars 3; 2:00pm: The Wild Life. Thursday, Dec 28: 10:00am: The Wild Life; 2:00pm: Cars 3. Saturday, Dec 30: 10:00am: The Wild Life; 2:00pm: Cars 3. Tuesday, Jan 2: 10:00am: Rock Dog; 2:00pm: Despicable Me 3. Wednesday, Jan 3: 10:00am: Despicable Me 3; 2:00pm: Rock Dog. Thursday, Jan 4: 10:00am: Rock Dog; 2:00pm: Despicable Me 3. Saturday, Jan 6: 10:00am: Rock Dog; 2:00pm: Despicable Me 3.

Young Eagles Day: Free Flights for Kids. December 30 @ 8:30 am - 11:30 am EDT WHEN: Last Saturday of each month, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. — Weather permitting! WHERE: "Flightways" at the Columbus Airport. Upon completion of a Young Eagles flight, participants receive a Young Eagles Flight Certificate, Log Book, and authentication code for an internet based Private Pilot ground school, sponsored by Sportys, a \$250 value. Young Eagles can be the first step in the pursuit of aviation as a passion and career.

Happy Holidays



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# Upcoming Events

Winter Break—No School

December 21st – January 3rd



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**\*\*\*\*\*Attention Parents\*\*\*\*\***



**Students will be allowed to purchase snack items from the cafeteria and the items will range in price from .50¢ to \$1.00.**

**\*Please note in order to purchase it will be based on the behavior of the student.**

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**If you have any questions in regards to the GNETS program contact:**

**Ms. Nakeba Rahming—State Director**

**[nrahming@boe.k12.ga.us](mailto:nrahming@boe.k12.ga.us)**

**Or contact your local school district.**



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