



TRAILBLAZER

January 5, 2017

Principally Speaking

My hope is you've all had a safe and relaxing break which provided you with an opportunity to recharge. Two weeks away from the routine and spending time together is always appreciated but it goes by so fast. I've seen countless memes/posts about the break and sending kids back to school, while there is some truth in jest, I've seen first-hand from my own kids that they are ready to return to their own routine as well. As excited as you may be to send your children back to school, we are equally excited to have them return. The break was nice, but I think we're all ready to get back to our "normal". The staff has worked hard over the break preparing for the second semester and look forward to what the new year has in store.

#NewYearNewMe

While I don't subscribe to resolutions or the above hash tag, I do find the feeling of a fresh start and the optimism for growth that accompanies a new year comforting. In the spirit of all things new I offer a few opportunities:

We are asking for your assistance with our attendance, specifically our number of tardies. Students are released to classes at 8:10 and the tardy bell rings at 8:20. Thank you in advance for having your children in the building by 8:10. Conversely, we dismiss at 3:30 and busses depart at 3:35. Our wonderful teaching assistants who monitor the children after school are hourly employees and are not paid beyond their contract. Please help us out by picking up your children in a timely manner.

Secondly, if you have friends, family members or colleagues who have resolved to volunteer more in 2017...we have an opportunity for them. Our Science Fair is in need of judges. Naturally, we love our parents, but we have asked that our judges not be moms and dads of our participants. Help your peers achieve their goals and keep their resolutions intact! Please contact Michael Buthe at mbuthe@eanesisd.net for more information.

Welcome Back and Happy 2017!

Vote Karen Linder for 2016 Westlake Educator of the Year!

You know her. You love her. And now you can vote for her. Our Karen Linder has been named a finalist for the Educator of the Year 2016 by the Westlake Chamber of Commerce! Many of you have had the pleasure of being in "Lindergarten" and you know the efforts Karen extends to our students. Her efforts are not exclusive to her four walls. Mrs. Linder shares her expertise and expectations throughout the building while making an impact on every one of our Falcons. Congratulations Mrs. Linder, we are proud of you!

Voting for The Westies ends January 15th. Please click the link below to vote for Mrs. Linder and read her bio, or you can submit your vote in the front office.

<http://www.westlakechamber.com/>

Attention All 5th Grade Parents...

Below is the West Ridge Middle School 2017 Transition Timeline for Parents of 5th Grade Students "Rising" to 6th Grade.

- **Friday, January 13th, 9:30-10:30am FTE Library – *Forest Trail Elementary Parents Only Visit with Kendall Still, Principal WRMS: Welcome to Middle School Parenting!***
- **Wednesday, January 18th, 6:00-7:00pm at WRMS library - *Parent Meeting Specific to Special Education:*** Meet WRMS special education leadership team • Learn how special education elements of your child's program transfer to middle school • Learn how special education interacts with course selection • Learn what to expect from the ARD process at WRMS
- **Tuesday, February 7th, 6:00-7:30pm at WRMS - *Parent Meeting for ALL Parents of "Rising 6th" Grade Students:*** Meet WRMS staff • Take a campus tour (7:00-7:30pm) • Listen to & learn more about the WRMS Band, Orchestra and Choir (prior to guiding/supporting your child in selecting his/her Fine Arts elective) • Walk through the on-line course selection process • Tip from the pros- Bring your iPad, laptop or electronic device (to access WRMS website and walk through the course selection while in the meeting)
- **Tuesday, February 7th - *On-line registration opens at 6:00 pm***
- **Wednesday, February 8th, 9:00-10:15am at WRMS Gym - *5th Grade Student Field Trip to WRMS:*** WRMS Band, Orchestra, and Choir will perform for

students • WEB (Where Everyone Belong) student leaders will share “Tips for 6th Grade Success” • Cheerleaders will lead a cheer

- **Wednesday, February 15th, 4:00 pm - *On-Line Registration Deadline:*** Parents Complete On-Line Course Selection for Fine Arts Elective & English Only • Deadline for selecting 6th grade Fine Arts elective (Band, Orchestra or Choir) • Deadline for selecting English Class (6th Grade English or Pre-AP English) • Math course placement will be determined by your child’s current math teacher in May. Your child’s math placement will include careful consideration of grades, STAAR performance, End of Year District Math assessment, and student motivation and attitude specific to math. Math placement will be shared with each parent in May. • Parents of students receiving Sp.Ed. services will select a Fine Arts elective and an English class. Placement specific to ARD committee decisions will be completed by WRMS staff prior to the start of school.



FTE Booster Club Meeting Guest Speaker Series
Fri Jan 13 • 9:30am • FTE Library

Transition to Middle School

Join us for our January Booster Club meeting. Then guest speaker Kendall Still, Principal of West Ridge Middle School will present "Transition to Middle School". Mr. Still and a panel of parents of middle schoolers will be available for audience questions on the transition to middle school.



Booster Club Corner

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club>

***Happy New Year from the Forest Trail Elementary Booster Club!
We wish you a wonderful 2017!***

FTE Booster Club Volunteer Spotlights

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/volunteer-spotlights>

This week’s Volunteer Spotlight is on **Karyn Reiber**, our 2016-17 Bingo Co-Chair and Staff Appreciation Co-Chair. Learn about Karyn and why we are so appreciative of her dedication to our school on the Volunteer Spotlight page!

****Falcon City Limits Tickets: FTE Auction & Party 2017 News****

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/auction>

Ticket Sales for Falcon City Limits: FTE Auction & Party 2017 Opening Monday, January 9, 2017 at 8:00am!

We anticipate a sellout for this year's *Falcon City Limits: FTE Auction & Party 2017* at One World Theatre on Saturday, February 11, 2017! The awesome party band *Shinyribs* will keep us rocking while we enjoy amazing food and drinks, live and silent auctions, a photo booth, and unbeatable company! **Don't miss out - tickets go on sale Monday, January 9th and end when tickets sell out or Thursday, February 2nd, whichever comes first. Visit the FCL site for more info.**

Three Cheers for our AWESOME *Falcon City Limits* Sponsors!

Headlining Sponsor

[Centex Tickets](#)

Back-Up Singer & Live Auction Sponsor

[Walden Cosmetic Surgery & Laser Center](#)

Groupie Sponsors

[Austin American Statesman](#)

[Brick-by-Brick Moving Company](#)

[Excelevant](#)

Roadie Sponsors

[Westlake Pediatric Dentist](#)

Calling All Families and Businesses!: Become a Sponsor, Donate an Item for Auction, or Submit an Ad for the catalogue by Thursday, January 12th!

Would your business or family like to join the esteemed list of sponsors above? There's still time! **The deadline for businesses and families to become a sponsor, donate an item to the FCL auction, or to submit an advertisement for the FCL catalogue is Thursday, January 12th. Visit the FCL site for more info!**

Affectionately known as the "best party of the year" here at FTE, the annual Auction & Party will draw hundreds of guests from the FTE parent and staff community. This is an excellent opportunity for businesses to reach an incredible and loyal demographic, and for families to display their pride in FTE via sponsorship, donations, and advertising. There are many

ways in which your business or family can support the FTE Auction & Party: *Falcon City Limits*:

- **For Businesses:**
 - **Become a *Falcon City Limits* Sponsor!** Prominently position your brand not only to the hundreds of FTE parents and staff in attendance at the event, but also to thousands more in our social media viewing audience and those viewing our *Falcon City Limits* catalogue! [Click here](#) to learn about the sponsorship levels that are currently available. Hurry- they're going fast!
 - **Donate an item to our *Falcon City Limits* Auction!** Position your brand in front of hundreds of FTE parents and staff. [Click here](#) to learn more about donating an item for our auction.
 - **Advertise in the *Falcon City Limits* catalogue!** We estimate that our catalogue will reach over two thousand parents, staff, and area residents. Various sizes of ads are currently available but they're selling quickly! [Click here](#) to learn more about advertising in the *Falcon City Limits* catalogue!
- **For Families:**
 - **Become a *Falcon City Limits* Sponsor!** Families are invited to display their pride in FTE's excellence by becoming a sponsor of the *Falcon City Limits*. Several packages are currently still available and include VIP tickets and parking, signage and verbal throughout the FCL event, and a written vignette and photo in the *Falcon City Limits* catalogue, among other benefits of sponsorship. [Click here](#) to learn about the sponsorship levels that are currently available. Hurry- they're going fast!
 - **Donate an item to our *Falcon City Limits* Auction!** Do you have a vacation home, a piece of sports memorabilia, art, an historical document, an antique, season or single tickets that you can't use, a golf cart, a motorcycle, or another valuable item you would like to see go to a good home for a great cause? [Click here](#) to learn more about donating an item for our auction.
 - **Advertise in the *Falcon City Limits* catalogue!** Families are invited to express their pride in FTE by advertising in the various sizes of ads are currently available... but they're selling quickly! [Click here](#) to learn more about advertising in the *Falcon City Limits* catalogue!

***Falcon City Limits* Volunteers Needed!**

FCL needs a few dozen volunteers to help prepare silent auction baskets with the Silent Auction team, to help with pre-event decorations with the Decorations team, to serve as live auction spotters on the Live Auction Team, and to help with other small jobs leading up to and on the night of the event. [Visit the FCL site](#) to indicate your interest in serving a small role on this awesome team!

Important *Falcon City Limits* Dates!

- **Monday, January 9, 2017 at 8:00am** - *Falcon City Limits* VIP and General Admission **tickets go on sale!** VIP and General Admission ticket sales will run from Monday, January 9th through Thursday, February 2nd, or until tickets sell out - whichever time comes first.
- **Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 11:59pm** - [click here to sponsor, donate, or advertise](#)
 - Deadline for businesses and families to **become a *Falcon City Limits* Sponsor**
 - Deadline for businesses and families to **submit a donation item for the *Falcon City Limits* Auction**
 - Deadline for businesses and families to **submit an advertisement or family photo for the *Falcon City Limits* catalogue**
- **Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 11:59pm** - *Falcon City Limits* VIP and General Admission **tickets sales close, if tickets don't sell out prior to that date** - VIP and General Admission ticket sales will run from Monday, January 9th through Thursday, February 2nd, or until tickets sell out - whichever time comes first.
- **Saturday, February 11, 2017 - FTE Auction & Party: *Falcon City Limits* Event**

Last But Certainly Not Least, Raise the Roof for the *Falcon City Limits* Team!

Make no mistake, the best party of the year doesn't just plan itself. Over a dozen amazing team members are pouring in hundreds of man and (woman!) hours to pull off this night to remember! We are so grateful for the incredible talent and time these folks are dedicating:

Sara Barney, Amy Brady, Kara Brown, Mary Catherine Campbell, Amberlee Cantrell, Amy Clark, Cami Dato, Karis Fagerberg, Elizabeth Hooks, Kelley Inmon, Victoria Lavi, Debbie Lopez, Erin Ludwig, Kate McGrath, Leslie Odom, Christine Parker, Ashley Quinones, Heather Sheffield, Mary Katherine Stout, and Tim Toomey

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

FTE Spirit Days & No-Cook Spirit Nights in 2017

<http://fte.eanesid.net/booster-club/community-partners>

No-Cook Spirit Night at MOD Pizza: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - all day

Come into the Westlake MOD Pizza anytime on Tuesday, January 17th with the FTE flyer (on the Community Partners website listed above), and present it at the time of purchase in order for a donation to be made to o the FTE Booster Club.

Other Upcoming Spirit Dates

- **No-Cook Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A on Tuesday, February 2, 2017 from 4-10pm**
- **No-Cook Spirit Night at Hat Creek Burger Company on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 from 5-10pm**
- **No-Cook Spirit Day with Kona Ice at Forest Trail Elementary near the field on Thursday, April 19, 2017 (weather-pending) from 1:30pm-2:30pm (early release day)**

FTE Food & Diaper Drive: January 17-27, 2017

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/community-service>

The FTE Food & Diaper drive, supporting Central Texas Food Bank, is from January 17th - 27th! Please send donations with your FTE student during this time! For every 5 food items or 1 package of diapers your child brings, he/ she will receive one of 6 different autographed pictures of Forest the Falcon!

FTE Talent Show & Free Family Movie Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 at 6:00pm

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/just-for-fun>

We are excited to invite all FTE students, parents, and staff to enjoy a fun indoor evening in the doldrums of January! We are kicking off the first FTE Student Talent Show to be followed by a family movie in the cafeteria! **The new date for our FTE Talent Show & Free Family Movie is Friday, January 20th at 6pm in the FTE Cafeteria!** Complimentary popcorn will be served and drinks will be offered for purchase.

Important FTE Talent Show & Movie Dates:

- **Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 11:59pm** - deadline for attendees to RSVP for this free event - we may have to cut off attendance at some point as we are now inside - [click here to RSVP](#)

- **Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 11:59pm** - deadline for students to submit their interest in being in the First FTE Talent Show- [click here to submit your interest](#)
- **Friday, January 20th at 6pm** - FTE Talent Show & Free Family Movie

We are so grateful to our generous FTE Free Family Movie sponsor, [Kidventure!](#) Check out Kidventure's [latest video here](#) and learn more about Kidventure and its character-building camps for youth at [Kidventure.com!](#)

Parent Socials on the Hub!

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/parent-socials>

Parent Socials tickets are available on the Hub! Visit the Parent Socials page for more information.

FTE Booster Club 2017-18 Positions

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club>

Are you interested in becoming involved in the FTE Booster Club in the 2017-18 school year? Interested candidates may submit their interest [here!](#) The 2016-17 leadership team will follow up with you in the New Year!

FTEBC Organizational Chart

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/organizational-chart>

Need to find a chairperson to ask a question or learn how to get involved? Check out the Organizational Chart!

Mark Your Calendars!

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/events-and-calendar>

Below is an abridged list of upcoming dates. Please visit the calendar for a comprehensive list.

- Monday, January 9, 2017 at 8:00am - *Falcon City Limits* VIP and General Admission tickets go on sale
- Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 11:59pm - deadline for businesses and families to become a sponsor, donate an item for auction, or submit an advertisement for *Falcon City Limits* [click here to sponsor, donate, or advertise](#)
- Friday January 13, 2017 at 9:30am - FTE Booster Club Meeting & Guest Speaker Kendall Still, Principal of West Ridge Middle School: *"Transition to Middle School"*
- Friday, January 13, 2017 at 1:30pm - Early Release

- Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 11:59pm - deadline to RSVP to attend FTE Talent Show & Movie Night - [click here to RSVP](#)
- Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 11:59pm - deadline for students to submit interest in being in the First FTE Talent Show- [click here to submit your interest](#)
- Monday, January 16, 2017 - School Holiday/ MLK Day
- Friday, January 20, 2017 at 6pm - FTE Talent Show & Family Movie Night
- Wednesday, January 25, 2017 - Science Fair
- Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 6:00pm - FTE Open House
- Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 11:59pm - deadline to purchase VIP and General Admission tickets (unless tickets sell out before February 2nd)
- Saturday, February 11, 2017 - FTE Auction & Party: *Falcon City Limits* Event

Helpful Links

- FTEBC website - fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club
- FTEBC Facebook page - facebook.com/FTEBC
- FTE Parents group - a social forum for FTE parents (not managed by the FTEBC) facebook.com/groups/FTEparents

FTEBC Organizational Chart - find out chairpersons for committees

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/organizational-chart>

Preschool Aged Peer Models Needed

We will be having our annual screenings of peer models for the 2017-2018 school year on Wednesday, February 1st and 8th at 2:00 at Eanes Elementary.

The Eanes Independent School District Special Education Program is looking for typically-developing children who are ages 3-1/2 to 4 (between 9/1/17 and 5/31/18) to serve as Peer Models in our Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) for the 2017 – 2018 school year. The PPCD classes provide early intervention services for children with disabilities through language-based childcentered activities. All students are taught pre-school curriculum by certified special education teachers in the areas of literacy, numeracy, language, socialization, and independence skills through thematic units. The Peer Models must have age appropriate verbal, behavioral, social, and self-help skills (including being toilet-trained) and will be selected based on their interactions with staff and other children. The school day hours are Monday through Friday 7:45 – 1:45. The classes are held at Eanes Elementary, and parents will be required to provide transportation to and from school. The Peer Models Program follows the Eanes ISD school year calendar. There will be a fee of \$500/semester for children who participate in this program. If you are interested in having your child serve as a

peer model, please contact Debra Bailey in the special education office to obtain an application. Contact information: Debra Bailey at dbailey@eanesisd.net or (512) 732-9021

Spanish Lunch Bunch at FTE

A language program children love! Enroll now K – 4th grade!

Our interactive program makes learning conversational Spanish easy and fun. Taught by **native Spanish speakers**, we meet twice a week at lunch in a small classroom (max. 15 students) with a fun, relaxed environment. The positive language experience we offer - taught through songs, stories, puppetry and games - will foster openness to the sounds and culture of the Spanish language.

Presently we offer Levels 1 - 3 to Kinder, 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades. Prior Spanish experience required for Levels 2 and 3.

Registration is open! <https://eanes.augusoft.net/>

Questions? Contact *Anna Salas* at (512)497-4243, salasaustin10@ymail.com or visit <https://sites.google.com/site/eannesspanishlunchbunch/>!

Order Your FTE Yearbook Today

Order your 2016-2017 yearbook. Reserve your copy of the ALL COLOR yearbook. Personalize your yearbook with your name on the front cover for an additional \$5.00 until March 1st. Yearbooks will only be sold online this year! Order at www.balfour.com

5th grade pridelines this year will only be available online to order and design online this year. See the attached for the 5th grade Prideline information.

Reminder...

Remember to “Like” us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ftfalcons/> and “Follow” us on Twitter https://twitter.com/fte_principal and Instagram https://instagram.com/fte_principal/.

