

**Woods Charter School
Principal's Report
January 19, 2012**

Homecoming 2011-2012 – January 6-7, 2012

Our annual tradition for homecoming continued for the fourth year. Basketball games on Saturday were well-attended, as was the high school dance. An alumni gathering on Saturday night at Carolina Brewery was great, but we probably need to move this event back to Friday night for stronger alumni participation. Recent grads spoke to our juniors and seniors about college and the college admissions process. They made us proud. The Foundation sponsored the alumni gathering, and the Booster Club sponsored the dance.

Martin Luther King Day – January 16, 2012

This was our first opportunity to celebrate Martin Luther King Day as a school community. Our intention was to fully honor the life and legacy of Dr. King. Invited guests included Mary Moffitt (musician, religious leader), Esther Coleman (human relations director, educator, writer, editor), and Henry Foust (Spanish teacher). They were joined by Ranota Hall, Becky Lee, Cotton Bryan, and Harrell Rentz in presentations and on discussion panels. Teachers throughout elementary and middle school planned special student activities and events. The focus was on the life and legacy of Dr. King and the impact of the civil rights movement on our lives today. Presenters shared "lessons learned" as well as the need for further progress toward equal opportunity and justice for all Americans.

Overall attendance was 73%. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of our students were either present or had "excused absences." Excused absences for educational purposes included Martin Luther King Day activities in other places, as well as a variety of community service opportunities.

Calendar for 2012-2013

We believe that we are close to a final draft of the calendar which is being presented this evening for Board consideration. This calendar will be distributed throughout the community by e-newsletter with a request for feedback to Heather Gallagher. A final vote will be held at the February 16, 2012 Board meeting. (current draft attached)

PowerSchool Database Implementation

We are on the verge of implementing a new, more robust student information system - PowerSchool. Funding for this project will come from federal DOE monies. Faculty training will come from Foundation professional development grant funding. Our first use of this new system will be for scheduling for 2012-2013.

NC Charter School Politics:

NC Public Charter Schools Association & NC Alliance of Public Charter Schools

We have been a member of the NC Alliance of Public Charter Schools since its founding. Over winter break Eddie Goodall, Executive Director, parted ways with the Alliance and formed a new organization, the NC Public Charter Schools Association. I am watching developments in this process. Currently we belong to the Alliance, and the Association may "grandfather" dues-paying Alliance members into their organization. So, for the near-term, we may easily be members of both. As we move forward (and approach a time to pay "dues" to either organization), we may decide it is in our best interest to join both, one, or neither.

I personally believe that NC charters need a strong, unified voice in favor of the charter option in the public education sector. I also believe that successful schools like Woods are in a position to support developing schools in their early stages. In helping others, we also learn and grow ourselves. I am constantly looking for win-win opportunities in this arena. To date, Eddie Goodall has been a strong spokesperson on our behalf, and he believes that the charter organization should reflect the views of member schools. I have enjoyed working with him. I would have preferred to see this transition come in a more orderly fashion. It seemed precipitous to me. More to come on this matter ...

Lottery and Admissions

Heather created some comparative statistics for us representing the past few years of application activity:

| Gr | 2012-2013 | 2011-2012 | 2010-2011 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| K | 267 | 224 | 126 |
| 1 | 155 | 139 | 126 |
| 2 | 125 | 116 | 96 |
| 3 | 120 | 111 | 90 |
| 4 | 94 | 104 | 90 |
| 5 | 115 | 110 | 79 |
| 6 | 125 | 115 | 109 |
| 7 | 59 | 93 | 53 |
| 8 | 65 | 51 | 57 |
| 9 | 88 | 99 | 94 |
| 10 | 25 | 24 | 38 |
| 11 | 19 | 33 | 18 |
| 12 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| SIB | 49 | 67 | 67 |
| TOT. | 1314 | 1294 | 1051 |
| Chatham | 42% | 40% | 41% |
| Durham | 20% | 19% | 18% |
| CHCSS | 12% | 16% | 13% |
| White | 70% | 74% | 78% |
| Black | 10% | 13% | 9% |
| Asian | 8% | 7% | 8% |
| Hispanic | 9% | 6% | 4% |

The lottery will be conducted on Wednesday, February 1, beginning at 9:00 am in The Glade.

Upcoming Events

Enrichments are underway and run on most Fridays in middle and high school until spring break.

February 16, 2012 – next School Board meeting