Dear Spring Hill School Parents,

In preparation for the 2015-16 school year, we will continue our unique tradition at Spring Hill School of informing current students, before summer begins, whom their classroom teacher will be for the upcoming year. To that end, on the last day of school, Friday, June 19th, children who are returning to Spring Hill next year, will spend time meeting their “new” teacher and “new” classmates in their “new” classroom. The idea is that the possible angst and anticipation children have over which teacher and classmates they will have next year will no longer be an issue. Instead, children and teachers will be able to get acquainted before our school year ends and those involved will have a more peaceful summer (including you, the parents). In years past, several new friendships have developed over the summer and the trepidation and unease surrounding the first day of school is free of worry.

Parents, please keep in mind that FCPS is formulaic when it comes to elementary school staffing and the possibility exists for a teacher to be added or taken away in August, September or even October. It could also be that a teacher will be hired for a particular class closer to the beginning of the school year rather than in the summer as the process to hire new teachers is very thorough, but time consuming.

Again, this year, parents who have a desire to provide me with information about their child’s personality and learning style, to assist us in providing the best possible fit for their child regarding next year’s classroom teacher, may do so during a specified time period. Please note that I am currently accepting letters until Friday, April 24th. It is preferred if you send your correspondence to me personally in an e-mail at roger.vanderhye@fcps.edu and if you do not receive a short response from me telling you that I have received it, feel free to send me a second e-mail asking if I received it. Please give me a couple of days to respond to your original e-mail before you write to me again. Also, I ask that you refrain from asking current teachers who would be the best teacher for your child next year.

Continued on pg 2
Please understand that a request for a specific teacher by name will not be considered. In addition, we do our best to place children with a few familiar faces but understand that placing a child with “best friends” is a very low priority in our placement continuum. We try to balance classes as evenly as possible taking in myriad factors. As always, do tell us about any situation that we may not be aware of and that may affect our placement decisions. All information will remain confidential.

After this limited time expires, I ask that you please trust our process without your specific input. We will continue to provide the same care in placing your child as we have always done in the past.

Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school. It is exciting to already be thinking of classes for next year.

Best regards,

Roger Vanderhye

Roger Vanderhye, Principal

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Dear Parents / Guardians of Rising 7th Grade Students:

Longfellow PTA is sponsoring a parent program regarding your child's transition to middle school entitled 'How to Thrive at Longfellow'. The event will take place April 23rd, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Further details are available on our website: [http://www.fcps.edu/LongfellowMS/pages/Info/2015ThriveFlyer.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/LongfellowMS/pages/Info/2015ThriveFlyer.pdf)

Additionally, we are now accepting registrations for 'Start to Success', an optional summer program for parents of rising 7th grade students. Information and registration forms are available on our website: [http://www.fcps.edu/LongfellowMS/pages/CurrentInfo.html](http://www.fcps.edu/LongfellowMS/pages/CurrentInfo.html)

If you have any questions after reviewing the information on our website, please contact our Student Services office at (703) 533-2603.

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Save The Date!

Spring Hill Elementary School's Kindergarten Round-Up

Monday, April 27, 2015

Cafeteria

9:00 a.m: Registration Begins
Parents attend information session while children visit classrooms
Session ends at 10:30 a.m.

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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 Panther Press in the subject.
Carol Horn, the Program Director for Advanced Academics, has written her 7th in a series of articles on the 9 critical thinking strategies that we teach in FCPS. In these articles she shares with parents ideas for how to extend the thinking beyond the classroom. They can be all be found by following this link and scrolling to the bottom of the page: http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/resources/parent.shtml. The most recent article focuses on fostering creative problem solvers. Below is an excerpt:

The environment is a critical component and it must be one in which children feel free to take risks in order to explore and discover their own ideas, insights, and solutions. They should be encouraged to observe and notice things, play around with their ideas, see patterns and connections, and explore unique applications of their ideas to real world problems and situations. Creativity is nurtured in a home that provides a safe environment for investigation, instills the value of learning from mistakes, and fosters a respect for individual ideas and differences. Children need rich and varied opportunities to think about possibilities, experiment with ideas, test their ideas, and reflect on the results.

To read it in its entirety, scroll to the bottom of the HOT Spot parent page.
IN THE SPRING HILL LIBRARY
COME ON IN FOR GREAT NEW BOOKS, CLASSICS, AWARD WINNERS AND FAVORITES
WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP – EVEN AN HOUR IS APPRECIATED

HERE IS THE SIGNUP LINK SO YOU CAN PICK AN AVAILABLE OPEN SLOT:

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F48ADA722A46-spring
This summer, two of our teachers, Ms. DeWispelaere and Ms. Fitzsimmons, will accompany 10 of our students from Spring Hill Elementary school in McLean, VA on an exchange program to Spring Hill's sister school, Yabe Elementary near Yokohama, Japan. Our Spring Hill students will live with Japanese families and attend school with them.

We are raising funds for our two teachers to travel with the students and related transportation costs.

Our teachers will help organize the trip, help our students while there, and work with the Yabe school staff. It will be our third such exchange since the program began. (In the fall, Yabe students will come to the US and stay with Spring Hill families.)

It's a great way for students to learn about Japanese culture and life, to make a lasting bond with their Japanese host families, and vice versa. It's a unique exchange program for 3rd to 5th graders that we hope will grow!

Please donate and play a part in making this happen.

Please spread the word by sharing this link too.

Thank you for helping the teachers, the students, and Japan-US cultural exchange!

http://www.gofundme.com/springhillyabe

Ever thought about volunteering for the Olympics?
The closest this area is likely to come in our lifetime to an event like the Olympics is the World Police and Fire Games which will be held in and around Fairfax County from June 26 to July 5. The games will attract 12,000 police, fire, and other first responders from 70 countries to take part in 60 sports in 53 area venues. You can be a part of this exciting international event and meet people from around the world while acting as an ambassador for Fairfax County and the Nation. Volunteer opportunities exist in many areas including protocol, venues and competition, registration and accreditation, athlete village and volunteer support, media relations, logistics and transportation, and special events. Volunteers receive training and a T-shirt and are asked to volunteer on four days in shifts lasting 4 to 6 hours. Meals are provided. Please register no later than April 30 by visiting www.Fairfax2015.com and clicking on the Volunteer button.
Please come support 3rd grader, Anabelle Faneca, and her family at the 10th Annual Bands on the Bay. This event raises money to find a cure for Sturge-Weber Syndrome, a rare condition Anabelle was born with that causes many neurological issues in affected children.

Join us for a fun-filled day of live music, silent and live auctions, great food, beer, and wine on the Chesapeake Bay. This year’s event will feature the Doug Segree Band, Dublin 5, and Orlando Phillips, as well as special guest appearances by the Redskins Cheerleaders and former Governor Robert Ehrlich.

Visit the website for a complete list of musical performers, special guests, and auction items. All profits from Bands on the Bay go directly to the Hunter Nelson Sturge-Weber Center at Kennedy Krieger Institute of John’s Hopkins.

Info: BandsOnTheBay.org

When: Sunday, May 3rd 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Where: Herrington on the Bay, Friendship Maryland
Congratulations to the 2015-2016 PTO Board!
The officers are as follows:

- President – Holly Piper
- President – Elect – Jessica McMichael
- Past President – Amy Prewett
- Treasurers – Karen DeFilipps and Renée Boudreau
- Secretary – Megan Roberge
- Vice President – Enrichment – Christina Murphy
- Vice President – Community Services – MaryAnn Rebhan

Volunteers Needed For Spring Book Fair
We are looking for volunteers to help with the spring book fair during the week of April 27-May 1. Proceeds go to the library to help purchase books. Shifts are available for set up, clean up and sales periods throughout the week. Please go to the Sign Up Genius at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f48ada722a46-spring to take a shift. Contact Irene Lewis at iymjlewis@hotmail.com with questions.

Spring Hill Presents Stress Less Week, May 4-8th
Spring Hill Counseling Department will host its annual Stress Less Week the week of May 4th through 8th. Statistics from the Fairfax County Youth Survey and day-to-day student interactions show that our children in the Langley pyramid experience higher levels of stress than other areas of the country and county. The counseling team, in conjunction with all the schools who feed into Langley High School, has therefore implemented programs focused on reducing stress throughout the year and culminating in Stress Less Week. We will kick off our own Stress Less Week two days early with a Parent University Speaker, our own Dr. Heather Tedesco. Please join us to learn strategies you can use at home to help you and your family reduce stress. Please watch the Panther Press for a strategy list on creating less stressful mornings.

Join Dr. Heather Tedesco at 9 a.m. on April 30 in the Spring Hill cafeteria for: Stress Less, Laugh More: Strategies For Reducing Stress and Increasing Happiness For Families

Presentation preview: Children and parents are under stress from many sources, including busy schedules, high academic expectations, numerous extracurricular activities, and peer pressure to keep up. Join Spring Hill parent and psychologist Dr. Heather Tedesco as she discusses factors contributing to stress on children and parents, gives ways to recognize stress in young kids, shares strategies for reducing stress, and explains the key characteristics leading to long-term psychological health. This is a helpful presentation you will not want to miss!

*Sponsored by the Spring Hill Elementary PTO Special Education Committee.
Register now for the Fun Run!

Online registration (www.springhillpto.org) is open from April 15th to May 13th for the 8th Annual Spring Hill 3K Fun Run & Walk, which will be held on Sunday May 17th beginning at 8am.

Register by April 27th to receive a free T-shirt prior to the run! Registrations received after April 27th will receive T-shirts after the Fun Run.

Please go to the PTO website (www.springhillpto.org) for additional information and to register. Same day/race day registrations will be available between 7:30-8:00am.

Registration is $15 per person and includes:

- free Fun Run T-shirt
- kid-friendly, fun warm-ups
- free breakfast and refreshments, fun music, and sponsor samples and demonstrations

The 3 kilometer (approximately 2 mile) course starts at the school, goes through the McLean Hamlet neighborhood directly behind the school and finishes back at the school. This is an early morning event for the entire family, so plan on getting up and out early and be on your way home by 9:15am!

Questions? Email one of the Fun Run co-chairs, Jenn Ruscio (jenniferruscio@yahoo.com), Krista Page (kris.tapage333@gmail.com) or Elham Hassen (ehassen26@gmail.com).

Thank You!

Each week there are so many volunteers that take time to make our school a little better. Many thanks to:

- Julianna DeLong, Holly Piper, Margaret Smith and Kitty Gonzalez for doing Bus Notes last Friday
- Irene Lewis for preparing to hold the Spring Book Fair
- Keuri Patel and Valerie Daniel for organizing our Parent University speaker and all their efforts to have informative speakers throughout the year
- Jenny D’Alessandro for her delicious treats at the PTO meeting/Parent University
- Jina Kim and Pam Fox for beautifully setting up the coffee and juices for the PTO meeting/Parent University
- Kathy Swenson and Calli Harris for coordinating the fascinating and fun World of Robotics for Cultural Arts
- Jammie Parise for updating the outside sign
- Susan Connery and Amelia Steiner for updating the Birthday Board
- All the fearless Field Trip chaperones!
APPROPRIATIONS VOTES NEEDED FROM PTO MEMBERS
Please vote via email by April 24, 2015

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the PTO fundraisers this spring! Because of your generosity, the PTO is able to appropriate funds back to Spring Hill to meet the needs of our staff and students.

RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS SPENDING

The PTO Appropriations Committee met with Roger Vanderhye on Thursday, April 9th to review a list of requests submitted for appropriations. The following requests were approved by the Appropriations Committee and are recommended to be voted on by the PTO general membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Requested</th>
<th>Requested By</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chick feeding supplies</td>
<td>2nd grade team</td>
<td>$77.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candler to check growth progress of chicks</td>
<td>2nd grade team</td>
<td>$86.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants for courtyard and new shade garden</td>
<td>3rd grade team</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-Acto Electric Pencil Sharpeners</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$125.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric 3 hole punch machine for upstairs workroom</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$129.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Wiggle seats</td>
<td>Counselors</td>
<td>$288.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leveled reader sets</td>
<td>K team</td>
<td>$504.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Reading Intervention program</td>
<td>Language Arts team</td>
<td>$661.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Story Sets grades 4-6</td>
<td>Language Arts team</td>
<td>$124.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Strategies books grades 3-6</td>
<td>Language Arts team</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author Visit: Patricia Polacco</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>$2,880.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fender Passport Venue Portable PA System</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>$999.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shure Wireless microphone system</td>
<td>PE team</td>
<td>$549.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital timers</td>
<td>K team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Strategies book set</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novel Book Sets – A Lion to Guard Us</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$89.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novel sets – George Washington’s Socks</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$64.40</td>
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<td>Novel sets – George Washington’s Spy</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$96.60</td>
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<td>Novel sets – Who was Thomas Jefferson?</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
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<td>Novel sets - Stonewall</td>
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<td>Novel sets – The Great Little Madison</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$103.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novel Sets – Double Life of Pocohontas</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$104.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novel Sets - Sign of the Beaver</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novel Sets - Bull Run</td>
<td>4th grade team</td>
<td>$104.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memory upgrades to 171 slow laptops</td>
<td>Tech team</td>
<td>$8,122.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>New laptops and carts at Mr. Vanderhye’s discretion</td>
<td>Tech team</td>
<td>$42,773.28</td>
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</table>

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

$60,000.00

The combination of laptops and carts needed is deferred to Mr. Vanderhye. Carts can hold a certain number of laptops for storage and charging. Providing general guidance at this time is simpler because if the number of laptops and carts is specified but ultimately needed to be changed, the purchases would have to be delayed for another vote by membership.

PLEASE VOTE BY APRIL 24

We ask PTO members to please review the recommended list of appropriations requests above and submit your votes via email to the PTO President, Amy Prewett, no later than Friday, April 24th.

According to our Bylaws (found on the PTO website at www.springhillPTO.org), Appropriations requests must be approved by membership through a meeting or a ballot. The Executive Board has determined that the Panther Press newsletter will serve as a ballot.

Members either vote YES on the entire slate or NO. Per PTO Bylaws, a non-vote is counted as a "yes" vote. Amy’s contact information is acprewett@yahoo.com. Thank you for your generosity and consideration!