



The Firebird Screams

“Ask not for whom the Firebird screams, he screams for you!” - Fred the Firebird

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013

VOLUME #1 NUMBER #3

Welcome to
the
SCREAMER!



I'm back! And I'm bringing you all the news and information that's fit to SCREAM about at Falls Lake Academy! So, read up and become informed!

-Fred the
Firebird

Sad News

We wish we didn't have this news to talk about, but there's really no way to avoid it. Most of you know by now that one of our teachers has gotten in trouble with the law recently and a substitute is currently in her room, carrying on with the work of educating the students. While we don't know any more than everyone else knows – essentially what has been released to the public – we can tell you that the FLA administration and Board of Directors have been on top of the situation from the

very first day we learned of the teacher's arrest. There are policies and procedures in place to guide us in dealing with situations like this, and they were activated immediately to ensure as smooth a transition for the kids as possible. The Board is committed to keeping all FLA students safe, and the administration makes that its number-one priority. Our other highest priority is making sure all students learn as much and as thoroughly as we possibly can,

and we do everything we can toward that end. When difficulties arise – like this one and others not like this one – from time to time, we go into action immediately, making arrangements to keep everyone safe and making sure our classrooms are still engaged in strong teaching and active learning.

In the meantime, join us in celebrating all the GREAT things going on here at FLA! Read on - - - -

T-Shirt / Sweatshirt Order

Originally, we expected to pick up the Firebird apparel order last Friday, but the business that handles our shirts and stuff caught fire and burned two weeks ago! It wasn't a total loss, but it threw them for a loop, and they are just beginning to get back to normal. So our apparel order has been delayed. We hope we can get it in time to distribute shirts, sweatshirts, hats, magnets, etc. at parent conferences next week, but that's not guaranteed. Thank you for your patience while we wait for the shirts to come in!

Afternoon Checkout

Anyone who's been in our office trailer in the late afternoon knows that it's a complete madhouse. So many things, and so many people, come together between 2:00 and 3:00 that it generally takes the whole office staff, including Dr. D and Ms. Maxson, to handle the traffic, phone calls, and people who come in. So beginning immediately, Dr. D has ordered Ms. Ford and Ms. Slaughter not to check students out after 2:30 unless it's an emergency. Any student who needs to be checked out after 2:30 should be able to wait until our pick-up line is gone, usually around 3:15. Parents with unexpected emergencies will have to go to either Dr. D or Ms. Maxson for approval to check-out students between 2:30 and 3:00. Please, please understand that we are not trying to be ornery, we're just seriously concerned for the safety of our students, parents, and visitors in the hectic crush of folks who descend on the office every day around that time. Everything happens in the midst of such a rush and stampede that we're worried a student might fall through the cracks and go unaccounted for. We just can't have that, so we ask that you either check your children out before 2:30 or wait until they are released at 3:00. Thanks for your understanding and patience!

Sports News

Congratulations to the cross-country team, who after an amazing season finally won their first match on October 17th! The match at the Montessori School of Raleigh was our team's final run of the season, but winning the team competition was a magnificent crowning jewel for our young runners. We're so proud of them!

The volleyball team is to be praised, too, for their 3-match winning streak in the last four of their matches of the season. They didn't win the last one, but their improvement throughout the season was remarkable! Good job, Lady Firebirds!



Basketball tryouts will be Tuesday, October 29th and Wednesday, October 30th at Bible Baptist Church in Creedmoor. The girls will have the gym from 3:30 until 4:30 for tryouts and the boys will have the gym from 4:30 until 5:30 for tryouts. REMEMBER: To participate in any FLA sport, please make sure all three of the forms on the FORMS & POLICIES page are completed prior to tryouts. Players can either bring these completed forms to tryouts or email them to Coach Vincent at PatrickVincent@fallslakeacademy.com.

Watch the SCREAMER in the next week or so for information about cheerleader tryouts!

Spirit Week

Next week is Spirit Week at FLA! Monday is class colors day: the grade level with the most students wearing their assigned colors will get an ice cream party! Students are encouraged to wear not only colored shirts, but pants, socks, and accessories, etc. too. Here are the assigned colors:

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|----------|---|
| K Gray | 4 Blue (blue jeans don't count) |
| 1 Purple | 5 Red |
| 2 Orange | 6 Green |
| 3 White | 7 Black (black pants alone don't count) |

Join in the fun! And work hard to win your grade their ice cream party!

Tuesday is "Wacky Tacky" day: mix and match, wear clothes inside out or backwards. The wackier, the better! [Note: 3rd grade is on a field trip that day and is NOT dressing wacky-tacky!]



Wednesday is a chance to wear your Firebird pride! Show off your school colors by wearing your FLA t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, caps, and anything else Firebird! If you don't have FLA apparel, wear anything in the official colors of FLA: orange, black, and gray.

Thursday is Favorite Character Costume day! Halloween costumes or comic book figures, historical men and women or literary heroes and heroines; any character is welcome! Remember: all costumes must be school-appropriate. No scary/bloody costumes, no visible weapons (remember, we have little kids here!).

Lost and Found

According to Ms. Ford, there are more than a million items now accumulated in our new Lost and Found. That's probably an exaggeration, but it is true that Lost and Found is absolutely overflowing with jackets, lunchboxes and thermoses, sweatshirts, etc. If your child has misplaced an item at school, it just might be living in Lost and Found now. We'll have the Lost and Found items available for you to search through when you come for parent conferences on October 31st and November 1st.

Lunch Orders

Last call: Friday October 25 at 9:00pm is the last day to order delivered lunches for the second quarter of the school year. Go to the Firebird website



Fall Festival

FUN! FOOD! GAMES! CRAFTS! HOLIDAY MARKET FEATURING LOCAL VENDOR! SMOKEY THE BEAR and McGRUFF the CRIME DOG! It's party time at the first annual FLA Fall Festival, Saturday November 2nd from 11am-2pm at Three Bears Acres, 711 Beaver Dam Road in Creedmoor! Admission is free for adults, \$10 for kids – tell them you're there for the Falls Lake Academy Fall Festival and we get a partial donation refund from ticket sales! Come join us for the best time to be had in Granville County!



Required School Community Service News

All FLA students are required to complete ten hours of approved school and/or community service each year. The student committee that works on putting together opportunities for students to get this requirement accomplished is the Firebird Flock, sponsored by Ms. Orr and Ms. Lee. The Flock will be meeting on Tuesday November 5th after school in Ms. Lee's room until 4:15 to make cards and blankets for Veteran's Day. These will be delivered to the VA Hospital in Durham the following weekend. All FLA students are invited to join the Firebird Flock for fun and service credit.

The Flock is also sponsoring a canned-food drive beginning Monday November 4th. All students are encouraged to drop off cans of food in the designated boxes just inside the main building. On Tuesday November 26th, students who are looking for service hours credit are invited to stay after school to sort the cans out and get the ready for delivery.

Lunch Duty Volunteers

Parents: if you sign up for lunch duty, please, PLEASE don't leave us hanging! Unlike the traditional public schools, we don't have anybody we can "pull" from their regular duties to handle lunch distribution if you don't show up! Four times in the last two weeks we've had two or more lunch volunteers fail to show up without letting us know they weren't coming. When that happens, we either have to pull teacher assistants out of the classrooms, send the office staff down the hall to handle it (leaving the office and phone uncovered, which really annoys and irritates parents who try to call in or come by to handle their school-related business on their lunch breaks), and/or use who we have and just take twice as long to give lunches out, which causes the students to miss instruction to stand in line and wait. It's a big deal: don't bail on us at lunchtime – we need you!

OK, I guess that's it for this time! This is Fred the Firebird flaming off – SCREAM at you later!!

