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Falcon Files

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APRIL 2, 2012

Autism Speaks Found @www.autismspeaks.org

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. They include autistic disorder, Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger syndrome. ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues, such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art.

Autism is much more common in boys than it is in girls and 1 in 70 boys are diagnosed with Autism as early as 1 year old. A few years ago,



researchers would have answered the question, "Where does [Autism] come from?" with, "I don't know." New research, however, is proving to find the answers. First and foremost, we now know that there is no one cause of autism, just as there is no one type of autism. Over the last

five years, scientists have identified a number of rare gene changes, or mutations, associated with autism. A small number of these are sufficient to cause autism by themselves. Most cases of autism, however, appear to be caused by a combination of autism risk genes and environmental factors influencing early brain development. You can read more about Autism at <http://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism>.

Please consider helping find a cure. Make your team for the Autism Walk May 20, 2012 in Atlantic Station, or if you would be interested in walking with Furtah Prep, call Sarah in the front office. Purchase your blue lights at your local Home Depot for **Light It Up Blue on April 2!**

Muddy Montessori

The Montessori has been hard at work, playing in the dirt! Mrs. Farr and her students have built some gardens here at Furtah. Right outside of the Montessori there is a beautiful flower garden, all in bloom. Up the hill, near the lower building, they started a vegetable garden. Corn, peas, tomatoes, plenty of peppers, and one lone bean plant are happily growing in their box garden. Mrs. Farr and her students go out every morning

to water the plants, taking turns; they are learning to share and grow a garden at the same time! The students are fascinated with how the garden ecology works. They were even able to see how worms help out! Mrs. Edge brought some worms to assist with the gardens, and the students got to watch them wiggle and dig their way right into the garden dirt; after, of course, everyone got to hold the worms! Mrs.



Farr's class then washed their hands and learned all about how the worms contribute to the soil for the plants. This is a beautiful, thriving lesson on how plants, weather, and animals all work together. It's how our world works! I wonder if we will get to try some of those veggies later?

Greetings, From Mrs. Savenko



Dear Parents, My name is Serella Savenko. I am a new teacher at Furtah Prepataory and I wanted to introduce myself to all of you. I have a Bachelor's in Sociology with a minor in Philosophy from UGA, and a Master's in Teaching Social Studies from Western Governors University.

I started substituting in 2007, which led to my teaching degree. All of my substitute work was in larger public schools; although I liked the work, it was sometimes a vast sea of unknown people. Then in 2011, I was able to do my student teaching here at Furtah. Being at a small private school is such a different experience, and such a delightful one! Now that I have my teaching

certification, I am thrilled to be invited back; it is fantastic to see the students progressing in their knowledge and skill as the year continues. I am very excited to have the opportunity to continue to work with the students and faculty of Furtah, now as a full-fledged teacher! I am teaching Literature 3rd period, World History 4th period, and Cultural Identities 6th period. In Literature, we are finishing up Alice in Wonderland and the students have a scrapbook as their final project. I cannot wait to see what they come up with; they all created beautiful Concrete Poetry when we studied the

Mouse's Tale! World History is learning about World War I, and they will have front-page newspaper spreads for their final project. Since the students get to choose what topic they want to focus on, I think their presentations will be passionate and terrific! The students in Cultural Identities just finished learning about India; we had poster presentations and they each made an Indian dish to try. They are now starting to learn about France, so I have to brush up my French for them. No matter what classroom I am in, it was always a joy to see a student's face light up with interest and comprehension!

"It's always a joy to see a student's face light up with interest and comprehension."

Chemistry: Cleaning Silver Lab

We began the silver lab by writing down the instructions on the board in our notebook. After we got everything down in our lab book, we walked to the cafeteria to begin the procedure.

We boiled the water and lined the pot with aluminum foil. Then we put a tablespoon of salt and baking soda in the pot with foil. We put the silver

piece in the pot and then added the heated water once it was boiling.

We stirred all of the components of the pan together and began to make observations of what was occurring. As we observed what was happening, we noticed that the silver was beginning to shine. This lab was mostly a success because it polished a lot of the silver

we had.

~Mrs. Edge's Chemistry Class



Students experimenting with earthworms.



Mrs. Edge's Earthworm Lab

The Sophomore Zoology class recently spent time observing earthworms. It was interesting to study the earthworm hands on, rather than just reading from the book. We learned

about their environment, reac-

tions to temperature, texture and their habitat.

Earthworms do not like alcohol, vinegar or ammonia. They really objected to the ammonia by retracting away from the smell.

We learned that earthworms prefer dark, moist, and under-

ground areas where they can find plenty of decaying leaves and soil. Earthworms produce castings as a byproduct of their digested meals. The castings make a nutrient rich fertilizer to use in the garden.

~Mrs. Edge's Zoology Class

From Mrs. Savenko's Class to India



4th and 5th graders show off their India posters.

Cultural Identities, the 4th and 5th graders learned a lot about India. In addition to learning about population, government, location, and religion, the students got to meditate, design mandalas, color

their own saris, and try Indian food! For their presentation project, the students each created a poster about Indian holidays, performers, foods, and clothing which they

presented to the class. Each student also had an Indian dish to share with the class! The tandoori chicken, naan bread, and samosas were the biggest hits. We also tried Darjeeling tea, mango lassi, tikka masala, hummus, tofu curry, and Indian rice. The students were very

enthusiastic about everything; I was delighted to see how excited they were to try it all, even though many of the foods and spices were unusual for them. A few of the students went above and beyond by actually cooking (with an adult's help) their foods! Kory, Tereasa, and Matt (and their adult helpers!) deserve special kudos for their willingness to try cooking dishes they are unfamiliar with! I am so glad these students had the chance to participate in this enriching project; they learned a lot and had a lot of fun!

FPS Tennis Players set new record highs in matches won against Brandon Hall, Flint River and Crown Athletics

FPS Tennis News: FPS comes up short vs. The Heritage School; but, sets new record highs in matches won against Brandon Hall, Flint River and Crown Athletics!

On 3/13, FPS #1 singles player, Minami Ohira continued her winning streak by defeating Brandon Hall's #1 player 8-1. Riley Bausch and Tyra Dolman, also playing the #1 position in the Doubles Line, claimed a victory of 9-7. On 3/15, our Falcons traveled away to Flint River playing at the Roosevelt Institute and several nail biter matches won by our girls team. Ohira once again sailed through with ease, beating their #1 player 8-0, while Ashley Muse, the #2 Singles player, also had a remarkable match

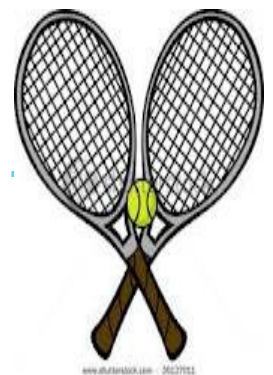
beating her opponent 8-4.

On the Doubles Line, our #1 Doubles players, Bausch and Dolman, fought a 2 hour battle coming away with a win of 9-9 tiebreaker 7-4! The other Doubles Lines who also won were Ashley Muse and Heather Rowland, grabbing a 8-5 victory from their opponents, and Sydney Brown and Yanlin Yang scooped up another win for the Lady Falcons at 8-4.

On 3/26 FPS once again made an impressive showing, winning at the

Men's Singles #1 Line with Kris Yinze battling his opponent and coming away with a 8-6 victory. Hank Henderson, #2 Singles Player dominated his opponent, winning 8-2, Again, our Lady Falcons took all three Single Lines with Ohira winning 8-2, Muse 8-5, and Rowland 9-7. Congrats to all of these players! Next match is 3/28 at Bells Ferry Park and Region is 4/11 at LaGrange College. Come out and support the Falcons!

~Coach Whitley



A Big Thank You to Our Contributors

It's not too late to get your contributions in to the FPS SSO fund. You are just simply telling the government to re-direct your GA State Tax Income Liability from the State to FPS, an eligible school to receive these funds. You are already paying your taxes; you are just an approval letter away from directing your taxes to help eligible students attend FPS. Please contact Sarah in the office for more details and directions on what to do. This is the easiest way for you

to contribute to the school at no extra cost-it's a dollar for dollar tax credit and a break on your federal taxes!

FPS is an Independent, Private 501 (c)(3) not for profit school that relies heavily on donation monies from our FPS family.

Look who has contributed:

Fred and Susan Furtah, David and Cindy Whitley, George and Debbie Ruda, Bernard and Sally Meineke, Tom and Sandra Kenning-

ton, Stuart and Nicole Witzke, Scott and Caroline Steintz, Michael and Susie Shina, Dana Lewis, Cara Hawkins, Tim and Penny Bausch, Cheryl Garrison, Peter and Suzanne Azzerello, Corry and Susan Dickerson.

For more details on how you can give to FPS, please call Sarah in the office 678.574.6488 or email her at sarah.trousdale@furtahprep.org.



Furtah Preparatory School

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**Inspiring Hope,
Changing Lives.**

- April Showers, Dates and Flowers!**
- April 2– Light It Up Blue for Autism Awareness**
- April 2-6– Spring Break!**
- April 10 and 12– Auditions for Talent Show**
- April 14– PROM**
- April 26– Spaghetti Dinner, Talent Show and Fine Arts Night**



Get your spot on a golf team to support FPS athletics! Tuesday, May 15 at Bentwater Golf Course. \$125 a person, \$475 a team.



Hosting an International Student Proves Positive



Furtah Preparatory School has a great opportunity at its finger tips: expanding the

International Program here at the school. It starts with finding host families, then expands as more and more families discover a new life within their own walls. They discover a new culture, new experiences, and live them vicariously through the student they are hosting, whether they are from China, Korea, Germany, Switzerland, or Latin America. As a host family you will grow in ways you never thought your family would just by having the presence of a new family member. Maybe you have an empty nest? Open your home up to the possibility of making a difference in the life of an exchange student.

Most Exchange students come to America for the cultural experience and to learn the American ways with intentions to continue their higher education at an American university.

Many students come from similar backgrounds as your own children, they are just looking for a brand new experience and outlook on education the American way. Here, they are able to participate in everything an American student can from Academics to Athletics.

Dusan Langura and Oliver Wronowski are two of our great basketball athletes. Oliver has hopes to attend college in America and play basketball while studying. Dusan just received a place on the National Switzerland Basketball team. We are so proud and know that he will excel in anything that he does.

Minami Ohira has played basketball and is now full swing into tennis. Her very first tennis game she beat last year's State winner!



Chris Yinze, Dingshuang Wang and Nontapat Puangrod also played basketball. Han Siyu participated in Pep Squad and has practiced Tennis. Jessica Hausmann and Michelle Kulig both played basketball last semester before their terms were up.

Please consider opening up your heart and home to an International Student in the 2012 -2013 school year. Contact Sarah in the front office for details on this wonderful opportunity.

