

The Patriot Press

K-12 Tuition - Free Public Charter School:

Creating Community-Minded Leaders

March 2024

Celebrating our Patriots!

Our Patriots have been working hard and sharpening their skills (and colored pencils)! Our budding artists have much to celebrate. Here are just a few examples:

Hila C., a 7th grade student, was awarded the 10th place prize for her submission into the NCDOT Division of Aviation Artwork contest. Hila's piece was selected out of 1600+ pieces from students all over NC. Congratulations, Hila!

Students in K-5th grade are being showcased at Waterworks Art Gallery in Salisbury. The show is ongoing now until March 22nd. Take time to visit the gallery to see our student's work, along with other elementary artists in Rowan County. Our 13 students will be honored with a reception on March 13 from 5:00-6:30. The students being showcased are Kaleigh Beasley, Emma Blais, Madelyn Blymer, Erin Downs, Aubrey Fox, Naomi Haynes, Haddie Ingram, Isabelle Jenkins, Cheyenne Miller, Lydia Morton, Eden Osborne and Ella Wall.

Also, being showcased this month are the talents of our Middle and High School Theater Arts Students. Our young thespians have been preparing their Spring performance. This season's show will be a selection of short scenes directed by our very own students. The shows are being offered as two performances for two nights, March 21 and March 22. If you haven't reserved your seats, take a moment to do that now.

Click here to secure your reservation:

<http://tinyurl.com/4a59fzn3>

FACS Parent Teacher Organization is ready!

Congratulations to our PTO Board members:

Jennifer Beasley- President

Shelly Riley- Vice President

Christin Funderburk- Secretary

Samantha Rebello- Treasurer

Sheena Dietz- PTO Volunteer Coordinator

Lindsay Sharp- Staff Appreciation Chair

Andrea Woods-Family Events Coordinator

PTO (Includes all families and teachers)

The Board has met twice and is planning to meet monthly for the remainder of the year. The first general PTO meeting for all FACS parents and staff will be held on Sunday, March 17 at 3:00 pm in the Auditorium (Main Building, Original Campus). Everyone is invited to join for this meeting to share ideas and vision for the months ahead and future goals.

The first ever FACS PTO fundraiser is set to begin. Flyers were sent home with all students on Thursday, March 7. These flyers must be signed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher. Please return signed forms on Tuesday, March 12. More details will be shared at the General Meeting on March 17, so please make plans to be there. Chocolate boxes will be sent home with students the week of March 18. The sale will last two weeks. Our goal is to sell 800 boxes of chocolates! Please help us reach our goal of at least one box sold per child!

PTO stands for Parent-Teacher Organization, which means that families and staff are encouraged to join the PTO so that we can utilize everyone's talents for the good of the school. PTO membership will be \$5.00 per person. Forms will be available at the General PTO meeting on Sunday, March 17 and will be sent home for all families.



Fun Times at FACS

Thursday, March 7 was a day of celebration for the staff and students. Students were treated to a slice of birthday cake for Dr. Seuss' birthday. We are extremely grateful to Debbie Suggs for her culinary expertise and to our phenomenal servers. We love it when the Cat in the Hat shows up!

During Kindness Week, classrooms participated in a poster contest to show ways that they can share kindness with others. As the judges moved through the hallways to judge, it was evident that there was one winner for the contest: The entire school. The students showed their compassion and empathy, along with their creativity. To reward the students and staff for such an amazing week, the Kona Ice Truck came to give everyone a cool treat before the long weekend!!

3rd Quarter Ends

We hope you are enjoying the start to your long weekend as we finish the 3rd Quarter. This year is moving rapidly towards the finish line. To recap the learning that took place this past quarter, our students will lead conferences with their families. All families are asked to join us on Monday, March 25 between 1:30 and 4:30 pm. Your child's classroom teacher will send a note for specific sign up directions for his/her classroom. We look forward to sharing the wonderful things your children have participated in over the last nine weeks.

Yearbooks on sale until April 5th

This year has definitely been one of the record books for FACS. Mrs. Drury and Ms. Ritchie have been hard at work capturing special moments to record it all. If you would like to purchase a yearbook to keep these memories for your family please use this link. Yearbooks are \$40 each.

<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/index.cfm/job/24844>

2024-2025 LOTTERY

The lottery for next school year will be held on Monday, March 18 at 5:00 PM. Zoom link will be available on the FACS website.

New Dismissal Procedure- starting 3/19/24

We are greatly appreciative of everyone's efforts to learn our traffic pattern at the new building. As a whole, we move 650+ cars in and out of the line in 30 minutes. Overall, it is a very efficient process, but we have one problem that remains...stopped traffic on Faith Rd. One reason for this traffic is due to all cars coming at the same time, prior to the line starts moving for dismissal at 3:05. In the morning, cars flow smoothly because cars come throughout the arrival time of 7:30-7:55. In the afternoon, the majority of cars come between 2:45 and 3:10 and dismissal begins at 3:05.

Due to these concerns, we have had NCDOT take drone footage and to observe our procedures. The feedback was positive- the process is efficient and moves smoothly, the drivers are cooperative and try to keep a steady flow. The recommendation, to alleviate the backup on Faith Rd. is to separate the Middle/High School student pick up from the families of K-5, similar to how it was on the original campus.

A detailed map will be given to all car riders/students next week and will also be available on the school website. The new procedure will be for K-5 students and their older siblings to be picked up along Patriot Path at the back of the building (as the car rider line currently exists). Students in 6th-9th grade will be picked up in front of the school after the buses have loaded. 6th-9th students will be dismissed from 3:10-3:30. Cars will not begin pulling on to the parking lot until 3:10 (after bus dismissal- Do not line up on Main St.) At 3:10, cars will pull in to the main parking lot off of Main St, then proceed to "snake" through the parking lot. A line of 12 cars will be directed, by a staff member, to the curb for MS/HS to enter their car. Cars will then exit the front of the school by Gardner St.

