



The Firebird Screams

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

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VOLUME #2 NUMBER #2

Welcome to the
SCREAMER!



Greetings, Friends and Neighbors! Fred the Firebird here, going through my closet for stuff to wear for SPIRIT WEEK! That's right, Spirit Week is upon us, and it's going to be epic! Monday is Crazy Hair Day, Tuesday is Twin Day, Wednesday we'll all get to go a-rootin' and a-tootin' on Western Day, Thursday is Superheroes and Villains Day (I'm thinking of going as the Human Torch!), and Friday is Show-Your-Firebird-Spirit FIRE-BIRD DAY!! In addition to Spirit Week, a lot of other cool and fun stuff is going on at FLA, so you should come check it out – starting with the High School parent meeting on Tuesday and the Boosterthon Fun Runs on Thursday! Woooo-hoooo!! Let the craziness commence!

FLA-HS Information Meeting

Falls Lake Academy High School opens next year! There is a lot of "buzz" out there about what our high school is going to look like, what courses we are going to offer, what our focus is going to be, whether or not we will offer athletics, and Band, and Chorus, and which foreign languages, etc. etc.

Do you want to hear the straight-up truth about the FLA High School plan? Join Dr. D, Ms. Maxson, members of the FLA staff, and members of the FLA Board of Directors Tuesday evening, September 23rd, at 6:30pm in the FLA gym to get answers to all your questions! We will roll out the FLA High School organizational and educational plan, talk about regular, college prep, and advanced courses of study options, outline the Board's plan for electives and special programs, answer questions about co- and extra-curricular activities, and offer some long-range plan projections. At this meeting, all current FLA 8th graders and their parents will fill out preliminary interest surveys for next year's 9th-grade elective choices, to help us plan for the right staffing options.



This information session is open to the public. People who should come include all current FLA middle school students, parents of current FLA middle school students, students at other middle schools who are interested in FLA High School, and their parents as well. Any other community members who wish to come are also welcome.

In one short year, Falls Lake Academy has proven to be a strong, attractive option for families looking for an alternative to the area's traditional public schools. With the addition of FLA High School's first 9th-grade class next year, we are entering a new and exciting chapter in this school's development. We hope you will join us for this important first step in establishing the new Falls Lake Academy High School!

Boosterthon concludes with Fun Run

The Boosterthon has been going on for almost a week now, and it's time for the sprint to the finish line. We're raising money for athletics and for technology for the school, and we need YOU to get involved before it's too late! Help an FLA student secure some pledges, and come Thursday to the Fun Run for your child's team.



8:30-9:30 - K-4th
9:40-10:40 - 5th-8th

Donations Needed

Recently we've had several requests from parents about what our specific needs are, particularly what they can donate. We've received some very, very nice donations that way, and we are deeply grateful! At the request of the Board of Directors, we are including this list of needed items for your information. If you are interested in donating one or more of these items, please contact Dr. D, Ms. Maxson, or your child's PAA:

- 24-42 Additional (plain) whiteboards for all classrooms, approximate cost \$200 each
- 10 digital projectors, approximate cost \$300 each
- 4 digital document cameras, approximate cost \$600 each
- Classroom computers, various specs and prices depending upon level of technology
- Smartboards for K-2 classrooms and e-beam systems for existing middle school whiteboards, \$800 - \$1800 each depending upon level of technology
- Classroom and hallway cork bulletin boards, wide variety of sizes and prices available
- 60-75 storage room storage racks for 7 storage rooms of various sizes, \$75 -\$180 each, depending upon size and strength
- Interactive TVs for all classrooms, prices TBD

We have just received word that one of our parent couples is donating a seventeen-passenger mini-bus to use as an activity bus! These parents have requested that they remain anonymous, but they know who they are, so we want to shout out a big Firebird **THANK-YOU!!** for this most generous donation – it is greatly appreciated! [Note: the company that is selling this mini-bus currently has three more of them available at an incredibly discounted price; see Dr. D if you're interested in matching this gift with the purchase and donation of a second activity bus!]

Volunteer Maintenance Professionals Needed

Now that we have this brand-new building, we need to keep it maintained! The Board of Directors has authorized Dr. D to put out the word that we would like to build a list of maintenance professionals – plumbers, electricians, builders, landscapers, etc. – who would be willing to donate their time and services on behalf of the routine needs of the building when things come up that require the help of people with the tools and know-how to fix and maintain such a nice facility. If you fall into one of these categories, please contact Dr. D or Ms. Maxson and get your name on the list. Thank you!



Attendance

Just a friendly reminder that student attendance at FLA is a really big deal. Please keep in mind:

- Students arriving to school after 8:00am must report to the office and check in before going to class. Without an approved reason for the late arrival, the student is still counted as tardy, even though he/she signs in. **CLASSES BEGIN AT 8:00; STUDENTS MUST BE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS BY 8:00 OR THEY ARE TARDY.**
- Excessive tardies are disciplinary issues. Students can end up in ISS, suspended out-of-school, or even recommended for expulsion from FLA for excessive tardies.
- Routine or excessive early check-outs from school will be treated the same way as excessive tardies.
- The list of reasons why a student can be absent from school “excused” is included in the Student-Parent Handbook, printed in the front of the FLA agenda planner. All other absences are “unexcused.” Students who reach the end of the year with more than fifteen unexcused absences are not promoted to the next grade, and must repeat their current grade.



Parking Lot and Front Drive

Parents, please be careful! Lately we've had several instances of drivers flying through the campus while students are being either let off or picked up, putting everyone's safety at risk. Please stay in line the whole time. Do not pull around people, this also can cause major safety issues. Some parents have suggested that we need some speed bumps in the front drive, but we are reluctant to take money away from the classroom for that unless we absolutely have to do so; please slow down and be careful, and maybe we can avoid that cost!



New Field Trip Procedures

Now that we have plenty of room out front, with a built-in loading platform from sidewalk to vehicle, we are changing the way we do field trips. Beginning immediately, parents and other field trip drivers are asked to pull up to the front walk the same way you do for afternoon carpool. Park and wait outside; the class or other group going on the field trip will come out to you. **THERE IS NOW NO NEED TO COME INSIDE AND SIGN IN.** Before departure, the staff member serving as trip leader will ask you to meet together briefly to go over the trip details before departure. Then, we ask all vehicles to stay as close together, in classic “caravan” formation, as possible. All other field trip procedures are the same as last year. Thanks for helping us out with this important aspect of our kids' educational experience at FLA!

Parent Advisory Council

The 2014-2015 FLA Parent Advisory Council has been chosen, and will meet for the first time this year on Tuesday September 30th. The PAC exists to keep the lines of communication open between the parents and the school administration. If you have an issue or concern that needs addressing, your PAC grade-level rep is the person to talk to:

Kindergarten	Rochelle Klubert	ladeebugchick@yahoo.com
1 st grade	Suzanne Biegenzahn	suzbiegenzahn@gmail.com
2 nd grade	Karen Decker	deckerkarennc@yahoo.com
3 rd grade	Rebecca Kearns	rbkearns@earthlink.net
4 th grade	Jenny Hanson	jennywhanson@gmail.com
5 th grade	Julie Easter	julie.easter@duke.edu
6 th grade	Wayne Rutledge	wayne.rutledge03@gmail.com
7 th grade	Brandi Ross	bross23@nc.rr.com
8 th grade	Janet Vaught	janetvht@yahoo.com
PTA President	Brandi Chappell	Bran.d.jo76@gmail.com
Flight Crew Pres	Jeff Hedgepeth	air231fan@aol.com

Athletic Boosters

Flight Crew Monthly Dine Outs are held on the first Thursday of each month. Check the Flight Crew website for locations. Flight Crew Officer's Meetings will also be held on the first Thursday of each month at the location of that month's Dine Outs. Regular Flight Crew meetings – for all booster club members and athletes' parents – are held on the second Thursday of each month in the library, 6:00pm.

Picture Day

Don't Forget!
Picture Day will be Thursday, October 2nd.



2nd Quarter Lunch Orders

Thursday October 23rd is the last day of hot lunch delivery for the 1st quarter. The window for ordering 2nd-quarter lunches opens on Saturday October 4th and closes Sunday October 17th. 2nd-quarter hot lunch delivery begins on Monday October 27th and goes through Thursday January 15th. Don't miss the window: when it closes on October 17th, it's closed, and **absolutely no further lunch orders will be accepted past that date!** Lunch choices: bring your own from home or order one or more of the following:

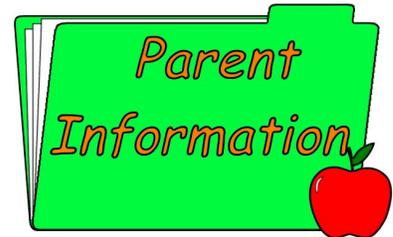


Monday Pizza Mia or McDonald's (both are offered on Mon days, make your choice)
Tuesday American Hero
Wednesday Chick-Fil-A
Thursday McDonald's
Friday Chick-Fil-A or El Rio (both are offered on Fridays, make your choice)

Order lunches online at www.orgsonline.com. Use school code 313FLANC.

Afternoon Checkouts

Just a reminder that students cannot be checked out from the office after 2:30pm, unless prior approval from Dr. D has been given.



Background Checks



Our background checks are good for three years. So if you got one last year for either the Board-approved substitute list or the Board-approved volunteer list, you're still good. No need for another one this year.

That's all for this time. Fred the Firebird signing off, promising to See You Around The Nest!

