

## Best Ideas for 2012-13

### Curriculum

“Books for Breakfast” - At Eastvalley, students are encouraged to meet the AR point goal for a 3 month period. If the goal is met, they are invited to a Chick-fil-a breakfast.

“Ella’s Early Bird Reading” - Eastvalley named this program after the school mascot. Parents volunteer to read with at-risk readers before school.

STEM Career Day - Kincaid invited various guest speakers to get students excited about math and science and arranged for the StarLab planetarium to be on site. Students watched the video “The 7 Minutes of Terror” which describes the challenges of landing the Mars Rover. The Wheeler Robotics team and engineers from Lockheed Martin provided demonstrations.

“Writing Workshop Program” - Kincaid offered workshops for students to help improve their technical writing. Three options were offered: “Tell Me How” (K-1), “How Do I Do It?” (2-3) and “Business Challenge” (4-5). For grades 4-5, the students practiced writing business proposals, marketing and scripting. The session culminated with students creating a commercial.

“Number Talks” workshop - Kincaid Elementary offered a Lunch and Learn for parents to learn some of the new math techniques that our teachers are using in the classroom.

“Betsy Duffey Writing Workshops” - Timber Ridge added a new Language Arts Program committee and organized a four day workshop with noted author Betsy Duffey.

“Sweets and Swaps” - Tritt’s Literacy Committee organized a Friday night event for students during which students received milk and cookies, listened to a storyteller, and held a book swap.

“Study Skills Program” - East Side organized a fourth and fifth grade study skills program to better prepare them for middle school. The skills presented included note-taking, study tips, organizational skills, and time management.

### **Community Involvement:**

Supporting Our Troops - At Sope Creek, fifth grade students sent letters and care packages to soldiers as a tie-in to the social studies curriculum. Also, during holiday centers, students rotate through a Charitable Center where they do something for the troops such as creating fleece blankets.

“Spruce up Sprayberry Day” - Sprayberry offered students a way to earn service hours by hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> annual “Spruce up Sprayberry Day”. While a clean-up day at school is not a new concept, Sprayberry allows the students to plan, lead and host the day.

### **Diversity:**

“World Explorers Club” - At Kincaid Elementary, students can participate after school in this club which introduces the geography, languages, customs, food and folktales of a different country each week.

“Multicultural Cooking Class” - Wheeler parents and staff were encouraged to share a dish from their home country in a small class setting. The class was held 4 times during the year and PTSA reimbursed the “cooks” for the cost of their ingredients and provided supplies for tasting. Parents in the non-English speaking community were targeted and translators were provided when needed.

### **Family Engagement:**

“Family Portraits Wall of Love” - Powers Ferry Elementary made the school feel more “homey” by taking pictures of families at Open House and displaying them in the hallway along with teachers’ families.

Family Kickball Game - Murdock Elementary’s RAD Dads helped organize a family kickball game.

Cocoa Café - Murdock hosted Cocoa Cafes for each grade level.

Rock & Roll Welcome - Murdock made morning carpool a little more fun by playing music in the carpool lane after a long school break to welcome students back.

G.B.I. - As a follow-up to Garrison Mill’s successful dad initiative (FBI), this year they encouraged grandparent involvement by creating “Grandparents Being Involved”.

Wildcat Ways- East Cobb created four school-wide expectations for home and school. The Wildcat Ways are: accept responsibility, complete all tasks, model good examples, and follow directions.

Parent Liaison - Dodgen created a “parent liaison” position to help facilitate new families entering the school. The counselor sends contact info to the liaison who then welcomes the family with a phone call and email. The purpose is to provide new families with helpful information such as: school procedures, CRCT dates and preparation, upcoming school events and dress code. The liaison serves as a source for future questions and is a more personal touch than going to the PTSA website.”

Dickerson MS - Large glass display cases in the entrance are now kept up to date and “rotated every four weeks which, like store windows, keep viewers interested and informed. The updated display cases are just another way to invite our students, parents and teachers to become more involved in our school community and enjoy fun bursts of color and creativity.”

### **Health & Wellness:**

“Stay Well Wednesday” - Murdock Elementary offers a weekly segment on the Murdock morning news which teaches students a variety of health and wellness skills, including helmet safety, dental care, etc.

### **Legislative/Advocacy:**

East Cobb Middle posted information on state representatives and Capitol Watch for all meetings.

### **Membership:**

“Welcome Back Picnic” - Held the second week of school at Kincaid Elementary, every PTA member receives a free ice cream treat and new memberships are sold.

“Pajama Day” - The classroom with the highest percentage of PTA memberships earns a Pajama Day at Kincaid.

PTA Membership Tree - To encourage membership, Nicholson Elementary, constructed a membership tree in the front lobby. Each leaf placed on the tree included the last name of the family who joined PTA.

**Special Services:**

“We All Fit Together” - Kincaid Elementary had every student make a puzzle piece that included their name and picture. The pieces were put together to form a mural with the title, “No matter our size, shape, or color, our likes or dislikes, our strengths or weaknesses, we ALL FIT TOGETHER.”

**Youth Services:**

Anti-Bullying Week - Tritt organized a week for students to participate in activities to promote kindness and peer advocacy. The fourth and fifth grade students attended a presentation on cyber-bullying.

Red Ribbon Week “Tombstones” - East Cobb decorated the halls with tombstones of famous people who died from drug abuse or alcohol poisoning. The tombstones included a picture, and a description of their life accomplishments.

Red Ribbon Week - At Walton, Red Ribbon Week was chaired by two juniors. They organized a “Slam Dunk against Drugs” contest, sold lollipops to “Blow off Drugs” and had wristbands. All funds raised during activities this week went to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.