



The Firebird Screams

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2013

VOLUME #1 NUMBER #1

Welcome to
the
SCREAMER!



Frank the Firebird here, bringing you all the news that's fit to SCREAM about from Falls Lake Academy, where **community and education combine to celebrate each child's ambitions so that their full potential can TAKE FLIGHT!**

PBL “Practice” Projects

Everybody's heard about PBL – **Project-Based Learning** – and how it is the framework of the education system here at FLA. Some of you may have wondered just when you'd see it in action. Well, we're happy to SCREAM that our first “practice” PBL event kicked off last week in every classroom!

Students across all grades are learning right now how to form a driving question, often including complex associations among and between several different

subject areas, and do their own research to find ways to answer those questions. In the process, they usually generate all kinds of materials to use in presenting their findings in a corporate-style presentation setting.

Why “practice,” you ask? It's simple: PBL is a whole new way of doing school for most students, and even for most teachers. The teachers have been through introductory training in PBL, but most of them haven't actually tried teaching that way before

coming to FLA. So this first PBL event is a practice project: practice for the students as they take the first steps to learning the PBL way, and practice for the teachers as they put their training to use for the first time. It's very exciting, but it can also be kind of scary. So encourage your children to hang in there and learn the process while their teachers learn along with them.

This is gonna be GREAT!!

PAA Calls

By now, all parents should have received a call from their child's PAA (Personal Adult Advocate) about his or her academic progress so far. PAAs will be calling every 15 school days with updates on everything from how your child is progressing in Math to how well she or he is socializing with classmates at recess.



Remember that your PAA is your first line of communication with the school, and you should never hesitate to call when you have questions, concerns, or just want to offer a much-needed “Thank You” to an FLA teacher for the great work they do every day with very little praise. And if you haven't yet heard from your PAA, please call Dr. D and let him know.

PAC/FLAP Meetings

FLAP – Falls Lake Academy Parents – will meet tomorrow evening (Monday September 23rd) at 7:00pm in Mrs. Holcombe’s 5th-grade classroom. FLAP has a big agenda, chock full of opportunities for parents to get involved in FLA activities and events. Information about the upcoming huge Fall Festival event will be shared, along with updates on other FLAP programs and status reports on our ongoing plans for next year’s new building and grounds initiatives. FLAP is governed by the PAC – Parent Advisory Council – which meets at 6:00pm with Dr. D to bring concerns and suggestions from the parents to the school administration, and communications back to the parents from the school. All parents are invited to get in touch with their grade-level reps who represent them on the PAC with comments, concerns, and suggestions and to attend the FLAP meeting immediately after the PAC meeting on Monday. PAC grade-level reps are as follows:

K	Ann Rouse	919-477-0428	acr0612@gmail.com
1	Jennifer Downey	919-210-0614	downey.jennifer@frontier.com
2	Jody Haynes	919-562-0923	jody.haynes@earthlink.net
3	Kim Holmes	919-529-2675	kimholmescm@yahoo.com
4	Karen Ellis	919-599-3443	kjellis13@nc.rr.com
5	Corinna Sammons	919-528-9546	sammonsnc@aol.com
6	Crystal Jones	919-529-0676	crystalanddavey@yahoo.com
7	Heather Fisher	919-604-5624	hfisher@bop.gov

Coming Up Soon

Oct 1

- FLA Board of Directors, 6:30pm, Mrs. Holcombe’s room

Oct 2-3-4

- PBL “practice” project presentations due – see individual teachers for details

Oct 3-4

- Fourth-grade field trip to the NC mountains

Oct 4

- School picture day! (4th-graders will take pictures on makeup picture day)

Nov 2

- FLA Fall Festival (more information to come!)



Falls Lake Academy

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A place where community and education combine to celebrate each child's ambitions so that their full potential can **TAKE FLIGHT**.

Falls Lake Academy strives to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our 21st century learners to prepare them for citizenship, leadership, and success in a rapidly changing world.

Core Values:

- We believe students with 21st century skills will become leaders in their own community and globally.
- We believe students will excel academically and socially through community outreach.
- We believe students benefit from challenging experiential and traditional learning experiences.
- We believe our school to be a community of eager students, dedicated staff, and committed families.

We're on the web!
www.fallslakeacademy.com

This Week At FLA

Monday

- Volleyball plays at Kerr-Vance Academy, 4:00pm
- PAC meets in Mrs. Holcombe's room, 6:00pm
- FLAP meets in Mrs. Holcombe's room, 7:00pm

Tuesday

- Special guests at volleyball practice after school!

Wednesday

- Volleyball plays Roxboro Community School at the old Helena Elementary gym in Timberlake, 4:00pm

Thursday

- Cross-Country Jamboree, at Wake Med Soccer Park (Girls at 4pm, Boys at 4:30pm, Team Girls at 5pm, Team Boys at 5:30pm)
- Volleyball plays at Vance, 4:00pm



Well, that's it for this week. I hope this information is useful to you. See you around the Firebird's Nest! And don't be surprised when I – Frank the Firebird – **SCREAM** for you!!