



# The Falcon's Flight

## "Watch us Soar"

### Stay Informed-Get involved!

North Forest Pines Elementary

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Dear Parents,

Thanks to everyone for remembering our early dismissal Wednesdays—you have been so great and this has allowed all teachers to quickly get engaged in their PLT's! Please see the short article on Page 2 of this newsletter or visit our school's website for more specific information about PLT's.

Our lost and found is getting full. Any items remaining on October 23 will be donated to charity. Please stop by and check for any missing items.

Thanks to all who attended our PTA school spirit night at Fiesta Mexicana in September. You all raised \$172.56 for the NFP PTA. Our next school spirit night is at Milton's on October 20 from 5:00-10:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

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. "No Parking" signs have recently been posted. 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.

Our PTA needs your support! Please consider joining the PTA—the cost is \$6 per adult. All your money is hard at work supporting the great learning that is happening in all the classrooms. See Page 2 for details on our Fall PTA "No Fuss" fundraiser. Thanks in advance for

supporting this effort!

We are conducting 2 Literacy Nights for parents. Oct. 15 for Tracks 2 and 3 and Oct. 22 for Tracks 1 and 4. Both events run in conjunction with book fair special events from 5:30-7:30 PM.

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

Sincerely,

Chris McCabe  
Principal



North Forest Pines—Home of the Falcons!!!

October 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!
- ☺ Oct. 15 (tracks 2 and 3) and Oct. 22 (tracks 1 and 4) we will hold Literacy Nights.
- ☺ Oct. 21 is a 12:30 dismissal Early Release Day.

## 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.

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# Important Upcoming Dates

Please place these events on your calendar:

- October 7—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- October 12-23—Scholastic Book Fair in media center. Special Events planned during these 2 weeks.
- October 13—PTA Board Meeting—7:00 PM in media center.
- October 14—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- October 15—Picture Retakes for tracks 2 and 3.
- October 15—Literacy Night for Tracks 2 and 3—5:30-7:30 PM.
- October 16—Muffins for Mom's 7:45-8:15 in media center (Book Fair Open)
- October 20—PTA School Spirit Night at Milton's—5:00-10:00 PM.
- October 21—Early Release day—dismiss at 12:30 PM.
- October 22—Literacy Night for Tracks 1 and 4—5:30-7:30 PM.
- October 23—Donuts for Dad's—7:45-8:15 in media center (Book Fair Open)
- October 28—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- October 28—Picture Retakes for tracks 1 and 4.
- November 4—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- November 11—Holiday—No School
- November 12—PTA School Spirit Night at Red Robin—5:00-9:00 PM.
- November 18—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- November 19—PTA Board Meeting—7:00 PM in media center.
- November 25—Wednesday Early Dismissal—dismiss at 2:00 PM.
- November 26-27—No School—Thanksgiving Break.
- December 1—PTA School Spirit Night at Chili's—11:00 AM—11:00 PM.
- December 2—Early Release day—dismiss at 12:30 PM.



Please try to join us for all the exciting events happening at North Forest Pines!

## PTA "No Fuss" Fundraiser Needs You!

The North Forest Pines PTA is wrapping up their Fall "No Fuss" Fundraiser. We wanted to thank everyone who has already donated—your gift is greatly appreciated! However, we currently have only raised about \$12,200—only half way to our goal.

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! It is not too late to give.

With this revenue shortfall pending, the PTA may have to consider cutting some of their budget line items. Please help us avoid this situation.

Information has been sent home in your child's Monday folder previously. Please consider giving generously to

help support our outstanding PTA. Thanks in advance for anything you can give.



## What are PLT's or Learning Teams?

Over the past several years, Professional Learning Teams (PLT'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.

PLT'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.

PLT's are designed to focus on learning, not teaching - to focus on the stu-

dent, 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! PLT'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 this year. Teachers are so excited! No doubt, your child will benefit greatly!

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