





# Counsel of Administrators of Special Education

Dr. Zabrina Cannady, Monica Smith, and Tangela Brice presented to a group of special education leaders at the National Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) and the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (GCASE) conferences in November 2023. The conference presentation was titled "Repurposing with Purpose." The presentation highlighted how Houston County School District repurposed facilities and now use them to provide services to students and families. Both the Transition Academy and the Lindsey Student Support Center were highlighted as presenters guided attendees through an interactive brainstorming session to help identify ways to repurpose a closet, empty office, or entire building to meet the needs of the students they serve.



# Houston County School District





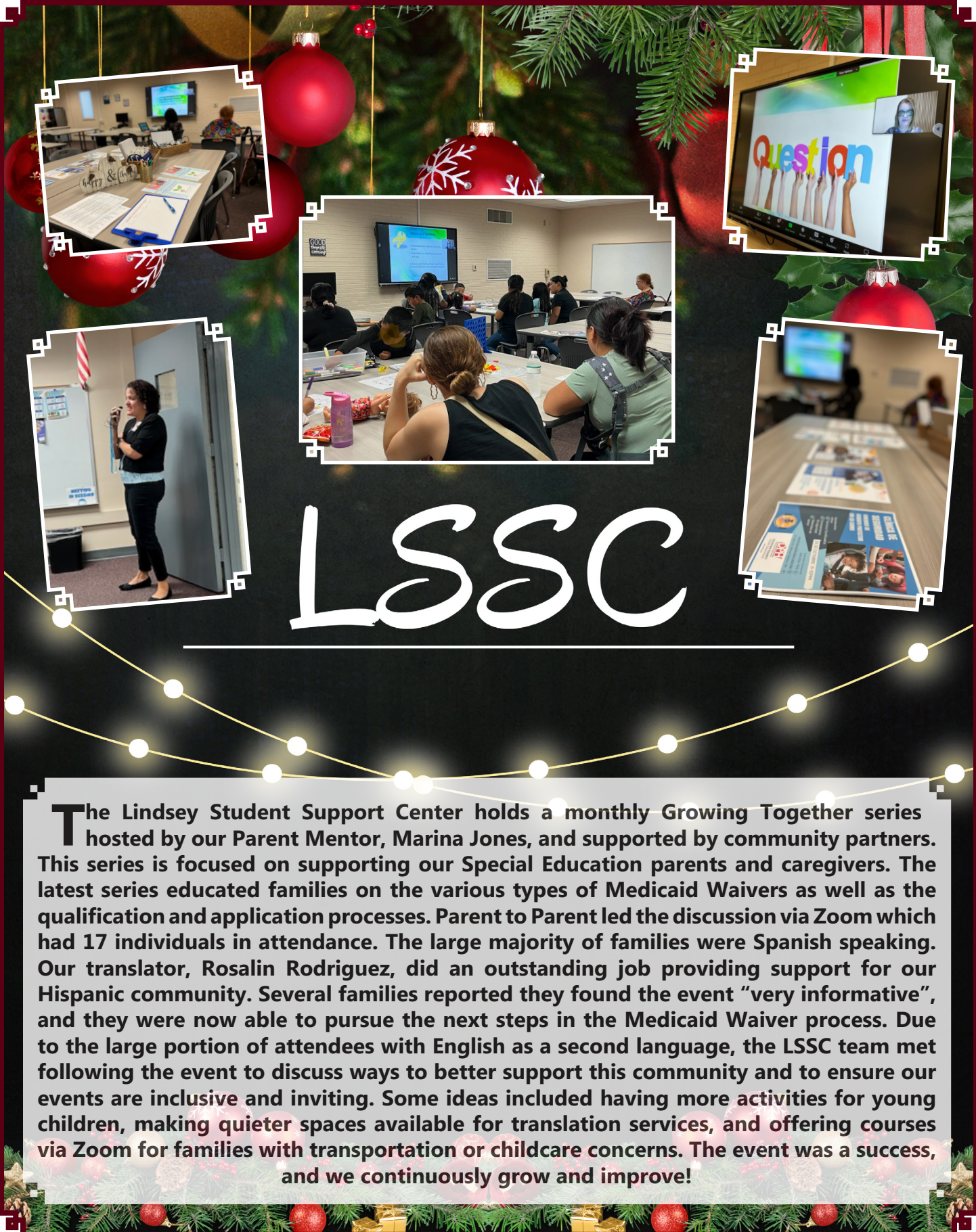
**T**he Lindsey Student Support Center welcomed the Houston County Department of Health for a Child Safety Seat Clinic Drive-Thru. Certified Technicians from DPH met with families in LSSC’s front bus loop to check that safety seats were securely and properly anchored. They also shared informational flyers and resources to assure this important safety precaution was enforced. Four families attended the event, and the DPH technicians were able to help secure older child safety boosters as well as rear-facing safety seats. Programs such as these will continue to be offered at LSSC throughout 2024 and we hope to see the number of participants continuously grow!



**T**he Lindsey Student Support Center was delighted to host a fantastic group of community volunteers on November 11th. A group of 20 adults and children gathered on this cloudy Saturday to care for LSSC’s playground and restock the food pantry. Volunteers picked up trash from the playground, provided much needed canned and dry goods, and donated school supplies. Community partnerships work hard to help grow the LSSC’s impact by volunteering, making donations, and supporting our programs. We are excited to see this community continuously grow!







# LSSC

**T**he Lindsey Student Support Center holds a monthly Growing Together series hosted by our Parent Mentor, Marina Jones, and supported by community partners. This series is focused on supporting our Special Education parents and caregivers. The latest series educated families on the various types of Medicaid Waivers as well as the qualification and application processes. Parent to Parent led the discussion via Zoom which had 17 individuals in attendance. The large majority of families were Spanish speaking. Our translator, Rosalin Rodriguez, did an outstanding job providing support for our Hispanic community. Several families reported they found the event “very informative”, and they were now able to pursue the next steps in the Medicaid Waiver process. Due to the large portion of attendees with English as a second language, the LSSC team met following the event to discuss ways to better support this community and to ensure our events are inclusive and inviting. Some ideas included having more activities for young children, making quieter spaces available for translation services, and offering courses via Zoom for families with transportation or childcare concerns. The event was a success, and we continuously grow and improve!



# Thanks giving



Our team fully believes that supporting students and staff is our main purpose. Removing the distraction of hunger is one of the ways we play a role in our educational system. We remind our team that we are more than a cook or a server. We are a piece of the larger support system that ensures student and staff success.

This year, the GADOE School Nutrition Program Administration has challenged each county to work on building a culinary culture and to embrace new menu items that showcase different culinary techniques and a variety of flavors. Here in Houston County, we take pride in the quality of our meals and the wide selection on our menus. With periodic menu changes, we are able to offer new and exciting seasonal choices while still keeping menu favorites constant. Our next menu cycle debuts in December, and will feature a scratch cooked, loaded potato soup, and some heartier options like a new baked chicken parmesan pasta. We are also rolling out a BBQ glazed roasted chicken and fried shrimp tacos served with a creamy house-made slaw. We are also excited to serve our new winter sides, such as squash casserole, spicy cabbage, sweet potato soufflé, and roasted ranch diced potatoes. We hope these new menu options provide excitement amongst all our schools!



Speaking of delicious food, we hope that you ate lunch with us on Thursday, November 9! We showed each student and staff member how grateful we are to be a part of the Houston County team by celebrating with a Thanksgiving lunch across all of our schools. Our staff takes pride in providing a traditional Thanksgiving meal for our students to ensure each child is able to participate in this tradition. It was a perfect way to prepare for the upcoming Thanksgiving break!





# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight shines on Jennifer Sullivan from Quail Run Elementary School. Mrs. Sullivan grew up in Houston County and is a graduate of the Houston County School District. She loves being able to raise her family in the same district which shaped her into the teacher she is today.

After earning a degree in elementary education and special education from Middle Georgia State University, she earned her Master's degree from Columbus State University in Curriculum and Instruction. She is in her 15th year of teaching with the previous 13 years teaching transition kindergarten at C.B. Watson Primary. Growing up Mrs. Sullivan always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She has always enjoyed working with children and knew it was her calling.

As an elementary teacher, she believes she helps lay the foundation to ensure student success throughout their school and adult life. She works hard to equip her students with the skills, confidence, and determination needed to reach their highest potential. She stated "my reward is when I see the lightbulb go off and their hard work pays off. My favorite thing about working at Quail Run is the people I work with every day! I love our students and the entire Quail Run family!"







# Hello December

"Believe in the magic of the season."

The Teacher of the Month for Thomson Middle School goes to Ashley Moore! She was nominated by colleagues in the school. Ms. Moore builds powerful relationships by recognizing and understanding differences. She stands out as a teacher because she excels in working with multiple ability levels. She also reflects a positive attitude and effort ensuring all students have adequate access to the curriculum. Her positive attitude adds the frosting to the cake. Believing that greatness is a process, Ms. Moore was nominated because she works tirelessly, diligently, and is just awesome!

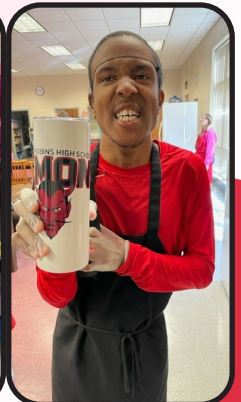
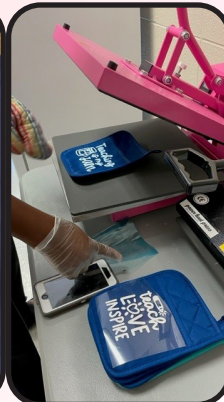






# HELLO December *Nothing is Impossible!*

Students at the Transition Academy are continuously growing their entrepreneurship. Since the beginning of the Transition Academy, students have been known for the delicious casseroles they bake. This year students generated and crafted new business ideas based on their interests. Learning how to design tumbler cups, create t-shirt graphics, laser cut Christmas ornaments, and hot press vinyl to create adorable oven mitts are just a few of the new ideas students generated this year. But there is no need to worry, as the students continue to bake all your favorite casseroles and have even added some new items to the menu. The best is yet to come as students continuously grow at the Transition Academy!





# Pizza Feast



Work Based Learning is an educational approach that uses the workplace to provide students with the skills needed to connect school experiences to real-life work activities and future career opportunities. Stevi B's Pizza Buffet opened their doors to students from the Transition Academy for a work based learning opportunity. Students toured the facility and watched a pizza demonstration. Students had the opportunity to create their own individual pizzas, as well as sample the variety of pizzas offered on the buffet. Two students were interested in employment and were given job applications. A special thank you goes to Crystal for being a great hostess and everyone at Stevi B's Pizza Buffet for creating this experience for our students.







**HOUSTON COUNTY SHARKS**  
 2023 Junior Varsity Wheelchair Handball State Champions!

The Houston County Sharks JV team beat the Muscogee Lions on October 28th to win the GHSA Junior Varsity Wheelchair Handball State Championship. Congratulations, Houston County Sharks!



**HOUSTON COUNTY SHARKS**  
 2023 Varsity Wheelchair Handball State Champions!

Meet our state champs! The Sharks beat the Eagles 14-3 in the AAASP/GHSA Varsity Wheelchair Handball State Championship on November 5th. Congratulations, Houston County Sharks!