

# Alexander II Math & Science Magnet School

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1156 College Street Macon, GA 31201 School 478-779-2700



## MARCH ATOMIC MADNESS 2017

Greetings Parents,

I hope you had an enjoyable Winter Break, although it felt more like Spring Break. No doubt most of you have heard that I will be taking a new job in the district effective July 1. I will be sad to leave Alex II, but looking forward to doing whatever I can to help our district continue to move forward for the students of Bibb County Schools.

Alexander II is in a great place and no doubt will continue to be a great school with an outstanding staff, parents and students.

Welcome the newest member of the Alexander II family, Ms. Charmaine Scott, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, replacing Ms. Armstrong who left in November. Ms. Scott comes to us with 1 1/2 years teaching experience. Please help me welcome her to our school.

We have listened to one of your requests regarding carpool. You should have noticed by now that exiting the school onto Oglethorpe now has both a left and right turn lanes. Hopefully, that will keep traffic moving and prevent back-ups in the carpool lane.

At the next PTA Meeting on March 14, the Mercer Engineering school of Design will be presenting their final report with suggestions and ideas to improve our arrival and dismissal process. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Best,  
Bertha Caldwell, Principal

<b>3/2</b>	<b>Parent Academy 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at 6:00 PM</b>
<b>3/7</b>	<b>PTA Board Meeting at 7:15 PM</b>
<b>3/15</b>	<b>1/2 Day for Students</b>
<b>3/17</b>	<b>St Patrick's Day</b>
<b>3/20</b>	<b>Spring Begins</b>
<b>3/27-3/31</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>



## Who is the Counselor?

The recent School Counseling Program Review survey sent to parents was enlightening. It indicated that many parents do not know the school counselor or the services that are provided to the students here at Alexander II. So, the question to be answered is, “Who is the counselor and what does she do?”

Many parents, grandparents, guardians and other relatives have met my acquaintance but are not aware that I am the school counselor. One student exquisitely described me as “the short lady with the curly hair.” I greet your child daily with a smile and good morning usually by his or her name. I sometimes sit at the front desk as parents sign their child in or out of school. I am the person you see all over the building and probably wonder what does she do besides walk all over the building, which is a means of observing what is divulging in the lives of our students as well as conversing with them in passing each other. I am the one that your child smiles or waves at when you are shopping. When you ask, “Who is that” the usual response is “she works at my school.”

The focus of a school counselor is to be an advocate for the students; a voice when they cannot speak for themselves. The counselor is the person a student can talk to confidentially and know that it will not be discussed with anyone unless there is imminent danger. The services given are for academic, personal, social and career growth. The career activity sheets in weekly signed papers are a means to advise parents that their children are learning about careers in order to be college or career ready.

The programs that have been coordinated by the counselor are: Hats for Hope, Red Ribbon Week, Veterans Day Program, International Day, Smooth Move for fifth grade students and attendance. The counselor is also involved with Response to Intervention (RTI), students with disabilities (504), PBIS, Gifted and BETA.

Many of my colleagues have a designated time for the counselors to talk with parents and students, however I believe in an open door policy. Unless I am in a classroom delivering core curriculum, I am available to those whom I serve.

I hope this letter gives you a better understanding of the Comprehensive Counseling Program and the services that it renders to you and your child. I look forward to seeing and greeting you in the future.



Sincerely,  
*Sheryl Worthy*  
Professional School Counselor

Parents What Can You Do To Help Your Child Succeed At Alexander II?

**Positive Thinking Tips for Kids!**

Have your kids ever said or done something that caused you to pause for a minute and think, "Wow, that was just like me." As they grow and develop, they are of course their own individual people, but they also absorb parts of your personality and traits as well. One of the biggest parts of personality that is often handed down from parent to child is the ability to roll with the punches of life, and the child's overall outlook on life. Here is one positive thinking tip that may help your child become that positive person:

Step back and pay attention to words that are spoken, not just to your child but also in front of your child. Is your child constantly hearing a string of negatives such as "something cannot be done", or "something is too difficult to do?" Or is your child hearing uplifting statements such as "nothing is impossible," or "a task can be accomplished if enough effort is applied," that "you just need to dust off your knees and try again" and more?

Resources available for Parents and Families:

**Check out this Website:**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Education Place - [www.eduplace.com](http://www.eduplace.com). This website; for Pre-K–6, contains resources for teachers, students, and families to support instruction in the classroom and at home. Here are just a few links on their website: Wacky Web Tales - [www.eduplace.com/tales/](http://www.eduplace.com/tales/) geared to Grades 3+, students can create wacky stories by filling in the blanks and reading their finished story. Kids Place - [www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr05/](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr05/) - Choose your grade level and have some fun.

**March is Reading Month**

Celebrate Family Literacy Year Round with Monthly Activities that Parents and Children Can Do Together!

**March 3- Read Across America Day** celebrates Dr. Seuss. Grab your hat and read *The Cat in the Hat* and other Dr. Seuss books. Whip up a Dr. Seuss menu one night for dinner. Green eggs and ham anyone?

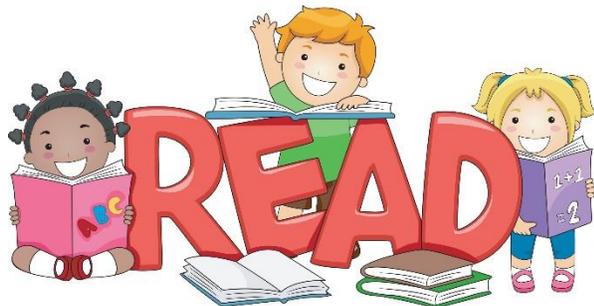
**March 5 - World Read Aloud Day.** If you missed it, still take the time to read aloud with loved ones or new friends. Tally your minutes. Pledge a donation for the number of minutes you read. World Read Aloud motto - "By raising our voices together on this day, we show the world's children that...they have the right to read, to write, and share their words to change the world". Go to [LitWorld.com](http://LitWorld.com) to see how you can get ready for next year.

**March 11- Ezra Jack Keats Birthday.** He was born on this day in 1916. In celebration of Keats' birthday, read *Jennie's Hat* and decorate visors with flowers.

**March 17 – St Patrick’s Day.** Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by reading Irish folk tales. Look for them at your local library. One to read is *Tales from Old Ireland* by Malachy Doyle or *Magic Tree House Fact Tracker #21: Leprechauns and Irish Folklore*.

**March 21- World Poetry Day.** Don't miss out on your chance to celebrate all things poetic with the rest of the planet! Read a favorite poem (maybe Ken Nesbitt) or write one yourself to read to your friends or family.

**March 22 - Randolph Caldecott** was born this day in 1846. Explore the history of the Caldecott Medal. Visit the library and check out a book with a Caldecott Gold Medal Award.



**A District-wide PBIS poster contest for students.**

Students will creatively highlight school-wide expectations, broadcast school spirit and capture the positive climate in Bibb County Schools, **IN PINK!**

In the spirit of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Cherry Blossom Festival, we ask that each poster incorporate the theme, **"The Pinkest Party on Earth!"**

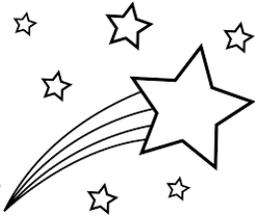


*Alexander II's PBIS Pledge*

*At Alexander II*

*I will be a Star!*

*I will be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible!*



**Spring Break**  
March 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>



**VISION:** Each student demonstrates strength of character and is college or career ready.

**MISSION:** The Bibb County School District will develop a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.

**Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support**

**Character Education March Words**

**COMMITMENT**

The obligation or pledge to carry out some action or to support some policy or person.

<b>March 13</b>	<b>Cheerfulness:</b>	Being in pleasant spirits
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Motivation:</b>	The desire to move towards a goal
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Perseverance:</b>	Working hard without giving up