



September 15, 2016

Welcome back, Douglas families!

Douglas Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary is all set for another amazing year. While it will be hard to surpass being named the Number One Magnet School in the Nation, the Dragons are ready to roar! We created new spaces to be creative, to think critically, to communicate and to collaborate! **The overall theme of the year is to provide balance to our work.** There is a need to balance our approach, our environment, our movement, our assessments, our time, our priorities and our focus! Students will benefit from our balance by increased academic achievement and experiencing an all inclusive educational experience.

We are Innovators, we are the Dragons of Douglas!

Principal Burns

Mark Your Calendars

Sept. 13-19: 3rd Grade Beginning of Grade Assessment

Sept. 15: Dress like a Pokemon Spirit Day

Sept. 21: Math Night (5:30 - 6:30 p.m.)

Sept. 23: Dress Like a Nerd Spirit Day

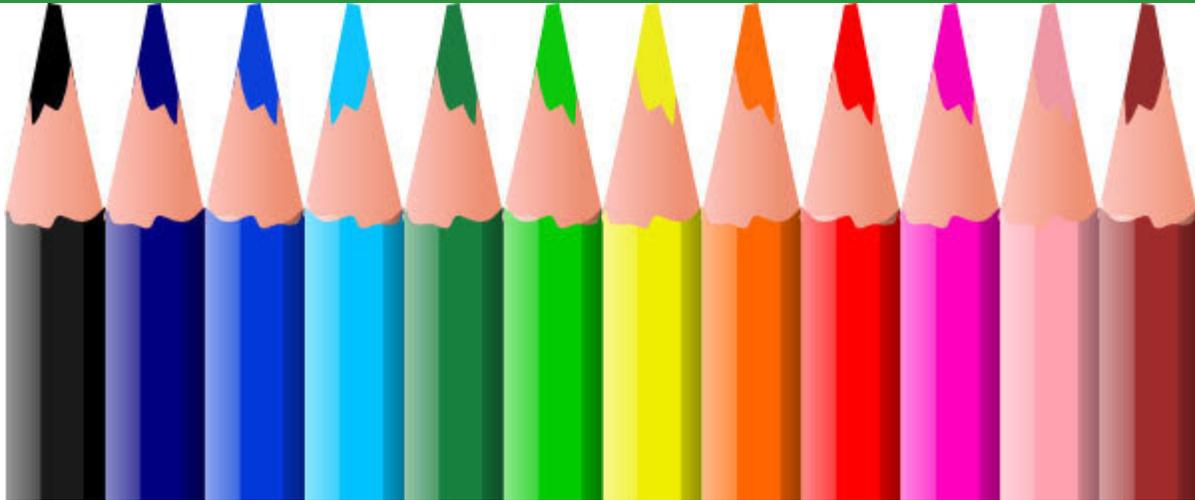
Sept. 25: Dragonfire Fundraiser Starts!

Sept. 29: b. good Spirit Night (5-9 p.m.)

Sept. 30: Early Release (1:15 p.m.)

Keep an eye on the [Douglas website calendar](#) for future events!

News & Events



WHAT'S NEW AT DOUGLAS THIS YEAR?

There are lots of exciting innovations at Douglas to check out during your next visit:

- In the hallways, we have installed **Lego Walls** for the students to show their mastery of the standards through their creative and visual expressions.
- We have designated spaces for different disciplines: the **Creativity Cave** supports the arts, the **Think Tank** is an additional space for science experiments and investigations and the **Collaboration Station** is for multiple classes to work together in a creative space. Our teachers will meet in the **Innovators' Inn**, which is a unique and forward-thinking space to foster their creativity, critical thinking and collaboration.
- The **Music Garden** will include a combination of artist/student-created instruments and a combination of chimes, drums, bells and a xylophone created by a company called Free Notes. This project was funded by the the PTA and the 4C's grant from Wake County. This awesome music garden will live in the area just outside the modulars by the basketball court. The instruments made by artist/students will be made using recycled materials and mounted on our 'music wall'. We expect this area to be complete by winter break.
- **Art Boards in the Kindergarten Area** were purchased last year and installed this summer by the PTA for the kindergarten play area. [These boards can be used year-round for many fun projects!](#)

- The PTA funded the purchase of hundreds of large and medium sized **Imagination Blocks** to be used for creative play with all grades. Enough were purchased and are stored in rolling bins so that many classes may have access to these blocks at any given time. These will be used in classrooms, collaborative spaces, outdoors and even during indoor recess! [Learn more about imagination blocks.](#)

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Box Tops is all about the difference ONE can make. This year, our goal is to raise \$1,000 for our school. Here are three easy, everyday ways you can help:

Clip — Clip the Box Top from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. Each one is worth 10¢ when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. **We have a collection container outside the Media Center into which you can drop the Box Tops.** Please include a slip of paper with your student's name and his/her teacher's name and put everything in a baggie.

Shop online — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace® (boxtops4education.com/marketplace). Up to 15% of your purchase total is automatically donated to our school, at no additional cost to you. Plus, you'll get exclusive Box Tops deals and discounts!

Read — Buy books online through the Reading RoomSM, a partnership between Box Tops and Barnes and Noble. Our school receives up to 6% of qualifying purchases.

Sign up — It's easy and free. Sign up to support our school at boxtops4education.com.

You can also sign up for Box Tops email newsletters that will keep you updated on the program, and for Marketplace newsletters with Box Tops members-only deals and discounts.

To learn more, visit boxtops4education.com or [contact Holly Kubovcik](#), our volunteer coordinator for Box Tops—and thanks for choosing to make a difference for our school with Box Tops!

DOUGLAS COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

A huge THANK YOU to the families who volunteered to take a watering shift this summer! Our garden is alive and thriving, the gourds for this year's music project are growing (or curing), and we are starting to prepare space for fall plantings.



1st and 4th graders got to kick off the first week of school by helping save seeds, look for beetles, remove tomato caterpillars, and plant seeds for the fall. More pictures and details are on the garden blog at www.DouglasCommunityGarden.wordpress.com. If you have any questions or want to get involved with school gardening, contact Skye Engstrom (skye.engstrom@gmail.com) or visit the garden blog.

DOUGLAS PARENTS' CONNECTION

Want to connect with other parents? There is a group of parents who connect on Facebook through an unofficial page. Any parents of students at Douglas who feel like they'd benefit from an online community to facilitate friendship and connections outside the school are invited. It is independent and not officially associated with the school or the PTA (the school and PTA also have Facebook pages you should visit!). You can find it at www.facebook.com/groups/DouglasParents/

CLUB NEWS

- **Run Club** starts October 8! It will be held 3:45-4:30 every Thursday for 3rd-5th graders. Please have your child fill out a form in the Media Center.
- **Mathletes** will be held on Fridays 8:00 - 8:40 a.m.
- **Yoga & Mindfulness Club** will take place on Wednesday mornings at 8:00.
- **TEK After School Clubs** are back with a great new line up of 12 clubs to choose from. Registration forms for TEK Clubs will go home on Sept. 19. We will be registering clubs on Friday, Sept. 23, from 8:45-9:30 a.m. outside of the front office. Registration is on a first come first serve basis. Students or parents may turn in registration forms with a check payable to TEK for \$135. Club listings are available here: www.tailoredenrichmentkids.com. Feel free contact Julie Sullivan with any questions: julie@tailoredenrichmentkids.com

Get more information about these and other Douglas Clubs in the **Club Hub** located in the Media Center!

MATH NIGHT

Math Night takes place Wednesday, Sept. 21 at the school. There will be two sessions: one at 5:30 p.m. and another at 6:00 p.m. Come learn about all the innovative ways our students are learning math!

PTA Update



DRAGONFIRE IS COMING!

Want to sell some wrapping paper? How about coupon books? Anyone want to send your kid door-to-door selling candy bars or magazine subscriptions? Want to beg your neighbors and co-workers to buy cookie dough so that can Douglas can make \$1 out of every \$5? Nope! We don't either.

Dragonfire is our annual fundraising campaign in which our school keeps 100% of every donation made. 100%. Nothing to sell, nothing to deliver, everything to gain. Past goals achieved for Dragonfire have contributed to the purchase of classroom smartboards, field trip scholarships, visiting artists, art/science nights and our new collaborative spaces in the modular units.

PLEASE plan on supporting our Dragonfire this year. **The campaign starts on September 26.** Stay tuned to the Dragoner, [PTA Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#) and your student's green folder for details coming soon. Rumor has it, the classroom with the most participation will get to have a special school day with Mr. Burns. And if we make our goal? Pajama Day for ALL!

SPIRIT NIGHTS WITH THE DRAGONS

Spirit Nights check so many important boxes for our community ... Having fun. Raising money for our school. Supporting local businesses.

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA during our first event of the year, the Lula Roe Pop-Up Sale in August! The event was a great success, and we not only supported our fantastic school, but two of our very own Douglas moms. Thank you Allison Bingham and Susan Boylston for your commitment to the PTA and kicking off our spirit nights!

This month's spirit night will be Thursday, September 29, at [b good restaurant in North Hills](#) from 5-9 p.m.! b good will give 20% of their sales during this time to Douglas - wow! Simply mention that you are there for Douglas Elementary. This is extended to both dine-in and take-out orders. PTA representatives will be on hand as well to answer any questions you have and accept membership applications. Let's celebrate what we hope will be a successful Dragonfire campaign with our friends a b good!

Looking ahead, the PTA fundraising team has planned several new spirit nights along with some annual favorites. Check out the [school calendar on the Douglas website](#) and plan to join us throughout the year. We'll be skating, going to the movies and even rock climbing! Please contact Spirit Night Chair Tene Williams-Marcus (tashakiw@yahoo.com) for details.

NEW DRAGON GEAR

Douglas has a new dragon! The PTA has water bottles and magnets representing our new logo for \$5 each. We'll have a table set up at Math Night on September 21st. Stop by and pick up a few for your little dragons!

LINK THOSE DISCOUNT CARDS!

Hey Douglas families! Did you know that Harris Teeter VIC cards do more than just take up space on your key chain? Indeed! By simply linking YOUR card to OUR school, we can benefit from their Together In Education, TIE, program. The next you visit your neighborhood HT, tell a cashier on your next shopping trip that you would like to link your card to Mary P. Douglas Elementary. You can also link your card from the Harris Teeter website. [Click here!](#)

Speaking of grocery stores who ROCK... Lowes Foods is including Douglas as a partner in their [Back2Schools](#) program! Please take a moment to visit their [program website to link your Fresh Rewards card to Douglas](#). We will receive a portion of your grocery bill on their private label items.

JOIN THE PTA

Being part of the Douglas PTA is a great way to support our school and stay in the loop on activities and events. Free Douglas t-shirt with sign up! [Download the form here](#). Forms can be turned in with cash or check in the main office.

Connect With the PTA on Social Media!

