



The Firebird Screams

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013

VOLUME #1 NUMBER #6

Welcome to
the **SCREAMER!**

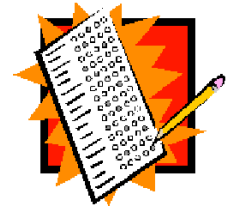


Ho, Ho, Ho!! Or should I say, **SCREAM, SCREAM, SCREAM!!** Fred the Firebird here, friends and neighbors, with all the news that's fit to **SCREAM** about! So take a minute to read and make note, 'cause FLA is the Home of the Happy Holiday Happenings!

-Fred the Firebird

EOG Test Scores

Individual student test score reports for last year's EOG scores will be sent home in sealed envelopes with all students in grades 4, 5, 6, and 7 on Monday of next week. Parents: please check your students' bookbags and make sure you get this report – it's the only copy we'll be sending home!



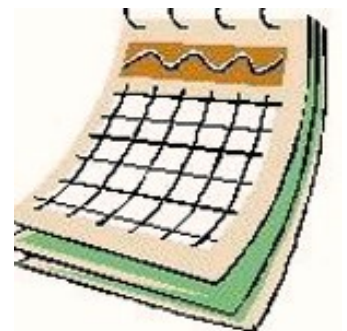
2014-2015 Enrollment Lottery

Applications for next year's lottery will soon be available online. Watch for the application window of opportunity to open the first week in January, as we return from Christmas break, and stay open through the first week of March. The lottery itself is set for Saturday March 22nd. Students who are already attending FLA do **NOT** have to re-apply if they are returning next year, their slots are guaranteed as long as they stay students in good standing. But every student who wants to be in the enrollment lottery for next year's slots **MUST** submit a new application. Please note: last year's applications are no good now, and if you're on the waitlist now, you must re-apply for next year.

The names of brothers and sisters of students who are currently enrolled at FLA will go into a special "sibling lottery" which will be held first. These students get first shot at any slots we have open, at all grade levels, including kindergarten. If there are still slots open after the sibling lottery, those slots will go to all other applicants in the lottery order until all slots are filled.

One big thing: we will be expanding next year to include 8th grade, and we'll also have at least 40 open slots for kindergarten. But we will also be opening up a brand-new third class of 7th graders and a third class of 8th-graders, too. So even if all our current 6th-graders return, we'll still have 20 new slots open for 7th grade. Same thing is true for 8th grade.

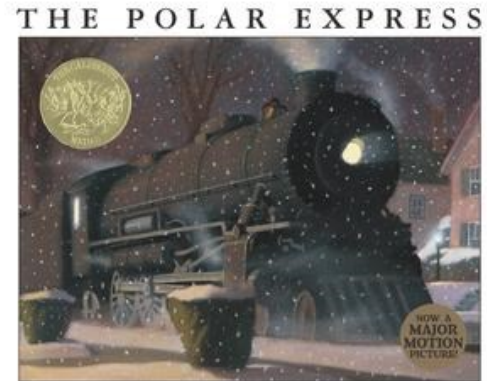
Help us spread the word about our 7th- and 8th-grade expansion and about all the kindergarten slots. There might well be a few slots open in each of the other grades, too, so we encourage everyone who wants a chance at an enrollment slot in any grade to get their applications in before the deadline.



Polar Express Day (And Early Release!)

We will release students next Friday December 20th at 12:00noon. We usually don't do this, but on this one early release day we WILL have lunch from about 11:10-11:40 or so (we usually don't have lunch at all on early release days). If you paid for lunch on Friday December 20th, it will be delivered in time for our early lunch that day. All other students should bring their lunches as usual next Friday. FAST will operate after school until 6:00 as usual.

Next Friday is special for another reason: it's Polar Express Day in grades K-5! Ask your kids for the details. A Good Time Will Be Had By All!



First Annual Christmas Concert

The Falls Lake Academy Music Department is pleased to announce the First Annual FLA Christmas Concert, to be held in the Bible Baptist Church gym on Thursday evening, December 19th. All the elementary classes will sing, the middle school chorus will perform, and both beginner and cadet bands will play. Elementary classes will sing at 6:00pm and Middle School classes will sing/play at 7:30pm. Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this one – we guarantee, A GOOD TIME WILL BE HAD BY ALL!

Christmas Break

School closes Friday December 20th at 12:30 for Christmas break. The office and all classrooms will be closed through Wednesday, January 1st (New Year's Day). The school office will be open on Thursday and Friday January 2nd and 3rd from 8:30-3:00. Regular classes will resume on Monday, January 6th. Enjoy your Christmas break!

First Semester School and Community Service Logs

All FLA students, in all grades, are required to accomplish 10 hours of school and/or community service every year. Completion of 10 hours of school and/or community service every year is a promotion requirement. The end of the first semester is here, so it's time to check hours! **ALL STUDENTS ARE TO TURN IN THEIR SCHOOL and COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS LOGS NOW!** All students **MUST** turn in their logs to their PAAs by next Thursday, December 19th. Logs must be turned in with the students' names on them even if they haven't yet completed any service hours!



3rd Quarter Lunch Schedule

It's that time again – catered lunch orders for 3rd quarter are due by Friday, January 10th. The online ordering window will open next Friday, December 20th, right after school lets out at noon. If you're planning to have lunch delivered one or more days each week between January 22nd and March 27th, you must have your order in by the January 10th.



One big thing: we're changing a couple of our lunch vendors! Details about the new vendors, the days they will deliver, and their menu options will all be available on the FLA website when the 3rd-quarter ordering window opens next Friday, December 20th. [Hint: look for the Golden Arches!] Check it out! If you haven't been ordering lunch so far this year, you might well decide to do so now because of your new lunch choices!

Inclement Weather Information about Closings, etc.

'Tis the season for school to close for snow and ice. Please note our procedures: When Falls Lake Academy opens late, dismisses early, or closes for inclement weather, that information will go out to parents via the following:

FLA website

WRAL TV Channel 5

WTVD TV Channel 11

WRAL.com

Radio Mix 101.5

SchoolConnects direct phone and e-mail to Parent

Winter Weather Volunteer Scrapers and Shovelers Needed!

Winter weather is coming, and we know that sometime this winter we will be in a position to need help clearing snow and/or ice from our walkways, parking lot, and aluminum decking; even from our entrance and exit drives! We are looking for a team of volunteers who will stand by to be called when winter weather makes it unsafe to move around on campus, even when the roads are generally clear and school is open. Regular public schools belong to county and city school systems who send out maintenance people to handle these things; we don't have that, and so we must rely on parent volunteers.



If you don't mind working outside in cold, wintry weather, and if you'd agree to be on our volunteer team call list for clearing snow and ice, please call Ms. Ford at the FLA main desk! We especially need folks who can bring their own snow shovels and heavy-duty parking lot clearing equipment. We really have no idea what we're going to need until we actually need it, so we need a lot of people to stand by. Thanks!

Upcoming FLAP Event

Winter Jubilee Family Fun Night [Chairperson: Kelly Fetterhoff]

When: Friday January 31, 2014, 6:00-9:00pm

Where: Richie Bros. Auctioneers, 800 Business Park Drive, Butner

What: Our Winter Jubilee Family Fun Night held at the Richie Bros. Auctioneers' Butner facility will be a FLAP fundraiser fun night open to all family members of FLA students, surrounding community members, and friends of FLA. The PTA is partnering with the Kiwanis Club in hosting our family bingo games. The PTA is also offering concessions, games, and other activities occurring alongside the family bingo games.

All proceeds from the Winter Jubilee Family Fun Night will go toward funding our current projects, which include the purchase of playground equipment, classroom technology, and music equipment for all grades.

Rain Dismissal Procedure

Reminder: when the weather is bad (rainy, snowy, sleeting, etc.) at 2:45, we will put our Rainy Weather Dismissal Plan into effect:



- All students will line up inside the building but remain inside until they are called out.
- Students will be called out by name and grade as usual, but the pickup line of cars will have to wait until those kids called make it out to be picked up.
- "Park and Walk" kids – those whose parents (or other rides) park in the lot and wait for them to cross the drive and meet them – will be released last (about 3:15), after the cars in the pickup line have moved on and the drive is clear.

These procedures will result in a slower afternoon pickup, but the safety tradeoff is potentially significant. We thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work to keep our kids safe.

Yearbook Sales

FLA's very first Yearbook will go on advance sale starting Monday, January 6th. Advance sales only, no extra copies will be ordered. If you'd like a copy of this school's very first yearbook, send a check for \$15 made out to Falls Lake Academy



PBL Presentations and Student Led Conferences

All FLA students have been working hard throughout this first semester on PBL projects, and they are almost ready to present their latest efforts. At the same time, they've all been working hard to develop their individual Showcase Portfolios. Both will be presented on Thursday, January 16th, 2014. You'll be hearing from your PAA soon about your scheduled time on the 16th to come in to witness your sparklet's PBL presentation, followed immediately by his or her Student-Led Conference using his/her Showcase Portfolio. It's an exciting addition to our PBL way of teaching and learning, and we promise you'll be impressed! Just keep in mind that this is the first time our kids – and our staff – have done this, and they are still learning how to do it right. But we will be following this procedure at the end of every semester from now on, so project presentations will be getting stronger better as we go along, as will Student-Led Conferences.

Parents must be there for semester-end PBL project presentations and Student-Led Conferences, because their feedback is part of each student's grade. Parents who just plain cannot find a way to come are approved to send someone in their place: grandparents, older siblings, other family members or close friends; any adults who can stand in for the parents to observe each student's presentation and participate in Student-Led Conferences are OK.

PAA Calls

Speaking of hearing from your PAA (see PBL and SLC, above), all parents should be hearing from their PAAs sometime next week, before the 20th early dismissal for Christmas break. Thanks for being our partners in your child's learning, and for making yourself available every 15 school days to talk with your child's PAA. This process is critical for your child's continued academic success, and it takes both school and parents to make it work. Keep up the great work!



AIG Committee

Sometime in February, we plan to hold the first meeting of our AIG committee. This committee of teachers, parents, and Board members will be responsible for developing and writing our AIG plan, which we hope to put in place by the beginning of next school year (or shortly thereafter). We need 3-6 parents, preferably of students who have already been identified as AIG, to serve on the committee. If you qualify and are interested, please call or e-mail Dr. D. Thanks!

Lost and Found

Last time we put Lost and Found items out, we ended up donating several big boxes of unclaimed clothes, coats, sweatshirts and sweaters, etc. to charity after no one picked them up during parent conferences. Since then, we've gathered another mountain of Lost and Found items that we plan to donate to charity if they are not claimed before we go home for Christmas break. Lost and Found items will be available for you to go through next week; everything not picked up by noon on Friday will be boxed up and delivered to a local charity Friday afternoon.



1st Nine Week Firebird Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll

3rd grade - Christian Brinkley, Parker Hanson, Kelsea Kim, Brianna Riley

4th grade – Isaiah Brunson, Gavin Cudak, Carynn Davis, Jacob Garry, Jayden Grant, Raafid Khan, Tyler Madison, Carmen Moore, Gaston Nelson, Ja'lea Taylor, Morgan Watkins

5th grade – Wilson Holcombe, Emma Oliver

6th grade – Sydnie Averette, Kyle Graham, Gabrielle Griffin, Steven Kearney, Grace King, Makayla Jarvis, Carson Mendenhall, Jordan Osborne, Nadia Scott, Jenna Smith, Becca Walker, Sara Vaught

7th grade – Lily Averette, Carson Blalock, Madison Blalock, Caden Colvin, Caleb Cudak, Zachary Fisher, Hannah Foster, Alyssa Garry, Alex Hall, Trevor Linberg, Leah Lunsford, Rebecca Middleton, Lauren Montren, Martina O'Briant, Kasey Tanner, Haydn Taylor, Chayse Teague, Colson Teal, Beth Vaught, Will Vaught

"A/B" Honor Roll

3rd grade – Hailey Anderson, Annabelle Arness, Conner Blalock, Morgan Blalock, Alexis Borden, Garrett Carroll, Zach Graham, Ella Holsomback, Nehemiah Hunter, Camille Jarvis, Caroline Johnson, Martin Lee, Zachary McCullough, Peyton Morton, Bryce Spradling, Peyton Tuck, Isis Washington, Allison Winstead

4th grade – Nicholas Bender, Halie Carroll, Blake Downey, Reagan Easter, Declan Foley, Isabella Foley, Jaden Griffin, Kirsten Hill, Morgan Joines, Mason Lee, Jarrod Lyons, Kendrick Moore, Taft Peterson, Joshua Philpott, Daniel Reatherford, Janie Sherron, Elizabeth Stockton, Ashlyn Teague, Nathan Ung

5th grade – Jackson Beck, Connor Blalock, Taylor Boone, Zara Boustani, Sejal Brown, Christian Byrd, Chase Edwards, Chesney Edwards, Madi Fisher, Erin Frazier, Collin Johnson, Kamille Klubert, Jarrett Lashley, Sydney Law, Logan Lloyd, Natalie Marshall, Nathan Middleton, Austin Rutledge, Gracey Sammons, Macey Sammons, Tyson Spradling, Lilly Taylor, Chase Teal, Ethan Wrenn, Sydney Wrenn

6th grade – Dion Carroll, Brandon Carvajal, Cameron Christie, Savannah Jones, Alyssa King, Macy Lowery, Lauren Martin, Malachi McCaden, Emily Morris, Benjamin Shelton, Andrew Watkins

7th grade – Nyambura Braxton, Christy Brogden, Sophia Camacho, Cameron Copley, Christopher Duran, Jace Johnson, Paige Morrison, Georgia Oakley, Colton Powell, Kennedy Sloan, Zoe Tilley, Tim Walker