

Parents,

We hope you and your family have been enjoying the summer and are making wonderful memories. The top of this newsletter contains new news and the bottom is full of reminders.

**Meet and Greet** – We would like to invite everyone to join us at **Maple Street Biscuit Company tomorrow night** (Monday, 7/23) to meet some of the FCA staff. Maple Street has graciously agreed to open after hours just for us from **5:30 pm until 7:30 pm**. We hope to see many of you there.

This past week has been a big week for FCA:

**Capturing Kids Hearts** - Many of our staff spend two days at a training focus on building school and classroom culture. Teachers used the following quotes to describe the training; “life changing”, “best training in my over 20 years of teaching”, “empowering” and “culture changer”. While we heard stories after the training on how it has already impacted the lives of staff, it is even more exciting to hear the plans they have on how it will enhance their classrooms and our school. This fits well with the school vision to ‘Break Barriers’. The training focused on developing relationships, building a social contract and asking 4 simple questions. One aspect of building relationships is ‘Good News’. It is simply to ask someone to share good news with you. OK, there is a little more to it than that, but it is a good place to start. We finished the training with learning about 4 questions when a child is not doing what is expected. The questions are:

1. What are you doing?
2. What are you supposed to be doing?
3. Are you doing it?
4. What are you going to do about it?

We do not progress from one question to the next until the proper response is given. Again, there are consequences and other aspects to this, but if you decide to use these, that is up to you. Personally, I can share there was a time when I had asked the questions enough that all I had to do was ask question #1 and the response was for question #4. Sorry to take up so much of your time on this, but we are super excited about it and I have been looking forward to this training for months.

**We Moved** - Later in the week we moved into the Administrative offices of the school. While we are very happy to be here, with construction, comes certain challenges. The offices are open for new registrations. If you come to the school please park in the far parking lot. Please know the school continues to be a construction site, so we are not allowing people outside the front office. The finish work is moving well within the school and we hope to be able to share a schedule for tours and other events by the end of the week. We did have the wrong color chairs delivered (over 1500 chairs), so our halls are currently filled with these. We will be using these until the correct ones arrive. The company has been great to work with and have provided us a story to share ☺. Like any other issue we may come across as we open this new building we will focus on the positive and have patience as it will work out given a little time.

**Enrollment** – Our enrollment continues to climb since the last update. We are currently over 950 students. Please share with your new neighbors and those with kindergarten age children to call to register their child (children). We are adding staff, but are getting close to not being able to hire fast enough to match enrollment. Thank you for your help with this.

**Something to Expect** – The first couple weeks of school will be dedicated to building relationships and procedures. I have asked teachers to focus on these over instruction for the first 2 weeks of school. When these are in place, the time spent will be more than returned throughout the year. We will also be limiting the areas in which we will allow classes to play. With sod still being added, we will not allow our students to run around on the fields until it has had time to root. We will also be working to improve the conditions of the fields for play. This is more for the safety of our children than about the grass. We will have mulch filled play areas and covered areas for P.E., so this should not impact us too much.

**The rest of the Newsletter is full of reminders. Please take special note of the first two.** I am hopeful that we will have a donated copy of the book listed below for each class prior to school starting.

**\*\*\*\*Bikers and Walkers** – We use a one way text message system to alert parents of Bikers and Walkers of dismissal Changes. During severe weather conditions we will move all bikers and walkers to parent pick-up. If they are not picked up, we will hold them until the weather clears and it is safe for them to travel home. To enroll:

Send a text message to the number – 81010

In the area where you would type your message type - @fcabike

You will receive a name request. We only ask for the first name of the child and their grade.

The message will go to the phone that sent the message. The students should not be subscribing to this message.

**\*\*\*\*Help Life Long Learning** – We would like your assistance in providing a book for each class and in developing a Professional Development Library for our staff. We would like to provide each class with a copy of “How to Behave and Why”. This is an older book that can be found on Amazon for under a dollar. Our classes may literally tear pages from this book, so any condition is useful. There are some teacher books that some of our staff has been talking about as we develop culture in our school. We would like to provide a selection of these for teacher to do book studies with. We recently provided each teacher a copy of “Culturize” and are currently doing a book study together via twitter. If you are willing to help us with providing any of these books, please use the Sign Up Genius link. Feel free to write ‘Donated by:’ in the book and drop it off once we are in the school.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0449a5ab29a4fc1-class>

**Transportation** – As we get closer to the first day of school, I will send out pictures with directions as to the recommended way to access the school. Until then, there are a few things you will need to know:

- We will not have any PSA’s or Crossing Guards on Long Leaf Pine Parkway or Shetland Drive. If this changes we will let you know.
- There will not be anyone directing traffic on Shetland Drive

- Most of our students will be provided bus transportation.
- Bus information will be sent the week before school starts by the transportation department.
- We will most likely have some buses doing double runs.
- A student riding home on a bus may get home earlier than if they were a car rider.
- Patience and kindness will be helpful for everyone.
- The first few weeks will be slow (as they are at all schools).
- We will get into a rhythm, and things will flow smoothly eventually.
- It will rain and things will go very slow.
- We will always do our best to keep our children safe.

**Information Soon to come your way:**

- School tour dates and times.
- Orientation dates and times. We hope to have separate times for each Kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students. All other grades will be on Thursday, Aug. 9 from 8am until 11am.
- Curriculum Chat dates and times.

**Kindergarten** – For those new to St. Johns County, our kindergarten students will do a staggered start. The class will be split into small groups the first three days to have a small group of students start together. Then they will all begin as a whole class on Wednesday, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>. Dates for your child’s staggered start dates will be announced from your classroom teacher.

**Teacher Announcements** – Classes change as enrollment changes. Due to this, we are building classes up until the last minute before school starts. Teachers will be making personal phone calls to the student in their classes on Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. We recommend letting this message go to your voice mail, so you can replay the message with your child. Please know, we do not take teacher requests.

**School Mission and Vision Statements** – A large group gathered and worked for several hours discussing and developing the school Mission and Vision Statements. We are very proud of the work that was done and we feel it captures well who we want to be as a school.

*School Mission Statement: “**Falcons take FLIGHT**”.* The letters in FLIGHT encompass qualities what we want for our students and staff = ‘**Focused, Leaders, Imagination, Grit, Heart, and Team**’.

*School Vision Statement: “**Breaking Barriers**”.* It is our goal for our students, staff and as a school to ‘break the barriers’ that are holding us from the next step in our dreams and achievements. These could include such things as the fear to fail, misconceptions, a fixed mindset, self-esteem, etc.

We would like to thank the following organizations for their support in the start of our school:

- CSX Transportation

- Fruit Cove Baptist Church
- Switzerland Community Church
- Adventure Landing
- Maple Street Biscuit Company
- Faith Community Church
- Creekside High School
- Creative Me
- Olde City Tours
- St. Augustine Ghost Tours

**“Family Knight”** – We will be joining Creekside High School and other local schools in a night free from any school related activities or responsibilities. Teachers are asked not to assign any homework, assignments, projects or studying for assessments. There are no home or away athletic contests and practices will be completed by 5:30pm. Afterschool clubs and activities can meet as scheduled as long as they are completed by 5:30pm. Our goal is to encourage the faculty, staff and students to take advantage of this time with family.

Fall Date: Monday 10/1

Spring Date: Monday 2/11

**Middle School News – The rest of the newsletter is information for the Middle School Students and their families.**

Schedules will be available at orientation. We will have a station for any change requests.

You can pre-order your P.E. uniforms from the following website.

[www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/FCA-PE-Uniforms/McCF](http://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/FCA-PE-Uniforms/McCF)

Have a Great Day and GO FALCONS!!!!