



The Firebird Screams

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

DECEMBER 8, 2014

VOLUME #2 NUMBER #4

Welcome to the
SCREAMER!



HELLO FIREBIRD FAMILIES! Fred the Firebird here, **SCREAMING** with excitement about the upcoming Christmas – New Year holidays! I can remember when I was just a wee sparklet: watching with wonder as the Christmas tree caught fire on Christmas Eve, going with my eighty-three brothers and sisters to the Christmas Eve SCREAM-along, and the long holiday break from school when we would TAKE FLIGHT! to visit my grand-birds. What great memories! Here's what's happening at FLA – please read thoroughly, and make special note of the things which specifically impact your own little Firebird sparklets!

Important Message From Dr. D

Dear Firebird Parents:

Part of my job as Principal is to talk with you about the less happy things going on at FLA. Today, I bring three serious issues which affect FLA and demand your attention:

1. We are experiencing a high rate of morning tardiness. With the school year only a little more than a third over, we already have a number of students who are facing assignment to In-School-Suspension (ISS) for habitual lateness even though it's usually not their fault for not getting here in time to start the school day. ISS is the only option we have to address it at this point. The day begins promptly at 8:00am, and students who aren't in their classrooms by that time are guaranteed to miss important instruction that impacts their learning and their grades. We need your help to fix this problem: please take whatever steps you need to take to make sure your kids are here, in their classrooms, on time each day. And for those parents who do such a great job of getting your kids here every day on time, please accept our thanks. Your kids are benefiting from your efforts.
2. We are also experiencing a growing epidemic of student failure to do assigned classwork and homework – not failure in terms of getting it right, but failure to do it in the first place. This is extremely alarming. We do not allow students to choose to fail without doing everything in our power to prevent it, but there's literally nothing we can do when a child just flat refuses to do the work. That, I absolutely guarantee, will result in failure and non-promotion to the next grade at the end of the year. Unlike many schools, our kids *will not be promoted when they fail*; we don't just push them along to make room. Please, please help your kids by insisting that they do their assigned work and turn it in when it is due. Help us get this important message across – it's critical to your kids' academic success.
3. We have a growing number of parents and family members who are on active chemotherapy, which drastically compromises their immune systems. Schools are, have always been, and probably always be hotbeds of shared germs and childhood illnesses which kids often bring home. For those on chemo, however, such germs and illnesses can be deadly. Please do not send your kids to school when they are sick. I know it's difficult on parents who must work, but it's potentially worse on everybody when sick kids are present in the classrooms. Thank you in advance for your help with this issue, too.

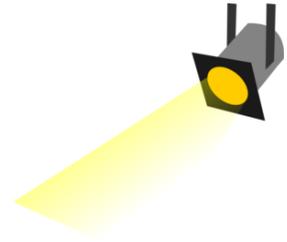
Thank you, Firebird Families, for all you do for us. And thanks particularly for helping us with these three very important issues.

Merry Christmas!

-Dr. D

Firebird in the Spotlight

FLA 8th-grader **Rebecca Middleton** recently made us proud when she won sixth place in the Arts and Photography Competition at the NC State Fair this year. Congratulations, Rebecca!



Ring Those Christmas Bells

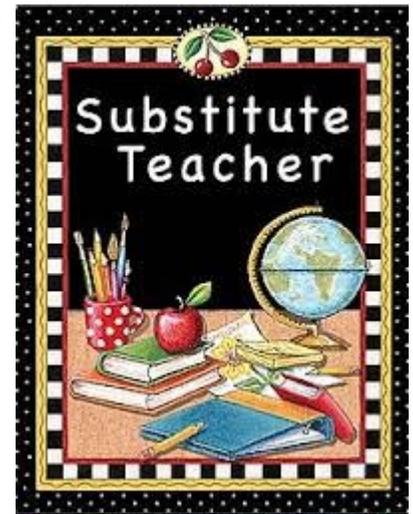
Join us tonight – Monday December 8th – for the middle school Bands and Chorus Christmas concert! We guarantee that you'll be impressed and delighted, and that A Good Time Will Be Had By All! The first tune kicks off at 6:30pm in the FLA gym!

Substitute Teachers Needed

We have a growing need for Board-approved substitute teachers. Recently we've lost several of our reliable subs to full-time employment in other schools, and a few who have moved away. Here's how you can help:

- a) If you are already on the Board-approved volunteer list and would like to make the move to the sub list, please contact Dr. D to let him know. Since you already have a background check on file, making this move will be quick and easy, and we can put you on the list almost immediately.
- b) If you aren't on the volunteer list but would like to be on the sub list, please visit the FLA website ([http:// www.fallslakeacademy.com](http://www.fallslakeacademy.com)), download a Substitute Teacher application, fill it out, and send it in to Dr. D's attention.
- c) If you know responsible adults who would be interested, ask them to do the same as b) above.

Finally, if you are on the sub list – or the volunteer list – and wish for your name to be removed, please contact Dr. D as well.



Santa's Workshop

Last year, the PTA introduced Santa's Workshop, where kids can shop for Christmas gifts for their friends and families in a "store" which only charges the small amounts that kids can afford. It was so successful, and so many parents were delighted with it, that we're bringing it back this year!

Students will have the opportunity to shop for family and friends on one of the following days: Wednesday and Thursday December 10th and 11th 3:30-4:30pm or Friday December 12th 3:30-8:00pm. If we need more time, we'll consider opening Santa's Workshop on Saturday morning December 13th. The store will be set up in FLA classrooms #507-508; please park in the North parking lot (that's the big lot where "park and ride" students are picked up in the afternoons) and enter the 500 wing doors.

The PTA is sending an informational flyer and budget envelope home to give you the chance to help decide which family members your child will shop for and how much to spend on each.

Students need to bring the envelope back to the school along with their money on one of the days above.



There will be volunteer elves available to help students choose the perfect gifts and wrap those gifts for FREE!

There are many items to choose from, with prices running mostly in the \$1 - \$5 range. There will be something for everyone.

Parent volunteers are needed! Please contact Brandi Chappell, PTA President, or call the school to sign up to volunteer. Working Santa's Workshop earns school service hours for parents and family members towards their 15-hour total for this school year.

School and Community Service Opportunity

Falls Lake Academy is proud to be a partner with the USO this year in providing "care packages" for our troops currently serving overseas. Students who gather items to go in these packages (see a list of items provided by your PAA) can earn school and community service hours' credit. Students can also earn school and community service hours' credit for helping to pack the USO care packages here at the school on Saturday, January 31st.

Parents can also earn school service hours' credit for helping with the "packing party" on January 31st. Watch for more information coming right after Christmas break.



Park and Ride

We're still having a problem with a few parents who are trying to use the North parking lot as a second carpool line in the afternoons. Please remember that "park and ride" students are released to walk on their own into the parking lot, so you absolutely cannot sit idling in the lane until your child finds you, and then drive off as other students walk out into the lot! Also, you can't sit in the lane and block other parents who are trying to get into the parking lot and park, which is what all parents of "park and ride" students are supposed to be doing. If we can't get this problem solved, we will be forced to consider closing the park and ride option and requiring everybody to come through the up-front carpool line. Thanks in advance for following the rules, for the safety and convenience of everyone!



Campus Vehicle Safety



IMPORTANT: Please remember that driving on-campus is potentially a very dangerous thing when our little ones, especially, are moving into and out of the building in the morning and afternoons. Thanks for observing the FLA campus speed limit: 5 mph.

Walk-In Check-In

Parents, please remember that you must come into the office yourselves, in person, to check a student in if they arrive at any time after 8:00am. Please don't just pull up front and send the students in alone! Thanks!



Honor Roll - First Nine Weeks

Falls Lake Academy A Honor Roll

3rd Grade A-Honor Roll - Taylor Carroll, Leah Cudak, Anna Holcombe, Matthew Kearns, and Savannah Zink. **4th Grade A-Honor Roll** - Madeline Akers, Hailey Anderson, Morgan Blalock, Samuel Braxton, Garrett Carroll, Zachary Graham, Parker Hanson, Ella Holsomback, NeHemiah Hunter, Camille Jarvis, Kelsea Kim, Shane LaPierre, Martin Lee, Zachary McCullough, Peyton Morton, Alex Newbery, Yamaria Perry, Brianna Riley, Peyton Tuck, Kai Turner and Isis Washington. **5th Grade A-Honor Roll** - Isaiah Brunson, Jacob Garry, Morgan Joines, Raafid Khan, and Taft Peterson. **6th Grade A-Honor Roll** - Taylor Boone, Bailey Haddow, Abigail Holsomeback, Madilyn Fisher, Wilson Holcombe, Collin Johnson, Kamille Klubert, Sydney Law, Natalie Marshall, Nathan Middleton, Emma Oliver, Andrew Rodriquez, Austin Rutledge, Macey Sammons, Lillian Taylor, and Chase Teal. **7th Grade A-Honor Roll** - Grace King, Carson Mendenhall, Kamarion Moore, and Nadia Scott. **8th Grade A-Honor Roll** - Lily Averette, Hadley Blalock, Madison Blalock, Christy Brogden, Caleb Cudak, Joseph Delossantos, Hannah Foster, Alyssa Garry, Leah Lunsford, Rebecca Middleton, Lauren Montren, Colton Powell, Chayse Teague, Colson Teal, Zoe Tilley, and Charisma Washington.

Falls Lake Academy A/B Honor Roll

3rd Grade A/B-Honor Roll - Logan Cooke, Cade Currin, Delaney Erwin, Isaiah Gilreath, Harley Harrison, Emma Haynes, David Hill, Percy Hill, Noah Hunter, Lydia Lewis, Madison Lloyd, Sydney Parrot, Joanna Stockton, Caroline Taylor, Cole Walters, Alexandria Williams, and Isabel Zink. **4th Grade A/B-Honor Roll** - Brianna Bertino, Conner Blalock, Alexis Borden, Christian Brinkley, Leroy Carroll, Kenneth Carvajal, Edie Davis, Jor'im Harrison, Grant Klubert, Dylan Kluttz, Austin May, Leah Moore, Trevor Parker, RJ Powers, Cayleigh Ray, and Camden Ross. **5th Grade A/B-Honor Roll** - Hallie Carroll, Gavin Cudak, Carynn Davis, Chesney Edwards, Declan Foley, Isabella Foley, Jayden Grant, Kirsten Hill, Mason Lee, Jarrod Lyons, Tyler Madison, Teresa Maxson, Cody Milko, Carmen Moore, Kendrick Moore, Gaston Nelson, Ian Norris, Joshua Philpott, Hector Seccia, Janie Sherron, Elizabeth Stockton, Ja'lea Talyor, Ashlyn Teague, Nathan Ung, Morgan Watkins, Hunter West, and Kyla Wislon. **6th Grade A/B-Honor Roll** - Jackson Beck, Alyssa Bertino, Connor Blalock, Zara Boustani, Sejal Bowens, Jacob Collins, Joshua Colvin, Samuel Daughtridge, Tristan Decker, Chase Edwards, Mitchell Ferrell, Tim Jarvis, Logan Lloyd, Makayla Parker, Gracey Sammons, Ethan Wrenn, and Sydney Wrenn. **7th Grade A/B-Honor Roll** - Sydnie Averette, Gabe Bender, Carter Brogden, Brandon Carvajal, Cameron Christie, Brianna Colliot, Nicholas Fitzgerald, Kyle Graham, Mason Gregory, Gabby Griffin, Ja'Kai Harrison, Makayla Jarvis, Savannah Jones, Steven Kearney, Alyssa King, Macy Lowery, Micki Maxson, Malachi McCaden, Jordan Osborne, Chandler Ross, Andrea Salazar, Hope Schultes, Ben Shelton, Cam Sterling, Sara Vaught, Seth Wade, Rebecca Walker, Dustin Walters, Andrew Watkins, and Logan Wilson. **8th Grade A/B-Honor Roll** - Carson Blalock, Brian Burch, Sophia Camacho, Caden Colvin, Ryan Ellington, Zach Fisher, Alex Hall, Katie Haynes, Ashleigh Hedgepeth, Jace Johnson, Flora Lancaster, Trevor Lindberg, William Lyon, Hannah Malugen, Nathan Marshall, Taylor McRae, Paige Morrison, Georgia Oakley, Martina O'Briant, Henry Pahl, Jonah Pahl, Jacob Proctor, Rebecca Roy, Brianna Russell, Kennedy Sloan, Kasey Tanner, Haydn Taylor, Beth Vaught, Will Vaught, and Tim Walker.

Calendar of Events



Attached to this e-mail please find the latest revised FLA Calendar of Events, listing all non-athletic events of interest to our students and parents. Note that some events, dates, times, and places have changed from when the last Calendar of Events went out; other events have been added (listed in **bold print**). Please print this out or store it on your home computer or laptop and keep it handy; you don't want to miss all the great things going on at FLA!

Basketball Games

If you haven't yet attended an FLA home basketball game, you're missing out on one of the most exciting things we have to offer! Check out the game schedule on the Firebird Athletics website (<http://fallslakeacademyathletics.com>) and come join in the fun and excitement as we cheer our Firebirds on to victory!



Student and Parent-Family Volunteer Hours



Remember that the PTA request that all families with kids enrolled in FLA try to put in fifteen hours' service to the school this year. You can enter and track your volunteer hours by following the link on the Parents' tab of the FLA website.

Students, on the other hand, need ten school or community service hours in order to be promoted to the next grade. Keep checking the website for updates on volunteer opportunities for both students and parents.

OKAY, Firebird families, that's all the news from the Firebird's Nest this time.

Please check out the school website (<http://www.fallslakeacademy.com>) for the latest information about Falls Lake Academy.

Till next time, this is Fred the Firebird reminding the whole Firebird flock to not be afraid to spread your wings and TAKE FLIGHT!

