

.: Principal's Corner

-Parents! please remember to fill in the survey for the Georgia Department of Education that was sent last week .You can return it to FSA or mail it directly to DOE.

-Second CRCT Test were completed today.Hopefully we will send the results with students next week.

-We will have the Fernbank Field Trip next Tuesday December 17,2002. There will be no food served in the cafeteria next Tuesday. Please send a sack lunch with your child. We will accept the consent form until Monday , December 16,2002.

-Geo Bee`s finale will be next Tuesday afternoon.

- We would like to wish all the best to Martinez Harris and Kristopher Walker in their new schools.

-We would like to thank Ms.Cindy Hoynowski, Ms. Linda Plemmons, Ms. Susan Ough, Ms.Cheryl Starks, Ms. Jennifer Labach, Ms. Wendy Baker, Ms. Vicki Dellasalla for volunteering their time and energy to organize the FSA First Book Fair.



.: Important Information for Band, Orchestra and Chorus Students

All clubs are canceled next week.However, all active members of the band, orchestra and chorus are invited to attend a "Pizza Party" Thursday after school on December 19th at 4:00 p.m..

.: Note Cards Have Arrived

The note cards featuring the art work of some of the FSA students has arrived. The cost is \$10 for one set of ten cards or \$20 for two sets of cards. They are sold in either one or two sets. If you wish to purchase a set of cards, please send in an envelope with your money or check made payable to FSA. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Teeling at ext. 102. All proceeds will benefit the Art Department.

.: News from the Board

Legal Letter

The Fulton Science Academy Middle School Board has asked me to write an article addressing some of the potentially legal issues facing the school. In particular, they have asked for me to address the issues of actual salaries being paid versus the amounts set forth in the Charter, and the propriety of commenting on pending personnel matters. The Charter sets forth figures of salaries to be paid to teachers. However, as is clearly stated in the Charter, the figures used were "initial estimates for budgeting purposes....." (Charter, p. 40). Furthermore, the Charter makes clear that initial salary will depend on the academic degrees of the employee and on his/her previous professional experience. Thus, salaries not falling within the range set forth in the Charter are not in violation of the Charter because those figures were clearly "estimate" only.

As a side note, oftentimes funding for schools is tied to the number of students. When students leave, it hurts the school in many ways, including the amount of money available to pay teachers. If the converse is true, it would behoove everyone associated with the school to unify, to talk up the school, to try and increase enrollment, and hopefully increase the budget so that all salary expectations can be realized.

As to pending personnel matters, there are many reasons the matters should not be discussed. First, put yourself in the position of the aggrieved employee. Would you like a

roomful of others discussing your most personal matters? Probably not. We should treat others as we would like to be treated and personnel matters are really issues between the employee and the school. Common courtesy dictates that the matters should be so treated. Secondly, you never know when the specter of litigation may arise and frankly the old saying of "loose lips sinks ships" is true to a certain extent. When something may or may not proceed into a lawsuit you do not want multiple mischaracterized statements floating around. It's not helpful from a practical standpoint.

Cole Law, Attorney for FSAMS

Parent LSAC Members:

The Board is pleased to announce that Carol-Jean Rose and Cheryl Starks will be the parent representatives to the LSAC. Once the faculty has selected their two representatives the first meeting will be scheduled.

Budget Cuts:

Once again the rumor mill is in overdrive regarding possible budget cuts. Here are the facts. FSA is in the process of discussing a possible budget cut with the Fulton County Board of Education. No matter what the final outcome will be, FSA will continue in full operation, not be in any danger of closing. This is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Georgia State Charter Law and it would not be in the best interests of the Fulton County Board of Education. There are many factors contributing to a possible cut such as the Governor's announced cut in education funding and the Math/Science suit against the board of education. It will be some time before all these issues are clarified and we know exactly what cuts may come about. Until then, please be assured that FSA is in no danger of being closed because of a budget cut.

Communication Issues, Again:

At the Saturday Board meeting Mary Frericks reported that she is being bombarded with questions from parents that the PVO leadership can not answer. Once again we would like to stress that if any member of the FSA community has a question that they would like answered, we have three channels of communication for this: the administration, the Board and the LSAC. As the FSA charter indicates, the principal will be the core of administration. The Principal is responsible for planning, budgeting, facilities management, scheduling staff development, and supervision of staff. Therefore, Questions about day to day administrative details and in above subjects should first be directed to the Principal Mr. Ozdemir. If you feel that the answers to your questions are not appropriate or satisfactory, then the questions and concerns should be directed to the Board or the LSAC.

FSA's Reputation:

Last Monday one of our Board members was visiting the Math/Science High School and was introduced to one of their administrators, Dr. Martin. Dr. Martin said that he had heard good things about FSA. He also said that some parents of FSA 8th graders have come to talk about sending their children to Math/Science High because they are so pleased with what they have experienced at FSA. Kudos to us!

.: News from the PVO

Thanks to parents who attended the last PVO meeting. The next PVO Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15, 2003 at 8:30 AM.

We are planning on giving Holiday Gifts to the teacher, if any one wants to contribute, please mark the envelope with Holiday Gift for teachers and send it to the Office by Dec 17, 2002.

The Book Fair was a great success. We had a good turnout and we accomplished more than the goal set up by the Scholastic group, and that should help us with more free books in the library.

THANKS TO ALL THE PARENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL BOOK FAIR.

We have collected so far \$4,400 for the PVO account and have spent \$200 for the Pizza

party at school.

We will be doing a budget for next year for the PVO account. If any one has any suggestions for any project that will benefit the school, please send an email to the principal.

The GEO bee will have a semi-finalist selection and finalist selection by Dec 17. We appreciate the student*s full participation.

Rapid Reader Parents: Rapid Reader will begin right after semester break. If you presently have a book, the questions must be returned by December 20th. You may e-mail Tina Kriske at tkriske58@aol.com or send in your questions to the Media Center.

Knights of the Round Table will meet Friday, December 20th at the student's respective lunch time.

Volunteers who would like to sign up or head a committee, use the sign up sheet at the PVO parent Lounge.

Thanks for Volunteering!

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year 2003

.: News From the Media Center

Happy Holidays from the Media Center! I would like to get all library books back in the library before we go on holiday vacation. If you have a book out, please return it to the library before the holiday vacation. The Media Center will be closed for book check outs for the rest of the week. No one will be allowed to check out any books during this time frame. Thank you for your cooperation-Gina McCullough.

.: Georgia & Washington, D.C. Trips Info

Parents, the deadline for the 2nd installment for the Georgia and Washington, D.C. trips has passed. If you have not sent in your 2nd installment, please do so as soon as possible. There is a possibility of your child losing their seat on the bus. We do have a waiting list.

.: Movie Anyone?

The FSA Yearbook Committee is sponsoring a movie during 7th and 8th periods on Friday, December 20th in the Gym. The cost is \$1. The students will be voting on the movie. Refreshments will be available for a small charge. We will be sending out permission slips for kids who want to attend the movie.

.: DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 17 Field Trip to the Fernbank Museum

Dec. 20 End of the Semester

Dec. 23 Winter Break Begins

Jan. 6 Teacher Workday No School

Jan. 7 Second Semester Begins

Jan. 15 PVO Meeting 8:30 a.m.