Dear Spring Hill School Community:

As most of you know, we are coming to the close of the first semester; it’s hard to believe the year is half completed. To that end, the staff needs time to input grades, plan for the next five months, etc., so an early release time is scheduled for 1:20 PM tomorrow, Thursday, January 29th and no school for children on Friday, January 30th and Monday, February 2nd as they are teacher work and in-service days. School will resume for children on Tuesday, February 3rd.

A special invitation has gone home to all students to support our sister school exchange with Yabe Elementary School in Totsuka, Japan. This weekend, from Saturday, January 31 through Monday, February 2nd we are raising funds for our exchange by dining at the California Pizza Kitchen at the Tysons Mall. 20% of the proceeds of every meal will go to support our two teachers, Ms. Fitzsimmons and Ms. DeWispelaere as they travel with ten children and families to Japan at the end of school in June. Please bring your flyer in when you dine at CPK or tell them that you are from Spring Hill. Neighbors, relatives and friends are also invited.

Our exchange families and children from Spring Hill are paying their own way to Japan and we are very grateful to them for their support. Our participants this June are: Zachary Paikin, John King, Caroline Chaze, Emma McDonnell, Jacob Hammond, Shaun Jones, Finn Fitzgerald, Ethan Bhatia, Maya Hall and Caroline Brown. What a wonderful group of representatives of our fine school!

Please help us with this meaningful international endeavor by treating your family and friends to the California Pizza Kitchen. Anyone wishing to make a donation is also welcome to send a check made out to “Spring Hill ES” and in the memo section please write “donation” and we will make sure it goes to support our Yabe exchange.

Best regards,

Roger Vanderhye

Roger Vanderhye, Principal

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 started to write a series of wonderful articles on the 9 critical thinking strategies that we teach at SHES. In these articles she shares ideas for how parents might extend students’ thinking beyond the classroom. The articles can be found on our new HOT Spot website (scroll to the bottom of the page). Translated articles in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese can be found by following this link: http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/resources/parent.shtml.

While you’re visiting the HOT Spot website, take a few moments to also peruse the link entitled Advanced Academics for All. The skills students learn with the strategy games and with the Critical and Creative Thinking lessons the classroom teachers and I teach are examples of Level I AAP services provided to all students. Please visit regularly to see the most recent pictures and videos of many of your children demonstrating their thinking, collaborating, and problem solving abilities.

Erica Berson
Advanced Academics Resource Teacher
Spring Hill ES
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 January 26:
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 4 for flyer

Week of February 2:
Tuesday, February 3: 6th GR FT (ALL)
Temple Rodef Shalom, 9:30 am - 1 pm
Thursday, February 5: Jump Rope for Heart, Gym, 3:20-4:30 pm
February 5-12 SCA Candy Grams

Week of February 9:
Wednesday, February 11: PTO Meeting
with Janie Strauss as speaker, Lg Pod, 9:15-11:15 am
Thursday, February 12: Baked Potato Bar for Staff, Teacher’s Lounge, 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Week of February 16:
Monday, February 16: President’s Day Holiday, No School
Friday, February 20: SCA Wacky Hair Day


Jump Rope for Heart event for third through sixth grades will be held Thursday, February 5th from 3:20 – 4:30. The students that have expressed interest in attending the event have picked up the information with the permission slip from the physical education teachers. Permission slips to attend the event must be turned in to the physical education teachers by Wednesday, February 4th.

No student will be allowed to attend the event without the permission slip.

Collection envelopes must be turned in by the day of the event.

Parents must pick up their child in the school lobby or the gym at 4:30. Our snowdate is Thursday, February 12th.
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.
Parent University Plus Cooper and Langley Speakers

Exciting change! Since our January PTO meeting was cancelled due to snow, we are inviting back Arlene Randall, Cooper MS Principal, and Fred Amico, Langley HS Assistant Principal, to speak on February 27th in the cafeteria.

- Coffee beginning at 8:30am
- Ms. Randall and Mr. Amico from 8:45am – 9:15am
- Dr. Luisa Alvizu will speak about the medical, mental and physical benefits of the growing field of Mindfulness

Chess Club Registration Ends Feb. 6th

Chess Club registration goes through February 6th. 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.

After School Activity Registration Begins Feb. 2nd

Spring After school activity registration begins Monday February 2nd. See PTO website to register. Classes start the week of Feb 23rd.

Teacher Appreciation Valentine Baked Potato Lunch

The Staff Appreciation committee is hosting a Teacher Appreciation Valentine Baked Potato Lunch on Thursday February 12th. This is one of our most popular events and we need your help. We would appreciate donations of baked potatoes, chili for fillings and side dishes. If you are not a cook, we are also in need of raffle donations or help with clean up. You can contact Miriam at miriamsmith24@gmail.com or Lynne at evangelineemanuel1014@gmail.com if you would like to help. Or sign up directly at: http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D49A8A72DAAFC1-valentines/5556965

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.
Next Box Tops Contest

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.

Skate Night A Success!

We want to thank everyone for coming out to Skate Night and making it such a success! We had over 300 folks come out to Skate. Special thanks to Andrew Swenson (Amelia Swenson's brother) and his friends for their awesome DJ job. Also special thanks to our wonderful teachers Mrs. Bulford and Mrs. DeVylder for coming out and skating with the kids. We hope everyone had a great time! Thank you again and we hope to see you all again next year for Skate Night! Please remember to send in pictures of Skate Night to your class photographer/room parent. Kathy Carey & Kris Chaze

Thank You

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

- Sue Cardenas for an excellent and organized planning meeting for Fun Fair.
- Jenny D’Alessandro for her amazing cookies and goodies for the Korean seminar.
- Sherri Nik-Aeen and Analusia Martinez for doing Bus Notes on 1/16
- Miriam Smith and Calli Harris for doing Bus Notes on 1/23
- Betsy Vrankovich for setting up the online registration for Chess Club
- Brad Kuebler for attending the Safe Community Coalition meeting
- Jammie Parise for keeping our outside sign up to date
- Kristin Bone, John Mealey and Amy O’Quinn for getting Chess Club organized each week and registering new students for Spring.
To: Spring Hill Parents and Students  
From: After-School Activities (ASA) Committee, PTO  

Spring 2015 ASA registration, Monday Feb 2\textsuperscript{nd} through Friday Feb 20\textsuperscript{th}

The PTO is proud to offer a variety of after-school activities taught by our talented Spring Hill teachers.

Please carefully review the following class policies and procedures:

**Class Times, Dates, and Locations**
1. ASA classes will meet for 9 weeks between February 23\textsuperscript{rd} and May 14\textsuperscript{th}, unless otherwise indicated.
2. All classes will be held 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. after school, unless otherwise noted.
3. There are no activities on days that school is closed or when there is early dismissal. Classes skip weeks for holidays or school events such as Fun Fair.
4. All aspects of class offerings (locations, fees, dates, times, grade requirements, maximum/minimum enrollment and/or instructors) are subject to change.

**Registration and Payment**
1. Registration is open **only to active Spring Hill PTO members**. Non-PTO members of the Spring Hill community may register for an additional $8 fee per session. If you are not an active PTO member, you may join the PTO as a part of the registration process. (Families must re-join the PTO each and every school year to be active members.)
2. ASA registration **is on-line only at the PTO website www.springhillpto.org**.
3. Children are not permitted to attend class without advance registration and payment. Any unregistered child who arrives for a class will be sent to the school office to wait for their parents.
4. Once a class reaches maximum capacity, students may elect to be added to a wait list. Openings, if any, will be filled from the wait list on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Withdrawals and Refunds**
1. Please consider class choices carefully as refunds will NOT be given beyond the registration period.
2. To withdraw from a class during the registration period, send an email to ASASpringhill@gmail.com.
3. Requests to withdraw received prior to the close of the registration period will be refunded, less a processing fee of $10.
4. Requests to withdraw received after the close of registration will not be refunded.

**Class Cancellation**
1. In the event that a class is cancelled for a particular day, we will do our best to offer a make-up class, however a make-up class is not guaranteed.
2. In the event that your child misses class on a day that the class is held, no make-up class will be offered.
3. No refunds will be given for missed or cancelled classes.
Pick Up/Late Pick Up/Behavior
1. **Children MUST be picked up at the class location** after each class by their parents or other designated adult. Children will not be permitted to meet parents outside school or at kiss and ride or walk home from classes.
2. Parents must park in a legal parking spot while picking up their child(ren) and may not park or stand in the bus circle.
3. Children may be removed from participating in their class(es) and future participation may be denied if they are picked up late from class two times.
4. Children may be removed from participating in their class(es) and future participation may be denied if they exhibit persistent behavior problems before, during or after their classes.

Questions?

ASA classes: contact Tine Kristensen at tine@kristensen.org.uk or Roseanne Siegel at roseanne.siegel@cox.net
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time and Location</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>GRADES</th>
<th>TEACHER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEES</th>
<th>Class Dates</th>
<th>Max/Min Class Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Geography Club</td>
<td>4th-6th</td>
<td>Mr. Mosher</td>
<td>Learn about the world around you through a variety of games and activities. We’ll use a variety of resources to gain a better understanding of the cities, states, countries, cultures, and other geographic features that make up our planet. Which state is the Granite state? Is Greenland really green? What language do they speak in Brazil (and why)? This is a great club for fans of maps and trivia, Jeopardy, and the annual Geography Bee.</td>
<td>Class: $135</td>
<td>February 23, March 2, 9, 23, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11</td>
<td>12/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Fitness and Fun Running Divas</td>
<td>Girls 3rd-4th</td>
<td>Ms. Gerike</td>
<td>A fun fitness club for girls. A portion of the class will be spent discussing a healthy lifestyle, boosting self-esteem and supporting one another. The remainder of the class will be dedicated to fitness including stretching, group fitness and running to build stamina with a goal to run a 5K as a group in April. No running experience is necessary, just the will to try and a positive attitude. A healthy snack will be provided. Please wear PE attire/sneakers for both indoor and outdoor time.</td>
<td>Class: $135 Activity fee: $9 9 weeks</td>
<td>February 23, March 2, 9, 23, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11</td>
<td>12/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Strategy Games</td>
<td>5th-6th</td>
<td>Ms. Berson, Ms. Papanthassiu</td>
<td>Do you love Strategy Lab? This is a unique and fun opportunity to maximize your problem solving abilities while developing your skills in communication, collaboration and concentration. We will play strategy games not regularly taught in the larger class setting as well as have more time to sharpen our skills with some favorites.</td>
<td>Class: $135 9 weeks</td>
<td>February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, April 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>16/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Volleyball &amp; Basketball</td>
<td>4th – 6th</td>
<td>Mrs. Shaheen</td>
<td>Come and learn both Volleyball and Basketball. Each game will be taught and practiced on alternate weeks. Please wear PE attire/sneakers.</td>
<td>Class: $135 9 weeks</td>
<td>February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, April 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>12/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Stage Crew</td>
<td>4th – 6th</td>
<td>Ms. James, Ms. Fowler, and Ms. Devylder</td>
<td>Express your creativity, working on costumes, props, scenery and managing responsibilities for the production of “The Wizard of Oz”. No acting involved.</td>
<td>Class: $135 9 weeks</td>
<td>March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6</td>
<td>10/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Movin’ and Groovin’ Dance</td>
<td>4th – 6th</td>
<td>Ms. Greene</td>
<td>Students will learn dance basics including stretching and basic vocabulary. By the end of class, they will completely learn a choreographed dance.</td>
<td>Class: $135 9 weeks</td>
<td>February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 9, 23, 30, May 7</td>
<td>12/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Class: $135</td>
<td>Fees: 9 weeks</td>
<td>Start Dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Gym</td>
<td>3rd – 6th</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Minutoli</td>
<td>Come and have fun playing activities such as gaga-ball, wiffle ball, kickball, cricket, Frisbee and steal the bacon, speed ball, handball, and other exciting indoor games. Please have PE attire/sneakers to participate.</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 9, 23, 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
<td>2nd – 6th</td>
<td>US Chess Center</td>
<td>Organized by the Chess Club. Please contact this committee for specifics.</td>
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NEW!!

BIDS FOR KIDS

The new Bids for Kids auction is for all of our amazing parents! It will be our major Spring fundraiser and replaces the Silent Auction at Fun Fair.

Bids for Kids will have sports tickets, wine dinners, beach house time, interior design services, spa services, restaurant gift cards and much, much more.

Bids for Kids opens online Tuesday, February 24th and closes Friday, March 6th.

To donate an item to Bids for Kids, please contact Stephanie Short skleger@gmail.com or Paula Mosby at paulacmosby@live.com ASAP. Stay tuned for more info about what’s coming!
One of Spring Hill’s Favorite Traditions…

The Fun Fair Raffle

Fun Fair (Saturday, March 21st so mark your calendars) is coming which means it is almost time to try your luck and win a prize in the RAFFLE!!!

Donations from our parent community are vital to the success of the raffle. If you have any NEW AND UNOPENED items such as video games, Lego sets, sports items or UNUSED gift cards, note that on the form below and we will contact you to make arrangements. If you prefer to leave the shopping to us, we use all of the cash contributed to buy larger prizes, such as:

- iPads  - American Girl items  - Kindle Fire  - Laptops/Electronics
- iPads  - xBox/Wii Systems  - Electric Scooter  - Outdoor Games

Donating is simple. Just fill out the bottom portion of this flyer, and place the completed form with a check payable to “Spring Hill PTO” in an envelope addressed to “Fun Fair Raffle.” Then, send it to school with your child to return to his/her teacher. NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL and we look forward to strong parent participation again this year. The deadline to receive donations is Friday, February 13th.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of our school! If you have any questions, please email MaryAnn Rebhan (mjrebhan@yahoo.com) or Jen Dzwonczyk (jendz@verizon.net).

__________________________________________________________________________________________

SPRING HILL FUN FAIR RAFFLE CONTRIBUTION

Parent Name(s)  ____________________________________________________________

Email Address (for any questions)  ______________________________________________

Eldest Student and Teacher  ____________________________________________________

Amount of Contribution  _______________________________________________________  
(Please make checks payable to Spring Hill PTO)

If you have a specific item to donate for raffle or “Bids for Kids” auction, please describe and we will email you to discuss further:

If you do not wish for your donation to be acknowledged in the Panther Press after the event (only names not amounts are listed), please place an X on this line: ________________

Please return no later than Friday, February 13th.
IMPORTANT DATES
Mark Your Calendars

CURRICULUM PRESENTATIONS AT COOPER MS
(Parents Only)

Rising 7th Grade: Thursday, 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.

For Questions Contact: Longfellow Student Services Office at 703-533-2603

Snow Date: 2/24/2015
You are invited to learn to
Speak in the Spotlight!

Who:
All Girls Grades 4-6

What:
Theatre and Acting Skills Training To Speak With Confidence!

When:
Friday, February 6, 2015, 7-8:30 pm

Where:
Spring Hill Elementary School Cafeteria

Why:
Priya Miller, a member of the Alden Theater's Unruly Theatre Project, will bring her skills and a team of experienced actors and assistants to train you in an essential life skill, public speaking! Whether you are talkative or quiet, shy or outgoing, you will leave the training knowing how to be your best at speaking and communicating with others by utilizing expression and confidence. Priya is an alumna of both Spring Hill and Churchill Road Elementary, and is now a Junior at Langley High School. She created her training as her Girl Scout Gold Award project to share her passion for public speaking and her desire to help young girls gain communication skills and confidence as building blocks to their successful future.

RSVP: pjmnature@gmail.com as soon as possible!!!

Other details: Resources list will be provided to participants. Free. Adult chaperones will be present. Parent welcome to stay. Parent email collected at training if you wish to provide feedback on the training and receive a summary. Questions: Please call 703.362.8189.

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.
“5,000 years of Chinese music and dance in one night!”

—The New York Times

“This is absolutely the No. 1 show in the world, absolutely the best—no other company or of any style can match this.”

—Kenn Wells, former lead dancer of the English National Ballet

Accompanied by a live orchestra: Shen Yun uses ancient Chinese instruments to lead the melody on top of a full Western orchestra, creating an enchanting new sound.

Based in New York, Shen Yun is the world’s premier classical Chinese dance and music company.

“Elegant—very athletic and very skilled.”

—John McColgan, Riverdance producer

“A GLOBAL SENSATION

STANDING OVATIONS at the world’s top venues, royalty attending in Europe, sold-out shows throughout North America, and packed houses across Asia have made Shen Yun an international phenomenon.

Enter a wondrous realm of beauty, purity, and grace—a place where the righteous always prevail and legends come to life…

Disclaimer: These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County and Arlington County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.

Order Your Tickets Today

THE KENNEDY CENTER OPERA HOUSE

(2700 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20566)

DATES & TIMES

| April 17, 2015 Fri. 7:30pm | April 18, 2015 Sat. 1:30pm |
| April 18, 2015 Sat. 7:30pm | April 19, 2015 Sun. 1:30pm |
| April 22, 2015 Wed. 7:30pm | April 23, 2015 Thu. 7:30pm |
| April 24, 2015 Fri. 7:30pm | April 25, 2015 Sat. 1:30pm |
| April 25, 2015 Sat. 7:30pm | April 26, 2015 Sun. 1:30pm |

TICKETS

Box Tier: $250, $100      Orchestra: $200, $120
First Tier: $120, $90     Second Tier: $60, $50

HOW TO ORDER

The Kennedy Center Box Office or call 202-467-4600

Online: kennedy-center.org | Group tickets: 202-416-8400

Hotline: 1-888-974-3698 | ShenYun.com/dc

PRESENTED BY FALUN DAFA ASSOCIATION OF D.C.

ShenYun.com

All individuals’ quotes originally published by the Epoch Times and New Tang Dynasty Television. All photographs and designs by Shen Yun Performing Arts © 2014. All artwork and choreography depicted in the photographs copyrighted by Shen Yun Performing Arts.
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