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JULY 2012

FERGUSON ELEMENTARY

## History of Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation

The Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation, a part of the Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation, is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization dedicated to providing financial resources in order to enrich and enhance the education of Ferguson Elementary students. A board of Trustees consisting of the principal of Ferguson Elementary, members of Mrs. Ferguson's family, a parent of Ferguson Elementary, and community members govern the Foundation.



Dartha B Ferguson

## Principal's Spotlight

**By: Julie Peyton**

I am Julie Peyton and I was named principal of Ferguson Elementary School on January 12, 2012 after Joe Ahrens, former principal, was appointed Area Superintendent. February 10, 2012 was my first official day and was also the day of the Dartha B. Foundation Father Daughter Dance. It was a great start to my year at Ferguson. The fathers and daughters were dressed up and shared a night of fun! The Foundation has added so much to the school as you will read in this article. I am thrilled to be a part of this school family. Sherry Ferguson serves on the board of the foundation and is also a school counselor here at Ferguson Elementary. She is an asset to the school and her leadership is very much appreciated.



## About Mrs. Ferguson

Ferguson Elementary, located at 1755 Centerview Drive, is named in memory of Dartha B. Ferguson. Mrs. Ferguson was a lifelong resident of Gwinnett County, graduating from Norcross High School in 1938. Mrs. Ferguson earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's of Education from The University of Georgia, then went on to a long and distinguished career(33 years) as a teacher and professional school counselor at Norcross High School. Mrs. Ferguson was a mother of two sons and had five grandchildren. She loved gardening and was a member of Norcross United Methodist Church



## Ferguson Elementary “The School of Dreams”



### Information on Foundation Sponsored Events at Ferguson Elementary

The Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation sponsored two school events during the 2011-2012 school year. The first event was a Trick or Treat Night in October. Over 400 students and their family members came to Ferguson Elementary to trick or treat and participate in Halloween games and arts and

crafts.

The second event was a Daddy Daughter dance held in February. Over 200 dads and daughter attended the dance. Daughters were treated to a night of dancing with their dad. Students dressed up in their best dresses and each girl received a commemorative silk

rose at the end of the evening. A wonderful time was had by all who attended and each daughter left the dance with a huge smile on their face.



## Care Team and Teacher Grants

The first of 4 main objectives of the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation for the 2011-2012 school year was to support Ferguson Elementary's Care Team. The purpose of a school's Care Team is to provide assistance to families in need. The Ferguson Elementary Care Team provided assistance to numerous families throughout the school year.

Families of Ferguson Elementary were helped in a variety of ways through out the school year. The Care Team paid utility bills, bought groceries for families, assisted with

rent, and bought clothes and shoes for students.

The second objective of the foundation was a teacher grant program. This was a new program for the 2011-2012 school year. Teachers wrote grants which not only provided positive incentives for students, but also enhanced the learning environment. The foundation filled 5 grant requests during the year. The foundation 1) supported 5th grade celebration; 2) provided money for T-Shirts for the "Mighty Mustangs" (a positive

behavior group for 5th grade students); 3) purchased over \$700.00 worth of books for summer reading programs; 4) sponsored a holiday activity for a school wide positive behavior group; and 5) bought ice cream for students who received 100 % on the end of the year math "Big 20" assessment. The foundation board hopes to expand the teacher grant program for the 2012-2013 school year.

## Library Books

The third objective of the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation was to purchase library books for the school's media center. This was the second year the foundation has focused on purchasing library books for the school media center. For the 2011-2012 school year the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation donated 118 library bound books to Ferguson Elementary. Over the last two

years the foundation has purchased 289 books. Students used these books on a daily basis to enrich their learning in the classroom and to enhance their reading skills. The new books were a huge hit with the Ferguson Elementary students who continually asked "Do we have any news books available for check-out?"



**Scott Ferguson and Sherry Ferguson**  
in front of Dartha B. Ferguson  
Foundation Heritage Cabinet.

## School Supplies and Other Projects.

The fourth objective of the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation was to provide school supplies to students throughout the year. In August, the Foundation raised money and purchased school supplies for students in need. The Foundation partnered with several local business to sponsor a school supply drive in order to stock a school supply closet housed at Ferguson Elementary. During

the school year students and teachers could stop by the school supply closet to stock up on needed school supplies. Glue Sticks, Crayons, Markers, Scissors, 3 ring binders, Pencils, and Pencils cases were popular items. Books bags were another item hugely popular with students. Elementary school students are rough on book bags and always left the school supply closet

with a huge smile on their face after receiving a new book bag.



## Dartha B. Ferguson Elementary

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**Board Members: Sherry Ferguson ,  
Scott Ferguson and Lillian Webb**

Mrs. Ferguson truly loved working with children, and watching her make a difference in the life of every child she taught inspired so many people. The generous support of so many of my Grandmother's former students, the faculty and staff of Ferguson Elementary, community business, and community members have made it possible for the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation to support and enrich the lives of the teachers and students of Ferguson Elementary. Please join the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation, faculty and staff of Ferguson Elementary, and the Ferguson family in continuing Mrs. Ferguson's legacy by your continued support of the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation. With your help we are able to make a difference in the life of a child and together we can make a difference in the lives of each and every student at Ferguson Elementary.

On behalf of the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation Executive Board, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generous support. I look forward to your continued support as we strive to make Ferguson Elementary "The School Of Dreams"

# Support the Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

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in memo line).

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to select the **Dartha B. Ferguson Foundation** under  
**program designation**.