



The Firebird Screams

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

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SCRRREEEE-
AAAMMM! Fred the Fantastic Firebird here, bursting with pride and SCREAMing with delight at the outstanding job our kids and staff members did in last year's state testing and student performance accountability measures! In our first year, FLA kids scored high enough to be the highest-performing middle school in the county, and one of the highest-performing in this part of the state. Our elementary scores were among the close-packed top five in the county, and also very high in terms of state rankings. But last year's State Report Card data has just been released, and our kids are *TAKING FLIGHT, SOARING* to new heights – even better than last year! The State Report Card has not yet been published, but you can go to the DPI website and see the actual data: just follow the links on our own website! WOW! Can things get any better?!? Read on and find out!

Tardies



A NOTE FROM DR. D:

Elementary and middle school classes begin promptly at 8:00am. High school classes begin at 8:30am. ***If your child isn't physically in the classroom at that time, he/she is tardy.*** Students who arrive on campus at 7:53am and can't get to the front door in time to get inside, or who arrive right at 8:00 but miss the doors closing and have to wait in the check-in line, ***are also tardy.*** Likewise the students who arrive just before 8:00 (or high schoolers at 8:30) and make it inside in time, but don't make it to class in time: ***they are tardy.*** The number of students who were tardy in the mornings last year was absolutely outrageous, resulting in a ridiculous amount of lost instructional time. Sorry, parents, but we cannot continue to look the other way. This year, teachers have strict instructions to begin class on time and start with something that counts in students' grades, so excessive tardies will cost your child grade points and disciplinary referrals. Plan to arrive by 7:45 at the absolute latest (grades K-8) or 8:15 (grade 9), and you won't have to worry about those long lines. Otherwise, don't be surprised at the drop in your kids' grades, or their assignment to ISS to make up learning activities missed due to tardiness.



PAA Contacts



Today (Friday September 4th) is the fifteenth day of school. That means that your child's PAA will be contacting you by phone or in person sometime in the next few days! Please keep an ear open to catch their calls when they come. You hear what your own kids tell you about school, but we have to remember that they are kids, and don't always see things from a broad perspective. And sometimes they just don't remember things to tell you that you might feel are important. But you can learn a lot from talking with another adult about what goes on with your child at school, told from an objective adult perspective! And that is a big part of what PAA is all about. So watch for your child's PAA call to come, and please let Dr. D know if you haven't heard from your PAA by Friday September 11th!



It's SICK Out There!

The recent wave of stomach bug has hit us hard. Not as hard as neighboring Person County, but pretty hard nonetheless. Please: when your child is sick, keep him or her at home. This current virus requires 48 hours' isolation past the time when the child gets better to not be contagious. We have several parents of our kids with weakened immune systems due to chemotherapy, and it can be life-threatening when their kids bring home illnesses from school. So please, ***STAY HOME*** when you're sick!

Driver's Education

Attention parents of 8th- and 9th-graders: the NC State Legislature is in the middle of the biennial budget battle, and continued funding for Driver's Ed is one of the sticking points. At present, there are no funds for Driver's Ed, so we cannot offer DE with state funding. For that reason, at the request of some of our parents, we have offered space here at FLA for a private driving school to come in and offer DE classes and driving lessons to FLA kids first, beginning in a few weeks. The cost for this would be somewhere in the \$450 per student range, every cent of which will go to the driving school. We make no money from this partnership at all, whatsoever. But it gives our kids who are fourteen-and-a-half the opportunity to take DE "on time" to get their permits and licenses when they turn fifteen and sixteen. We will be sending information to parents of 8th- and 9th-grade parents as soon as we have details. And when the state finally releases DE funds, we're already on the list to have county DE instructors teaching state-supported DE classes right here at FLA!



Parent Advisory Council

The votes are in, and this year's PAC members have been elected:

Kindergarten
1st grade
2nd grade
3rd grade
4th grade
PTA President

Stephanie Klutz
Rochelle Klubert
Suzanne Biegenzahn
Karen Decker
Keneica Moore
Brandi Chappell

5th grade
6th grade
7th grade
8th grade
9th grade
Flight Crew Pres

Jenny Hanson
Liz Davis
Sharron Stangle
Brandi Ross
Heather Copley
Robert Lloyd

Contact these folks with questions or concerns – their job is to keep the lines of communication open, and if they don't know the answer, they know where to find it! PAC meets once a month. You will be hearing from them directly and by way of your child's teachers. Don't hesitate to contact them!

Substitute Teachers Needed

Substitute Teachers



FLA is blessed with a respectable number of parents and others on our substitute teacher list. But twice recently, we had teachers who had sudden illnesses and could not find a sub, even after calling every number on the list. If you are willing to be placed on the list and be available, even only some days or some classes, it could help! Go to the FLA website, download a Substitute Application, fill it out, and send or bring it in. Thanks!

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.

Volunteer Hour's Tracking

The FLA PTA respectfully requests that all FLA families – regardless of how many FLA students are in the family – post a minimum of 15 volunteer hours in service to the school and its programs each school year. We are working on getting a link pinned to the FLA website's homepage which will take you directly to the form where you can enter your volunteer hours. Check it out, and let us know how many hours you're working on school-related "stuff!"

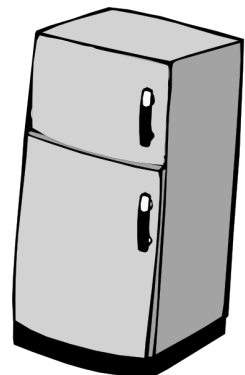


Lunch Volunteers Needed!

One of the best things about charter school is catered lunch! But it's a mixed blessing when we don't have enough parent help to organize our huge lunch orders every day and get them distributed to the right students! Parents, help us out: volunteer to help distribute lunches one day a week, or one day a month, or just whenever you can! Contact Sharron Stangle, our volunteer lunch coordinator, at sharronkay52@gmail.com to volunteer!

Refrigerator Needed

Lightning ran in recently and blew out a few things in the building's wiring. We got it all fixed, but sadly, we were unable to save our poor donated refrigerator in the break room, and it died. (Sigh.) So we are in need, again, of a nice donated refrigerator for use in our break room. If you have one you might consider donating, please contact Mr. Rutledge in the FLA office. Thanks!



International Baccalaureate Interest/ Funding Meeting

The FLA High School Plan, adopted two years ago by the FLA Board of Directors, mentions that we will be investigating the possibility of bringing the I.B. program to FLA. The International Baccalaureate program is the “gold standard” of high school educational systems, widely recognized as being the single most effective college-prep program in the world. Our Board commissioned an I.B. Feasibility Study Committee last spring, and the committee has just about completed its work. The last step is to hold an informational and general interest meeting for our students and parents to gauge interest levels before taking a recommendation to the Board. That meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 29th.



International
Baccalaureate®

PARENTS OF STUDENTS OF ALL AGES:

if you are interested in the world's most accelerated high school college-prep program for your kids, even if they are years away from being high school students, you need to attend this meeting. See you there!

That's all for now, Firebird Families! This is Fred the Fantastic Firebird wishing you all a FANTASTIC month! Don't forget to notify Dr. D if you don't hear from your PAA in a week or so, and mark your calendars with the dates of all the great things going on in the next few weeks! It makes me want to SCREAM with sheer joy at the magnificence of it all!

