Welcome to the 2014-15 School Year!

We are pleased to welcome our new families and returning families to Mosby Woods for a new, exciting school year! It was wonderful to meet so many parents at Open House. All of the children are so excited to be in school and are eager to learn.

We appreciate your support in preparing your child for the school year. You can help us by adjusting bedtime and purchasing supplies. Thank you also for encouraging reading throughout the summer.

We are looking forward to an outstanding school year!

Mosby Woods Welcomes New Staff

We welcome several new and highly qualified teachers. We are fortunate to have such excellent teachers join our staff. We welcome the following new staff to our school:

- Ms. Jennifer Besley, Kindergarten
- Mrs. Margaret Biester, 5th Grade AAP
- Ms. Carly Butler, Speech Therapist
- Mr. Daren Everage, Kindergarten
- Ms. Kara Haakonson, Reading Teacher
- Ms. Nikki Hutson, Special Education
- Ms. Marcy Katzman, Library Clerical Assistant
- Ms. Mika Maples, 6th Grade
- Mrs. Jennifer Miller, 4th Grade AAP
- Mr. Mark Nagy, Special Education
- Ms. Katie Paris, Special Education
- Mr. David Pietzman, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Jean Robinson, School Psychologist
- Ms. Heather Stewart, FECEP IA
- Mrs. Erica Tan, Kindergarten
- Ms. Ashley Wellner, 6th Grade AAP

Welcome!

Back-to-School Night

We are looking forward to seeing all parents at one of our two Back-to-School nights. Monday, September 8th, at 7 pm is our Back-to-School night for parents of students in grades K-3 and Monday, September 15th, at 7 p.m. for grades 4-6. Back-to-School night is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher, hear about our high expectations for achievement and behavior and learn ways we can be partners in your child’s education. We ask that you make child care arrangements so that you can give your full attention to the information that will be shared. We look forward to seeing you then.

Changes to the Standard School Year Calendar

The Fairfax County School Board voted to end elementary early release Mondays beginning with the 2014-15 school year, providing a uniform length elementary school day for students. Additionally, FCPS is building inclement weather days into its standard calendar so that days will not need to be added to the end of the school year if fewer than 13 days are missed. The standard school year calendar also includes a two-week long winter break (December 22 through January 2, 2015), a weeklong spring break (March 30 through April 3) and the following student holidays (in addition to federal holidays): September 29, November 3, November 4, January 30, February 2, March 16, April 6, and April 17. Students will be released two hours early on October 31, November 26, December 19, January 29, April 16, and June 19.
Mosby Woods’ School Hours

Students are required to be in their classes at 8:15 a.m. when the bell is sounded. Dismissal is at 2:55 p.m.

Being on time for school is very important because tardy children miss the detailed directions given by the teacher for the morning activities. Please help us by assuring that your children are at school prior to the bell ringing at 8:15 a.m. We appreciate your support!

Bus Riders

Bus transportation is provided to students who live within the boundaries of our school. Schedules for bus riders are mailed to students prior to the first day of school. Students are expected to cooperate with safety patrol and bus drivers, behave in an orderly manner, obey safety rules, remain seated and talk quietly after boarding the bus. Students who persist in disruptive behavior can be denied the privilege of riding the bus temporarily (or permanently in extreme cases). All students will receive a copy of REGULATIONS FOR PUPILS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES contained in the STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES booklet. All parents are requested to review the information with their child/ren and return the signed portion to school. Bus regulations govern field trips as well as daily transportation, so all students must submit the signed form. The transportation department has notified MWES that students are not permitted to switch from their assigned bus to ride a friend’s bus. Our buses are very full and do not have room for extra students.

Medication

Mrs. Menendez, our Clinic Assistant, is able to give children needed medication during the school day. She needs authorization in writing prior to giving medication. Written orders from a physician are required for long-term medications in the school, and a new authorization form is required for all medications that are continued from last school year. A parent must bring the medications to the clinic. Children are not permitted to carry pills, ointments, or medicines to school.

Questions about the Public Health Departments’ regulations can be directed to our clinic assistant, Mrs. Menendez (703-937-1610) or Mrs. Ann Congdon (703-481-4049), our Public Health Nurse.

FCPS Family Life Education Instructional Program

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides a comprehensive, sequential Family Life Education (FLE) program for kindergarten through grade twelve. The FLE program is designed to provide students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make healthy, responsible, respectful, and life-enhancing decisions related to human growth and development, relationships, substance abuse, and emotional and social health. Instruction is seen as a partnership among parents and guardians, the school, and the community in supporting the learning essential to the development of strong families, positive relationships, and a healthy community.

Parents/guardians may choose to opt their child out of all or part of the Family Life Education program. Students who are opted out are provided with age-appropriate, non-punitive alternative health instruction, and every effort is made to foster respect for family choices. If you wish to opt your child out of all or part of FLE for this school year, or would like more detailed information about grade level programs, please access the opt out forms, opt out letter, and program descriptions for each grade level at http://www.fcps.edu/is/hpe/fle.shtml. Please fill in the opt-out form and return it to your child’s school by the end of September or prior to Family Life Education instruction. FLE curriculum and media may be reviewed at your child’s school. Program questions may be addressed at your child’s school or by contacting Elizabeth Payne, Health and Physical Education Coordinator at etpayne@fcps.edu or 571-423-4550.
Kiss and Ride

We always prefer students to arrive by walking to school or riding a bus. Significant traffic approaching the school always raises safety concerns. Should you need to drive your child to school however, please use the Kiss and Ride lane. PLEASE DO NOT PARK at Kiss and Ride.

Parents are asked not to use Kingsbridge as a Kiss and Ride because of safety risks. We have over 100 students that cross Kingsbridge and this would put many children at risk by parents creating more traffic.

FCPS Offers myLunchMoney.com to Prepay for School Food

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will offer myLunchMoney.com, an online prepayment service, to its students to pay for school breakfasts and lunches during the 2014-15 school year. The service will enable families to pay for meals with a credit or debit card, check balances, and add funds to their accounts via computer, phone, or fax.

Parents can visit www.myLunchMoney.com to set up an account by using a student identification number—which can be found on a report card. Credit or debit card information is entered to add funds to the account. Personal and payment information is protected by advanced Internet security. A $1.95 fee is charged for each transaction. FCPS meals can still be purchased with cash or personal checks.

Fall Picture Day

Get ready for picture day on Tuesday, September 30 and Wednesday, October 1st. All students will have their pictures taken for the yearbook, so encourage your child to participate. Flyers will go home soon. We need volunteers to help on both days. The hours are from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.

Daily Attendance is Important

Fairfax County requires daily attendance in school unless an absence is excused. Examples of an excused absence include: illness, death in the family, medical or dental appointment, or observance of a religious holiday. Family vacations are considered unexcused absences. We are required to respond to excessive unexcused absences by contacting the school attendance officer. Please help your child by having him/her in school ready to learn every day.

If your child is going to be absent from school please call the Attendance line at (703-937-1661) or send an email to MosbyWoodsEAttendance@fcps.edu

Dates to Remember

September 8th – Back to School Night K – 3rd Grade 7 pm
September 15th – Back to School Night 4th – 6th Grade 7 pm
September 29th – Student Holiday
September 30th – Picture Day
October 1st – Picture Day