



The Falcon's Flight

"Watch us Soar"

Stay Informed-Get involved!

North Forest Pines Elementary

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We are so excited to have the opportunity to serve you and your children this year.

Communication with your child's teacher is crucial to your child's success. Please be sure to maintain consistent communication throughout the school year.

Our Falcon Academy intervention program is changing for the 2009-2010 school year. This program will run during the school day while students are tracked in instead of during track out times. Children in grades 3rd-5th who need extra assistance in reading and/or math will receive targeted small group instruction.

We have noticed that cars

have been parking along the fire lanes in the front carpool loop. The Fire Marshall has informed us that this is illegal and the school will receive fines if cars are parked there. Please only park in marked spaces. Additional parking is available in the back of the school. Also, please reserve the handicapped parking spaces for those who need to access these spaces. Thanks for your consideration.

Please take time to visit our website from time to time—it has lots of helpful information on it and many more links to sites with more information for you. We are also very interested in your feedback on our website. Please let our webmaster, Danielle Koster, know of any ideas you have for improvements. She can be reached at dkoster@wcpss.net.

Please mark Thursday, September 24 from 6:00-8:00 PM on your calendar. The 5 schools in the Wakefield community will be holding a regional principal summit to gather feedback from the parents and community we all serve. More details will come later.

Thanks once again for all your support of the NFP staff!

Sincerely,

Mr. McCabe
Principal



North Forest Pines—Home of the Falcons!!!

July 2009

Special points of interest:

- ☉ Instructional day runs from 8:20-3:00 each day.
- ☉ Please remain in your car and in the carpool line with your carpool number displayed when picking up your child.
- ☉ Thanks for observing our silent zones when you visit!!!
- ☉ Raleigh Police will be ticketing cars parked on Forest Pines Drive. Use our back parking lot if the front parking lot is blocked with carpool traffic!
- ☉ Open House dates are: July 23 for tracks 1 and 2 and August 20 for track 3 and 4. Both dates run from 6:30-8:00 PM.

09-10 Bell Schedule and ER Days

At its March 31st meeting the WCPSS Board of Education set the bell schedule for all schools for the 2009-2010 school year. They also established new guidelines for early release days for the 2009-2010 school year.

North Forest Pines' bell schedule for the 2009-2010 school year will be 8:20-3:00 PM. That still means children can begin being

dropped off at 8:00 AM and we will begin instruction promptly at 8:20 AM. This adds 10 minutes to the instructional day.

We will also dismiss 1 hour early every Wednesday for the 2009-2010 school year. Dismissal will begin at 2:00 PM on most Wednesdays. **On 8 of those Wednesdays we will dismiss 2.5 hours early.** Dismissal on those dates will

begin at 12:30 PM. **Those dates are July 22, August 12, September 2, October 21, December 2, February 17, March 10 and April 21.**

This time will be used for teachers to engage in staff development and/or Professional Learning Communities focused on student learning.

Please place these dates on your calendar.

Inside this issue:

Important Dates	2
What are PLC's or Learning Teams	2
NFP Instructional Program	2
Silent Zones	3
PTA "No Fuss" Fundraiser	3

Important Upcoming Dates

Please place these events on your calendar:

- July 7—1st day of school for Tracks 1-3 for 2009-2010!!! **NEW INSTRUCTIONAL DAY STARTS AND RUNS FROM 8:20-3:00. DROP OFF TIME REMAINS AT 8:00 AM.**
- July 8—First Wednesday Early Dismissal of the school year. Dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- July 15—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- July 16—PTA Board Meeting—7:00 PM in media center
- July 22—Early Release day—dismiss at 12:30 PM.
- July 23—Open House for Tracks 1 and 2—6:30-8:00 PM.
- July 27—1st day of school for Track 4 for 2009-2010!!!
- July 29—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- July 31—School Pictures for tracks 1 and 2
- August 5—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- August 12—Early Release day—dismiss at 12:30 PM.
- August 19—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- August 20—Open House for Tracks 3 and 4—6:30-8:00 PM.
- August 26—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- August 28—School Pictures for Tracks 3 and 4
- September 2—Early Release day—dismiss at 12:30 PM.
- September 7—Holiday—No school
- September 9—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- September 16—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- September 23—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- September 24—Regional Principal Summit for all 5 schools in Wakefield community—Wakefield HS—6:00-8:00 PM
- September 30—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.

NFP Instructional Program

At North Forest Pines Elementary we work extraordinarily hard at providing a well-rounded instructional program that is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners. Please contact your child's teacher for more detailed information about our instructional program. Here are some highlights from our program:

- Balanced literacy with guided reading groups and/or reader's workshop at all grade levels.
- Writer's workshop at all grade levels.
- Running records given to every child to assess their reading level.
- Hands-on science instruction using "kits".
- Project-based Social Studies instruction.
- Curriculum integration.
- Technology Integration.
- Problem-solving and manipulative based math instruction.
- 21st Century skills, such as technology, critical thinking and intrapersonal skills.

At NFP, student learning is our primary focus!

What are PLC's or Learning Teams?

Over the past several years, Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) have emerged as a new way for teachers to tap into their collective knowledge and strengths and work together to ensure the success of each and every child.

PLC's (or learning teams) are based on answering three critical questions: What are the students supposed to be learning (curriculum)? How do we know they are learning it (assessment)? What do we do when students do or do not

learn what they were supposed to (remediation and enrichment)?

Using common student assessment data, teachers gather together on a regular basis to discuss these three key questions. The result: incredibly rich discussions centered on the students that generate strategies to help those who are struggling as well as stretch those who are excelling.

PLC's are designed to focus on learning, not teaching - to focus on the student,

not the teacher. Funny thing is, as we hone our focus more on the children and the evidence of their learning, teachers are benefiting greatly! PLC's have changed the landscape of the teaching profession - for the better!

Now you have a better idea of what teachers will be doing every Wednesday when we dismiss from school early next year. Teachers are so excited! No doubt, your child will benefit greatly!

Thanks for supporting this important change in the schedule!!!

Silent Zones

As part of our school-wide management system, we have instituted silent zones in our hallways, stairwells and bathrooms. This applies to all adults and children on campus. We have found that this dramatically improves our climate and limits disruptions. Children are calmer and more ready to learn when they enter their classroom.

There are signs posted

around campus to remind all of us, especially the adults who generally have a more difficult time remembering (myself included).

Please remind your child to respect the silent zones and model this behavior for them when you are in the building.

I will personally model this for the children in every classroom. Thanks for your support!



Our hallways, stairwells and bathrooms are silent zones for adults and children! Thanks for observing them!

PTA "No Fuss" Fundraiser Coming!

The North Forest Pines PTA will be kicking off their Fall "No Fuss" Fundraiser very soon. Based on the feedback they received from the last 2 year's fundraisers, the PTA has again organized a fundraiser that **DOES NOT** involve selling anything! The PTA is just asking for you to donate money to help support the PTA. They are encouraging all of us to involve grandparents, aunts and uncles and other family members in this fundraising effort. They are also encouraging you to obtain corporate matching donations.

This fundraiser is the primary way the NFP PTA will raise money to fund its' budget for this school year. Last

year we raised over \$20,000. 100% of the money goes directly to our



school!!! Our goal is \$25,000 this year! You'll see the display in the front lobby that will help us keep track of how much they have collected. Watch the Falcon rise towards the nest at the top of the tree as we strive towards our goal!!!

Information will be sent home in your child's Monday folder. Please consider giving generously to help support our outstanding PTA. Thanks in advance for anything you can give.