



What's News in the Woods...

Farmington Woods IB/PYP Elementary Magnet School
March 2017 Newsletter
<http://fwes.wcpss.net> for any info updates



From Mrs. Pierce...

I am excited that I had a delay in sending the March newsletter as we received the exciting news from Magnet Schools of America this week that FWES is a national Magnet School of Excellence for 2017! Thank you to our wonderful school community for helping strengthen our school each day in our efforts to focus on students and their success. We celebrate this recognition with and because of all of you!

Our magnet recognition also comes due to the fantastic staff who dedicate countless hours to our students and their classrooms. Thanks to your nominations and the support of the Cary Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to have 5 of our teachers recognized as finalists for the Honor a Teacher "Excellence in Teaching" Award to be awarded in May, 2017. Congratulations to our finalists: Jocelyn Bulla, Jessica

A Walk in the Woods ...

Special Messages from Kildaire Farm Home Owner's Association:

- **Parking in the Neighborhood:** Please refrain from parking in a manner that is intrusive to our neighbors. The Kildaire Farm Home Owners Association has continued to share concerns with the school about lawns being damaged and mailboxes blocked by our families who are not parking in accordance with Cary Town parking laws. It is important that we be thoughtful and courteous with our school neighbors during arrival and dismissal. The Cary Police has been notified about their concerns and will be monitoring the area for illegal parking. Thank you!
- **Kildaire Farm Park Area:** Across the street from our school is a Kildaire Farm neighborhood owned park area with a field and tennis courts. It is not a Town of Cary park but one that is paid for through the Kildaire Farm Home Owner's Association. While the Kildaire Farm neighborhood allows parking in that lot during arrival and dismissal, they have reminded the school that the parking lot should be cleared following dismissal as it needs to be available for neighbors to access the facilities. Only those individuals who are part of the

Coiner, Scott Mathyk, Amy Ramos and Ashley Richardson!

Moving into the last 12 weeks of the school year, it is critical that learning maintain a strong focus for our students. The spring semester is when curriculum content continues to challenge students and as we prepare for year end assessments, we need students and families to maintain a focus on learning and practice. We thank you for supporting your child's daily reading and work on homework assignments and any optional learning experiences that will help them continue to grow.

*Celebrating FWES,
Winston Pierce
#fwesigniteslearning*



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

Kildaire Farm Home Owners Association should remain on the property after dismissal. Thank you!

School Updates:

- **FWES is National Magnet School of Excellence 2017!** We were proud to get notification this week that Farmington Woods Elementary has once again been recognized as a National Magnet School of Excellence, the highest recognition for a magnet school in the US. The recognition is based on the implementation of our IB Program, our commitment to diversity and student achievement progress. With such an awesome staff and community of families like yours, we had much to highlight in 2017!
- **FWES wins \$10,000 4Cs Grant!** Incorporating the 4Cs of collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity to develop 21st century learners is aligned with not only the WCPSS Strategic Plan but with the IB/PYP. We are excited to have been selected as one of the 10 schools to receive funding for a 4Cs project in the 2017-18 school year involving virtual reality and global connections through Google Expedition.

March, 2017

Calendar Items to Note...

- March 8- 9:30 Puryear/Burke Walking Trip
- March 9- Club Photos; 9:30 Bulla/Madden Walking Trip
- March 10- 7:45am PTA Board of Director's Meeting; Capital Transit Band Cultural Arts Performance 9:30/10:30 and 12:30 DiOrio/Gilfillan Walking Trip
- March 13- Kindergarten Family Day Event
- March 17- 4th Grade to Museum of Life and Science
- March 20-24- Love the World Week!
- March 24- World Dance 6-8pm FWES Café
- March 27- Visiting Author for 5th Grade
- April 4- 5th Grade Beach Trip: Herrema, Pausley, Ramos
- April 5- 5th Grade Beach Trip: Dellinger, Lemak
- April 6- PTA Board of Director's Mtg 6pm; 2nd Grade Trip to Museum of Life and Science
- April 7- Walk to School Day; Footworks Percussive Dance Cultural Arts; Report Cards for Q3 home
- April 10-14- Spring Break
- April 20- Student Led Conferences 4-7pm
- April 21- Family Marathon and Family Fitness Day
- April 25- 1st Grade Field Trip to Zoo and 4th to Symphony
- April 27- Student Led Conferences 4-7pm

Thank you to Mrs. Goodrum, Ms. Quinn and Mrs. Grice for their creativity with the grant project!

- Please join us for a Kindergarten family game day! **Monday, March 13, 2017 in the FWES Café**
9:30-10:10: Davis, Mooneyham and Mathyk
10:15-10:55: Godin, Lane and Hains
Kindergarten students have been working hard to practice various Math and English Language Arts skills. They have prepared some games to play with parents and take home.
- **Spring Field Trips and Events:** Please remember that parents must be approved volunteers in order to accompany students on any field trips or be involved in classroom activities that occur in the spring. If you are not yet registered, the process can take 2-3 weeks to complete the background check so please register with plenty of time for your events:)

FWES Student Services

Relaxation- There's an App for that!

Having a hard time pulling your kids away from their devices? It's a constant battle we all fight in this age of technology. So, instead of always fighting...let's put those iPads and iPhones to good use. There are some wonderful mindfulness, relaxation and emotion regulation apps that are fun AND a valuable use of your child's time. Instead of playing endless hours of CandyCrush or Clash of Clans; encourage your children to play with some of these more substantial apps:

Epic Zen Garden

iZen Garden 2

Social Stories

SpinArt

Likely, just a few minutes a day playing on one of these apps will improve your child's mood and relieve stress and anxiety in and around your home. Who knows...you may end up enjoying them yourself!

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Jennifer Thakur, Counselor (919-460-3474)
jthakur@wcpss.net

Kelly Wiener, Counselor (M, T & F 919-460-2742)
kwiener@wcpss.net

5th Grade Middle School Registration

Your child will be recommended for core courses (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) and any support services that are received (IEP, 504, ESL). This information will be provided to you on a course verification sheet, and you will have the opportunity to review and approve the information on the sheet.

Your child will also be able to select elective courses. These courses are not required subject areas like reading and math, but instead are optional courses that may be of interest to your child. Each middle school offers unique elective courses that your child can choose to take.

Your child will choose his/her elective courses online using PowerSchool. School staff will guide each student in this process, as the courses will be selected during the school day. This process will occur March 20 - April 21, 2017.

Once students have selected their elective courses, you will receive a course verification sheet to review and approve along with the core courses previously referenced.

We encourage you to review the elective course options available to your child prior to the course selection period. You can view the electives offered at your child's assigned middle school by visiting www.wcpss.net/rising6th

Kindergarten Registration



• Kindergarten Registration for the 2017-18 school year continues during our regular registration hours, 10 AM - 12 Noon, Monday through Friday.

- Parents should provide
 - Their child's original certified birth certificate,
 - Parent/guardian picture ID and
 - Copy of a current proof of residence (one of the following: a light, gas or water bill, or recently signed lease or closing statement.)
- The child's North Carolina Health Assessment form and up-to-date immunization record is due by the first day of school. Parents must register their child at the base school for their address.
- [WCPSS Kindergarten Registration Information](#)

Love the World Week- March 20-24, 2017



Please be sure to sign up to share your family's culture and heritage with our school community as we celebrate the beautiful diversity that IS FWES!

[Love the World Week Sign Up 2017](#)

[Form to Share your Family Culture/Heritage](#)

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

如果您需要免费翻译服务来了解学校流程，请致电 (919) 852-3303

Tech Tips from Mrs. Quinn...

This month's internet safety message comes to you from 4th graders. When using the internet as a resource, it's important to be a website detective. If you are trusting it for accurate information or safe shopping, it's your responsibility to look for clues to evaluate the quality of the website to avoid getting tricked, scammed, or misled. How professional is the site? Can you find the same facts elsewhere? Is it overtaken by ads? Do the ads match the content? Do the photo's look altered? Can you find a disclaimer that proves it's for entertainment instead of information? Get out your magnifying glass and be the detective. Is it a hoax or helpful?



Magnet Musings

from the desk of Anna Goodrum, IB Coordinator

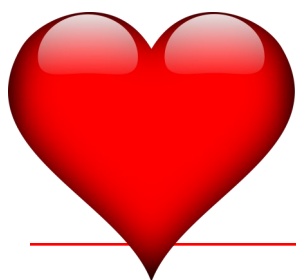


FWES Love the World Week is March 20-24th. FWES families and community partners will share cultural experiences and expertise with classes throughout the week. We would love to have volunteers the week of March 20th - 24th to participate in reading to students about the Wonders of the World, sharing knowledge of regions outside the US, and helping the students and school staff put the finishing touches on a bottle cap mural project. The last day of the week will culminate the global learning in our Family World Dance.

This year, we have added a recycled art project to our Love the World event. Bottle caps have been collected and the art teacher, Mrs. Smith has been working with students to create two panel displays. The final step will be gluing or drilling on the plastic lids to make the scene

come alive. The finished work will hang in the breezeway of the school by the gymnasium.

Mrs. Smith will also have students in her classes participate in upcycle projects the week prior. If you have paper towel rolls, yarn, cardboard pieces, pipe cleaners, or paper plates send them in to Mrs. Smith. Want to get involved during Love the World Week? Sign up here: [Volunteers](#)



Show **LOVE** to
our
**Fantastic FWES
Staff!**

Please remember to show your love 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 ...



WAKE Up and Read ... Collection has ended for this school year. Thank you to all the families who donated books to this year's drive. We collected OVER 1200 books during our 4 week collection. These books will be added to the other books collected and distributed to families in Wake County. Thank you for your support.

Read Around the World ... We will begin giving out the last continent reading log (**Australia / Antarctica and the Arctic**) in a few days. Remember you can turn in your log whenever you are finished and get the next one. Those students who complete their travels around the world will receive a special golden globe charm and attend an event near the end of the school year ... Can you be a "world reader"?

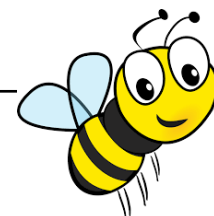
One School, One Book ... Students and families continue to be enjoying the read-aloud of Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin. We are working to arrange a schoolwide skype with Ms. Lin near the end of March. She is unable to visit our school in person but we are hoping for a "virtual visit". Ms. Lin's skype with the students is being sponsored by FWES PTA.

March Book Madness ... has begun at Farmington Woods. Students in grades 2-5 have been given a tournament bracket where they can make their selections for the "FWES 2017 Book of the Year". All brackets must be turned in by Monday, March 6th as weekly voting rounds begin in the Inquiry Center. We will announce the winning book on Monday, April 3rd. The top three winning brackets will receive a poster from the Book Fair in April. Several K and 1st grade classes have chosen to participate in classroom voting for a separate picture book bracket. The classroom with the most correctly completed bracket will receive bookmarks and pencils. Let the madness begin!

Lynda Mullaly Hunt ... Author of Fish in a Tree and One for the Murphys will be visiting with the fifth grade students on Monday, March 27th. Fish in a Tree was the Global Read Aloud for 4th and 5th grades last school year and remains a favorite book for many of our students. Students have the opportunity to purchase one of her books for autographing at the time of her visit. Information about the presale ordering of her books has been sent home to each 5th grade family. Ms. Hunt's visit to Farmington Woods is being sponsored by Quail Ridge Books and Music.

NCCBA ... All kindergarten classes as well as some 1st and 2nd grade classes are working hard to read the nominees for this year's North Carolina Children's Book Award (NCCBA). The current favorite for kindergarten is Wolfie the Bunny but we still have several to read including I Yam a Donkey! and Mother Goose Bruce. Voting will take place the week of March 20 -24.

What's the Buzz on... Learner Agency



Engaged and excited learning is the goal for every student at FWES each day they come to school! In fact, this concept is the foundation of this year's theme: FWES Ignites Learning. Our goal is to spark the interest and desire for students to learn, be reflective and take action from their learning. In the classroom, teachers are using the concept of learner agency to foster a deeper engagement in the day's activities. Learner agency a component of the dynamic learning experience outline in the Wake Country strategic plan in which students are given choice and autonomy over parts of their learning. Students have choice in the classroom

ranging from seating options to topics of research. They are choosing partners during small groups, types of text to read, and which learning station to visit first. Many of our teams have also introduced learner agency in the structure of their homework. Your student may be bringing home a choice board or week to two week long learning log to increase choice in how they practice the current learning objectives and increase engagement. Additionally, students have opportunities such as open Art room and open Gym beginning at 8:45 and lasting until the bell rings to help begin their day of learning in a way that engages

them. As a family, you can extend learner agency by creating "choose to and have to" jobs in the home. These can be learning tasks related to school, family chores, input in meal planning or activities for the weekend. Agency is the opportunity for students to voice their opinion, desire and experience in actives. Our aim in increasing agency is to increase engagement and ultimately increase the action of our IB learners.

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Farmington Woods IB/PYP Magnet Elementary PTA

<http://farmingtonwoodspta.org>



Next PTA Board Meeting- Friday, March 10th
7:45am FWES Inquiry Center

⇒ **World Dance is coming March 24th!!!!**
The World Dance committee is excited to welcome you to this year's event, taking place March 24th at Farmington Woods. Make plans now to dress to your culture and dance the night away. Come hungry as food trucks Hibachi Xpress (www.hibachixpress.com) and D'burritos (www.dburritos.weebly.com) will be selling dinner! Look for updates at farmingtonwoodspta.org/worlddance. We can't wait to see you there!



⇒ **District 9 Board Advisory Council Notes- Mano Meenaksh FWES Parent Rep: WCPSS Budget:** Do you know the WCPSS school system's budget for 2016-17 school year was out of balance by \$17.5 million! This budget shortfall was primarily caused by changes implemented and required by the State Legislature. Building an annual budget requires insight to some complex and unique requirements. Do you have suggestions on how to balance WCPSS budget, visit this website for an interactive tool to submit your balanced budget - <http://wcpss.abalancingact.com/>. If you would like to know more attend a public hearing on Superintendent's Proposed Budget. Next Meeting April 24th at Reedy Creek Middle School.

Crossroads FLEX High School: Do you know of any high school students pursuing to be an athlete or other professional careers and therefore not be able to attend high school full time? Let them know about Crossroads FLEX school, that was created and opened in 2016-17 school year to meet student need for flexible schedules due to outside activities. The school provides a blended learning environment, combining online courses (NCVPS), face-to-face support, and small group sessions. Blended content is available for both core classes and electives.

⇒ **Yearbook LAST CHANCE** to submit candid pictures for the yearbook by Sunday, March 19th. We still need a lot of photos from your child's classroom activities and field trips. The yearbook has to be sent off to the printer at the end of the month so we need the pictures as soon as possible. Uploading them is simple. If you have pictures on your phone, get the ReplayIt app from your app store. If you want to upload via your computer, go to www.ReplayIt.com. In either case, you will need to create an account. You



will then be prompted for your school name and a school password (which is "fwbears"). Then you simply choose your pictures to upload. Thank you to everyone who have helped out this year!

⇒ **Cultural Arts:** The last two cultural arts performances of the year are coming up on Friday, March 10 and Friday, April 7th. In March the performance will be by Capital Transit Band who will share with us "From Bach to DooWop: a Musical History Show". The April Show will be by Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble. They will perform "Keeping the Beat: Multi-cultural Influences in American Music and Dance."

⇒ **PTA Outreach:** The PTA could use donations of large (size 14/16) and adult small elastic waist pants for the clothes closet. These clothes are used by students who have a need for extra clothes while at school for various reasons such as slipping in mud on the playground. Any pants or shirts borrowed from the clothes closet should be washed and returned.

⇒ **Volunteers are Needed:** The Farmington Woods PTA will have various positions opening up next year due to many parents "graduating" as their children move on to middle school! Please consider one of these roles if you are able to. If you are interested please visit the PTA website and reach out to a



PTA member for more information! Remember, being a PTA Board member can be done in a variety of ways, by completing tasks at home, being present in the school, and attending 1 board meeting per month! The following positions will be available:

1st VP
Advocacy/Technology Chair
Secretary
Audit Chair
Yearbook
Global Fun Run Chair
Tutoring



For More Information- Contact
[FWES PTA Board Members](#) 2016-17