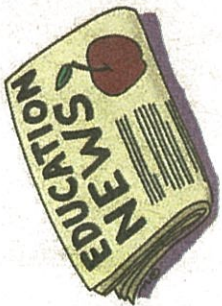


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The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS

Giles named 2016 Strongest Link

BY KAREN GUNNELS
STAFF WRITER
KAREN@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

Tina Giles said she has always wanted her work to speak for her, and it

has. Giles, an employee with the electric department's System Operations Division, was chosen the city's 2016

Strongest Link. This award given to a city employee who has demonstrated excellent performance and productivity, has a positive attitude toward work responsibilities and is an asset to his or her department.

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Griffin Electric Director Dan Thompson presented Tina Giles with the 2016 Strongest Link award at Tuesday's Board of Commissioners meeting. Giles has been with the city for 19 years and works in the electric department's Systems Operations Division.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MILLER/CITY OF GRIFFIN



Free math sessions start tonight, run through late March

BY THOMAS HOEFER
STAFF WRITER
THOMAS@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The University of Georgia Griffin Campus, the Griffin-Spalding County School System and the Math for Adults Foundation are collaborating to once again offer free Math and Parent Partners Sessions (MAPPS) to K-8 families from the local school system.

MAPPS features a total of eight sessions — all of which will take place at the UGA-Griffin's Stuckey Auditorium — that will tackle different

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math-related lessons during each meeting. The first session kicks off today from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"We are very excited," said UGA Mathematics Education Outreach Coordinator Andrea Knapp, adding that math-centered child care is available for children in 3rd grade and lower, while students in fourth grade and higher will join parents in the MAPP sessions.

Knapp pointed out that while today's session has generated about 100 registrations from local families, the average attendance of a MAPP session is right around 75 students and parents. With the program being around for 10 years — the first MAPP session in Griffin was offered in 2006 — participation has consistently increased, she said.

Every MAPP session is primarily geared toward the parents of K-8 students within the Griffin-Spalding County School System, said Knapp, in that it helps parents communicate better with their children about math and "improve the math culture at home."

As parents attend MAPP sessions, they are likely to gain a understanding of math and how to explain and, as a result, be better equipped to help their children with homework — which in return will increase children's confidence and performance in math.

Knapp said that a recent 3-year study — which has been published online in Education Studies in Mathematics but has not yet been released in print — examined the difference that MAPPS can make.

Based on math data and interviews, the study found that the attitude toward and the content knowledge in math improved for those who attended sessions. It also showed that not only did parents gain more confidence in math, but parents' relationships to their children's teachers likewise improved.

"It's putting Griffin, Ga., on the map in terms of math education," said Knapp of the study.

After today's session, the remaining seven sessions are scheduled for Feb. 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon; Feb. 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; March 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; March 11 from 10 a.m. to noon; March 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and March 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration to any session is not required but preferred. Those who would like to register can go to www.mapsfoundation.com or contact Vetrece Jefferson at Atkinson Elementary School at vetrece.jefferson@gscs.org or 404-313-5178. Forms can also be returned to a child's school.

Families are welcome to attend all eight sessions or however many they want. "If they just come to one (session), we're happy to have them there," said Knapp.

GRIFFIN