CANCELLED

The PTO Special Education Committee scheduled speaker Dr. Alan Zametkin has had to regretfully cancel his talk originally scheduled for Jan. 23. We will have another speaker to address issues surrounding childhood anxiety and attention in the coming weeks. Please be on the look out for an announcement. Thank you for your understanding.

Effective Instruction of Teachers: The Research

Dear Parents:

When Mr. Casey, Mr. Tritle and I visit classrooms we are consistently impressed with the principles of instruction that we see demonstrated by our skilled teaching staff. During our visits, we try to concentrate on viewing one research based instructional strategy during our time in the classroom. Though we occasionally conduct hour long observations of classrooms, we generally feel that we get more accurate results by dropping into the classrooms for just a few minutes on several occasions. And, by honing in on one strategy, and then working with the teacher to fine tune it, if needed, mastery is observed.

Recently, I re-read a dynamic article written for the American Educator by Barak Rosenshine (spring 2012) on the 10 overall principles of instruction that highly effective teachers demonstrate on a regular basis. It is heartening to see that each one of these research based strategies thrive in the classrooms of Spring Hill. I will touch on the first five this week and complete the list in the Panther Press next Wednesday, January 21.

1. *Begin a lesson with a short preview of previous learning.* At SHES we often have teachers administering a mini-quiz or warm-up to jog students’ memory and get them in the position to learn new material. Daily reviews are critical components of instruction. The stronger the connections to previously learned material the easier the new learning will take hold in students. Five to eight minutes of vocabulary or arithmetic or vowel sounds are steps to automaticity, so critical for long term memory.

2. *Present new material in small steps with student practice after each step.* In FCPS and the Program of Study for the State of VA we have such a vast curriculum that often many small steps are introduced in one lesson. This is why perfect practice is so essential (and snow days and 2 hour delays throw a wrench into the works). Our working memory can only handle small bits of information at one time and too much information swamps our working memory. Slow and steady seems to really win the race.
3. *Ask numerous questions and check their responses.* As students need to practice their newly learned information a teacher’s questioning at various levels of thinking from low level to sophisticated (recall, comprehension, analysis, application, synthesis or evaluation) are critical to student learning. Active participation of students to respond to questions include the age old raise a hand and answer. However, many other methods may also be utilized including: speak to a shoulder partner, write a short one sentence summary and explain to a neighbor, write the answer on a small card or small whiteboard and hold it up, enter information on the SMARTBOARD, answer on the computer or electronic voting device, thumbs up or down to show agreement or not, are just a sampling of the many ways teachers elicit what students know in a quick, yet effective, way.

4. *Models and Worked Examples can assist in solving problems faster.* Students need scaffolded support to assist them in how to solve problems. The more complex the task, the more detailed the explanation of how an answer was determined. Prompts, modeling, guided step-by-step instructions are all critical to their ability to comprehend. Worked examples give an opportunity for students to focus on specific steps that lead to a reduced cognitive load.

5. *Guide students’ practice.* Recent research has found that students will quickly forget new information unless there is sufficient rehearsal. Teachers need to guide practice for students so that they spend quality time rephrasing, elaborating and summarizing new information to process into long-term memory. Hitting a curve ball, playing the trumpet or speaking Swahili all take hard work on the part of the pupil and guided practice on behalf of the coach.

Next week, I will highlight the other 5 critical principles of instruction.

Best regards,

Roger Vanderhye
Roger Vanderhye, Principal

Congratulations to 5th Grade student Jason Kang for winning the Silver Medal at the DC Open Speed Skating Event.

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.
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 January 12:**
- **Thursday January 15:** 5th & 6th GR Orchestra Concert, Gym, 7 pm
- **Friday, January 16:** Korean Seminar, Room 913, 10 am
- Fun Fair Meeting, 9:15, Cafeteria
- SCA Flashback Friday (Wear clothes from any decade)

**Week of January 19:**
- **Monday, January 19**
  - MLK Day Holiday, No School
  - Chess Club registration begins
- **Wednesday, January 21:** Clubs, Candids and Panoramic Photos, Lg Pod, 9am-All day
- **Friday, January 23:** Geography Bee, Cafeteria, 2-3 pm
- **Saturday, January 24:** Family Skate Night, Reston Skate Quest, 6-8 pm

**Week of January 26:**
- **Monday, January 26:** Chinese Coffee, Cafeteria, 8:30 See pg 5 for flyer
- **Thursday, January 29:** 2 hr Early Release
- **Friday, January 30 & Monday, February 2**, No School, Student Holidays
- **Saturday, January 31-Monday, February 2**
  - California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser
  - See pg 10 for flyer

**Full 2014-2015 calendar:** click here: http://www.fcps.edu/about14-15cal.shtml

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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.

**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 time, you will need to wait until dismissal @3:20 pm.
Spring Hill Students, Ryan Selig and Cole Sitilides are in the cast of “13,” which includes 17 actors between the ages of 12-16 years old. The show opens on January 30 for nine performances over three weekends at The Alden Theater (Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees), closing on February 15.

See flyer pg 13

Calling All Chocolate Lovers!!

The McLean and Langley High Interact Clubs and the Rotary Club of McLean are partnering to hold McLean's third annual chocolate festival on Sunday, January 25, from 11-5 PM at the McLean Community Center. The Community Hall and Stedman Hall will be filled with 17 vendors selling anything chocolate: candy, cakes, ice cream, cupcakes, etc. American Heritage, a Mars company, will demonstrate how chocolate was made in the 1750's. In the Center's DuVal studio, LHS and MHS Interact Club students will lead children in chocolate-related games, and there will be half-hour performances by Ukelele Phil and the Hula Kids at 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30. Admission to the Chocolate Festival is $2. Children under 6 get in free. Twenty-five percent of all proceeds will support local community organizations like the Falls Church McLean Children's Center, Homestretch, Literacy Council, Timber Lane Elementary School, high school senior scholarships, the Safe Community Coalition's 6th Grade Ethics Days, and many others. For more information, please visit www.McLeanChocolateFestival.org.
Spring Hill Chinese Coffee
Spring Hill Chinese parents are invited!

Please join us for conversation over coffee and refreshments.

When: Monday, January 26th, 8:30 a.m.
Where: Cafeteria

Questions? Please contact Spring Hill Chinese Parent Ambassadors, Amy Adams (amyzadams@hotmail.com) & Alice Guo (aguo@generaldynamics.com).
Bids for Kids Auction Seeks Gift Cards

Did you receive any gift cards for the holidays that just aren’t right? Maybe you know you won’t use them. If you don’t want them, please consider donating them to Bids for Kids Auction, coming in February!

Bids for Kids is our NEW major spring fundraiser, replacing class baskets/silent auction in Fun Fair. Auction items include wine dinners with a private chef, interior design services, restaurant gift cards, Redskins tickets and more! Please contact Paula Mosby at paulacmosby@live.com or Stephanie Short at skleger@gmail.com to donate.

Fun Fair Meeting – January 16th

On Friday, January 16th at 9:15am, there will be a planning meeting for Fun Fair committee members in the Cafeteria. See you there!

Save the Date! Skate Night Is Back!

**When:** Saturday, January 24th  
**Where:** Skate Quest in Reston  
**Time:** 6:10-8pm

Tickets will be sold before school in the lobby January 20-23rd for $10 per skater (includes skate rental). Cash or checks payable to Spring Hill PTO. Spring Hill will receive a % of each pizza slice sold at the concession stand that evening so come prepared. Helmets are encouraged for all skaters. Skate Quest does not provide helmets, so please bring your own. Bike helmets are acceptable.

Chess Club Registration

Chess Club registration will take place January 19 through February 6. Students from 2nd through 6th grades may register. The registration cost is $95 per student per session. Registration is online at www.springhillpto.org. We need one parent volunteer to help set up boards and supervise snacks weekly. Please pick up your children promptly at 5pm.

For questions, please email springhillchessclub@gmail.com.

Fun Run Co-Chair Needed

The Fun Run co-chairs are looking for one additional volunteer to help plan and coordinate this fun, family event! Have you been thinking about how to get involved, but need flexibility when you volunteer? This event may be the perfect opportunity for you. The Fun Run is held on a weekend in May, and much of the planning can be done on your own schedule. The event is normally chaired by three people to keep planning manageable for everyone. Many of the event milestones have been documented by prior chairs, but help is needed in bringing the details together and executing the schedule for this year.

If interested, please contact current co-chairs Jenn Ruscio (jenniferruscio@yahoo.com) and Krista Page (krista.page333@gmail.com).
Wanted: 6th Grade Party Planning Committee Chairs

Our 6th grade graduation in June will be here before we know it! The 6th graders look forward to an all day celebration at school including games, lunch and a DJ hosted dance. The Committee is looking for a few leaders to chair committees including: Baby Photo Guessing Contest; Class DVD; Class Gift: School and Teachers; Decorations; Entertainment; Games; Food; Last Will and Testament.

If interested, please contact Alicia Bond (aliciajbond@aol.com) or Mary Welch (maryswelch@verizon.net).

Next Box Tops Contest

Individual students are eligible to win this time!

Kids, scour those drawers and cabinets at home for products from these big brands: Betty Crocker, Chex Mix, Fiber One, Hanes, Hefty, General Mills, Green Giant, Horizon, Kleenex, Land O’Lakes, Mott’s, Nature Valley, Pillsbury, Progresso, Scott, Totino’s, Yoplait, Ziploc, etc. Then clip and submit!

Our “TOP 10” submitters will be recognized in the Panther Press.

Prizes:
The “TOP” submitter will also win a $15 Target gift card. Plus a $15 gift card winner will be chosen via a drawing on the “Morning Show.”

Rules:
• Box Tops must include visible & valid (‘15 or later) expiration dates.
• Put them in baggies, or tape to blank paper or a collection sheet (attached).
• Please bundle Bonus certificates separately.
• **Include your name, teacher’s name and grade.**

Deadline:
Give them to your teacher or leave in main office’s box by February 17th.

For any ?’s: Patty Keffer patricia.keffer@verizon.net or Denys King denys.king@gmail.com.

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.

Thank You!

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

• Jen Dzwonczyk for preparing the contract for the Directory.
COLLECT BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION™ FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

1. Clip Box Tops. Don’t forget to check the expiration date.
   Recorta los cuadritos de Box Tops y verifica la fecha de expiración

2. Tape or glue Box Tops on this sheet.
   Pega los cuadritos de Box Tops en la hoja hasta que esté completa

3. Send completed sheet to your school.
   Envía la hoja completa al coordinador de tu escuela

© General Mills.
EXTRA GIFTS?

Did Aunt Stella, Grandma, and Cousin Betty all buy your daughter that American Girl Spa Set? Did each kid get their own copy of Just Dance 2015? Got more Skylanders than you know what to do with?!

Save the time you would spend returning all those duplicate gifts and instead donate them to the Spring Hill PTO. Your donations, aside from being a great tax write-off, will be used for the raffle at Fun Fair, our annual school carnival, and the new online auction Spring Hill Bids for Kids.

Anyone can donate. Join us online in February, at Fun Fair in March, and let us know now if you have donations of goods, services, cash, or more. Support the PTO, and our fundraising efforts to get technology into our kids’ classrooms!

Please RSVP ASAP if you are able to donate anything:

Stephanie Short
sbllegor@gmail.com

or

Paula Mosby
paulamosby@live.com
Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server, and we’ll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

FUNdraiser in support of:
Spring Hill Elementary
Saturday, January 31st, Sunday, February 1st & Monday, February 2nd (All Day)

Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen
Tyson’s Corner Center
703-761-1473

Join the Pizza Dough™ Rewards program on your next visit or at cpk.com and receive a free Small Plate for registering.

FUNdraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profits schools are eligible to participate in CPK’s FUNdraiser program. CPK will donate twenty percent of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine in, take out, online, catering or curbside orders. Not valid for delivery orders. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the FUNdraiser, please contact the organization directly.
IMPORTANT DATES
Mark Your Calendars

CURRICULUM PRESENTATIONS AT COOPER MS
(Parents Only)
Rising 7th Grade: Wednesday, February 5, 7:00 pm
(Level IV only)
Rising 7th Grade: Wednesday February 11, 9:30-10:30 and
Thursday February 12, 6:30-7:30
Rising 8th Grade: Wednesday February 25th 9:30-10:30

ELECTIVE FAIR AT COOPER MS
(Students and Parents)
Rising 7th Grade—February 19, 6:30-8:00 pm
(Snow date - February 26, 6:30)

COOPER COUNSELORS VISIT 6th GRADE CLASSES
Churchill Road: February 17
Colvin Run: February 17
Great Falls: February 18
Spring Hill: February 18
Forestville: February 19
Franklin Sherman: February 19
Pizza, Drinks, Fruit & Homemade goodies, supplied by our PTA, will be on sale throughout the evening.

A special thank you to the Longfellow PTA for their support of this event.

Parents: Learn about Middle School Curriculum

DATE: THURSDAY, 02/19/2015
TIME: 6:00—8:00 PM

Locations by Last Name:

A-K: Lecture Hall
L-Z: Cafeteria

Agenda:
- Course Registration Overview
- English, Social Studies, Math & Science Curriculum Info
- After School Programs
- Electives Information

Special Education Parents Meeting:
Library, 5:30—6:00 PM

ESOL Parents Meeting:
Room 222, 5:30—6:00 PM

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: LONGFELLOW STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE AT 703-533-2603

Snow Date: 2/24/2015
A Hilarious Coming-of-Age Musical!

Music and Lyrics by
JASON ROBERT BROWN

Book by
DAN ELISH AND ROBERT HORN

ALDEN THEATRE, MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 15, 2015
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8:00 P.M. • SUNDAY MATINEES ON FEB. 1, 8, AND 15 AT 2 P.M.

TICKETS 866.811.4111 OR MCLEANPLAYERS.ORG

THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN EAR, AUDIO DESCRIPTION SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH VISION CHALLENGES WILL BE OFFERED AT THE FEB. 14 PERFORMANCE.

13 IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI, 421 WEST 54TH ST. NEW YORK, NY 10019.

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IRISH EYES PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY
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