Dear Spring Hill Third Grade Families,

Stop Hunger Now -- Accepting donations now!

This year our third grade community service initiative is to participate in Stop Hunger Now. Families in the Langley Pyramid are joining together this holiday season to help children in need. In partnership with Stop Hunger Now, the elementary, middle and high schools in the Pyramid are coming together on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at Colvin Run Elementary to prepare 100,000 meals for schools and orphanages around the world. All families are invited to participate in the preparation of the meals!

Last year, our families who attended the event shared:
- I think the biggest impact was my 6 year old realizing that not all kids in all parts of the world go to school and that the food she was helping package would not only feed the children but encourage their parents to send them to school.
- We are very impressed by this very organized event. We will join again next year!

Donate and help raise money for the event:
Each meal costs only 25 cents to make. For just $10, you can donate 40 meals; $25 will make 100 meals and $100 will pay for 400 meals. Make your tax-deductible donation today at http://events.stophungernow.org/LangleyPyramid2015.
In order to reach our goal of 100,000 meals, The Langley Pyramid needs to raise $25,000. If your company makes matching contributions, please consider having them join you in making a tax-deductible donation today at: http://events.stophungernow.org/LangleyPyramid2015 and help us Stop Hunger Now.

Volunteer for the event: Registration begins December 17th
Volunteers must register for the event and pick a time slot at http://goo.gl/prNSTi. If for any reason you need to cancel, please cancel through the Sign-up Genius to make those slots available to other families. Being a popular Langley pyramid event, please sign up as volunteer slots will fill up quickly. Children ages 4-12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Please email LangleySHN@gmail.com if you have any questions.

This is a great event for the whole family! Don't miss out. Wishing you and yours a happy and joy filled holiday season!

Take care,
Third Grade Team
See Inside this Issue:

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Calendar

Time Out of School

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 December 8:
Friday, December 12: 4th GR Colonial Day, Lg Pod (All Day), Cafeteria (1:30-3 pm)

Week of December 15:
Friday, December 19: Staff holiday sing-a-long, Cafeteria, 8-8:40 am
2 hr Early Release

Winter Break: December 22-January 2


Important Reminder: Winter Break

Friday, December 19th is the last day of school before winter break. Early dismissal time is 1:20 p.m. WINTER BREAK- 12/22/14 – 1/4/2015 The main office will be closed for the holiday. Students return to school on Monday, January 5th.

Class Parties

Food Orders

When placing food delivery orders for class parties, please place the order in the name of the classroom teacher so the office can find you. We receive a large number of delivery orders in the office on class party days and any name other than a classroom teacher will often not be recognized. We don’t want your order to get cold while we are trying to find you! Pre-paid orders with tip included are appreciated.

Holiday Visitors

Spring Hill School receives hundreds of requests a year for students not currently enrolled to visit with their former schoolmates/teachers during our school day. Friends can visit at lunch and recess only while accompanied by a parent and with prior permission from the teacher. Each class has lunch and recess at a specific time.

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.
**Important Reminder: Transportation Changes Procedure**

This is a reminder that any changes to your child’s normal mode of transportation home must be sent to the office in writing, either by the transportation change request form, or by fax, no later than 2pm.

Emails or last minute phone calls will not be accepted.

We want to reiterate the policy Spring Hill has in place is for your child’s safety.

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**No matching playdate notes on Friday, December 19th**

Matching playdate notes will not be accepted on Friday, December 19th due to early dismissal. Please do not send matching playdate notes to school this day.

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**Lost and Found**

Please check the cafeteria for lost lunch boxes, coats and jackets. During the holiday, unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

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**Kiss and Ride During Inclement Weather**

Many students who normally ride the bus or walk are driven to school when it is raining or snowing. This causes a very long delay with kiss and ride. Please be patient as our staff is working as quickly as possible to accommodate all of the students. If students are late due to kiss and ride they are counted as tardy. As always the best option for getting children to and from school is the school bus.

Thank you all for your patience and support.

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**Attention Parents:**

Due to safety and supervision concerns students may not be dropped off in the mornings before 8:10. There are no staff members here before that time to supervise them. At 8:10, students may go to the cafeteria to await dismissal to their classrooms at 8:25.

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**Early Pick-Up Policy**

If you need to pick up your child early from school, you must do so before 3:00 pm. Please schedule appointments accordingly. There will be no early pick-ups after 3:00 pm. After this times, you will need to wait until dismissal @3:20 pm.
Do you know the largest country in Africa? The least populous US state? The colors on Italy’s national flag? Some Spring Hill students do and they will get to show off their knowledge about all things geographical in our upcoming bee. Representatives from each 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class will be competing in the annual Spring Hill Geography Bee in late January. Preliminary competitions to decide the representative for each class will be taking place over the next few weeks in each homeroom. Please see the attached flier for information about how your child can study and prepare for the bee (or just answer some questions for fun). Additional information, including the exact date and time of the school-level bee will be provided in a future edition of the Panther Press.

See pg 7 for flyer

Vision (only) screening follow-up notification: If you received a referral letter regarding your child’s difficulty with vision following the annual screening completed in October 2014, please return the completed form to the school to document that appropriate follow-up was completed for vision problems, and your physician’s findings and recommendations. These completed reports are required for the Cumulative Health Record. If you have further questions please contact the Health Room at 703-506-3410.
4th Grade Orchestra Concert
Are You Prepared? Make Plans Now!

Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Plans
Make Arrangements Now in Case of an Unforeseen Schedule Change

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools two hours late, or to close two hours early. The procedures used in school closings are detailed below. Keep this information in a convenient location for future reference.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go or what to do if a parent will not be or is not home.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather. These are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of children and FCPS staff who are walking, driving, or riding buses to schools. These schedules are:

(1) Keep schools closed. (2) Open two hours late. (3) Close two hours early.

As soon as a decision is made to implement one of these changes, we post the information on:

- FCPS cable Channel 21
- www.fcps.edu.
- Facebook and Twitter.
- Email notifications will be made through our Keep in Touch (KIT) system.
- Called in to local radio and television stations.

We try to make a decision by 4:30 a.m. when schools will be closed all day or will open two hours late. This gives us 30 minutes so that the public announcement can be posted and reach all media outlets by 5:00 a.m. On some occasions, it is not possible to make these time frames as weather can change unexpectedly. On some other occasions, the school system has been able to make a scheduling decision the day before so that parents, staff members, and students know what will happen the following day. This usually happens when precipitation is already on the ground and the temperatures are such that the precipitation on the ground is frozen or will refreeze.

For more information, go to http://www.fcps.edu/news/weather.shtml
BEE PREPARED FOR THE GEO BEE!

ARE YOU A GEO-GENIUS?

1. Which state is known as the Peach State because peaches are one of its major crops—Hawaii or Georgia?

2. Which state is known as the Great Lakes State because it is bordered by four of the five Great Lakes—North Dakota or Michigan?

3. Which state, famous for its wealth and financial resources, is known as the Empire State—Iowa or New York?

4. A trumpet appears on the quarter of which state, known for its jazz music heritage—Louisiana or Pennsylvania?

5. The first successful airplane flight, at Kill Devil Hills, is commemorated on the quarter of which state—North Carolina or Iowa?

6. To walk in Lisbon’s Alfama district and to stay at a beach resort in the Algarve [al-GAHR-vee], you would travel to what country?

7. To bike around Stanley Park in Vancouver and see the northern lights near Yellowknife, you would travel to what country?

8. To take a rain forest tour and to dance at Rio de Janeiro’s Carnival celebration, you would travel to what country?

9. To see an acrobatics show in Beijing and walk along the Great Wall, you would travel to what country?

10. The threatened Canada lynx, which has large feet adapted for walking on top of deep snow, lives near Lake of the Woods in which state—Georgia or Minnesota?

KEEP QUIZZING ONLINE:
www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/quiz/today

STUDY ON THE GO!
Download the Geo Bee Challenge app at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/apps.
Check out these National Geographic books available for purchase online at www.shopng.com/geobee.
NEW! Spring Hill Bids For Kids Online Auction

The Spring Hill Bids for Kids online auction will take place in late February/early March of 2015. **This will be our main spring fundraiser** to raise money for items such as laptop computers, SmartBoards and other needs for the school. We are currently looking for donations such as restaurant gift cards, vacation home time, or other services such as landscaping or interior design. Please contact Stephanie Short or Paula Mosby to help.

Colonial Day Is Friday, December 12th

If you have a Colonial Day costume that you no longer need, there is a box to collect **CLEAN** costumes in the office (please include hats or mob caps if you have them). Please put the costumes in a bag labeled for a boy or girl and about what size (S, M, L). For those looking for a costume, they will be in the box for first come-first served to claim.

Girl Scout Interest Meeting

Be part of the Girl Scout Family! Interested in Girl Scouts for your daughter, K-6 grade? We’re having a Girl Scout Interest Meeting on December 11, 7 pm at Spring Hill Cafeteria. Come hear about the opportunities your daughter can experience in Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts go on fun adventures, learn new skills, make friends, help their community and become the next generation of leaders. We will have some activities available for your daughters, K-grade 6. For more information, please email Kathleen Rafferty, **krafferty@gscnc.org** or call 703-372-4350.

Green Initiatives Yogurt Container Drive

Do you love yogurt and tend to buy them in the **large** containers?? Then we need your help!! The Green Initiatives Committee is seeking the collection of **LARGE** yogurt containers (32oz/2lb) to hold used up pens/mechanical pencils and glue sticks. We have received approval from Terracycle to turn these otherwise landfill-doomed items into **$$ CASH $$** for our school! Our goal is to have at least two yogurt containers per classroom to hold each of these items. Containers can be turned in (clean, of course) to a designated box in the Cafeteria. Questions? Please contact Yashi Verma (a_vegemite@yahoo.com), Nancy Bao (nihao100@hotmail.com) or Kristin Mears (kamears@hotmail.co.uk).
Coffee Pod Donations for Teachers
The PTO purchased a Keurig coffee machine to keep in the Teachers' Lounge and would LOVE donations of coffee pods both regular and decaf so the teachers can treat themselves every day. Donations can be left in the teachers' lounge. Questions? Contact Lynne at evangelineemanuel1014@gmail.com.

No Bus Notes on Friday, December 19th
Bus Notes will not be accepted on Friday, December 19th due to early dismissal this day. Please do not send Bus Notes to school this day.

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

Susan Connery and Amelia Steiner for updating the Birthday board.
Miriam Smith and Kathleen Vargas for doing Bus Notes on Friday.
Bethany Bond, Margaret Smith, Valerie Daniel and Sue Cardenas for going through the Fun Fair bins in the PTO room to organize all the games.
Sue Cardenas for coordinating the Fun Fair kickoff meeting.

Save the Date

December 19th – Early Dismissal for Winter Break. NO BUS NOTES. All after school play dates cancelled due to early release.

January 14th – PTO Meeting at 9:15am featuring Arlene Randall, Cooper MS Principal, and Fred Amico, Langley HS Asst. Principal, as speakers

January 16th – 9:15am Second Fun Fair meeting in the cafeteria

January 19th – No School, MLK Holiday

January 23rd – Dr. Alan Zametkin of NIH speaks on “ADHD, Anxiety and Attitude”

January 24th – Skate Night at Reston SkateQuest, 6:10pm
ATTENTION SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS!

Are you looking to reach Spring Hill parents, grandparents and neighbors?

We’ve got a great idea ... Make a donation to the Spring Hill Bids for Kids online auction! We are interested in goods, services, and more; and we’ll build excitement around your brand!

Our online auction is replacing traditional silent auction baskets at Fun Fair, our annual school carnival. This new fundraising endeavor is open to everyone at Spring Hill and will be advertised multiple times in the coming months. The funds raised will be used to provide important technology and meet other school needs.

Support the PTO, get a potential write off on your taxes, and advertise to our community!

Please RSVP ASAP if you are willing to donate:

Stephanie Short skleger@gmail.com or Paula Mosby paulacmosby@live.com

Don’t forget to ask neighbors, grandparents, friends, and your favorite small businesses to contribute to this great cause.
Baseball and Softball

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2015!

STEP 1: Register online at: www.mcleanll.com

STEP 2: Pay registration fees in person by cash, check or credit card (along with proof of age and residency) on one of the following dates:

- Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 8:30am to 1:30pm
- Thursday, January 15, 2015 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm
- Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 8:30am to 1:30pm

at the following location:

McLean Little League Fields (Upper Level of the Clubhouse)
1836 Westmoreland Street, McLean

Baseball Age Requirements
- Tee Ball: Ages 5-6/Pre-K & Kindergarten • Transition Baseball: Age 7/1st grade • “A” Baseball: Age 8/2nd Grade • Minors & Majors Baseball: Ages 9-12

Softball Age Requirements
- Transition Softball: Ages 7-8 (mostly 1st/2nd grade) • Minors & Majors Softball: Ages 9-12 (mostly 3rd grade and up) • Junior and Senior Softball: Ages 13-16

Challenger Division
- For boys and girls with special needs of all ages.

www.McLeanLL.com

Please visit our website! For additional inquiries, please contact: cilluffo@mcleanll.com

*Note: These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, nor this school.