

# THE PATRIOT PRESS

K-12 TUITION - FREE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL - CREATING COMMUNITY-MINDED LEADERS January 2023

## Faith Academy First Graders Enjoy The Polar Express

YES, that's right! You DID see first grade students arriving at school in their pajamas on the morning of November 28! Imagine that! They didn't all oversleep that morning. They were dressed for their special day! Thanks to an anonymous donor, our first grade students were able to enjoy an enriching experience of *The Polar Express* at the NC Transportation Museum. What an exciting day for them as they boarded our buses for the journey to Spencer.

Upon arrival, students saw train cars labeled with reindeer names where performers from the dramatization were outside singing and beginning to narrate the story. Soon, students received their Golden Ticket to board our train car followed by the conductor coming around to punch each child's ticket. While on the train, the story, by Chris Van Allsburg, continued being read from a giant Polar Express book as characters from the story mingled through the train among the students. Hot chocolate and cookies were served to everyone bringing the story to life. When we reached the "North Pole," (the round-about) guess who was there? Just like in the book; there was Santa himself who spoke to all of the children. We boarded the train once again as Santa came through giving each child a special Polar Express bell of their very own.

The students have enjoyed studying The Polar Express in their classrooms following their experience identifying characters, setting, and major events using key details as part of their English/Language Arts curriculum. Math Standards related to measurement are also being integrated into the literary study of the text. This special event extended learning outside the classroom and into the real world for our students experiencing the local community. We are most grateful for this wonderful experience that was graciously provided for our students and all who made it possible.



## Fifth Graders Visit The Old Stone House

On November 21, our fifth grade classes visited the Old Stone House near Granite Quarry during their Social Studies unit on *Life in Colonial Times - the 13 Original Colonies*. This extended learning experience outside the classroom was planned to help our students gain a better understanding of what life was like in the early days of American settlements. The Old Stone House was built by a German Immigrant, Michael Braun, in 1766 and is said to be the oldest known dwelling in Rowan County as well as one of the oldest in Piedmont North Carolina. Tour Guides shared demonstrations regarding Native American weaponry and cooking the family's meals over a fire in the fireplace. They led us through a tour of a typical colonial garden explaining the uses of the plants and herbs grown - some used as medicines and in many other ways as well. Our students saw a working loom original to the house and learned about how long it took to make garments from start to finish. They were surprised to learn of the hard work of all members of the family - even the chores of the children. It was quite interesting to see a real kitchen and bedroom of a colonial house. They realized that many of the unusual sayings we have today came from life in colonial days. Once back at school, the teachers had follow-up activities planned for the students that would further deepen their understanding of this time within our nation's history. They had the chance to sample a food staple of the time, the Jonny Cake, research colonial jobs, make whirligigs, and practice writing with a quill and ink. Visiting the Old Stone House certainly helped our students grow in their understanding of living in colonial times.

## Car Rider Parent Pick-up Tags

It is important that every student who is picked up in the afternoon **KNOWS** his/her number. Students who ride in car pools need to know the number of anyone who may pick them up. Two plastic rearview mirror hang tags were provided for each student. Additional blank cardboard tags are available in the front office at no charge if you need additional hang tags. **Parents are responsible for providing a hang tag (plastic or cardboard) and the number to any other adult who might occasionally pick-up their child.** This is for student safety and to expedite pick ups.

**Please put the Pick-Up Tag on your rearview mirror when you get in line and leave it displayed until your child is in the car. Starting January 4 we will no longer call students by name for pick-up.**

### LOTTERY

**NEW FAMILIES - Get ready to apply for the 2023-24 school year! New families can apply online through SCHOOL MINT when our application opens up on January 1, 2023.**

**RETURNING FAMILIES - As a reminder, students who currently attend FACS do NOT need to re-apply for lottery admission.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



North Carolina  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Dear Dr. Hensley,  
Greetings from the Department of Public Instruction. I am pleased to offer my congratulations to you and your staff for your school's performance. I'm presenting awards for achieving and exceeding expected academic growth under North Carolina's accountability system, which as you know was paused during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. Academic growth represents an impressive amount of hard work by students and educators. Please share the appreciation and congratulations from the entire Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education with everyone at your school.

Catherine Truitt,  
State Superintendent

Eric C. Davis, Chairman  
State Board of Education

## Dates to Remember for January

2-3	Student Holidays	
4	Students Return to School	
6	Basketball - @ Carolina International	4:00 pm
9	Early Release Day	1:00 pm
12	Service Above Self Awards @ Catawba	6:30 pm
13	Basketball - @ Concord Lake STEAM	4:30 pm
16	Student Holiday - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
18	Report Cards Issued for Second Quarter	
19	Basketball - @ West Lake Preparatory	4:30 pm
24	Basketball - @ Statesville Montessori	4:00 pm
27	Basketball - @ Sacred Heart Catholic	4:00 pm
31	Basketball - @ Salisbury Academy	4:00 pm

## High School Focus Group

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students are beginning to get excited about high school. To help prepare for this monumental step, Mrs. Wise has presented two guidance lessons with 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homerooms. The first session was a brainstorming activity asking students to share what excites them about high school, what worries they have, questions they are pondering and the goals they would like to accomplish. The second session focused on the North Carolina graduation requirements and discussions on what each class would entail. Future sessions will continue these discussions as well as focus on elective course options, high school transcripts, college admission requirements, state testing requirements and any other information as needed or requested. Our goal is to ensure our Class of 2027 is prepared and ready to have a wonderful four years and set goals for their post-secondary plans.



**Welcome back, Patriots!**

**Let's have a great second semester!**