



What's News in the Woods...

Farmington Woods IB/PYP Elementary Magnet School

December 2017 Newsletter

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

From Mrs. Pierce...

Learning continues to be inspired 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 our annual Gift of Reading- the greatest gift we can give to support Life Long Learning! We hope you will help your child enjoy windows to the world through the joy of reading. You are invited share your joy for reading on Read Together Day, December 19th.

Our IB Learner Profile focus for December is Caring. We encourage our

school community to continue to show caring for each other and those around them each and every day. 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!

#fwesinspireslearning

*With wishes for joy
and caring for
all,*

Winston
Pierce



Go for the Gold!

Give and Earn Respect
Own your Actions
Lead by Example
Demonstrate Cooperation



A Walk in the Woods ...

- [Recognize the Inspiring FWES Staff!](#)
Please remember to use the link on our website for recognizing any staff member on our campus who has helped to inspire your child's learning this year! During this month of giving thanks, we are so thankful for our hardworking and committed staff!
- **Volunteer Cards and Registration**
The front office will be working to create and distribute volunteer cards for those individuals who registered and were approved as a volunteer by November 15th. If you did not yet register and may want to join us for The Gift of Reading or to attend a field trip or help in the classroom- you may register at the computer in the front office any school day from 8:30-4:30pm. It can take 2-3 weeks for clearance to be returned so please plan ahead.
- **Afternoon Parking**-We recognize that parking availability in the afternoon is limited. We ask that to maintain an orderly and safe dismissal process that all adults picking up students as walkers park in the lower lot in available parking spots. Cars cannot be parked in the bus loop or in fire lanes. To reduce the number of cars in the

lower lot, we encourage families to consider picking-up students in carpool.

- Spelling Bee--Information about spelling bee has been sent in [Monday Folders](#). Students can access word lists and begin practicing now for the spelling bee rounds which will begin when we return to school in January.
- **From the Music Room: [Family Evening Concert Info, Entrance and Raffle Ticket Form](#)**
 - Come out for our Family Evening Concert this week, **Friday, December 8**. We are looking forward to a great Number Drummer Interactive Performance, basket raffle, and Ringers and Singers performance. Tickets are \$4 when pre-ordered and \$5 at the door.
- **WCPSS Season's Greeting Card features FWES Visual Artists for 2017!**
The following student designs were selected for Dr. Merrill, Superintendent's Holiday Card Contest:
Ainsley Hendrix 5th Grade
Alexander Painter 3rd Grade
Natalie Shea 5th Grade
Charlotte Magee 5th Grade
Vedant Kardekar 5th Grade
Olive Flatley 4th Grade

December, 2017

Calendar Items to Note...

- Dec. 1- 8:30am Walk to School Day- Kildaire Plaza
- Dec 4- Interim Reports for Q2
- Dec 5- 3rd to NC Museum of Art (McLeod, Dula, Lindsey)
- Dec 6- 8:00am Ringers Rehearsal
- Dec 7- 3rd to NC Museum of Art (Packer, Thompson, Musumeci)
- Dec 8- 7:45 PTA Board Mtg; Number Drummer Concert; Family Evening Concert
- Dec 11- 9:30 Magnet Tour
- Dec 12- Gift of Reading Begins- Dress Like a Book Character Day
- Dec 13- Gift of Reading- Wild Animal Wednesday; 2:30 1st Grade Rock Show (Byrd, Edwards and Williams)
- Dec 14 Gift of Reading- Hat's Off to Reading (wear a hat); 2:30 1st Grade Rock Show (Viola, Brown, Morrisette, Long)
- Dec 15- Gift of Reading- Flashlight Friday; 9:30 4th Grade Enterprise Day
- Dec 18- Gift of Reading- Mix Matched Shoes/ Socks Day
- Dec 19- Read Together Day/Pajama Day
- Dec 21- 1:15pm Early Release
- Dec 22-January 1- Winter Break and Happy New Year!
- Jan 2- Students Return to School!

Vihaan Kerekatte 5th Grade
Miki Wajima 5th Grade
Ines Antoine 5th Grade
Meghan Hadsell 4th grade

WCPSS [Season's Greetings Card 2017](#)

- **More Visual Artists Recognized at FWES:** The following 5th Grade students were recognized with ribbons (Outstanding and Honorable Mention) for the Wake Soil and Conservation Poster Contest.
CeAnah Pusey
Alicia Harris
Shruthi Meehaksh
Lauryn Hill
Kayla Marallo
Annabelle Roten
Xavier Brown
Jasmine Pittman
Kaan Uyar
Nora Richardson
Aidan Fuller
Mackenzie Feeney
Gwen Peterson
Kyler Prince-Cohee
Luke Rutheny
Edward Fuller
Celeste Madden
Alton Moore
Maddy Suko



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 Kelly Wiener, counselors or Joette Basham, social worker.

Counselors and Social Worker News:

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Does your family live in a shelter, motel, campground, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, or some other inadequate accommodation, or is doubled-up with other people due to a **loss of housing or economic hardship**? If so, your school-aged children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

If you and your child(ren) are in transition, please contact the School Social Worker, Mrs. Basham, to discuss available supports and resources for your family. Mrs. Basham can be reached via email at cbasham@wcpss.net or by phone/text at 919-238-9445.

For additional information on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, please visit the website:

<https://www.wcpss.net/Page/165>



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

This holiday season, the best gift you can give your child is a good education! And the best place to get an education is in school. It's tempting to extend your vacation by a few days, but remember, those days count as absences. Just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time. So make sure your child is in school every day, right up until vacation starts. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning.

Jennifer Thakur, Counselor, jthakur@wcpss.net
919-460-3469 ext. 26517

Kelly Wiener, Counselor (M, T & F), kwienner@wcpss.net
919-460-3469 ext. 26516

Joette Basham, Social Worker (T & F), cbasham@wcpss.net

Notes From the Front Office Mrs. Farr, Mrs. Nagy and Mrs. Moore

- 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. The social worker will be happy to assist those families who may not be able to pick up sick students.

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**

- Update Phone Numbers!** As students are getting sick or injured at school, it is critical we have updated contact information to reach families. Please update phone numbers regularly in the front office.
- 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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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!



Your Student's Personal Fitness

Please take a moment to sit down with your student and let them lead a parent/student conference on their personal fitness data. Just in case... the website is <https://www.focusedfitness.org/> and user name is student ID/lunch number and password is last name. At this point your student should have pre data and goals set.

We are working towards achieving those goals. Our next measurement will be done in February to see how we are progressing towards our goals. Look at your student's past scores by clicking on "history". Let me know if you have any questions deller@wcpss.net

Walks to School are the first Friday of every month. We meet at the Kildare Plaza parking lot behind the Starbucks on Kildare Farm Road at the intersection with Farmington Woods Drive. The next Walk to School day is Friday, January 5th! Join us!



Magnet Musings

from the desk of Anna Goodrum, IB Coordinator

Expressing and Sharing our Cultures

Learning at FWES often extends beyond the classroom and community as students and teachers explore traditions, cultures and beliefs of others. Two of our grade levels have recently embarked on cultural studies during their *How We Express Ourselves* unit of Inquiry. First grade inquired into how Cultural diversity is reflected in families and communities.

This unit began with a provocation from Specialists on the Early Release

day. Students explored games from around the world, learned TaiChi from Ms. Huang and practiced a traditional Mexican dance La Bamba with Mr. George. Tapping into the talents and resources of our staff has allowed students to explore cultures that may be similar or different from their own. First grade students will continue to look at how America embraces the traditions of other cultures as the unit progresses.

While first grade is just getting started on their unit, third grade has completed a study of their own culture, and presented their work to families through a cultural lunchbox. Students gathered first person information about traditions from family or re-

searched countries of interest. Through an arts based activity students were able to share family culinary traditions and the meaning behind the meals.

An appreciation for all people comes from understanding the common threads that link mankind. Unit activities like these, celebrate our similarities and differences and demonstrate just who we are as a Farmington Woods family.



Who's Inspiring Learning at FWES?

- **Fourth Grade** In fourth grade this month we have all been working hard writing business plans, creating products and producing promotional material for our upcoming Enterprise Day. We have demonstrated our creativity with our unique product designs and have shown our ability to be reflective by taking prototype feedback and adjusting our products accordingly. We have communicated well with our business partners and carefully constructed a pricing model consistent with our scholar dollar class economy. We look forward to opening shop on December 15th, selling our products to other class members, teachers and parents and showing

the world that Farmington Woods fourth grade is full of future leaders in business and enterprise

- **Fifth Grade** Fifth grade Exhibition is in full swing! This is a big culminating project that all IB/PYP schools do across the globe! Students brainstormed a global problem that is of concern to them. We collaborated as a class and as a fifth grade to determine an overall topic that is interesting and we want to know more about and want to take action to change. We have developed a central idea to guide our research and it is: People, animals, and the environment are interconnected. Our lines of

inquiry are animals in entertainment, animals in society, animals and natural disasters, and endangered animals. We are meeting every Tuesday at 12:00 in small groups to generate questions and share research. We will be using our research to create multimedia presentations to inform the community about what we have found! Please make your calendars for the evening of February 15th! The entire FWES community is invited and we'd love for you to see how much we've grown as communicators, thinkers, and risk-takers as a result of going to this amazing International Baccalaureate magnet school! Family and friends of fifth graders are



A Page from the Inquiry Center ... Mrs. Grice

Read Around the World ... The first Read Around the World "travelers" are turning in their **AFRICA** reading logs and selecting a charm. So far, 125 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 **AUSTRALIA** and the **POLAR REGIONS** The first travelers from Australia will begin returning in early December with the next stop on our journey being **SOUTH AMERICA**.

It appeared to have been another successful year of reading in the Global Read Aloud program. All students received a charm for their participation. The book charm was chosen to represent the books that we read during October and November.

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 can only be earned for participation in the Gift of Reading.

READvolution continues through December and into mid January. Please be sure to review the latest information in Nov 27th Parent Weekly Folder information about the writing contest. All entries must be returned to the Inquiry Center by Jan 12th. Remember to keep logging those minutes read on the READvolution website. We have exceeded the district goal of 2020 books read - let's see how many more we can read before the end of the challenge!



Book Fair ... Thank you to Mrs. Liz Miller (book fair chair) 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 over \$3000 to be used for books and supplies.

Book Tip ... One of the most important things parents can do is to read to and with their children. Make books accessible. Make sure your bookshelves are low enough for kids to reach the book that they want to read. Keep books by your children's bedside, in the playroom — all over the house. Bring books with you on car trips, to the grocery store, or even to the doctor's office waiting room. Rather than handing them a device, hand them a book they love. The more accessible you make books, the more you'll see their reading frequency grow.

December Movies at EVA Perry Public Library ... December Movies @ the Library Thursday, December 21, from 3-4:30 p.m. Feature presentation: Muppet Christmas Carol - A group of puppets put a new spin on Charles Dicken's classic Christmas tale. Registration requested.

And Thursday, December 28, 3-4:45 p.m. Feature Presentation: Lego Batman - a building block superhero works to save his city while caring for an adopted teenager. Registration requested.

Notes from the Music Room

Gift of Reading Days 2017- More Info in [Monday Folders](#)

Tuesday, December 12- Dress as your Favorite Book Character (dress code applies)

Wednesday, December 13- Wild Animal Wednesday (bring a stuffed animal to read with)

Thursday, December 14- Hat's Off to Reading (wear a hat to read)

Friday, December 15- Flashlight Friday (bring a flashlight to read with)

Monday, December 18- Mix-Matched Monday (mix matched shoes and socks)

Tuesday, December 19- Pajama Day/Read Together Day (wear pjs to school- dress code applies)

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Farmington Woods IB/PYP Magnet Elementary PTA

<http://farmingtonwoodspta.org>



Next PTA Board Meeting-
Friday, December 8th
7:45am FWES Inquiry Center



⇒ Yearbook:

The PTA is responsible for creating our school yearbook each year. We have been creating our yearbooks digitally via Jostens for many years.



- ♦ Order your 17-18 yearbook now online at www.jostensyearbooks.com
- ♦ Share school related photos (field trips, Letterland parade, classroom pictures, PTA events, etc.) for the yearbook at www.replayit.com or use the ReplayIt! App for phone pics

⇒ PTA Outreach:

- ♦ The Outreach closet is in need of some clothing! We need Small girls underwear (new), Medium shorts (boys and girls), Medium girl pants, Medium underwear for girls and boys (new), Large pants (girls and boys). The pants and shorts can be used if in good condition, but underwear must be new. If you are able to contribute, please drop off donations to the front office.
- ♦ Contact Quaira Rhodes at rhodesquaira@gmail.com for additional information. Thank you!

⇒ **Lost and Found-** Missing something? As the recent daily weather changed from cool in the mornings to warmer afternoons, many coats and other pieces of clothing were left on the playgrounds. Claim those and other lost things like water bottles, lunch boxes, hats and umbrellas in the Lost & Found closet in the cafeteria.

⇒ Cultural Arts Sponsored by PTA and United Arts Council of Wake County

- ♦ **Number Drummer-** Interactive music and math performance! We will welcome the Number Drummer to our campus on Friday, December 8th with K-2 at 9:30am and 3-5 10:30am.
- ♦ **Family Evening Concert with Number Drummer!** Friday, December 8th! Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the concert and other activities that will support our school's music programming.



⇒ **Global Fun Run** - We would once again like to thank all of the staff, students, and families for our successful 2nd Annual Global Fun Run. We raised over \$17,000 this year, which will go towards Cultural Arts, classroom subscriptions, and teacher mini-grants. On November 16th, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Viola, Ms. Burke, Ms. Dula, Ms. Hansen, and Ms. Ramos' classes enjoyed their pizza party for being the grade level classes with the highest amount earned. On December 4th, Mrs. Long's first graders and Ms. Thompson's 3rd graders will be silly stringing Mrs. Pierce and Mr. Beamish, as they were the classes with the highest participation. And finally, we would like to congratulate Joel Ellis, in Ms. Puryear's Kindergarten class, as he will be joining Mrs. Pierce, on December 7th, to be principal for the day, as he had the highest amount of donations for our Fun Run.



⇒ **Wear Red for Ed:** The PTA is resurrecting the "wear red for education" Wednesdays started by the NCAE (NC Association of Educators) to show our community support for public schools. We are wearing red on Wednesday's and taking pictures to upload to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter with the hash tag #wearred4ed to show our support. Please join us by wearing red, dressing your children in red, and taking pictures.



⇒ **Book Fair Update:** Our fall Bookfair was a huge success! We earned over \$3500 and many new books for the media center. A big thank you to all the volunteers and to everyone who purchased books.

⇒ **Memberhub:** 569 families are on Memberhub, Hooray! This is the primary mode of communication for room parents. If you have not signed up please go online and create an account/ add your children's names under add family members. Be sure to join your classroom and club hubs so that you can get updates! <https://fwespta.memberhub.com/>

If you need help please contact president@farmingtonwoodspta.org.