



# 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!

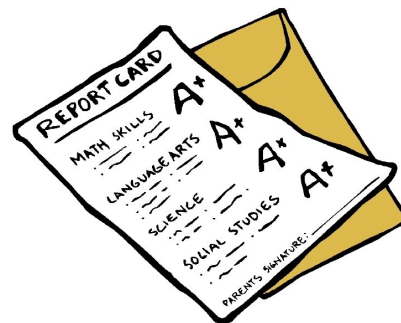


*Howdy, Fellow Firebirds! Fred the Firebird here, just burnin' up with excitement over all the big goings-on around Falls Lake Academy, the Home of the Mighty Firebirds, for the late fall / early winter season! I just can't wait to tell you all about it, so read through and check it out!*

## Check your child's bookbag this Wed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS: We are sending home **three very important things** this Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, with **all students**:

a) 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report card: sign on the back, on the "1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Parent Signature" line, and return. Once your PAA receives the signed copy, you'll get a digital copy by e-mail.



b) New Firebird Apparel Order Form: the new form gives you four style options to choose from (see "Christmas Apparel Orders," below). This time we are asking you to fill out the order form with the quantity, item description, color, style, size, unit price, and total price. Attach a check made out to "FLA" for the total order and send it back in **absolutely no later than Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup>**. No orders will be taken after that. This is the last time to order Firebird apparel this year until late spring!

c.) Sample "Attractions Dining and Value Guide" coupon book and order form: the PTA coupon book sale begins as soon as you get your sample book and order envelope. These orders are also due **absolutely no later than Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup>**. The sample book is a Wake County book, but you can order Durham books on the order envelope as well. Take it to work, call your friends, and let everybody know that you are taking orders. These items sell themselves! If you sell 5, you will get the 6th free! **[NOTE: all sample books must be turned back in by November 12<sup>th</sup> whether you participate in the sale or not!]**

## Christmas Apparel Orders



Planning on giving (or getting!) new FLA Firebird t-shirts or sweatshirts for Christmas this year? For the first time since we opened, we are offering three BRAND-NEW shirt designs for the 2014 Christmas order! New designs #79, #90, and #101 are available for t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies; check 'em out! All order forms – complete with the full order price – must be in the FLA office **absolutely no later than Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup>**, or the order won't be back in time for Christmas break! Make checks payable to FLA.

## Monster Mash

Middle School Halloween Dance this Thursday evening, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30: grades 5-8 only. Admission \$5.00 – tickets now on sale. Tickets will also be available at the door. Pizza concessions will be sold at the dance: pizza for \$2.00 per slice, soft drinks for \$1.00. Take a chance on bobbing for apples for \$1.00 or participate in the cake walk, also \$1.00! **COSTUME CONTEST!** LEARN TO DO THRILLER! Only FLA middle schoolers and their pre-approved guests are invited – see Mrs. Carden for tickets and Outside Guest forms!



## Halloween Costumes



And speaking of Halloween, YES, students are allowed to wear costumes to school on Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>. All costumes must be within the restrictions of the FLA dress code, with one exception: plastic or other “costume” weapons that go with the outfit (like Darth Vader’s lightsaber, or a cowboy’s toy six-guns, or a pirate’s plastic sword or dagger) **are permitted**. And a note to middle school costume-wearers: no overt blood and gore, remember that we have little ones here! Also, keep it tasteful; don’t push the limits on revealing or otherwise eye-brow-raising costume choices.

## Junior Beta Club Trunk or Treat

The FLA chapter of the National Junior Beta Club cordially invites you and yours to the first annual FLA Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween night, October 31<sup>st</sup>! The school’s parking lots will be transformed into a safe trick-or-treating environment for kids of all ages from 6:00-9:00. There will be water and cupcakes available for purchase, and, of course, LOTS of candy. So put on your costume, bring your friends, family, and neighbors, and come join us for this fun family festivity!

The Junior Beta Club is also selling cookies during lunch. The cost is \$1.00 for two cookies in a pack. Choose from chocolate chip, peanut butter, oatmeal raisin, or chocolate chip brownie.

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Ask a Junior Beta Club member about our Thirty-One sale. The sale runs through next Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup>!



## Cybersecurity Seminar for Parents Only

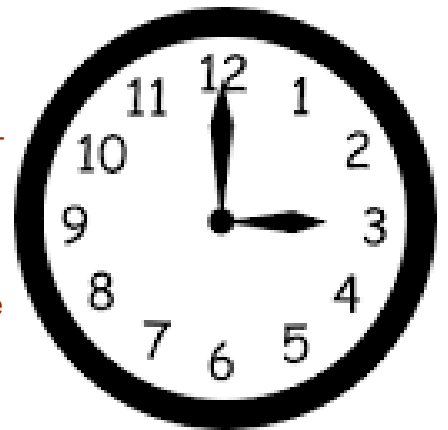
Do you know who your child is talking to, on the internet or through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or any of the other dozen or so social media outlets available to them through their laptops, smartphones, iPads, or home computers? Are you absolutely positive that they're safe? These are very serious topics of concern to all parents these days, and you should be concerned enough to check. But where to start? How do you wade through all those confusing websites and other information outlets to find out what you need to know?



Falls Lake Academy is concerned about this, too – for our students, for you, their parents, and for the entire community. We invite you to join us on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the library (or the gym if we have an overflow crowd) as we present “Cybersecurity Seminar for Parents Only.” Note: NO STUDENTS ALLOWED; some of this information is very sensitive and could be disturbing for younger kids. This seminar is being presented for FLA parents, but parents of non-FLA students are welcome.

## Late Afternoon Checkouts and Messages

Parents, we need your help: please don't call the school after 2:00pm and leave instructions for us to deliver a message to your child about where they should go after school (Park and Ride, regular carpool, go to FAST after-school, ride home with someone the child doesn't usually ride with, etc.). We realize that folks sometimes have emergencies or unexpected changes in plans, but keep in mind that the last hour of the day prior to student dismissal (2:00-3:00pm) is the most hectic time of day in the FLA office. When these last-minute messages come pouring in, we are getting swamped with too many kids to locate and talk to in too little time. Whenever possible, please call us before lunch, or right after lunch if necessary, but not the last hour of the school day. We simply cannot handle the volume of message and walk-in traffic that typically hits us during that last hour.



On a related note, please be reminded that students who are to be checked out after 2:30pm require approval by Dr. D or Ms. Maxson. Checking students out five or ten minutes early in order to avoid waiting in the carpool line is not an option.

## Restroom Furniture Needed

We are in need of some simple furniture items for our staff / visitor restrooms. Specifically, we need five or six of those small free-standing cabinet units that look suspiciously like bedside nightstands. This will allow us to put things like liquid soap dispensers and tissue boxes on top and spare toilet paper rolls, personal hygiene items, and other supplies in the drawers and cabinets in each of our adult restrooms around the building. If you have one or two of these furniture pieces that are in good shape and no longer in use, we'd be grateful if you'd bring them in. Many thanks!



## Morning Drop Off

Parents, please do not use the park and walk lot in the morning as a carpool drop off line. If you pull into side parking lot, please park. We are receiving too many reports of students nearly being hit by cars, because they are being dropped off in the middle of the parking lot.

Also, a reminder that students cannot be dropped off before 7:30am. Staff members will not be on duty to supervise students until 7:30am.

Finally, please drive slowly and carefully in both the parking lots and the carpool line. We love our students and want to keep them safe!



## Library Volunteers Needed



Let's get our library ready for student use! We need lots of parent volunteers to set up our library ready for student checkouts. This includes sorting books by age and category, adding books to our card catalog system, and processing the books by stamping and sticker-ing them! We're having a library party on Tuesday, November 4, 2014! Please feel free to sign up for multiple time slots: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F48A9A62CA4F49-library/](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F48A9A62CA4F49-library/)



## Lost and Found



We've been in school now for about 45 days, and we have accumulated enough lost and found clothing to dress a small country! If your child has lost or misplaced something this school year, please visit the FLA Lost and Found collection in the PTA office. Be advised: everything that is not claimed by Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> will be boxed up and donated to a local charity! Once that happens, it's too late to come looking for it!

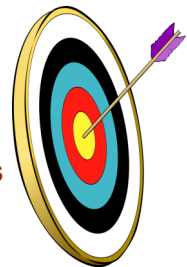
## The Sound of Music

Congratulations to the middle school Bands and Chorus on a magnificent Fall Concert last Thursday evening! And thank you to all parents, family, and friends who came out to support these kids in their amazing performances! Mark your calendar now for the K-2 Concert on November 20<sup>th</sup> and the December 8<sup>th</sup> Band and Chorus Christmas Concert!



## Archery Club

The FLA Archery Club is up and running, and is rapidly becoming one of the most popular student organizations at FLA! Parents, please note that all archery equipment is to be brought to Mrs. Wagner's classroom (#301) on meeting days as soon as club members arrive at school for safe storage, then both clubs meet first in Mrs. Wagner's room after school before going out to shoot.



4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Archery Club meets on December 4<sup>th</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup>, and January 15<sup>th</sup>.  
6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Archery Club meets on October 30<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>, December 11<sup>th</sup>, and January 8<sup>th</sup>.

In order to help purchase archery equipment for the club, the Archery Club is selling Trail Mix for \$6.00 per bag. All Archery Club Members have order forms.

## STUDENT and PARENT-FAMILY VOLUNTEER HOURS

Remember that the PTA has put out a request for 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. Starting next week, you'll be able to see how many hours each student has accumulated on every quarterly report card. Contact your child's PAA for details about service hours.

Keep checking the website for updates on volunteer opportunities. Recently, we had a great turn-out for the card making dates for the Veterans on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>; thanks to everyone who participated!

There has also recently been a food bank volunteer opportunity posted on the website, along with contact information for those interested.



## 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!

## Photos Needed



If you have any digital photos of Firebirds in action – PBL presentations, Band and Chorus concerts, sports events, classroom kids at work, teachers teaching, Dr. D working in his office, anything! – WE NEED THEM! We are trying to gather a photographic record of life here at FLA for our website and Yearbook. Close-ups of individual kids or teachers, or close shots of small groups of three or four kids doing something amazing are best. Long-range shots of sports teams during games or matches are hard to use, but close shots of team members putting on their shoes, concentrating while listening to their coaches, etc. are good. Send them in to Dr. D, Ms. Wallace, Ms. Doerfler, Ms. Bailey, or Ms. Ryan. Thanks!



## Attendance Notes

Reminder to all parents: please send us a note whenever your child returns from an absence! We need parents' notes even when you called or e-mailed to let us know that they were going to be absent in advance, because those notes when they return are what we file in the Attendance folder for accountability purposes.

And another reminder: when checking in after 8:00am, just putting "doctor's appointment" on the computer check-in is **NOT** the same thing as a legal parent's note. Without the note, even when the computer check-in reads "doctor's appointment," the absence is still unexcused.

## PTA Marketplace



Are you one of those folks who loves to check out flea markets and craft shows? Have we got a treat for you! The FLA PTA presents PTA MARKETPLACE this Saturday, November 1, from 3:00-6:00pm in the FLA gym! The vendors in this event are all authentic FLA parents and relatives who own their own businesses and/or who market their products directly to the consumers. The gym will be set up with booths and tables where they can show you their "stuff!" Come support your fellow Firebird parents; A Good Time Will Be Had By All, guaranteed!

***OKAY, Firebird families, that's all the news from the Firebird's Nest this time. Don't forget to check your child's bookbag on Wednesday for three very important things, and send back your child's signed report card, your Firebird apparel order form (with a check for the total order), and your "Attractions" coupon book order form by November 12<sup>th</sup>.***

***Oh, and don't forget to check the Firebird Flight Crew website (<http://www.fallslakeacademyathletics.com>) for information about the Firebird middle school athletics program, including practice and game schedules!***



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