Dear Parents:

This is the last Bi-Line you will ever receive, how is that for effect? I will explain later so please keep reading.

What a fantastic year we have had that is coming to a close. I want to thank each and every one of you for the support of your child(ren) and for the wonderful actions you have taken, in so many ways, that have made our school a wonderful place for children.

Yesterday, I attended the graduation of Langley High School and McLean High School with many of my principal colleagues from the Langley and McLean pyramids. It was wonderful to see so many previous Spring Hill School students walk proudly across the stage at the DAR Constitution Hall who have matured into sophisticated young women and young men. The groundwork that is laid here gives them the solid start that is so critical to lifelong success.

When the school year closes out next Wednesday, we will have to say goodbye to two icons of Spring Hill Elementary School as Pat Ickert and Nancy Kenefick are both retiring. This afternoon we have a get together after school to say goodbye starting at 3:30 PM in the cafeteria so drop in to say hello, if you have the opportunity.

Mrs. Kenefick was hired by FCPS in August of 1983 and has taught at SHES since September of 1985. Over the years, Nancy has touched the lives of so many children and she will be sorely missed.

Mrs. Ickert, has been office manager, finance secretary and Administrative Assistant to the principal at SHES since July of 1996. Pat has kept Spring Hill's finances in order, kept the lights on and the building cool for 18 years. Her dedication to our school will create a void in the office.

Lastly, I want to congratulate our Student Council Association members who came up with the idea of possibly changing the name of our weekly communique to parents and the community which for years we have called The Bi-Line. The SCA came up with four names that more closely reflect the name of our school/mascot and after the entire school voted the clear winning name was PANTHER PRESS. To that end, thank you students for giving us our new name!

If I don't see you before the end of the year have a wonderful summer.

Best regards,

Roger Vanderhye
Please schedule your family vacations during FCPS designated holidays / breaks, which you can see at this link:  
http://www.fcps.edu/cal.shtml

Be aware that missing school for extended periods of time negatively impacts your child and your child's teacher.

**Week of June 16th:**
Monday, June 16th: 1st GR EOY Class Party, 9 am-12:30 pm
Tuesday, June 17th: Kindergarten EOY Class Party, 9:30 am-12 pm
5th GR EOY Class Party, 11 am-3 pm
**Wednesday, June 18th:** 6th GR Party, 9 am-3 pm
Mrs. Fisher’s 3rd GR Play, Cafeteria, 2-3 pm
**Thursday, June 19th:** Mrs. Fisher’s 3rd GR Play, Cafeteria, 9-10 am
Awards Ceremony, Gym, 1:30-3 pm
**Friday, June 20th:** 6th GR History Museum, Gym, 9:15 am-12:15 pm
Panthology Ceremony, Cafeteria, 1:45-3 pm

**Week of June 23rd:**
Monday, June 23rd: 6th GR Graduation, Gym, 9:15 am
3rd GR EOY Class Party, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
**Tuesday, June 24:** 4th GR EOY Party, 10 am-1 pm
**Wednesday, June 25th:** Last Day of School, Early Dismissal, 11 am

**Full 2013-2014 calendar:** click here:  
http://www.fcps.edu/about/13-14cal.htm

**PLAN AHEAD:**
Wednesday, August 27th: New Family Orientation, 6-7:30 pm, Cafeteria
Thursday, August 28th: Open House 2-3 pm
Tuesday, September 2: First Day of School
Monday, September 15: Back to School Night, K-3rd grades, 6-8 pm
**Monday, September 22:** Back to School Night, 4th-6th grades, 6-8 pm

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**See Inside this Issue:**
- **Page 1:** Principal Letter
- **Page 2:** Yearbooks, SCA Officers, Cafeteria Hostess Needed, Calendar
- **Page 3-4:** 4th GR Follow the Water Program
- **Page 5:** Fun Fair Raffle winner, Refrigerator Donation, LMS Jump Start Program
- **Page 6:** Medication pick up, Outdoor Classroom Maintenance
- **Page 7:** PTO News
- **Page 8-15:** Summer Reading Program

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**Congratulations**

2014-2015 SCA OFFICERS

**President:** Cole Sitilides  
**Vice President:** Mary Scalia  
**Secretary:** Jane Fennell  
**Treasurer:** Sophia Montie  
**Character Education:** Maggie Welch

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**Yearbooks And Class Photos**

We have a few yearbooks ($13) and class photos ($10). CASH ONLY  
If you have any questions or would like to purchase either, please contact Nelda Hirji @ 703-506-3400 or email nelda.hirji@fcps.edu

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**Cafeteria Hostess Needed**

Spring Hill School is in need of a cafeteria hostess during lunch periods. The hours are Monday 10 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Please contact Mr. Tritle, Assistant Principal, at RRTritle@fcps.edu if you are interested in this position.

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This school newsletter will be issued every Wednesday during the school year on our website, under “News and Events.” You will receive an email link to the newsletter if we have your current email address. Deadline for submissions are Mondays by Noon. Email nelda.hirji@fcps.edu  
Please include Bi-Line in the subject.
Fourth graders recently completed the final phase of their Follow the Water watershed education program, funded by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Fourth graders are busy now working on reflection pieces, making conclusions based on the data, and producing front hallway displays and public service announcements for the morning news program.

The Follow the Water watershed education program started in November with a storm water and watershed site survey of Spring Hill, a storm water and pollution solutions campus tour, and biodiversity survey with data collection around school grounds. After a long, harsh winter, the Follow the Water program continued with three amazing field trips to test water quality and observe biodiversity at the Hamlet Stream, at Scott’s Run walking to the Potomac River, and at Diamond Teague Park (right next to Nationals Park) for a boat tour on the Anacostia River. In early June, the program finished with a student action project—the planting of green roof tiles.

Spring Hill’s fourth grade would like to thank three partners involved in this Follow the Water program: Lands and Waters, a non-profit organization devoted to watershed protection and education, The Living Classrooms for the boat experience, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust for funding the program.
Fun Fair Raffle Winner
Zander Kuebler
Scrapbooking with Mrs. Ashe (June 12)

Upstairs workroom in need of refrigerator

If anyone is remodeling and/or upgrading their kitchen please consider donating your old refrigerator to the upstairs staff workroom. Please contact the front office at (703) 506-3400 for this donation.

The 2014 Jump Start Program at Longfellow Middle School

Registration is now open for Longfellow’s 2014 Jump Start Program. Jump Start is a transition program for rising Longfellow 7th graders. Participants will improve math & literacy skills through small group sessions with Longfellow teachers. Students will also participate in sessions covering topics such as study skills, test taking strategies, and time management with a Longfellow counselor. Jump Start also ensures a smoother transition to middle school by introducing students to staff, peers, school layout, and basic policies before the school year begins.

The program will take place August 4-8 from 8:30am-12:30pm. Transportation will be available to take your student to and from the school. This program is free of charge. If you are interested in registering your child for Jump Start, contact:

Max Berkheimer
After-School Specialist, Longfellow MS
703-533-2649
MEBerkheimer@fcps.edu
REMINDER From the Health Room
Medication pick up

The school health room is reminding parents and guardians that all medications stored in the health room must be picked up no later than student dismissal time on the last day of school, Wednesday, June 25, 2014. All medication left after this time will immediately be discarded. Please remember that school policy states all medications are to be picked up by the parent or guardian. Medications cannot be sent home with your student. Medication authorization forms for next school year may be obtained from the school or online at http://www.fcps.edu/forms.shtml. Directions for filling out all medication forms are detailed on the back of the forms. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Larkin, your school health room aide, at 703-506-3410, or your school public health nurse, Carol McDevitt, at 571-356-2134.

Spring Hill Outdoor Classroom Maintenance
Volunteer sign up
Summer 2014

Help us this summer weeding, watering and harvesting the produce for the raised beds outdoor classroom. Surplus produce will be taken to the SHARE food bank in McLean. Kindly click on the sign up genius link below and volunteer to help out. Alternatively email Kristin Mears at kamears@hotmail.co.uk. We will email you directions by June 25th.

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090844AFAF28A13-spring
Order Next Year’s School Supplies Online

Save time and reduce your summer to-do list. Log on to http://www.ordermypack.com and enter our school code – 107867. When you are placing an order, remember to order supplies for the grade your child will be in next year. All orders will be delivered to your home 2-3 weeks before school starts in September. The school supply sale will run from May 1 to July 31. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Holloman at jnholloman@cox.net.

HAVE ANY BOXTOPS WITH SUMMER EXPIRY DATES?

Like 6/30/14 or 8/1/14? If so, please submit them to the box in the front office or to your teacher before summer. Thanks!


The Spring Hill PTO will be working with AtoZ Directories again next year to produce our printed Directories. As you may know, AtoZ is able to provide their services to the PTO for no charge by including advertisements in the student directory.

Spring Hill families have the opportunity at this early date to purchase select premium spots in next year’s directory (to be published approximately November 2014). Parents interested in a premium spot should contact Monica Christensen at monica@atozdirectories.com or call her at 703.470.0657. There are also full page, half page, and business card advertising opportunities available.
SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Fairfax County School Board requires that all students should continue to read during the Summer Holidays. Reading is crucial to academic achievement. Research shows that students who read regularly tend to maintain and/or even make academic gains by the end of the summer.

This year, our Summer Reading theme is “Chill Out and Read”. It encourages all students to participate in reading different types of books for enjoyment. Students are encouraged to select books they love to read.

Each student will receive a hard copy of the Summer Reading Log and a copy can be downloaded from the Spring Hill website. The student will record and rate how she or he liked the books. Students should select one of their favorite books, draw a favorite scene, and then write about why this book is special. Also, be sure to bring the Summer Reading Log to the class teacher in September.

The drawings will be displayed on the school hallways and celebrated by the Spring Hill Community during the first few weeks of school. Don’t miss this opportunity!

The FCPS recommended Reading Lists for Rising Sixth and Seventh Grade students are available on the Spring Hill School website. In addition, Rising Sixth and Seventh Grade students will receive more instructions from their teachers.

Book list for rising 6th graders:
http://www.fcps.edu/is/summer/reading/6.shtml

Book list for rising 7th and 8th graders:
http://www.fcps.edu/is/summer/reading/78.shtml
**CHILL OUT WITH YOUR FAVORITE BOOK THIS SUMMER!**

*Read over the summer and have your book cover and summary on display in September!*

**Challenge** yourself by choosing books from a variety of genres: nonfiction, biography, realistic fiction, poetry, fantasy, mystery....

Now try your hand at being a book critic and rate each book.

- **3** = **FANTASTIC** - “I recommend you read this book!”
- **2** = **GOOD** - “You should check this book out.”
- **1** = **OKAY** - “I probably would not read this book again.”

Choose one of your favorite books and illustrate it **ON THE BACK OF THIS PAPER** – be colorful and creative and write a short summary of the best part of the book.

Turn this reading log in to your homeroom teacher in September 2014.

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**Name** ___________________________  **Teacher** ______________________  **Grade** ____
PICTURE-BOOK PICKS
Grades K–2

SOME BUGS
By Angela DiTerlizzi, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel.
$17.99.
A perfect primer on bugs, this book introduces young readers to the sights and sounds of insects. Its simple text and colorful, detailed pictures will have your students buzzing.

IT’S AN ORANGE AARDVARK!
By Michael Hall. $17.99.
If your young readers enjoy Eric Carle and Lois Ehlert, Hall’s book will be right up their alley. The story follows five ants that drill holes in their tree-stump home and concoct a story about the colorful aardvark lurking on the other side.

RULES OF SUMMER
By Shaun Tan. $18.99.
With its running list of rules (“Never be late for a parade”), the text in bestselling author Tan’s new book is deceptively simple. It’s the intricate—and dark—paintings that tell most of the story about a boy and his older brother.

SPARKY!
By Jenny Offill, illustrated by Chris Appelhans. $16.99.
In this delightful story, Sparky’s young owner learns that when it comes to sloths, what you see is what you get. The watercolor-and-pencil illustrations are masterful.

MIDDLE-GRADE MARVELS
Grades 3-5

A SNICKER OF MAGIC
By Natalie Lloyd. $16.99.
When Felicity Pickle turns up in the town of Midnight Gulch, she senses a snicker of long-gone magic in the air. She uses her words to find where the magic has gone.

TERRORS OF THE DEEP
By Deborah Lock. $5.99.
Take a dive into the depths of the Pacific Ocean aboard a submarine. Terrors of the Deep is packed with facts, diagrams, and photos that any budding marine biologist will love.

HALF A CHANCE
By Cynthia Lord. $16.99.
Lord gracefully handled the subject of autism in Rules and has done it again with dementia in Half a Chance. Lucy faces a moral dilemma about whether to enter a photo of her friend’s ailing grandmother in a contest.

RECIPE FOR ADVENTURE: NAPLES!
By Giada De Laurentiis. $6.99.
In this series by famed TV chef De Laurentiis, siblings Alfie and Emilia travel to cities around the world known for their food, including Naples, Paris, and New Orleans. Each book contains two recipes for the young cooks in your life.

MY BIG FAT ZOMBIE...GOLDFISH: THE SEAQUEL
Following on the heels of its popular predecessor, the story follows protagonist Tom and his hypnotic goldfish Frankie as they take on big brothers and a Super Electric Zombie Eel.

JUST JAKE
By Jake Marcionette. $11.99.
Written for kids by a kid, this book is a good pick for fans of series like Timmy Failure and Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Teen author Jake Marcionette is sure to make your students laugh with his humorous, semi-autobiographical story about popularity and acceptance.

NIGHTINGALE’S NEST
By Nikki Loftin. $16.99.
Inspired by a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, this story is as heartbreaking as it is magical. Little John is struggling with his sister’s death when he meets a girl whose mesmerizing voice has the power to heal. He ultimately must face a difficult decision between family and friendship.

UNDER THE EGG
By Laura Marx Fitzgerald. $16.99.
Theo accidentally spills rubbing alcohol on a painting that belonged to her late grandfather, revealing what she thinks is a masterpiece. She searches for answers about why her grandfather—a former security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art—might have owned this work of art.
YOUNG-ADULT ADVENTURES
Grades 6-8

CAMINAR
By Skila Brown. $15.99.
Told in verse and inspired by true events, this coming-of-age story finds Carlos in the middle of Guatemala’s civil war in 1981. The boy is tasked with warning his family members about the approaching soldiers.

THE FINISHER
By David Baldacci. $17.99.
New York Times best-selling author Baldacci tells the tale of teenage Vega, who leaves the village of Wormwood for the first time in search of a kindly family friend. Along the way, she must navigate a forest of beasts and uncover long-lost secrets.

THE MARK OF THE DRAGONFLY
By Jaleigh Johnson. $16.99.
In this fantasy adventure novel, Piper discovers a girl in the wreckage of the Meteor Fields and must help her find her way home to the Dragonfly Territories.

PURE GRIT: How American World War II Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific
By Mary Cronk Farrell. $24.95.
A detailed work of nonfiction, Pure Grit recounts the saga of 101 brave women who served as Army and Navy nurses in the Philippines during World War II and were taken prisoner by the Japanese.

THE RIVERMAN
By Aaron Starmer. $15.99.
Fiona Loomis tells her friend Alistair Cleary that a creature called the Riverman is stealing the souls of children—and she will be next. In this first book of a trilogy, Alistair must figure out if Fiona’s tale is truth or fiction.

THE BOUNDLESS
By Kenneth Oppel. $16.99.
Protagonist Will travels aboard a train called The Boundless as it chugs its way across the Canadian Pacific Railway. Will fends off all sorts of villains intent on stealing a key that unlocks the train’s treasures.
MORE GREAT BOOK LISTS AND IDEAS:

Virginia Readers Book Lists for 2014-2015:
https://www.vsra.org/virginia-readers-choice/

American Library Association. Notable Children’s Booklists:
Latest list of recommended titles for all age levels.
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb/

GREAT WEBSITES FOR KIDS from the ALSC:
http://gws.ala.org/

Summer Reading Lists from the American Library Services for Children.:
http://www.ala.org/alsc/2014-summer-reading-list

CALDICOTT MEDAL- annual Children's picture book awards:
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal

Newbery Medal- annual Children’s chapter book awards:
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal

Children’s Choices: The list is published in the Oct. issue each year of International Reading Assoc.'s The Reading Teacher journal

CAPITOL CHOICES Children’s Book Lists:
(Since 1996, Capitol Choices has included librarians, teachers, booksellers, ...in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in and around Washington, D.C. Most of us work directly with young people, and all of us share a passion for books and a commitment to pairing children with books)
http://www.capitolchoices.org/2014
Tips to Help Children Read

- Find 20 phone-free, interrupted minutes. This supportive focused session will be more valuable than a one-hour session with distractions and interruptions.
- Give 'wait time' before telling your child a word
- For beginning readers:
  - Ask your child to hold the book
  - Have your child track your reading with a finger.
  - When finished, ask your child to read a favorite part out loud.
- For a book with more challenging text:
  - Try 'retelling' the story with the characters added
  - Know when to help-if it's too hard, read aloud with your child.
- Use the words 'Like A”:
  - This is like a time you and _____ had a problem over who would play goalie in the soccer game."
  - Make connections to other stories and to other events in your child's life.
- Praise, praise, praise, and praise your child’s efforts
- Other Tips:
  - Have older children read to younger children. Even a first grader can read to a younger sibling.
  - Use the problems and solutions in literature to encourage thinking:
    - "Would you have solved the problem that way?"
    - "What would you do?"
  - Listen to your child’s views and opinions.
  - Investigate a subject in a variety of books.
  - Make regular trips to the library.
  - Read the Kid's Page in the Thursday Washington Post together. Get a book from the library on a topic of interest from the Kid's Page.
LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK? EXPLORE THESE AUTHORS AT THE LIBRARY THIS SUMMER:

Grade K-2
Beverly Cleary        Leo Lionni          Jacq. Woodson
Maurice Sendak        Mo Willems          Steven Kellogg
Ezra Jack Keats       Jan Brett           Paul Goble
David Shannon         Candace Fleming      Steve Jenkins
Doreen Cronin          Kevin Henkes        Robert Munch

Grade 3-4
Laura Ingalls Wilder  Suzy Kline          Dick King-Smith
Judith Viorst         Shel Silverstein     Matt Christopher
David Adler           Tony DiTerlizzi      Louis Sachar
Ron Roy               Fred Bowen           Donald Sobol
Jon Scieszka           Annie Barrows       Judy Blume

Grade 5-6
Dan Gutman            Andrew Clements      Ann M. Martin
W. Van Draanen        Hilary McKay         Kate DiCamillo
Gennifer Choldenko    Wendy Mass          Mary Downing Hahn
C.S.Lewis             Madeleine L’Engle    Peg Kehret
Avi                   Rick Riordan         Cynthia Kadohata

Some authors may have books for more than one age level.