



# What's News in the Woods...

Farmington Woods IB/PYP Elementary Magnet School

December 2016 Newsletter

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



## From Mrs. Pierce...

Dear FWES Families,

Learning continues to be ignited in Dynamic Learning Environments throughout our school. We enjoy seeing our students develop their 21st Century Skills of Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking as they experience inquiry based learning throughout their day. IB Learners are active in the classroom playing a vital role in the learning. Continue to encourage and ignite your child's life long learning even during winter break! Read daily, ask questions and inquire to find answers to keep your brain warm!

We are looking forward to the Spelling Bee (K-5) and Geography Bee

(4-5) in January where student learning is a highlight.

In this season of giving and taking action in our community, please help us know how our students have taken action by submitting information on our website so that their action can be highlighted on the FWES News- [Action Speaks Louder Than Words](#)- IB Learners are encouraged to take action in many ways to make a difference for themselves, their community and the world.

Wishing you all the IB Mission- A Better and More Peaceful World!

Winston Pierce

#fwesigniteslearning



**Go for the Gold!**  
Give and Earn Respect  
Own your Actions  
Lead by Example  
Demonstrate Cooperation

## A Walk in the Woods ...

- **Internet Update Scheduled for December 5-11, 2016:** In addition to the updated security access, our school will be getting a new internet server installed the week of December 5-11. Please make a calendar note that this upgrade will prevent our school and staff from accessing email and other internet specific material and programs. We are not sure how many days that week will be affected, but wanted to begin planning ahead. We are excited about the upgrade, but will be having several days of being reminded of the days before the internet-yikes!
- **Team and Specialists Updates:**
- ◇ **3rd Grade Scientists** are learning about the importance of nutrient rich soil for growing crops. They've researched how to create that soil through composting. Students will be taking action to teach others about this process and will be initiating the cafeteria compost project in January and February in our school's cafeteria.
- ◇ **Fifth graders** are delving deep into researching natural disasters for Exhi-

bition. Our central idea is: Natural disasters can transform communities and the environment. As a 5th grader in a PYP school, students work collaboratively to develop a central idea about a global topic then in collaborative groups develop inquiry questions to guide their research- later using research for sharing their learning through multimedia presentations to the community. Mark your calendars! Exhibition will be on February 16th!

- ◇ **Third graders** took action in November as part of their unit of inquiry "How We Organize Ourselves." To gain insight into how and why people take action to improve their communities, students engaged in service projects for the betterment of our school community. One group sorted bottle caps by color to prepare for an upcoming school-wide art project. The "Campus Cleanup" crew went around the campus to collect trash and made signs about keeping campus

## December, 2016

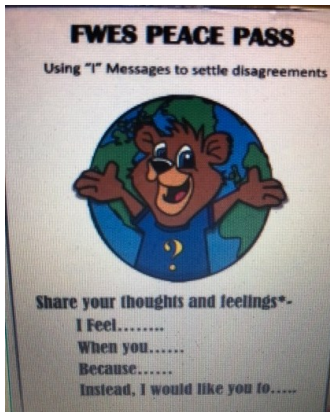
### Calendar Items to Note...

- Dec. 5-9- Internet Server Upgrade Wk
- Dec. 5- Interim Reports Go Home for 2nd Quarter; 2nd Grade to IMAX; 3rd Grade IOWA Testing
- Dec. 6- 3rd Grade IOWA Testing; Magnet Middle School Info Session 6:00-7:30pm Davis Drive Elementary
- Dec. 7- Way Back Wednesday- No Internet- K- 1920s; 1st- 1980s; 3rd- 1960s; 4th/5th/Spec. Areas 1980s.
- Dec. 8- K to Marbles Museum; 6:00 PTA Board of Directors Mtg
- Dec. 9- 9:45 Magnet Info and Tour
- Dec. 12-15 Power Pack Food Drive
- Dec. 14-20 Gift of Reading
- Dec. 20- Reading Logs Due
- Dec. 21- Pajama Day! Read Together Day! K- 10:20-11:20am; 1st 2:00-3:00pm; 2nd 1:30-2:30pm; ID Mod I/II 10:15-11:15; 3rd 10:15-11:15; 4th- 1:30-2:30 and 5th 11:00-12:00
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 Winter Break and Happy New Year!
- Dec. 31- Last Day to buy yearbook for \$20- see PTA section for order link
- Jan. 3- Students Return to School
- Jan. 4- Magnet Mini Fair for Pre Ks at FWES 9:30-11:00am
- Jan. 5- Kindergarten Registration for 2017-18 School Year begins

clean and beautiful. A third group created "Go for the GOLD" videos that can be shared with new students or used to review the GOLD expectations at FWES.

- ◇ Through partnership with Carolina Navigators, **Kindergarteners** are exploring six "culture kits" from Argentina, Mexico, Canada, Germany, China and Kenya. After visiting these countries and interacting with all the materials; students will be asked to write about their favorite activity, report about what they learned and reflect with their peers through group projects. We look forward to sharing these items with students and helping them develop the IB attitudes of curiosity, respect and tolerance as they learn about a new culture.

# FWES Student Services



As we support the IB Mission of a more peaceful world, this month students are learning to resolve conflicts in a peaceful way. Each classroom space has access to a Peace Pass and when there is a conflict, adults facilitate student communication about conflict by using the Peace Pass Process: "I

feel...When you...Please..." This process begins with one student stating how they feel. When someone starts with a feeling, the other person is less likely to become defensive. He or she will be more open to the feedback which comes with the next step, "When you..." In this part of the process, students are encouraged to be specific about the behavior that hurt their feelings. For example, "I feel sad, when you did not play with me at recess." The last part of

the process is having the student ask for what he or she would like from the other person, "Please include me in the game next time." After one student has a chance to share feelings, then it is the other person's turn. The process is continued until the conflict is resolved with an agreed upon resolution. IB Learners are communicators and the Peace Pass is used to support their capacity to solve problems. We encourage you to try this process at home as a way to talk to your child about how actions and feelings are connected in resolving conflicts.

Jennifer Thakur, Counselor (919-460-3474)

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## Kindergarten Registration

- **2017/18 Kindergarten Registration** will be held at Farmington Woods on Thursday January 5th, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM.
- Incoming kindergarten students must be 5 years old by August 31, 2017.
- Parents should register their incoming kindergarten student at their **base school** and will need to provide their picture ID, their child's original birth certificate, and a current proof of residence (one of the following: light, water or gas bill, or a lease agreement signed within the past 60 days).
- A North Carolina Health Assessment form and up-to-date immunization record is also required and must be presented by the first day of school.
- [WCPSS Kindergarten Registration Information](#)

## Magnet Applications

- **On-line Magnet School Application Window** will be available January 12-31, 2017. Applications for magnet schools should be submitted through the Wake County Public School System website at [Magnet Application Process](#)
- anytime during the application window.
- Incoming K students must be registered at their base school and have a student ID # to submit a magnet application.
- Notification of application results will be available on February 16, 2017.
- More information regarding WCPSS magnet programs can be found at [Magnet Programs](#)

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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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!

Access your child's fitness data on Welnet <https://www.focusedfitness.org> We have collected data over three years. Currently students are focused on setting realistic fitness goals for each component (mile run, sit and reach, curl ups, and push ups) and working towards the achievement of those goals by April 2017.

[Healthy Brains/Healthy Bodies at FWES for 2016-17](#)

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



## Magnet Musings

from the desk of Anna Goodrum, IB Coordinator



Here at FWES appropriate student-initiated action is valued and promoted.

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves. Through their learning, they become aware of how each of them can make a difference, no matter how big or small.

As a parent, you may ask: **What does action look like?**

- Action projects are voluntary, student-initiated activities that stem from a genuine concern and a desire to make a positive difference.
- Action might take the form of sharing new knowledge with others in order to increase others' awareness of important issues, or it may be a project in response to needs of a particular community-locally or globally.
- Effective action does not need

to be grandiose. Examples may include:

- A student wanting to share with someone what they are learning about
- A student wanting to go to the library to continue their learning of a particular topic
- A student writing to their congressman or corporate CEO about an issue that was raised during a unit on Sharing the Planet
- A child beginning a recycling program at home
- A child encouraging parents to purchase healthier foods
- A child learning a new language
- A child wanting to collect supplies for recent flood victims

Action in the PYP can also be decid-

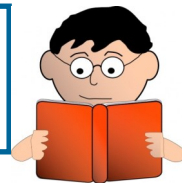
ing not to act, for

example if during a unit on nutrition a student may decide that a can of Coke with dinner is not the best choice and opt for milk instead.

**How do we teach students to take action?**

The action cycle is a simple yet powerful tool used to teach children how to take action. By going through the three steps of choosing, acting and then reflecting back upon the results of their choice, students are able to grow socially and personally, developing skills such as cooperation, problem solving, conflict resolution and critical thinking. This is an important part of a student's participation in his or her own learning. The action cycle helps develop life long learners.

## Gift of Reading for Students December 14-20, 2016



Building reading stamina and a love of reading is the gift we give our students each year through our Gift of Reading project. Get your books ready to log your minutes for a reading charm and book drawings. PJ Day on December 21st for guest readers for

Read Together Day!



## Give the Gift of Appreciation to our Fantastic FWES Staff!

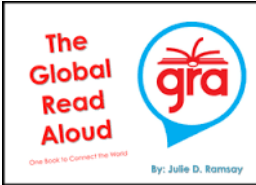
Please remember to show your appreciation for our FWES staff by using the link on our website for recognizing a staff member who has helped to ignite your child's learning this year! [Staff Recognition 2016-17](#)

# A Page from the Inquiry Center ...

**Read Around the World ...** The first Read Around the World "travelers" are turning in their **AFRICA** reading logs and selecting a charm. So far, 198 Africa sheets have been returned and the students have chosen their first charm. Remember you can turn in your log whenever you are finished and get the next log. The second continent on our reading around the world is **ASIA**. The first travelers from Asia will begin returning in early December with the next stop on our journey being **EUROPE**.



It was another successful year of reading in the Global Read Aloud program. All students received a charm for their participation. The "twitter bird" charm was chosen to represent the pretend tweets that some classes did as part of their reflection on their Global Read Aloud book. The students wrote tweets such as : "When the queen saw Sophie in the window. #suspense" (The BFG) and "The ending surprised me when Peter demanded Pax to go because they went through a lot to find each other then separated again. #surprised" (Pax). The kindergarteners in Mrs. Mooneyham's class shared their favorite book by author Lauren Castillo with drawings and written reflections.



It is almost time for our winter break and the Gift of Reading. A special snowflake charm will be available for each student who completes and turns in their Gift of Reading reading log. As with the summer charm, this is a one time only charm and cannot be chosen after the Gift of Reading deadline.



**Book Fair ...** Thank you to Mrs. Pilkington and Mrs. Wilson (book fair chairs) along with ALL of the parent volunteers who helped during our week of the Bedford Falls Book Fair. We had a great week and the Inquiry Center earned just over \$3000 to be used for books and supplies. More new books are on the way !

## Tech Tips from Tech Class from Mrs. Quinn...



This month's internet safety message comes to you from 3rd graders. As global citizens, we we have 3 rings (layers) of responsibility whenever we get on the internet.



1: Responsibility to myself (examples: I visit sites I know are safe and appropriate for me)

2: Responsibility to my family and friends (examples: I don't share photos without permission, I don't publish private information)  
3. Responsibility to the larger community (example: I give credit to resources I use, I am respectful and kind when communicating online)  
Keep all 3 rings in mind and you will be right on target towards responsible digital citizenship!

Stay tuned for another tip next month. You can also follow us on Twitter to watch as we learn!  
@tquinnFWES

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# Farmington Woods IB/PYP Magnet Elementary PTA

<http://farmingtonwoodspta.org>



Next PTA Board Meeting- Thursday, December 8  
6:00pm FWES Inquiry Center  
Next General PTA Meeting- Thursday, January 19  
6:15pm Cafeteria Prior to Family Evening Concert

⇒ **Global Fun Run Update:** The first ever Farmington Woods PTA Global Fun Run was a TREMENDOUS success. With student enthusiasm, parent and staff support, and LOTS of encouragement from Oso Dorado, the students of Farmington Woods raised MORE than their \$17,700 goal (almost \$20K)! They ran many, many laps Around the World and impressed all of their spectators with their country flags and their new vocabulary word: RUN from their adopted countries.

The Global Fun Run committee is grateful to the staff and parents who spent countless hours volunteering at the school, soliciting prizes from local businesses, cleaning up the school tracks, and planning and executing this action packed event. Thanks to the work of the Global Fun Committee and all of the friends and family who donated, all of the donations will stay at the school to be used for Cultural Arts, Technology Subscriptions, Teacher Mini Grants and Teacher and Staff appreciation programs. Congratulations to our top fundraiser: Jackson Ney from Ms Dellinger's class! We look forward to having him help Ms Pierce be the principal in December!

⇒ **Yearbook** The yearbook is currently available to order Online at- [Josten's Yearbook- Farmington Woods Elementary School](#). Online orders may be placed through December 31, 2016 to receive the yearbook for \$20. Afterwards, the price will increase to \$25. \* If you take pictures of your students' classroom activities, field trips, or school events; please upload them to [Jostens' ReplayIt!](#) Site ([www.replayit.com](http://www.replayit.com)) so that we may use your pictures in the yearbook. The password is fw bears.



- ⇒ **Teacher Mini Grants Funded!** At the November 10th PTA Board Meeting, we were happy to be able to approve 11 mini grant applications for FWES teachers, totaling \$3385.00. These mini grants will go towards buying such items as a weighted blanket, bean bag chair, vocabulary builders, leveled books, writing and fluency curriculum, iPad minis, scanners for the circulation desk of the inquiry center, and student charms for a school wide reading program.
- ⇒ **Calling ALL Parents!!!** The PTA needs you to join our growing PTA family!! The school year has kicked off to an amazing start with several successful PTA events and in preparation for the 2nd half of the school year we are hoping to increase our membership!!! Please go to the FWES website and click on the PTA link to learn more about our upcoming events, meetings and fundraisers. You can also join the PTA from the website! You do not want to miss out on supporting Farmington Woods PTA and joining in the fun of ensuring our school is full of family fun events! Thank you~



- ⇒ **Power Pack Food Drive- December 12-15!** Help fill power packs for families during the Winter Break by sending in Non-Perishable items such as peanut butter, mac & cheese, canned meats/fruits/vegetables, cereal will be collected to supplement the Power Packs serving FWES families.
- ⇒ **Family Evening Concert- 6:30pm January 19th with "Transit Vocal"**- During the day, students will enjoy "The Magic of A Capella" followed by a 6:30pm Family Evening Concert "The Evolution of A Capella" with a combined 5th Grade Handbell performance. Please put this upcoming family event on your calendar now and plan to attend! Information about tickets to the family evening concert will be forthcoming.