



# The Firebird Screams

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

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WAH – HOOOO!! Fred the Firebird here, SCREAM ing in anticipation of the opening of Falls Lake Academy's third fantastic year! The school administration is scrambling to get everything in place for the new year, the fall sports teams are already practicing, the teachers come in next week, and the kids return on the 17<sup>th</sup>! How exciting!

Read through the information in this edition of *The Firebird SCREAMS* (affectionately known as *The SCREAMER*, for those of you who are new to FLA) thoroughly; there's a lot of stuff in here you need to know. And then step up to the starting line, because when the trigger is pulled, you and your Firebird sparklet are going to SCREAM with excitement as you jump into the new year!

## Open House/Intake

Required of all students with one or both parents

**MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 6-9:** Thursday August 13<sup>th</sup>, come at either 5:00 or 7:00pm (your choice).

**ELEMENTARY GRADES K-5:** Friday August 14<sup>th</sup>, come at either 5:00 or 7:00pm (your choice).

There are a bunch of forms you will need to sign at Intake during Open House, so please bring your signing pen!

Note: some of these forms legally require parents or legal guardians to sign only, no grandparents or other family members. So all students' parents – one or both – need to be here for Open House / Intake!

## High School Laptops

FLA is proud to announce that every 9<sup>th</sup>-grader will be issued a Firebird Laptop computer this year! These laptops remain the property of the school, but will be checked out to 9<sup>th</sup>-graders at Open House. A few rules you need to know:



1. **Only** parents or legal guardians may check the laptop out and sign for its use.
2. Parents are required to buy insurance on the laptop before it will be checked out. Bring a check with you for **\$28**, the amount of the yearly insurance policy. Make checks payable to Falls Lake Academy.
3. We will only issue laptops to students who bring their own laptop computer bags with them to Open House, for the protection of the computer. No bag, no laptop!

## Firebird Volunteer Workday

Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am – 12:00noon. We have many different jobs around the building waiting for volunteers to handle! The PTA is serving hotdogs for lunch at noon. Come join the fun, and bring your hand tools and lawn tools!

# Lunch Ordering



**Time to EAT!** First quarter lunch ordering window opens **Thursday August 13<sup>th</sup>** and closes **Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>**! Go to [www.orgsonline.com](http://www.orgsonline.com) and enter code **313FLANC** to order and pay for first quarter lunches to be delivered at school. There are several new options this year, so check it out!

Lunch deliveries do not begin until Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Bring your own lunch from home for the first six days of school!

Remember that we have juice, water, and other non-soft-drink beverages for sale in the concession stand during lunch, but not during the rest of the day! So if your Firebird sparklet needs a drink during snack time, or at any other time during the day, you need to send that from home!

Due to some new health inspection rules and requirements, we will **not** be able to save lunch for absent students this year; we apologize for any problems this may cause, but it's pretty much out of our hands.

A note from Sharron Stangle, Lunch Coordinator: Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity. We are looking forward to having a great year! If you have questions or concerns, we will be available at Open House, so stop by and check us out!

## Parent Advisory Council

The PAC is the parent representative group which meets with the school administration every month to discuss school issues and keep the lines of communication open between the school and the parents. The PAC has been instrumental in implementing many of the initiatives which make us unique here at FLA. Each grade level K-9 elects one parent representative to serve on the PAC. If you're interested in allowing your name to be placed on the ballot for your child's grade level, please e-mail Dr. D **as soon as possible** before Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Printed ballots must be made up and copied for all Intake packets to be distributed at Open House. Parents will vote on their choices of PAC reps at Open House and turn in the ballots that night. The PAC meets every fourth Thursday at 6:30 in the FLA library. Please consider "running for election" to the PAC!

## Firebird Apparel Orders (And Big Sale!)

It's that time of year again! At Open House, you'll be able to order brand-new Firebird t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, sweatpants, and baseball caps of different designs in black, gray, orange, and camo colors! If you miss ordering at Open House, you can send your order form and check made out to FLA for the total order to school no later than Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup> to get in on this order. All apparel ordered by August 28<sup>th</sup> will be here in 4-6 weeks.



We're also holding a **BIG SALE** on Firebird apparel we've collected over the last two years! These items are brand-new, never worn, but were either part of an over-order or were never picked up by whoever ordered them. We have nearly 100 items for sale of all sizes, varieties, styles, and colors! Come by the library before you leave Open House and see what we have. **ALL ITEMS HALF PRICE!!**



# The New Playground

Thank you to the Board of Directors and the PTA for getting us a brand-new playground! If you've driven through the FLA front drive, you've seen it – and it's beautiful! Please note that, for insurance liability reasons, the playground is **not** open for use by anyone – FLA students and families or otherwise –outside of school hours.

## New Drop-off and Pick-up Rules

**NEW THIS YEAR:** The North parking lot (the “big” lot on the Green Road side of the building) is now a **High School and staff parking lot only**.

In the mornings, **all** students must be dropped off in the front drop-off line **OR** parents who prefer to park and walk with their kids into the building must go **SLOWLY** past the regular carpool drop-off lane and park in the South lot (on the Gate #2 Road side of the building). **PLEASE BE CAREFUL** as you drive past the drop-off line! You may park in the South lot and walk your kids into the building if you like.

In the afternoons, **THE NORTH LOT IS NO LONGER OPEN FOR K-8 “PARK AND RIDE!** All parents who pick up K-8 kids in the afternoon must do so in the front pick-up lane.

All students are dropped off in the front of the building, all grades, no matter what time you arrive. But parents who pick up **BOTH** high school **and** younger students may park in the North lot after 3:00 and wait for their high school students to be dismissed. Younger students in grades K-8 will be walked out after the front car-pool lane is gone to wait with their parents who are in the North lot waiting for their high school students.

## Immunizations

**All kindergarteners:** full **Health Assessment** required, and a copy of the child's **complete shot record** showing that all immunizations are current and up-do-date must be on file at school (state law). If you don't have the Health Assessment we sent out in the enrollment packet, come by the school office to pick up another.

**All students:** state law requires **all students** to present a full **Health Assessment** when they first enter a **North Carolina public school (that includes us, as a public charter school)**. Complete shot records are also required. If this will be your first year in a North Carolina public school, regardless of your grade, these items are required by state law.

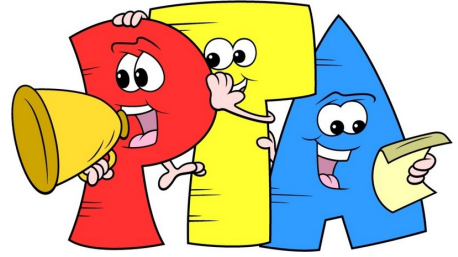
**7<sup>th</sup>-graders:** one dose of **Tdap** and one dose of **Meningococcal** vaccine required.

Parents: please make arrangements to have all these vaccinations completed and the records of them turned in to our School Nurse before the 30<sup>th</sup> day of school, which is **Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup>**!



## PTA

The Falls Lake Academy PTA is up and running with an exciting list of events and activities for this year! Information about the PTA will be in your Intake packet at Open House. This year's PTA dues are only \$5.00 per parent or teacher member. Join the PTA and get in on the action!



## Volunteer Hours

Students in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 5 **school-community service** hours per year required for promotion to the next grade (*note the new total!*)

Students in grades 3-4-5: 7 **school-community service** hours per year required for promotion to the next grade (*note the new total!*)

Students in grades 6-7-8-9: 10 **school-community service** hours per year required for promotion to the next grade!

All student school-community service hours must be performed in a **pre-approved school or community service event or activity**. Check with your PAA for pre-approval!

Parents: The PTA requests that the families of all Firebirds please help by performing 15 volunteer hours **at the school**. Note: this is different from the students' school-community service hours. No matter how many kids you have enrolled at FLA, your family is still only responsible for 15 hours this year. Watch the FLA website, read your PAA and other teachers' messages, and read the *SCREAMER* when it comes out to keep up with opportunities for volunteer service. Thanks!



*Okay, Firebird families, that's it for another edition of "The Firebird SCREAMS." The Firebird who is SCREAMING is me, Fred the Firebird, the Keeper of the Firebird's Flame of Learning which burns away ignorance and sophistry.*

*The FLA Firebirds are ON FIRE for learning as they TAKE FLIGHT into their futures and fortunes. And that makes this place, Falls Lake Academy,*

**The HOME OF THE FIREBIRDS and the SEAT OF BURNIN' LEARNIN'!**

*We look forward to seeing you next week at Open House / Intake! Until then, this is Fred the Firebird wishing you all a great school year!*

