



# The Firebird Screams

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

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Welcome to the  
**SCREAMER!**



Happy summer!! Fred the Firebird here, so excited about the new building and the new school year that I can hardly keep from SCREAMing about it all day long! Have you been by the new building? It's fantastic! It's awesome! It's – it's – it's OURS!! After a year in our temporary mobile campus, will we even know how to act??

And how cool is it that the new school year is almost here?? I can't wait! And I know you can't, either! Well, here's everything you need to know before we see you in a very few days and all the news that's fit to SCREAM about. Read closely, and don't hesitate to call Dr. D, Mrs. Maxson, or Mrs. Carden (she used to be Ms. Ford, but she got married a few weeks ago!) if you have questions before then.

## New Staff

The SCREAMER is proud to be the first to announce the brand-new FLA staff members for 2014-2015:

**Mrs. Tara Wagner** and **Mrs. Randi McMillen** are our new 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, replacing Ms. Spradling and Ms. Orr (Ms. Spradling's husband was transferred to Colorado; Ms. Orr has decided to stay at home for awhile and be "just Mom" to her brand-new baby girl). **Ms. Lisa Mayhew** is our new 6<sup>th</sup>-grade English/ Language Arts and Social Studies teacher, and **Mrs. Ashley Keith** is our new 6<sup>th</sup>-grade Math and Science teacher. **Mrs. Beth Doerfler** is our new Computer InfoTech teacher; she will also be our new staff technology liaison and will be organizing and overseeing our new library program. **Mr. Brett Reif** is our new 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher, and **Mrs. Betsie Forsythe** is joining the staff part-time in our Exceptional Children's department (at the time this is being written, we still have an open full-time EC position that we hope to fill next week).

In new positions this year, **Mrs. Tricia Korneluk** leads off as our new full-time Art teacher. **Mrs. Tracy Hill**, formerly teaching Kindergarten, is "moving up" to replace Ms. Korneluk in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; Ms. Hill is also the newly-named Elementary Team Leader and Lead Teacher.

**Ms. Sarah Bailey**, who was Mrs. Ryan's teacher assistant last year, has been promoted to full-time Kindergarten teacher to replace Ms. Hill. Frequent substitute teacher **Mrs. Crystal Jones** has been hired as Ms. Bailey's teacher assistant. **Ms. Colleen Rappa**, our math resource tutor last spring, has also been promoted to full-time 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, replacing Mr. Alvarez, who will still be with us as a part-time Math and Science resource teacher (at his own request). **Mrs. Stephanie Yarbrough** has been promoted from EC teacher assistant (last year) to full-time Health and PE teacher, and **Mrs. Corrinna Samms**, another frequent substitute teacher, is replacing her as our new EC teacher assistant. Finally, **Mrs. Hayley Carden** (who used to be Ms. Ford) is moving to part-time front office secretary-receptionist (late-morning through the end of the day). During the morning hours, she will be our new Dance instructor.



Positions still open: part-time (morning hours) front office secretary-receptionist, and ISS coordinator. Dr. D and Mrs. Maxson are interviewing candidates for both positions right now, and we hope to have them filled soon.

# Open House / Ribbon-cutting / Intake

The Board of Directors invites all FLA students and parents to join us for our official ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6:00pm on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, in front of the main entrance to the new building. Following the ceremony, we will all go into the new gym (*The Firebird's Nest!*) to kick off this year's Open House.

Our new gym is magnificent, and we want to take good care of it; so please, nothing but clean rubber-soled shoes in the gym! [Hopefully, we will have a floor covering for future events. But for now, we can't allow any shoes in the gym without clean rubber soles]. All students will sit on the gym floor; parents will be seated in the bleachers. [Parents who want to sit on the floor of the gym with their kids are welcome to do so! Sorry, no chairs available yet.]



Following a very short introduction and welcome from the Board and the administration, students and parents will have a chance to meet with their PAAs and other teachers. Teachers will have a wealth of information for students and parents; don't miss this opportunity to meet and talk with them directly, or we can guarantee that you'll start the year off behind, having to play catch-up!

Note: PAAs will be calling all parents sometime in the next 3 weeks to introduce themselves, preview the upcoming school year, and officially invite you to Open House (remember: as agreed in your Enrollment Contract, attendance at Open House is mandatory for all students and one or both parents). **If you haven't heard from your PAA by Monday August 11<sup>th</sup>, please call Dr. D.**

If you ordered new Firebird apparel (t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, sweatpants, parent polo shirts, caps, vehicle magnets, etc.), they will be ready for pick-up at Open House.

We can't wait to see you on August 14<sup>th</sup>!



# PTA

The FLA PTA will meet on Monday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall of Creedmoor United Methodist Church. The PTA is gearing up for the new school year, and they will be very busy as the new year kicks off. First priority: pulling together the materials and volunteers needed for Open House on August 14<sup>th</sup>! If you need volunteer service hours, or if you are interested in helping in any areas or committees, THE PTA NEEDS YOU!! Some of the ways you can help support FLA through involvement in the PTA (note: PTA membership **not required** to sign up to help in these and other support efforts):



- Landscape maintenance: we need people to mow and maintain the lawns and the beautifully landscaped new grounds.
- Ice and snow: when we get winter weather, we need a team of parents who are willing to be on standby to come and clear the parking lots and walkways.
- Lunch distribution: we need **at least** two parents **every single day**, when hot vendor-supplied lunches are delivered, to help distribute those lunches. COORDINATOR NEEDED!!
- Drop-off and pick-up lines: we need several parents each morning on the drop-off line and each afternoon on the pick-up line. COORDINATOR NEEDED!!

And of course, help is always appreciated in the various fundraisers mounted by the PTA throughout the year in support of FLA programs and projects. Come to the PTA meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> to find out how you can best use your talents and interests in support of the school and our kids!

## Books N' Stuff

New to FLA this year: Mrs. Doerfler, our new computer InfoTech teacher / librarian, is heading up the development of the first-ever FLA Battle of the Books teams! Watch for more information here in the *SCREAMer* and on the website!

On a related note, we will be accepting donations of new and gently used books for our new FLA library once school gets started. If you'd like to donate, please check out the guidelines for acceptable books which will be posted on the FLA website in a few weeks.

Hint: pretty much anything published by Scholastic is acceptable, as are most other elementary-level books published by a legitimate children's book publisher, or the children's division of any legitimate, reputable publisher.



Middle school books are a little trickier, because there are so very many "young adult" books out there that a lot of middle school students read. Here's where it is vital that you check out the Acceptable Donations guidelines – watch for them to be posted on the FLA website soon! And thank you for supporting Falls Lake Academy in this program!

# Parent Advisory Council

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meets with Dr. D once each month (or more, if necessary) to talk about the issues and concerns of FLA parents and to help keep communications flowing between them and the school administration. Each grade level (K-8) is represented by one elected representative, who must be the parent of a student in that grade. In addition, the president of the PTA and the president of the FLA Flight Crew, our athletics booster club, are automatically members of the PAC.

If you are interested in serving on the PAC this year as a grade-level representative, please call or e-mail Dr. D no later than Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. The names of all parents who respond will be placed on a ballot; all parents who attend Open House on Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup> will have the opportunity to vote for their grade-level reps that night. First meeting of this year's PAC will be Thursday September 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, in the administrative conference room. At that meeting, the PAC will set its regular meeting calendar for the year. We encourage you to have your name placed on the ballot if you can squeeze out one evening a month or so to help us keep our communications flowing smoothly!

## Middle School Athletics

The start of the school year means Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Soccer, and co-ed Cross Country. All three teams will be holding open tryouts for students in grades 6-8 starting on the same day as Open House: Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup>. See the Firebird Athletics website for details. You can access the athletics website directly or you can go to [www.fallslakeacademy.com](http://www.fallslakeacademy.com) and click on the "Students" tab, then select "Athletics." If all the information you need is not posted when you receive this SCREAMer, give it a few days to catch up – the athletics website is now being updated and revised with current information and may not be quite ready yet. But it will be ready soon!



## High School Plan



The FLA Board of Directors has approved the operational and educational plan for Falls Lake Academy High School, which will open its doors with its first entering freshman class in August, 2015. The Plan is both ambitious and rigorous, with a seriously strong emphasis on college preparation. The Plan is posted on the FLA website; we encourage all parents, especially parents of current middle school students, to check it out and read it very thoroughly. On Thursday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, we invite all interested students and parents – especially 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students and their parents – to meet at 6:30pm to go over the expectations for FLA High School in detail. In the meantime, read the Plan and start developing the questions you may want to ask at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting!



# Lunches

The lunch system for this year is basically the same as last year, but we have expanded our vendor selections for those of you who want to order hot lunches online. Please note that the parents of all students are responsible for providing lunch for their kids every day; FLA has no cafeteria and does not participate in the federal School Lunch program. Parents have two options for providing lunch: **1)** pack and send them from home, or **2)** order them online once each quarter, pre-paid, and they will be delivered to the school at lunchtime each day.

This year's vendor-provided hot lunch options:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | Pizza Mia or McDonald's (both are offered on Monday 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)       |



The window for online lunch ordering for the first quarter will open on Monday July 28<sup>th</sup> and will close on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup>. Lunches ordered during this time will start delivery on Monday August 25<sup>th</sup> and end on Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>. **Please note that all students must bring their own packed lunches from home for the first week of school, August 18<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>, until vendor lunches begin delivery on August 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Order lunches online at [www.orgsonline.com](http://www.orgsonline.com). Use school code **313FLANC**.

Final bit of lunch news: this year we will be selling bottled water, fruit juice, Hi-C or similar drinks, and Gatorade G2 at the concession stand during lunchtime. In addition, there will be a Gatorade machine outside the gym open for student use throughout the day. As per your requests, we will **not** be selling soft drinks to kids during the school day, but they may be available for sale from the concession stand after school. Students are still encouraged to bring their own bottled drinks for their own use at snack times and during lunch each day, but these items mentioned here for sale will be available for those who choose to purchase them.

# Director of Development

The FLA Board of Directors is looking to appoint someone to the volunteer position of Director of Development. This person will be responsible for coordinating information, correspondence, and solicitation of donations, both monetary and otherwise, for use by the school and its various classes and programs. If you are interested in this job, please send a letter outlining your background, experience, and expertise with similar pursuits to the FLA Board of Directors. You can either mail it or e-mail it to Dr. D; he will see to it that it gets to the Board. Thank you!

*OK friends and neighbors, that's it for this special summer edition of The Firebird SCREAMS!" Fred the Firebird signing off for now! I can't wait to see you on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm for the ceremonial ribbon-cutting, followed by Open House!*

EXCELSIOR!!

