

We're All In This Together


By Anita Hagins Jones, Co-President,
East Cobb County Council of PTAs

Budget cuts, new curriculum standards, redrawn school board maps...there is a lot going on for our school communities to adapt to, process and implement this school year. That's why the East Cobb County Council of PTAs (ECCC PTA) has chosen "We're All in This Together" as its 2012-13 theme. ECCC PTA (comprised of the 35 schools in the eastern part of Cobb County) recognizes and reminds all stakeholders that they play a role in the success of our students and our schools. Our leadership team recommits itself to supporting all of our PTAs/PTSAs with the resources needed to assist their families, students, teachers and staffs during these challenging times.

We are urging stakeholders to vote in the November general election. We all should play a role in choosing who will represent us at the local, state and national levels, particularly when public policy that impacts children is being considered. We are continuing to communicate the "why" and "how" behind the implementation of the Common Core/Georgia Performance Standards. Together, we advocate for our children.

Many of you will have the opportunity to join your PTA during the first month of school. We encourage you to make this small investment in your children's education experience; it will pay big dividends all year long! Family engagement begins with membership, but it doesn't have to stop there. Now more than ever, our students will benefit from family involvement – whether it is volunteering for center time in a kindergarten class, chaperoning a middle school band trip or learning about your high schooler's math curriculum. Thirty plus years of research prove that there is a positive and convincing relationship between family involvement and student success, regardless of race/ethnicity, class or parents' level of education. Together, we are a presence in our children's academic journey.

Our PTAs also bring or support other activities in our schools like health fairs, anti-bullying awareness, arts programs, healthy lifestyle choices, and science nights. Together, we offer critical programming and many ways for traditional and non-traditional volunteers to be involved.

So, come together and join thousands of other parents and teachers in East Cobb who choose to make a difference by being involved and engaged in their child's educational journey. The PTA mission is to make every child's potential a reality. Come be a part of this rich tradition. We truly are all in this together, and together...we are powerful. 



Anita Hagins Jones is Co-President of the East Cobb County Council of PTAs. Anita lives in the Chastain Glenn subdivision with her husband, Lennie, and her 14-year-old son, Colin Hagins, a rising freshman at Sprayberry High School.

Local Counselors Offer Refuge from Life's Stress



Bonnie Bassett, Dr. Jeff Pipe, Stace Huff,
Mary Breshears, Jason Peters and Beverly Elliott.

With the lazy days of summer a distant memory, the rush of fall activities and preparation for upcoming holidays can push more than just daily schedules to the breaking point.

"As our calendars fill up and our resources get stretched, we tend to neglect our own emotional and spiritual needs. East Cobb is a wonderful place to live, but it is marked by a driven and success-oriented culture. Pressing to get the best for ourselves and our families, we often allow the busyness to separate us from those very persons for whom we are striving to care," explains Dr. Jeffrey Pipe, President of Tapestry.

Relationships are something that the caring counselors at Tapestry Psychological Associates understand. They are here to walk through the challenges of life with their clients, as well as help them strengthen their marriages and families.

"Everyone has stuff to work through, and I wanted to make Tapestry a place where people could feel safe enough to talk about the important stuff," shares Dr. Pipe, "That's what Tapestry is: a place to work through the hard stuff."

Located on the Marietta Square, the highly trained staff of therapists provide an oasis of care and integrity for those they serve. With individual specialties encompassing a variety of emotional, relational, and behavioral difficulties, they are well-qualified to meet the needs of couples, families and individuals of all ages.

"If you are struggling emotionally, or having family problems, I hope you will get in touch with us," says Dr. Pipe. "It would be an honor to be a part of the tapestry of your life."

Tapestry Psychological Associates is located in Suite 350 of the Brumby Building at 127 Church Street. For more information, visit www.tapestryassociates.com or call 770-425-8275.

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