

Fuller G/T Magnet Elementary School
Principal's Page
December 3, 2007



Dear Parents:

These are busy times in the Fuller community. Over the past few weeks, I have had some pretty amazing opportunities to observe our students in action. Last week, I attended an author's celebration where third grade students shared their writing to an audience of parents, other teachers, and classmates. Fourth grade students are learning about the history and culture of American Indians, kindergarten students recently completed their Harvest Fest, and the entire second grade has recently started a chapter book read-aloud (one of my favorite activities because I get to read one of the books to a class). The electives classes are equally engaged in instruction, as reflected in their preparation for upcoming performances.

The business of school leadership often extends into the weekends. On Saturday, Mr. Newkirk, Ms. Primiano and I attended the winter job fair, where I met a number of candidates aiming to secure a position with our school system. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting one candidate from another urban district in NC who is moving to the area. This candidate shared with me her passion for teaching, using words like differentiation, diversity, and social equality. She also shared that in her school district, her school was once a magnet school, but the district decided to adopt a model of parent choice. Her school was almost exclusively one race and one socio-economic demographic. On Sunday, I served as a guest speaker at a church just around the corner from our school. I was not marketing the school, but rather I was talking with church members about some of the challenges our students face and inviting them to consider becoming part of our school community. While at the church, I met a retired school principal who began her teaching career at Fuller many years ago. I also met a local business leader who attended Fuller as a child. Both experiences—the job fair and the speaking engagement—left a very strong impression on me. Each was timely as I began recruitment for magnet fair and making plans for next year. The teacher at the job fair reminded me of how fortunate we are to be in a system that values parent choice, but who also maintains systems that value diversity and opportunities for all students. Meeting former students and teachers from Fuller enhanced my understanding of our school's story—its power and richness and the importance of preserving it. Basically, I was left with a strong sense of pride for the place and people with whom I share my days.

Magnet Intent Forms

Part of planning for the year ahead includes feedback from you about your child's placement for next year. Today, students who have *magnet* status will receive a form. The purpose of this form is for you to reserve your child's magnet seat for the next school year. Also, this is where you let the district know that you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten next year at Fuller. Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher by Friday, December 7th. These forms help me determine the number of vacant magnet seats I can expect for next year.

Food Drive

I am so proud of the effort our students have demonstrated in supporting our canned food drive. This year, instead of making it a class-by-class competition, we decided to make a collective school goal. Each class set their class goal in accordance with our school goal. We have collected so much food to support local families. Thanks for all of your support with this project.

Parent Concerns

Most of the feedback that we receive from parents is positive. There are times however, when you may disagree with a decision that we have made. Please understand that we strive to accommodate the academic and social needs of students without error. Yet, our profession is a very dynamic one that changes daily. We rely on constructive parent feedback to inform our practice. Even if we as parents and educators don't always agree about every issue, we ultimately have students' best interest at heart.

Crisis Planning

A few weeks ago, you received a message informing you that we held a school-wide crisis drill (kindergarten students were on a field trip). After the drill, I went around the classes and talked with students about the purpose of the drill. They gave me lots of feedback about how we could improve the process. It is my hope that we never have to activate a drill, but we all live in the real world and know that each day has a level of uncertainty. I ended the drill by emphasizing to students that our school community is safe and we put procedures in place so that they can focus on learning everyday.

Dates to Remember

December 6

Evening Band Concert

December 7

Magnet Intent Forms Due

December 13

Evening Orchestra Concert

December 14

Evening Theater Performance

December 24

Winter Break Begins—No School