



January 28, 2008

Dear Parents:

Two exciting school-wide action projects are planned for the second semester; both involve helping your children become more active. Healthy Heart Month is celebrated at Farmington Woods in PE classes, as Mr. Eller, Ms. Scialdone and Ms. Emery facilitate "Jump Rope for Heart Month" during the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>. \$9,871.00 was raised by our children in February, 2007 for this worthy cause. Details from Mr. Eller are forthcoming. In addition, he is looking for participants to join the Farmington Woods Team, for the Cary Road Race. The Race, which will take place on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, starts at Koka Booth Amphitheatre at Regency Park. If you are interested in participating with your child, please register on line and drop Mr. Eller a quick note. He is currently recruiting team members.

January continues to be a busy month for magnet schools in the Wake County Public School System. Ms. Balkcum, several teachers and I have spent evenings helping parents learn about our IB program. After almost 8 years, we continue to experience a high level of interest at magnet information sessions. Like many of you, a good percentage of the parents who attend our information sessions are from the Western Area, but we find that parents from all over the county want their children to be part of the IB program. Our sessions continue with an Open House for potential new magnet students tomorrow, January 29<sup>th</sup> with formal information and tours beginning at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. A second Open House is set for Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> with sessions at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If you have friends or neighbors interested in learning about our program, please share the information with them.

Questions and concerns continue to be brought to my attention from parents whose children are included in the proposed Student Assignment Plan. (Please note that students who live in node 753.0, Stratford Apartments, have been removed from the current plan.) At this time, the proposed plan includes Farmington Woods' nodes 384.9, 049.0, and 139.0. The final plan is scheduled to be finalized in February, but that date is sometimes delayed. Those parents whose children may be included have several options. If you desire for your children to return to Farmington Woods IB, you can consider the following:

- In February, apply for Magnet Status (on line) during the Magnet Application period that runs from February 11<sup>th</sup> to February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- If you would like your fourth or fifth grader to be "grandfathered", you must apply for a transfer. (Transfer status does not include transportation.) Transfer applications will be available on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and must be submitted to Growth Management between May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

Letters of "offers" for Magnet slots will be delivered to students' homes on or about March 14<sup>th</sup> and the last day for parents to decline a magnet seat is April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please know that if your child does not receive a magnet offer in the first round, an offer may still be presented later as seats become available. There is not a formal waiting list to my knowledge, but staff at Student Assignment will go back to the applicant "pool" to fill additional slots.

Today our fifth grade students will visit Daniels Middle School IB. Thus far, Farmington Woods IB students, both magnet and base, have been accepted into the Daniels IB program, if they live in the transportation area and if they indicated Daniels IB as their first choice on their Magnet Application. We have been very fortunate to be able to facilitate the K-12 IB education. Steve Mares, Principal of Daniels IB and representatives from North Garner IB MYP will present information about their programs at 7 p.m. on Wednesday night here in our Media Center. Although this session is mainly of interest to parents of fifth grade students, all parents who are interested in hearing about the MYP program are invited to attend. Fifth grade teachers will also present expectations and guidelines for the Fifth Grade Exhibition, immediately following this presentation. (The fifth grade "project" takes the place of the sixth IB unit in the fifth grade and is the first in a series of transitional projects required by IB for all students.)

Our teachers consistently demonstrate excellence in the classroom and each May the Cary Chamber of Commerce demonstrates support for them during an "Honor a Teacher Celebration". We hope you will read the "Honor A Teacher/ Wachovia Teacher Award" guidelines and nominate a deserving teacher. Information on this award can be found in your child's Monday Folder today. Past winners of "Honor a Teacher Awards" include: Mrs. Kratzer, Mrs.Kidd, Mrs. Auld, Mrs. Goodrum and Mrs. Mukherjee.

Dancing in the aisles was a natural occurrence at our last Solazo concert. Please join us for this magical, musical evening February 12th. Solazo incorporates the styles of Argentina, Spain, Cuba, Chile, Brazil and Ecuador music. A pizza dinner will be served from 5:45 – 6:30 and the concert will be at 7:00 p.m. Advance concert tickets are \$3.00; at the door \$3.50. Only 500 tickets are available. (Proceeds for this concert benefit the handbell choirs.)

Sincerely,

Frances Venezia  
Principal