



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

FARMINGTON WOODS
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE / PYP
MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Office of the Principal

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December 17, 2007

Dear Parents:

As many of you remember, in March of 2006, after a thorough two day visit, an evaluation team from IB authorized Farmington Woods IB/PYP for the next five years. Included in the evaluation report was a series of commendations and recommendations. Recently, our staff revisited the principles and standards of the IB/PYP and we continue to make progress on the recommendations.

One recommendation where we would like to focus effort is the recommendation to: expand our school media center to be more inclusive of selections in our students' native languages. This recommendation has been difficult to accomplish, as authentic stories/literature, from other cultures are not always readily available for purchase within the United States. Mrs. Grice, Ms. Gransee, Mrs. Balkcum and I have put together a proposal we would like you to entertain. For those of you whose native country is not the United States, we especially seek your assistance. As you return to your home country over the holidays or during summer visits, we would like you to consider purchasing up to three authentic fairy tales or fables from your home country (in your native language), to add to our collection. If you would consider participating in this project, upon receiving a receipt for your purchase, we would request a reimbursement for you. We may also ask you to provide additional information or for an overview about the stories, as our media specialists will need additional information to catalog the literature. (Mrs. Grice will be our main contact on this project.) We thank you for considering this proposal.

As we approach the end of the first semester, we would like to recap progress made in our school program for the 2007-2008 school year. Our teachers designated priorities for the start of this year included: developing additional strategies to assist our students' master objectives in math, and adopting the *Empowering Writers* Program. Classroom teachers have spent hours in their Professional Learning Teams, examining the state math standards and discussing a variety of methods to help students master the concepts. As a result, "Rocket Math" (a math facts system) has been adopted, differing math teaching configurations have been instituted, and math tutoring has begun for students in grades 2-5 who qualify for assistance. Eleven small groups of children, meet with classroom teachers one hour after school on Tuesdays. Additional teachers have attended training on *Empowering Writers* and that system is already being utilized by many teachers in grades 3-5. A few teachers have begun to pilot the system in the lower grades.

Very recently, the student assignment proposal included a shift of two long time Farmington Woods neighborhoods (384.9 and 412.4) to Briarcliff Elementary. Many parents have requested information and advice from me. My best advice to all parents whose children are slated to be moved, but have a desire to remain at Farmington Woods, is apply for a magnet seat. Should the student assignment plan be approved as proposed, having an application as a magnet student may be helpful in securing your child a possible seat. Magnet applications become available, on line, in February.

Farmington Woods will be closed for the holidays from December 24th to January 1st and will reopen on January 2, 2008. From our family to yours, we wish you the best this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Frances Venezia
Principal

Look for the launching of our newly redesigned Farmington Woods/PYP website after the first of the year.
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