



# What's News in the Woods...

## Farmington Woods IB/PYP Elementary Magnet School

### November 2019 Newsletter

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

From Mrs. Pierce...

#fwesunlockslearning

We are over 1/4 of the way through the academic school year and were very pleased to read report cards and note the progress our students have made. Through our IB/PYP we will continue to seek ways that will support the growth of all students in all curriculum disciplines. Fall conferences are a great opportunity to discuss your child's growth with the teacher and partner for continued successes.

We have been excited to receive NC DPI testing and growth results for Farmington Woods and to share that our school "Exceeded Growth" for the 2018-19 school year, the second year in a row we have "Exceeded Growth." This measure means that as a school our students grew more than was statistically predicted in ELA and Math on End of Grade

tests. Our growth score was the 10th highest growth score of all schools in our district AND all of our student subgroups met or exceeded their expected growth last year. We are very proud of the hard work of our students and the focus of our teachers on providing an engaging learning environment that requires thinking and application of learning- aligned with the IB/PYP inquiry based principles.

The month of November is a time when we think much about giving thanks and of everything we have to be thankful for in our lives. I must say that I am continually thankful for the amazing FWES community- parents, students, staff and community members- who seek daily to learn and make a difference in the

world. What a wonderful place to get to spend time! Thank you for choosing to be part of our school family and for all you do to make our school the best place it can be or our students!

*With much appreciation,*

*Winston Pierce*



#### Go for the Gold!

Give and Earn Respect

Own your Actions

Lead by Example

Demonstrate Cooperation



## A Walk in the Woods ...

- **Here Comes the Bus!** Transportation releases new Here Comes the Bus App to help families see the location of their child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. This is to help families know when the bus is near the assigned stop. For more information, including how to download and access the App click this link- [Here Comes the Bus App](#)
- **Recognize the way FWES Staff Unlocks Learning!** 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 Registration Backlog:** Mrs. Pierce received information at the WCPSS Principal's meeting that the volunteer registration system for WCPSS continues to be backed up- with over 6000 applications in line for approval. Thank you to all of our new families for your patience as we maintain the security of our campus through this registration process. If you have a volunteer event scheduled- please notify Mrs. Moore at the front desk AT LEAST 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT and she can send your name in to try to expedite your processing.

- **FWES Recognized by American Heart Association:** FWES was recognized as a leader by the American Heart Association due to our students' participation in the Heart Healthy Challenge during our Jump Rope for Heart Campaign in 2018-19. Our school had the highest participation in the district in the Challenge. Our students understand the importance of how IB Learners need to take action with their learning and through Mr. Eller's support, took action by using the pledge to drink more water, eat more fruits and vegetables, be active and to be nice to people. Way to go IB Learners!
- **First Grade News:** First Grade is excited to head to the Wake Stone Corporation rock quarry on Tuesday, November 5th (DiOrio, Long, & Morrisette) and Tuesday, November 12th (Byrd, Edwards, & Williams)! This field trip will begin our unit on rocks during which the First Grade Scientists will investigate rock properties through various experiments. The unit will culminate with our Rock Show in December where they will demonstrate how knowledgeable they've become about rocks and their properties!
- **Community Partner- LORD Corporation:** We were thrilled to have volun-

November, 2019

### Calendar Items to Note...

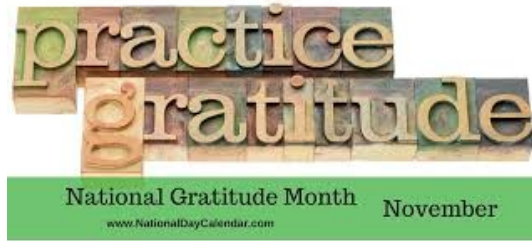
- Nov 12- Picture Retakes- AM; 10:00am 3rd Grade Check In
- Nov 13-2nd Grade Walking Trip (Gilfillan/Pusateri); 10:00am 3rd Grade Check In
- Nov 14 Book Fair; 8:00 Chess, Planeteers; 2nd Grade Walking Trip (Quinn/Ingalls); 5:45 3rd Grade Explorers Mtg; 4:30-7:00pm Family Conference Night
- Nov 15- Report Cards Home; 2nd Grade Walking Trip (Bulla/Madden)
- Nov 18- 5:30 District 9 BAC Meeting- Green Hope High; Superintendent Moore- Diversity and Strategic Plan- open to the public
- Nov 19- 5th Grade Trip to NSCU Basketball Game
- Nov 21- 8:00 Coding, Planeteers, Cross Country; 4:15 Table Top; Book Fair Family night 4:30-8:00pm
- Nov 22- 7:45 PTA Board Meeting
- Nov 25- Magnet Tour 10:15am
- Nov 26- 7:35 SIP Quarterly Review
- Nov 27-29 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 2- Interim Reports Home; Box Top Collection Begins
- Dec 5- Cultural Arts Performance- Timmy and Susanna Abel; 8:00 Coding, Green Thumb, Planeteers, Cross Country; 4:15 Table Top Games
- Dec 6- 8:30 Walk to School Day; PTA Coffee Chat in Lobby 9:00-9:45am
- Dec 10- Kinder trip to Marbles
- Dec 12- 1st Grade Rock Show; 8:00 Planeteers, Chess; 6-8pm PTA Pajama Jam Family Event!
- Dec 13- 1st Grade Rock Show- Last Day for Boxtops
- Dec 16-20 Gift of Reading
- Dec 16- Read Together Day- join us!
- Dec 17- Magnet Tour 9:45am
- Dec 19- 7:45 PTA Board Mtg; 8:00 Coding, Cross Country, Planeteers; 4:15 Table Top
- Dec 20- Last School day of 2019!

teers from LORD spend two days with our 2nd graders delivering inquiry based lessons about economy to align with their current Inquiry Unit content. We are fortunate to have many in our community who choose to be a part of our school and to support our students' growth as IB Learners. FWES where Learning Lasts a Lifetime!



# 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: Jennifer Thakur and Sam Woodrum, counselors or Leah Frahm, social worker.



Did you know November is National Gratitude Month? The Student Services Team is thankful for many things, including our wonderful students and all of the fantastic faculty and staff at FWES! We are also thankful for the following:

Jennifer Thakur, school counselor: I am thankful for my amazing sons who keep me laughing, my health and the health of my family, and my sweet and loving pets who give the best

snuggles!

Sam Woodrum, school counselor: I am thankful for nieces & nephews, the woods, tacos, and my green bike.

Megan Trapasso, school psychologist: My health, my family, coffee, and a world full of children who make me smile.

Leah Frahm, school social worker: My parents and sister, wacky spouse, full-throttle toddler, and super lazy cat.

We encourage you to take some time this month to talk as a family about the things you are grateful for!

Jennifer Thakur, Counselor, [jthakur@wcpss.net](mailto:jthakur@wcpss.net)  
919-460-3469 ext. 26517

Sam Woodrum, 50% Counselor, [swoodrum2@wcpss.net](mailto:swoodrum2@wcpss.net)  
919-460-3469 ext.

Leah Frahm, Social Worker, [lfrahm@wcpss.net](mailto:lfrahm@wcpss.net)  
919-460-3469 ext. 26516



## The Buzz on iStation Reading Benchmarking Tool and Read To Achieve

**iStation Reading Benchmarking Tool:** K-3 teachers at Farmington Woods are beginning their training with the new reading assessment and benchmarking tool that will be used in all public schools across the state starting in January 2020 with students' mid-year reading benchmark. While the tool and program components will look different, they still provide teachers and families with information on the foundational reading skills that all students need to be successful independent readers. Parents will also have access through this tool to see student information and to access resources to help with reading foundational skills at home.

**Read to Achieve:** Read to Achieve is a NC State Law designed to ensure students are able to read on grade level by the end of 3rd Grade. Due to the changes in the reading assessment tools and the upcoming changes to the Reading End of Grade Test, the law is being updated. Families K-3 will receive information on the updates and an information session will be held at Farmington Woods Elementary as soon as the updates are finalized and there is information for families. In the meantime, please continue to have your child read 20-30 minutes a night which should include some read aloud time, too. Reading is a skill that requires practice to improve- much like soccer practice is required to learn how to kick a corner kick; piano practice is required to learn a new music piece; swimming practice is required to improve your speed to ribbon in the meet- the way to prepare for the finish line and be on grade level as a reader is to continue to practice reading regularly.

[NC DPI- Read to Achieve](#) there is no information currently at this link, but continue to check for updates.

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

Si vous avez besoin de services de traduction gratuits pour comprendre les procédures scolaires, appelez le (919) 852-3303

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

如果您需要免费翻译服务来了解学校流程，请致电 (919) 852-3303

# Healthy Active Kids at FWES!



- We are honored to have with us for the first semester Jaime Cooke. Jamie is completing her graduate degree in Physical Education from UNCW and currently student teaching at FWES.
- FWES Walks to School are the first Friday of each month. We meet in the Kildare Plaza parking lot (in front of Torero's Mexican Restaurant) and leave by 8:30 a.m. Next walks are: 11/8 and 12/6.



- Students are participating in their beginning of the year personal fitness assessment (One mile walk/jog/run, 60 second Push-ups & Curl ups, and sit and reach). Parents can access their students data on: <https://www.focusedfitness.org/> The username is the student's ID # (lunch number) and the password is the last name. Please email Mr. Eller if you are having any trouble accessing your student's data. Students are assigned to set realistic personal fitness goals for each component assessed. Due date 11/29.
- Motor Skill Units up to Winter Break are: throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling with feet, punting, trapping and passing. Students should have access to manipulative equipment at home for each skill using a variety of age appropriate equipment.

Any parents interested in helping with student wellness activities/events at FWES? Contact Mr. Eller: [del-ler@wcpss.net](mailto:del-ler@wcpss.net)

## Magnet Musings

from the desk of Anna Goodrum, IB Coordinator

THE IB PYP PARENT - Sharing the Learner Profile at home

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are developing global citizens here at FWES. This is especially shown through the Learner Profile.

### Principled:

Students who are PRINCIPLED have a sense of fairness and are honest with themselves and with others. They understand that sometimes there are rules and they follow them. They have an understanding of moral reasoning.

How can parents help to develop students who are Principled at home?

- Involve your child in deciding on the rules for a game or activity and then ensure that they stick to the ones that have been decided upon.
- Encourage your child to play games that involve teams. Discuss with your child the qualities of a team player. What sort of person would they want on their team?
- When your child wins a game insist that he or she is a well-mannered winner. They might thank their opponent or shake hands with them if it's appropriate.
- When playing a game, don't change the rules or let your child win. Being a gracious loser is just as important as being a good winner.
- Use the learner profile language when discussing home rules.

### Reflective:

Students who are REFLECTIVE know

what they are good at and what they're not. They make changes where they can. They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and consider their personal strengths and weaknesses in a constructive manner.

How can parents help to develop students who are Reflective at home?

- Spend some time reviewing their assessments, interim reports or report card with them. They should have the opportunity to look at these documents and consider it as well. Discuss it with them and truly consider their thoughts on their strengths and areas for improvement.
- Consider the goals that your child could set for the next term. Make a list not only of the goals, but of specific actions that can be taken to achieve these goals. You might want to list action that your child will take independently as well as action parents will take to support them. For example, if one of the goals your child sets for herself is to improve her writing, her action might be to keep a journal and write in it for at least 10 minutes each night. As a parent, you might decide that the two of you will participate in shared writing, for 30 minutes each week and produce a book of narratives together.
- Consider non-academic strengths and areas for improvement. Set goals and create an action list.



SEE  
THINGS  
DIFFERENTLY



## WCPSS Magnet Programs

Application Period Opens October 26th.

Rising K's may begin registration at BASE school on October 28th

Note: Rising K Siblings MUST still register at BASE school and complete Magnet Applications

Rising 6th Graders should complete application no later than Jan. 30, 2020

Learn About WCPSS Magnet Programs and Process:

Parent Information Sessions-

- December 4, January 8
- Location: Crossroads I, 5625 Dillard Drive, Cary, NC 27518
- Time: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Email: [magnetcenter@wcpss.net](mailto:magnetcenter@wcpss.net)



## A Page from the Inquiry Center....

**Bedford Falls Book Fair ... "DON'T BUG ME - I'M READING !"** Our Fall Book Fair is November 15th - 22nd. Each class will have a time to preview the book fair where volunteers and Inquiry Center staff will be available to help students select books and write them on their wish lists. Classes will then return to purchase at another scheduled time. The book fair will be open for Family Night on Thursday, November 11st. Please come with your children to purchase books for your home library as well as your child's classroom. All profits from the book fair will be used by the Inquiry Center. Here is the [Signup Genius for volunteers.](#)



**Read Around the World ...** The first Read Around the World "travelers" are beginning to turn in their reading logs and selecting a 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**. Keep on reading and recording those books on your reading logs.



**READvolution-** Wake County Public Schools, in partnership with the Carolina Hurricanes, will be participating in a community-wide literacy campaign supporting daily reading outside of school. The goal of the campaign is to highlight the importance of reading in creating college and career ready graduates. To help reach WCPSS's Vision 2020, our students have been given a challenge of 20 minutes of reading outside of the school day! For every book a student reads, they will write the title of the book on a paper puck to be added to our Hurricanes hockey goal banner. The goal is to collectively fill our banner with 2,020 pucks! **Be sure that your student(s) is recording their minutes read into the online program. The online program is what the Hurricanes will use to award game ticket vouchers!**

Please contact Mrs. Grice at [egrice@wcpss.net](mailto:egrice@wcpss.net) if you have questions. **READvolution will end Nov 22nd !!**

**NC Museum of Art ...** The NC Museum of Art is once again offering families at FWES the opportunity to visit the fall exhibition: *Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and Mexican Modernism from the Jacques and Natasha Geiman Collection*. The museum has given the school two exhibition passes (each for up to 6 people).



The passes need to be obtained from Mrs. Grice in the Inquiry Center. The Passes are valid thru January 12th.

**NEW THIS YEAR IMarch Book Madness** - want to help decide the CHAMPION book for the year ??

For **Grades 3-5:** March Book Madness is a bracket-style tournament that matches books in one-on-one "games." Every week, students will vote to decide which book will move to the next round. After each round of voting the bracket will be updated and the next round of voting will begin. The tournament will start with the sweet 16, elite 8, final 4 and then the final round to choose our winner. The brackets will be announced in February, but we have selected the books and students can begin reading now until voting begins in March! The theme of the books is "Brave and Bold":



*Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed Marcus Vega  
*Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya

*Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed

*Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Hernandez

*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang

*Lu* by Jason Reynolds

*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thannha Lai

*El Deafo* by Cece Bell

*Great Treehouse War* by Lisa Graff

*Stella Diaz Has Something to Say* by Angela Dominguez

*Breakout* by Kate Messner

*Insignificant Event in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft

*Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga

*Nowhere Boy* by Katherine Marsh

*Wildfire: A Novel* by Rodman Philbrick

*Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya

...

Check out your Local Wake County Public Library

November events page at: [www.wakegov.com/libraries/events](http://www.wakegov.com/libraries/events)

**K-5th Super Special: A Day in the Life of a Hogwarts Student** Saturday, November 16 at 2:30 p.m. Be selected to represent one of the 4 houses of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. You'll master your skills as a witch or wizard after completing courses in care of magical creatures and potions. Costumes are encouraged! Registration is requested.

**November is Picture Book Month ...** Why are Picture Books important? "Little kids love them. Big kids love them. Adults love them. They make us laugh. They make us cry. They make us think. They help us understand the world. They help us understand each other. They stay with us. They are fun to book talk. They are fun to give as gifts. They smell good." (Colby Sharp)



Picture books shared with a child requires you to be physically close, to sit side by side or snuggled up on the bed. Picture books are important because they are in a format that allows even the youngest child to participate in 'reading'. Picture books teach us - young and old alike - lessons about ourselves, our world, our feelings, our realities. What better way to start a child on a lifelong love of reading and a gift that will remain with them forever? Let's start today. Find a book, a child, a comfortable chair, and let the magic unfold.

[Check out this calendar](#) for some ideas - a different picture book author each day.

# Farmington Woods IB/PYP Magnet Elementary PTA

<https://sites.google.com/fwespta.org/home>



Keep abreast of PTA and school events and volunteer opportunities in Memberhub!

Join the 615 FWES families that are already on the Memberhub communication platform by creating a login at <http://app.memberhub.com/login>. Be sure to add your children's names in your profile under "Your Family" (drop down menu on the top right). There is no cost to join Memberhub, and you can translate the site into over 100 languages!

Join the PTA: <https://fwespta.memberhub.store>

PTA Volunteer Opportunities: <http://memberhub.com/HSR12177I11004> (must also be approved by WCPSS)



**Next PTA Board Meeting- Friday, November 22nd  
7:45am FWES \*Conference Room**

- ⇒ **Fall Book Fair- Don't Bug Me I'm Reading:** Hey FWES Parents! The Book Fair is right around the corner and we need your help to make it a success! We are looking for help every day, but the big need is for kindergarten and first grade on the first 3 days. The following sign up genius link has the teacher names in each time slot. If you are a registered volunteer and can spare some time, please sign up to help.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0944abae2da6fb6-fall1>

- ⇒ **Global Fun Run- GAME ON!** Thank you to all of our families for your support and participation. We also appreciate all the families who came out to cheer on students and volunteer during the run. We are still collecting final pledges and will look forward to sharing a total raised with FWES families soon! "Together we CAN DO MORE!" Thank you!!

- ⇒ **RCITYROCKS:** Sign up for RCITYROCKS and earn \$\$\$ for the PTA. Thank you to everyone that has joined RCityRocks. Since Farmington Woods PTA joined in September, 2018, we have raised \$2728.33, just for eating and shopping at businesses we already visited!! If you haven't joined, it's not too late. Please text JOIN to FWESPTA@rcityrocks.com. Once you join, every time you purchase anything at any of the participating businesses, just text a picture of your receipt to the FWESPTA@rcityrocks.com address, and they will donate up to 20% to FWES PTA. A complete list of supporting businesses is on our Farmington Woods PTA Facebook page, as well as on RCityRocks.com.

- ⇒ **What's for dinner on Thursdays? Pizza for the PTA!** Every Thursday night, [Pizza La Stella](#) on Kildaire Farm Rd will donate 10% back to the FWES PTA if you mention Farmington Woods. Let's show them some gratitude for their support.

- ⇒ **Advocacy:** Monday, Nov 18th from 5:30-7 is the next BAC9 (Board Advisory Committee District 9) Mtg which will be at Green Hope High School. The guest speaker will be Superintendent Moore discussing Diversity and Lloyd Gardner, Chief of Staff discussing the new Strategic

Plan- the mtg is open to the public (food is only for school administration and BAC9 representative), & hear the updates from our School Board Member, Bill Fletcher.

- ⇒ **Staff Appreciation Chili Cook Off!** Help us thank our hardworking staff for all they do during conference week! The PTA will be hosting our first ever FWES Chili Cook Off for the staff on Thursday, November 14th. Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4CADA723A1FB6-teacher> to signup. We will have the staff vote for their favorite - winner receives 2 free passes to Jump Street!

- ⇒ **Yearbooks:** Pictures, pictures, pictures!! We need your pictures!! Letterland Parade, field trips, lunch outside, or any school event, we want your pictures for the yearbook. Please upload the photos to Jostens' ReplayIt! site to be used in the yearbook. [www.replayit.com](http://www.replayit.com). You can also upload photos from your mobile device through the ReplayIt! App. Please remember to only include pictures of school events. On the Web, go to [www.replayit.com](http://www.replayit.com). Select Register and find our school. Then enter the password: fwbeats (all lowercase). Any questions or problems, just contact Lauri Van Oostrum-Reed, [yearbook@fwespta.org](mailto:yearbook@fwespta.org).



- ⇒ **Cafeteria Angel Fund:** Cafeteria Angel Fund is up and running! Donations can be made directly to the cafeteria or put in the PTA Blue Mailbox with checks payable to FWES Cafeteria Angel Fund. You can also donate through memberhub.

- ⇒ **Volunteers Needed For:**

Outreach (emergency clothes closet, backpack buddies)  
Inquiry Center  
Project Parents  
Teacher Task Team  
Spirit Wear  
Book Fair  
Staff Appreciation



Please email Stevie Martino at [President@FWESPTA.org](mailto:President@FWESPTA.org) for more information about these or any other volunteer opportunities.