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# Falcon Files

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## Seussville: Cat in the Hat's Visit to FPS

Theodor Seuss Geisel was born March 2, 1904 and is known as Dr. Seuss. March 2 has been named Read Across America Day where all students are encouraged to pick up a book and read. Here at Furtah Preparatory School, Montessori teachers Mrs. Jory and Mrs. Farr planned a Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day with themes centered around Dr. Seuss.

Each child brought in their own Dr. Seuss book and had a combined story time. They also had a special guest: Senior Oliver Wronowski. When asked to read to the Montessori and told that they look up to him Oliver responded, "I'd be honored to read to them!" When Oliver walked into the Montessori building, all were shy but very

excited to be in the presence of a "celebrity."

Students in Montessori were able to design their own Seuss-style hats, color some very cool pictures, enjoy "One Fish, Two Fish, Red fish, Blue fish," a personal favorite to all Montessori students. After Oliver finished the book, they personally invited him to stay for a surprise dessert treat—after all, it was Oliver's birthday, too!

They students and Oliver, enjoyed upside-down ice cream cones wrapped in Fruit by the Foot and decorated with Twizzlers and M&Ms to make their own, "Cat in the Hat."

Even more special guests were Cat in the Hat himself and Thing 1 and Thing 2! They even made visits to the Upper Elementary,

Middle and High School classes which made the older students' day! Oliver said he enjoyed the day at Montessori and that he would like to get out of class more. Good try, but everyday



Oliver reading to Montessori

can't be Read Across America Day-or can it? Pick up a book and find out!

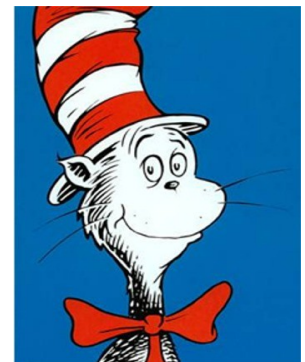
**If you would like to make a donation in the form of books, FPS would gladly take them to help build our library.**

## Some Hoo Stories from FPS's Own Hooville!

### Book Reports By the Montessori Students

Nolan wrote about "Oh the Places You'll Go!" In this book, the setting is the whole entire world where the main character is **YOU!** Nolan summarizes the story as "life is an adventure. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. But a place is always waiting from you to come." Nolan recommends this book to read.

Heather wrote about "The Cat in the Hat." Sally's house is where the story takes place. There is Sally, Sally's brother, Cat in the Hat, the Fish, Thing 1 and Thing 2. Heather tell what happened in the story: The Cat in the Hat likes to have fun, but he made a mess so he had to clean it up. Heather definitely recommends this book and knows anyone will love it.



# What is Bits, Bots, and Bytes?



Inside the Football game from an FPS BBB's project.

BB&B is a technology class offered as an elective here at Furtah. In it, students cover stop-motion animated movie making through brick films and clay-mation. A Brick Film is an animated film that uses LEGO® characters and pieces (as well as other manipulatives) to tell a story. Using cameras, animation software, and video editing software they create multi-scene movies with transitions, titles, credits, sound effects and narration. The students don't video these movies, they take pictures and animate them. These films are

done through teamwork and creativity.

The class just finished up these first films and started their second film-Claymation. In their claymation films, the students have completely created their own characters and story line. We have football players, explorers, a giant spider, and what movie theme wouldn't be complete without a zombie-type plot? The story lines they came up with have been entertaining, and the finished pro-duct is a huge anticipation among the students, and Mrs. Grawey. The

sculpting that was done a few weeks ago turned out GREAT. They are filming these movies over the next few weeks.

During the end of the year, they will film one more movie. This final movie will put everything they have learned into action. They will use information from one of their other classes and create a story using either LEGO® characters or clay to make a longer movie. This movie will incorporate what the students have learned in BB&B and in another core class.



Take advantage of the early re-enrollment discount available through March 15

## Re-enrollment Time!!!

**Parents:**  
Please take advantage of the early re-enrollment discount available through March 15. Once the clock strikes 12am, the discount is no longer available!

Mrs. Heinen has done a great job notifying the Furtah Family of the re-enrollment period. Also, If you are an early, full tuition payer, you still have time to receive the 3% discount on your child's

tuition. April 1st is the cut off for 3%, then it goes from April 2-May 1st for a 2% discount.



**Chess Club!**  
When: Wednesdays  
Time: 3:20-4:00pm  
Where: Mrs. Edge's room, UHS  
Everyone Interested is welcome to join!

**In March**, FPS had a HenHouse Coffee Fundraiser. We were able to raise over \$350 for the school! The challenge was to raise \$100+ a class for a Free Chick-fil-A Lunch!

Congrats to **Mrs. Cousin's 8th grade class** for raising \$130 as a class! Two students alone brought in \$350 in sales....**Way to go Furtah!** Look out for the next HenHouse Coffee Fundraiser in April.



**Student Leadership Council** is putting on a St. Patty's Day Breakfast March 16th from 7:30-8:30am in the cafeteria. Eggs, Pancakes, Bacon, Muffins, and Waffles will be served for \$5 a plate. All are welcome! All proceeds go to raising money for Prom. Come one; come all!!!

Contact Coach Tiff for more info.



# GASSO and FPS

**What was your state tax liability for 2011?** For example, if you are married and your liability was \$1800, all \$1800 could have gone to FPS and you would not have owed money to the state. You simply just re-directed your state tax dollars to FPS, the school of your choice. Georgia has a tax credit program which permits individuals and businesses to receive a

credit against their Georgia state tax for contributions to qualified student scholarship organizations (SSO). An SSO is a 501(c)(3) organization which allocates at least 90% of its annual revenue for scholarships to enable students in grades K through 12 to attend a Georgia school of their parents' choice.

Married couples can claim a credit of up to \$2,500, singles a credit of up to \$1,000, and C Corps a credit of up to 75% of the amount of their Georgia Tax Liability. The combined tax benefit from the Federal

income tax deduction and the Georgia credit can actually exceed the amount of the contribution made. You have just made money from your donation!

These funds are an important part of financial gains for FPS and will go to help tuition costs for qualified students.

For more information, contact Sarah Trousdale, Development Coordinator in the office 678.574.6488 or email [sarah.trousdale@furtahprep.org](mailto:sarah.trousdale@furtahprep.org)

*Take advantage of the GASSO program. It will benefit you and the school.*

### Examples of the Benefit of Georgia Education Expense Tax Credit

**Example 1: Georgia Income Tax Liability - \$3,500.00**

Without HB 1133 Tax Credit	
GA Income Tax Liability	\$3,500.00
GEEC Tax Credit	\$0.00
Amount Due to State of GA	\$3,500.00
Less Amount of Georgia Paycheck Withholding	\$3,900.00
Amount Due OR	
Amount of Refund	\$400.00

*Versus*

With GEEC Tax Credit	
GA Income Tax Liability	\$3,500.00
GEEC Tax Credit	\$2,500.00
Amount Due to State of GA	\$1,000.00
Less Amount of Georgia Paycheck Withholding	\$3,900.00
Amount Due OR	
Amount of Refund	\$2,900.00

**Example 2: Georgia Income Tax Liability - \$5,500.00**

Without GEEC Tax Credit	
GA Income Tax Liability	\$5,500.00
GEEC Tax Credit	
Amount Due to State of GA	\$5,500.00
Less Amount of Georgia Paycheck Withholding	\$4,000.00
Amount Due OR	\$1,500.00
Amount of Refund	

*Versus*

With GEEC Tax Credit	
GA Income Tax Liability	\$5,500.00
GEEC Tax Credit	\$2,500.00
Amount Due to State of GA	\$3,000.00
Less Amount of Georgia Paycheck Withholding	\$4,000.00
Amount Due OR	
Amount of Refund	\$1,000.00

**Example 3: Georgia Income Tax Liability - \$1,200.00**

Without GEEC Tax Credit	
GA Income Tax Liability	\$1,200.00
GEEC Tax Credit	
Amount Due to State of GA	\$1,200.00
Less Amount of Georgia Paycheck Withholding	\$1,400.00
Amount Due OR	
Amount of Refund	\$200.00

*Versus*

With GEEC Tax Credit	
GA Income Tax Liability	\$1,200.00
GEEC Tax Credit	\$2,500.00
Amount Due to State of GA	<\$1,300.00>
Less Amount of Georgia Paycheck Withholding	\$1,400.00
Amount Due OR	
Amount of Refund	\$2,700.00

The above illustrations are examples only. NCCS recommends that you consult your tax advisor regarding your situation.





## Congratulations Are Due

When it comes to competition, you better believe FPS will be somewhere in the mix. This school year has been one of many wins for the Fighting Falcons. With the Varsity Boys Basketball impressive season—31-1 record to end the season in the Elite Eight and a 31-0 regular season, we could not be more proud of our Basketball team. They fought hard and long to achieve great goals this season. But what you may not hear about a lot is our fine arts department. On March 1st, FPS hosted the annual GISA Literary Meet, a fine arts

and scholastic competition for all schools in Region 4AA. It gives students a chance to show off their talent and compete against all kinds of competition. Some of these students you might see running up and down the court, dribbling a basketball, but on this day the students can show a much different side to themselves and compete in a much different way—with words. Hank Henderson, a Junior at FPS and one of the newest members of the Furtah Family won first place in his Extemporaneous Oral Interpretation. Heather

Rowland, also a Junior, won 1st in her category of Humorous Oral Interpretation. And the very talented Sophomore, Madeline McGee, won first place with her Argumentative Essay. Additional congrats go to third and fourth place finishers—Meghan Armento, Alex Root and Morgan Agee. Mary Cousins, Morgan's mother and teacher at FPS, said, "With the caliber of students, FPS did extraordinarily well and they were a great representation of who and what the school is, I am so proud of them!"

*"Ohira made it look easy again upsetting Crown Athletics No. 1 player..."*

## FPS TENNIS NEWS - Ohira and Henderson Remain Undefeated

Last week at our season opener vs. LaGrange Academy, Minami Ohira clinched the first victory as our No. 1 Women's Single Player. Ohira got ahead, earning points early in the game and finished with a 8-1 win. The top seeded Lady Falcon, Ohira, made it look easy again, upsetting Crown Athletics No.1 player with another 8-1 victory. Hank Henderson also representing FPS playing singles, was the first to claim a win for the

Men's Falcons after beating LaGrange at No. 3 Singles 8-3. Henderson then battled at No. 1 Singles vs. Crown Athletics and came away with a hard fought win at 9-7.

This season our FPS tennis team is the largest ever, consisting of 20 players on the roster. I am so proud of the commitment and perseverance of each and every one of them. In all single and double matches we have had some close points and close

matches, and all the kids rose to the occasion. Our region has a lot of tough competition, and it's great to see the enthusiasm and support they all have for their teammates. Come out and support your fellow Falcons as we continue to build our tradition of great tennis at FPS. Our next match is Tuesday, March 13th at Bells Ferry Park vs. Brandon Hall and a region match away on March 15th vs. Flint River.

**Coach Cindy Whitley**

## FCA News!



Join FCA Today!

We would like to invite everyone to FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) which is held every other Tuesday at 12:40 in the gym.

The next meeting will be March 20th and Pastor Ken Williams will be

our guest speaker. Our newly elected student leaders are busy planning the upcoming meetings for the remainder of the year, along with Mr. LeSueur our huddle leader.

If you would like to be a part of a praise band, please contact Mr. LeSueur or

Cindy Whitley.

**Don't wait for a blessing. . . go be one!**

**FCA LEADERSHIP TEAM**

# Charlie Wood: Senior Project

For my senior research and internship project, I am studying homelessness and ways to break the poverty cycle. At Habitat for Humanity of North Central Georgia, where I intern two days a week, I help build homes for working-poor families. Those families are able to become homeowners through sweat equity and low payments. By sweat equity, I mean they volunteer 500 hours of their time working on another family's Habitat home. Since building materials are typically donated by a sponsor, and Habitat makes no profit on the homes they build, the money from mortgage payments goes into a revolving fund to build more Habitat houses.

The average day at Habitat depends on where we are in the construction process. Some days it consists of installing trusses, and other days we are framing, standing up walls, nailing siding, moving wheelbarrow-loads of dirt, painting, or just ensuring the workplace is clean and safe. As the youngest volunteer, I get

my share of back-breaking tasks like hauling plywood and digging in confined spaces!

One of the houses I worked on this semester will be the first solar home our Habitat chapter has built. And the home I am building in Woodstock now is going to be fully accessible to accommodate someone who is disabled. It takes about three and a half months to complete a house. Being involved in the transition from an empty lot to a furnished, energy-efficient home is extremely fulfilling and inspired me to want continue volunteering with Habitat when I'm in college next year.

I applied to several SEC schools and was excited to get scholarship offers from Mississippi State, LSU, Alabama and Auburn (my favorite). With no set plan for what I want to major in, I am just hoping to take classes that let me discover and research subjects I find interesting. And, fortunately, all of those colleges have Habitat affiliates.

If you would like to help at a Habitat build, you can find out about volunteer opportunities at this web site: [http://www.habitatnccg.org/get\\_involved.php](http://www.habitatnccg.org/get_involved.php). People under age 18 need to be accompanied by parents. Hope to see you at a Habitat build soon!

*Charlie Wood is an FPS transfer student from a Cherokee Public School. He joined the Furtah Family at the beginning of 2012, semester 2 of his senior year. Charlie has excelled in all classes, being able to take several AP courses this semester with connection to Georgia Virtual School. If you would be interested in learning more about GAVS for your student, please contact the school office.*



*"Being involved in the transition from an empty lot to a furnished, energy-efficient home is extremely fulfilling and inspired me to want continue volunteering with Habitat..."*

## DCer's Are Back!

Beth Kovacich, Furtah Prep's Registrar, lives in Washington, D.C. and invited all the Seniors to visit her family's current home. Her husband actually works for the Federal Government.

The students arrived in DC on March 3 to a week packed with tours of the White House, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson's Memorial, Smithsonian Museums, Arlington Cemetery, they watched the Changing of the Guards, Robert E. Lee's

House, Ford's Theatre, Grand Central Station, the National Cathedral, the National Gallery of Art, the National Zoo, the National Archives Museum, the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The students visited restaurants such as G.N.B., and DC Cupcakes.

They took the metro and walked everywhere. Will Mainor said, "This trip

gave me a better perspective on what the government is and what is actually done in Washington. I definitely am more informed of what politicians really do for this country after being able to see everything first hand."

*Picture is of the students who attended the DC trip in front of the White House. Thanks to the Kovacichs and Halls for their support and supervision of this trip! We appreciate all you do for the school.*





**Inspiring  
Hope.**

**Changing  
Minds.**

## Furtah Preparatory School

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Check out our blog!

<http://furtahprep.blogspot.com>

Would you like to learn about a new culture? How about bringing that culture into your own home? Furtah Preparatory School is looking for Host Families to expand our International Student Program. We are eager to find new families to place students with immediately! If you have the room in your heart and house, please contact Sarah Trousdale at 678.574.6488 or email [sarah.trausdale@furtahprep.org](mailto:sarah.trausdale@furtahprep.org). A stipend will be offered to host families through the international agency.

### Dates to Remember:

March 16– St. Patty’s Day Breakfast 7:30-8:30am

March 21– Science Field Trip, Pine Mountain

March 22– 6/7th grade Field Trip, Indian Mounds

April 2– Autism Awareness Day (watch out for next month’s theme)

April 2-6- Spring Break

April, Day TBD– US History Field Trip, Birmingham, Alabama

April 14– Prom

April 28– Talent Show tentative

## The Story of Big Relmsy Chapter 1: How the Story is Told

Once upon a time in the kingdom of Azkrot, there was a man named Relmsy. He was a so called “giant,” Relmsy was the biggest man in the kingdom! He towered over every living thing in or around the kingdom.

Although it was a gift, Relmsy didn’t like being tall. One day, he went to one of the fairies in the village and said, “Joey, I hate being tall. Can you make me smaller?”

“Yes,” said Joey, “but you must first go on a quest of

great danger.”

“What will be the quest?” asked Relmsy.

In reply, Joey said: “You must get a leaf from the Tree of Gaiden and a single petal and no more, from the flower of the field of Owlán.”

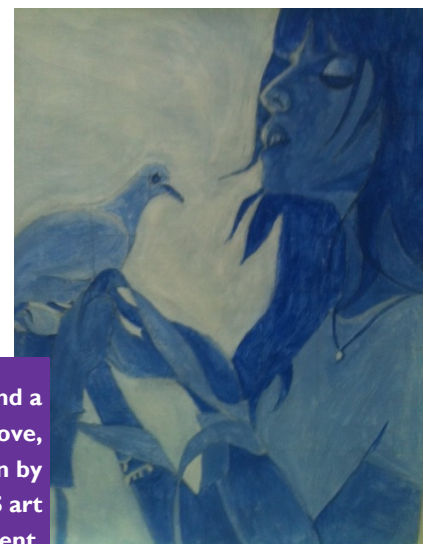
“I will!” exclaimed Relmsy, “You can trust me.”

*Stay tuned for Chapter Two in an upcoming issue of the “Falcon Files”*

Ask about your student participating in the All-Star Student Achievers Program through the Atlanta Braves and Chick-fil-A! Requirements based on 2011 Fall Semester:

- Straight A’s
- A-B Honor Roll
- Perfect Attendance

Call Sarah in the office for more details!



Girl and a Dove, drawn by an FPS art student.