



What's News in the Woods...

Farmington Woods IB/PYP Elementary Magnet School

October 2016 Newsletter

<http://fwes.wcpss.net> for any info updates

From Mrs. Pierce...

#fwesigniteslearning

We are well into the swing of the 16-17 school year and learning for our students is being ignited around every corner! Students are becoming more engaged through the use of 21st Century skills of collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking throughout their learning. As an IB/PYP school our focus is on not only teaching content but making sure our students enjoy learning in order to be life-long learners. Please check out our # on twitter to see all of the awesome learning experiences happening throughout our building each day!

We are very proud of our school's work last year to make sure students at all achieve-

ment levels demonstrated at least the growth expected in one year, but I am very excited to share that our school not only met that goal but Exceeded Expected Growth with our students. We were one of only 17 WCPSS Elementary Schools to exceed thanks to the hard work of our fabulous teachers and the partnerships with you- our families! Please continue to partner with us so that all students grow strong with content but also as IB Learners so they are ready for a global future!

I will be away at the end of October as I have been asked to represent IB/PYP Schools in North America at



the IB Global Centre in The Hague, Netherlands to participate in the final review process for the updated PYP curriculum documents. The IB/PYP is committed to consistently engaging practitioners and I am honored to get this opportunity to impact PYP Schools worldwide and be a learner.

Hoping we'll see you at one of the many family events planned for October! *Respectfully,*
Winston Pierce

Go for the Gold!

Give and Earn Respect

Own your Actions

Lead by Example

Demonstrate Cooperation

A Walk in the Woods ...

- **Fall School Pictures:** Get your smile and outfit ready! School pictures are scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th. Pre-order information has been sent home or [Order Pictures On Line](#).
- **International Walk to School Day:** Wednesday October 5, 2016. We will meet in the Kildare Plaza parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to start our walk to school. Please be ready to step off at 8:30 a.m. Kildare Plaza is the shopping center at the intersection of Kildare Farm Rd. and Farmington Woods Dr. (behind Starbucks). We will also be celebrating our 2nd walk to school this year on Friday October 7 from the same location.
- **Recognize the Awesome FWES Staff!** Please remember to use the link on our website for recognizing a staff member who has helped to ignite your child's learning this year!
- **Volunteer Re-Activation/Registration:** Please reactivate or reg-

ister as a volunteer in the FWES Front Office by Monday, October 31st. Current volunteers can reactivate easily prior to 10/31- after 10/31 previous volunteers will have to complete the entire process and wait 2-3 weeks on results.

- **Bottle Cap Collection Continues:** Mrs. Smith is continuing to collect plastic bottle caps for an upcoming school wide art project this year. Please send clean lids to school to the trash can in the lobby.
- **5th grade Updates:** Fifth Grade learning has been ignited in so many ways! We've been multiplying and dividing whole numbers using many strategies and have begun writing decimals in many ways, focusing on place value. Students have learned all about inherited vs. learned behaviors in science. We created DNA dogs based on inherited traits! We're also making great connections between body systems and learning how each system works with other systems to keep us alive. Fifth graders are also gearing up to choose our topic and begin Exhibition in October.

October, 2016

Calendar Items to Note...

- Oct. 4- Magnet Info Session and Tour 9:45am
- Oct. 5—International Walk to School Day 8:30 Kildare Plaza
- Oct. 7—October Walk to School Day 8:30 Kildare Plaza
- Oct. 11- Fall Pictures- pre-order
- Oct. 12-14—Cog At Testing in 3rd Grade (9:30-10:30am daily)
- Oct. 14 7:45am PTA Board of Director's Meeting; 4th Grade to Naturalization Ceremony & International Festival
- Oct. 14-16- Raleigh International Festival- Raleigh Convention Center
- Oct. 20- Kinder Field Trip to Farm
- Oct. 21- Early Release 1:15pm- 5th Grade Collaboration with Specialists
- Oct. 24- Pep Rally for Global Fun Run
- Oct. 26- 2nd Grade to IMAX
- Oct. 27- 5th Grade to IMAX; Family Fun Night at Chick Fil A 5-8pm
- Oct. 28- Last Day of 1st Quarter
- Oct. 31- Teacher Workday- No School
- Nov. 3- FWES PTA Global Fun Run!
- Nov. 5- WCPSS Magnet Fair 9am-Noon

- **4th Grade Updates:** Our fourth grade learners have explored the power of magnets through a multitude of hands-on learning stations. They applied this learned knowledge in toy car races powered by magnetic force. Our next segment has our young scientists exploring the sizzling world of electricity. Provocation began with an adventure in spelunking with students being required to power a light using only a D-cell battery and a copper wire. The explorers were truly amped about this activity and look forward to further discoveries. Our homework format that provides students with choice has ignited some very impressive projects and presentations that focus on the learning taking place in the classroom and in other areas. We have seen examples of science videos, math games, and poetry. We look forward to learning more about government when observing the Naturalization Ceremony in Raleigh on October 14, 2106



FWES Student Services

Student Services at FWES provide support to students and families through our School Counselors and our School Social Worker. If you have questions or concerns about your child's transition to school this year; please don't hesitate to reach out to one of our student service staff: Ms. Thakur and Mrs. Wiener, counselors or Joette Basham, social worker.

Counselors: Your counselors have hit the ground running this year with some exciting things happening both in your child's classroom and in our school community. Ask your child to tell you about bucket filling; our school wide anti-bullying initiative to encourage positive interactions both in and out of our school building. Follow



your Farmington Woods counselors on twitter at @fwescounseling

Social Worker: Forms to participate in our "Power Packs" supplemental food program have come home in your child's Monday folder. If you'd like more information or have other needs for your family, please email cbasham@wcpss.net. Volunteers are also needed to assist on Thursday mornings when the Power Packs are delivered from our community partner. Contact Joette Basham if you'd like to assist with this school based outreach.

Jennifer Thakur, Counselor (919-460-3474)

jthakur@wcpss.net

Kelly Wiener, Counselor (M, T & F 919-460-2742)

kwiener@wcpss.net

Joette Basham, Social Worker (919-460-2742)

cbasham@wcpss.net

Notes From the Front Office

Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Nagy and Mrs. Farr

- **Blue Cards are Needed!** In order to insure the school has the most current contact information for each student, especially in the event of an emergency, please make sure you return your child's card immediately.
- **Sick Students:** NC Health Policy dictates the events that require students to be excluded (sent home) from school. If your child demonstrates one of these symptoms we are required to send them home. Please make appropriate arrangements if you receive such a phone call. Students must go home from school if the following symptoms are present:
 - **Temp of 100 or more** (cannot return until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication- if your child leaves during the day for a fever, he/she may not return the following day as it will not have been 24 hours without fever)
 - **Vomiting or Diarrhea** (cannot return to school until they have been free of either symptom for at least 12 hours)
 - **Severe headache**
 - **Red, watery eyes with yellow drainage**
 - **Undiagnosed or treated rash**

- **Inability to attend to learning activities**
- **Change in student's usual medical status**
- **Late Arrival or Early Check Out:** The instructional day begins in all classrooms at 9:15am and ends at 3:45pm. Each time a student arrives after 9:15am or is checked out prior to 3:45pm, he/she is missing valuable instructional time. A student who is checked out one day a week at 3:15pm misses a total of 2 hours of instruction that month. Please work to make sure your student is in his/her classroom from 9:15-3:45 every day to maximize his/her learning. Our data manager, counselor and social worker will be monitoring this data and contacting families to offer assistance.
- **Walk In Transportation Changes:** All transportation changes must be submitted in writing. Walk in last minute transportation changes will not be allowed repeatedly and should only be used in the event of an emergency circumstances. Changes due to appointments should be given to the teacher the morning of the appointment. To maintain appropriate safety, students will not be dismissed to parents from the carpool area or from classrooms prior to the start of the After School Program at 4:15pm.

Si necesita servicios de traducción gratuitos para comprender los procesos escolares, llame al (919) 852-3303

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمات الترجمة المجانية للتعرف على سير العمليات بالمدرسة، اتصل بالرقم (919) 852-3303

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यदि आपको विद्यालय की प्रक्रियाओं को समझने के लिए निःशुल्क अनुवाद सेवाएं चाहिए, तो (919) 852-3303 पर कॉल करें

학교/교육 과정에 관한 무료 번역 서비스가 필요하시면 다음 번호로 연락하여 주십시오 (919)852-3303

Nếu quý vị cần sự thông dịch miễn phí để hiểu phương pháp trường học, xin vui lòng gọi số điện thoại, 919-852-3303

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Healthy Active Kids at FWES!



In order to build healthy brains and healthy bodies for our students, a collaborative group of parents, teachers and students is leading our Healthy Active Kids initiatives for the 16-17 school year. Focus points this year include:

- Increasing healthy snacks eaten at school
- Reducing high sugar treats for birthday celebrations
- Regular Physical Activity through Walk and Bike to School Days, Brain

Breaks during the school day, 30 minutes of recess each day, Physical Fitness assessments and goals in PE

If you are interested in helping promote Healthy Active Kids at FWES, please join our team by contacting Don Eller at deller@wcpss.net.



Magnet Musings

from the desk of Anna Goodrum, IB Coordinator



As an IB school we work to foster Global Connections for our students. One way that we can do that is through the Global Read Aloud. The project was created in 2010 with a simple goal in mind; one book to connect the world. From its humble beginnings, the GRA has grown to make a truly global connection with more than 1,000,000 students having participated from more than 60 different countries.

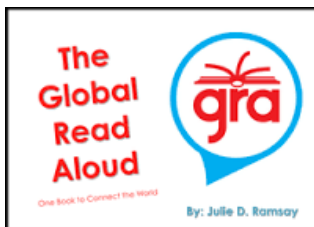
FWES is excited to join the global read aloud for the second year.

Global Read Aloud will occur from October 3rd - November 11th. All of our classes will be reading aloud a chosen book for their grade level; 4th and 5th grade will read Pax by Sara Pennypacker; 2nd and 3rd grade will read The BFG by Roald Dahl; and Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders will read five titles by Lauren Castillo. As classrooms read the books together the teachers will tweet, skype and discuss the books with other classrooms around the world. The classroom teachers are already beginning to make connections

as the excitement builds.

This project is meant to make the world a little smaller, to open our eyes to the rest of the world and look at all of our shared experiences. How phenomenal for a child to know that the same book they are reading is being read in classrooms across the globe.

As a parent you can be involved in the Global Read Aloud. As your child comes home each week ask them what they read in their books and what connections they made. Together we can share the love of a good story with the world.



What's the Buzz Igniting Learning at FWES?



October Buzz: **Dynamic Learning**

Each month, I will include a buzz word or phrase in education and how it applies to your children's learning at FWES as well as ways you can support their learning at home. October's buzz word is the **Dynamic Learning Experience**. This year, the focus of our district is on creating Dynamic Learning Experiences as part of the WCPSS Strategic Plan Goal 2020 through the Learning and Teaching Strategy. There are four components that enhance a dynamic learning experience:

1. 4Cs- Collaboration, Communication,

Creativity and Critical Thinking

2. Learner Agency
3. Social/Emotion Learning
4. Digital Learning

I will explain each component as the months continue, but for now, know that the Dynamic Learning Experience is aimed to increase student engagement and address the learning needs of the whole child. This focus nicely complements the IB learner profile and framework of inquiry based learning. High engagement in the classroom is the goal all of our students and at FWES we are

committed to growing IB learners. We want students to ask questions and own their learning in order to take action. Each component of the dynamic learning experience will equip our students to do just that - take action! We encourage you to ask your children about their learning, opinions on topics of their interest and support their inquiry into that topic. When children take action, let us know through the ACTION button on our website! Keep asking questions!
Elizabeth Plotkin, Instructional Resource Teacher/Assistant Principal

A Page from the Inquiry Center ... Read Around the World

A year long reading incentive program designed to motivate and reward students for reading a variety of books is underway! *Read Around the World* is designed for two purposes; to encourage the students to use the library catalog to find different kinds of books and to encourage students to read a variety of books.

Read Around the World is based around the earning of charms that are added to a reading keychain. The first charms earned were sunshine charms from participation in the Scholastic Summer Reading Program. During the summer, 120 students read and recorded over 1,500 minutes to receive this first charm. Additional charms will be earned throughout the year for completing the continent logs, as well as Global Read Aloud, the Gift of Reading and various other reading based activities. Students have been given their first *Read Around the World* continent reading log: Africa. Each time the student reads a book in one of the categories on the reading log, he/she writes down the title of the book in that space. When the entire log is filled out, the log is signed by an adult and returned to the Inquiry Center. For each completed log the student returns, he/she will choose a charm and be given a new reading log for the next continent.

As you read with and to your children, please encourage them to look for books that connect to their *Read Around the World* logs.

Looking for something to do at your Wake County Public Library ... How about : Reading about how a LEGO man ended up in space and testing your own engineering skills with some fun LEGO challenges or maybe join in a reading Tricky Vic and see how one of the trickiest con artists of all time 'sold' the Eiffel Tower in France. For a complete listing of events or to register for a program, please visit the events page at:

www.wakegov.com/libraries/events



From PTA President, Anita Richburg...

The Farmington Woods PTA is an active and engaged group of parents and teachers who advocate on behalf of your students throughout the year. PTA members show the IB learner profiles every day by being caring, open minded, principled communicators. If you were at Meet the Teacher in August you may have encountered PTA parents (and their students!) hard at work selling Spirit Wear, or taking your membership or agenda payments. PTA members work diligently to host successful and exciting fundraisers like the Go-PlaySave coupon book sales, Global Fun Run, and the Fall and Spring Book-

fairs. The money raised as a result of these fundraisers helps add books in our Media Center, and funds programs like Cultural Arts, Mini Grants, Teacher & Staff Appreciation and the World Dance.

PTA members coordinate efforts to bring volunteers into the classroom with the Hook a Book program, while others manage the Lost and Found, Outreach and the Reflections programs.

By becoming a member of the PTA, you are part of a state and national network of members who are advocating for your children locally, statewide and

nationally. Membership provides you with the opportunity to meet parents who, like you, are interested in providing the strongest programs we can for our children. As a member you may vote on important PTA issues impacting our school and if you are interested, your leadership as a volunteer or committee co-chair is always welcome.

We look forward to having you become a partner in your child's school experience and encourage you to [Join The Farmington Woods PTA](#) today!

Sincerely,
Anita Richburg, PTA President

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Farmington Woods IB/PYP Magnet Elementary PTA

<http://farmingtonwoodspta.org>



Next PTA Board Meeting- Friday, October 14

7:45am FWES Inquiry Center



- ⇒ **BoxTops October Collection Contest!** Be sure to cut and send with your child throughout the month of October!

- ⇒ **Family Fun Night at Green Acres Farm-** Friday, October 14th 4pm- until, FWES Families receive reduced admission

- ⇒ **Family Fun Night at Chick Fil A-** Thursday, October 27th from 5-8pm!

- ⇒ **Global Fun Run coming November 3rd!** In order to keep all fund raising dollars in the PTA to support our school, we are organizing our own Global Fun Run fund raiser event. If the event is supported at the level of the Boosterthon Fun Run, the school will earn twice as much to spend on our students' learning! Look for more information and how you can not only get sponsors for your child's run but be a volunteer to help make this grass roots fund raiser a success!



- ⇒ The PTA is responsible for creating our school yearbook each year. We have been creating our yearbooks digitally via Jostens for many years. Cindy Hunt has been the chairperson for the yearbook for the last ten years but alas, her youngest child is in 5th grade this year so this will be her last year. We are looking for some volunteers to shadow Cindy this year in hopes that they will be able to take over the responsibility next year when she is no longer at the school. If interested, please contact Cindy Hunt at seahunt@nc.rr.com.

- ◆ Yearbooks are \$20 until December. Order forms will be sent home soon and are due Nov. 18
- ◆ Order your 16-17 yearbook now online at www.jostensyearbooks.com
- ◆ Share school related photos for the yearbook at www.replayit.com or use the ReplayIt! App for phone pics



Don't Forget to Collect BOX TOPS!



and send them to your school

- ⇒ **FWES Connections-**Would you like to make connections with other parents, students and families like yours? Would you like to share your experiences with those that differ? FWES Connections is a new initiative this school year designed to facilitate communication among our FWES community. If you are interested in learning more or simply being connected with someone who has something in common with you or your child, please email the word "interested" to fwesconnections@gmail.com
- ⇒ **Link your Cards for FWES PTA!**

- Kroger can be linked online at <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewards> Our code is 92563.
- Harris Teeter can be linked in the store or online. Our code is 1856.
- Lowes Foods can be linked online at <http://www.lowesfoods.com/back-2-schools/>
- Amazon gives .5% of your purchase price to our school when you shop Amazon via <https://smile.amazon.com/>. Select PTA North Carolina Congress Farmington Woods PTA as your charity.

- ⇒ **WCPSS Policies Initiatives For Parents:**

- Vote to select your WCPSS District's Board Member- All 9 Wake county school district board member seats are up for election. Find the list current board members and the schools they represent: <http://www.wcpss.net/Page/5472>
- Learn more and provide feedback on proposed 2017-18 WCPSS Student assignment plan- a multi-year student assignment plans to accommodate growth in student population through out Wake county. You can attend public information sessions and provide input on the proposed draft plan. Visit <http://www.wcpss.net/enrollmentproposal> to learn more about draft proposal to student assignments for 2017-18.

PTA FUN FACTS!

- Fundraisers support school programs
- You don't have to head a committee if you join the PTA
- PTA includes teachers, parents, relatives of students, and friends of FWES family members
- Membership is \$6 for individual, \$12 for families
- PTA efforts can be done from home, in the school, at events and behind the scenes...there is an opportunity for EVERYONE!