SAFETY FIRST: WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SOLVE DANGEROUS TRAFFIC ISSUES

Dear Parents,

We need your immediate support. For the last several weeks our teachers and staff on duty have been observing our Kiss & Drop Lane traffic patterns and the prognosis has not been good. In addition, we continue to receive a steady stream of complaints from parents, neighbors, staff and visitors about unsafe driving and drop-off practices. In the last three months children have had close calls with cars, staff members on duty have been bumped with vehicles, buses have been clipped by parents, rules we have put into place about what times and the location where a child may/may not be dropped off have been ignored and traffic flow is at an all-time crawl. We need your help in rectifying these issues before a child, a parent or a staff member is seriously injured.

The sheer volume of cars that drop children off in the morning is overwhelming and becoming untenable. We repeatedly ask parents to put their children on the bus instead of driving them to school. Of the 754 children qualified to ride the bus (the rest of the children are walkers and do not qualify to take the bus) we typically have around 480 children who actually do ride the bus in the morning (with over 560 riding the bus in the afternoon). If we assume that 270 children are driven to school who could actually take the bus, and each auto carries 1.75 children that equals to about 150 extra cars a day in the Kiss n’ Drop Lane in the morning.

Continued on pg 2
Our bus service pick-up and drop off times have been superb the last two years. We ask that starting immediately all who have the privilege of riding the bus do so. If buses become too crowded, transportation has promised to provide another bus.

It took several parents, community members, Mr. Tritle and me four years of lobbying with VDOT, FCPS and the County of Fairfax to get a stop light and pedestrian walkway crossing Lewinsville Road connecting the Spring Hill Rec Center and our school. Dozens of parents are now parking across the street and safely using the pedestrian walkway to bring their children to school. One parent remarked recently that he saved 15 minutes doing this (compared to using the Kiss n’ Drop Lane). We encourage more parents to park at the Rec Center and use the pedestrian walkway at the stoplight.

Once again, we thank you for your cooperation in adhering to our drop-off procedures. These procedures are in place for everyone’s safety and ease of entering and exiting Spring Hill School. Thank you for your continued support for the students of Spring Hill.

Sincerely,

Roger Vanderhye

Roger Vanderhye, Principal

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Message from Erica Berson
Advanced Academics Resource Teacher

The next Critical Thinking at Home issue by Carol Horn, director of Advanced Academics for FCPS is now out! It’s a wonderful article about fostering fluent, flexible and original thinking in children...the kind of thinking that leads to creative and inventive ideas. The kind of thinking we need in this 21st century if we’re to stay competitive in our global economy. Below is an excerpt: the rest can be found by following this link: https://msbersonshotspot.shutterfly.com/parents.

Brainstorming encourages children to think of new ideas, combine existing ideas in new ways, and generate original and often unusual ideas. Once they have opportunities to practice this type of thinking, children can improve their ability to make inventive or creative connections between ideas and also come up with new ideas. An important rule of brainstorming is that all ideas are accepted and none are judged. The process of suspending judgment is important as it emphasizes the importance of accepting all possibilities and helps to ensure and maintain an open mind.
See Inside this Issue:

- Page 1-2: Principal Letter
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- Page 4-5: Dr. Seuss, Read Across America
- Page 6-7: Read Across America Photos
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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 March 9

Thursday, March 12: 5th & 6th GR Orchestra Concert, Gym 7-8 pm

Friday, March 13: SCA Wacky Hair Day

PTO Meeting, speaker Dr. Karen Garza, Lg. Pod, 9-11am

Week of March 16:

Monday, March 16: Student Holiday, No School

March 17-20: Food Drive Collection

Thursday, March 19: 4th GR Orchestra Concert, Cafeteria, 7-8 pm

Saturday, March 21: Fun Fair 10am-3pm

Spring Break March 30-April 3

Week of April 6:

Monday, April 6: Student Holiday, No School

Wednesday, April 8: 1st GR FT, Mt. Vernon & Riverside Park, 9:15 am - 1:30 pm

Thursday, April 9: Cultural Arts (World of Robotics), Cafeteria

Friday, April 10: 4th GR FT, Jamestown, 7am-7pm


Reading with your child

Here are some questions to help you have a great conversation about books and reading.

- What did you notice?
- Does this book remind you of anything?
- What have you been wondering as you read?
- Does this book make you think of anything else you’ve read?
- Can you make a connection to what you read?
- What was your favorite part?
- Was there a part of the book that surprised you or interested you? Why?
- Why do you think the character chose to do that?
- Do you have any other thoughts on what you just read?
- What are you going to read about next?
We had a few Dr. Seuss, Read Across America, activities last week but due to the weather we were unable to have all our planned events. We have included resources for you to help your child to continue to grow as a reader. Celebrate the joys of reading by reading at home together.

Enjoy the SHE Read Across America Week photos!

Janet Hugger (Librarian) and Janis Lefcourt (Reading Specialist)

How can I help my child continue to improve in reading?

Reading to your child every day and listening to your child read are the best ways to help your child improve. Reading every day will help them in every aspect of their education. Set aside designated time each day to read! It is important to help your child find books to read that are at their reading level and are NOT too hard for them to read. As well, help your child find books that are INTERESTING to them.

How else can I help my child?

After you read to your child or they read to you, stop and ask them to tell you what happened during the story. While you are reading a fictional story, stop and ask about: the characters, the setting, the problem and the solution to the story. Retelling should include some of the following phrases: in the beginning, then, after that, and finally. Remember to print out the bookmark and use a question or two from the bookmark to enrich your conversation about books.
Read Across America

According to Family Literacy Foundation, there are many benefits of reading aloud to children:

- Children’s self-esteem grows as they experience the security of having a parent read aloud.
- Children build listening skills, vocabulary, memory, and language skills.
- Children develop imagination and creativity.
- Children learn information about the world around them.
- Children learn positive behavior patterns and social values.
- Children learn positive attitudes towards themselves and others.
- CHILDREN LEARN THE JOY OF READING!

(Source: http://www.ala.org)

When your child gets stuck on a word, try to help them with one of the following strategies before you give them the word try one of these decoding strategies:

READ and THINK: What makes sense? Sound out the first part of the word
CHECK THE PICTURE
COVER the ENDING and find a known part of the word
CHUNK THE WORD: break the word apart covering up parts with your finger (pro/tec/tion)
CONNECT: Does this word remind me of another word I know? (cloud, proud)

For beginning readers:

10 WAYS TO USE MAGNETIC LETTERS

1. Making words – make as many three or four letter words that they can
2. Name game – make as many names as they can
3. Alphabetical order – put all the lowercase letters in ABC order
4. Make new words- either change, add, or take away a letter and make a new word
5. Rhyming words - make a word, then have your child say it and then make a rhyming word with magnetic letters
6. Add endings – make an action word and try different endings
7. High frequency words – make words that they have learned or can recognize
8. Season – select a season and make words about that season
9. Days – make the day of the week. Then mix-up the letters and let your child remake it
10. Missing Letters – make the last part of a word (_ick, _air) and have your child put a letter or two in front to make a real word.
Odyssey of the Mind

On March 7, 2015, five enthusiastic and fun-loving teams represented Spring Hill Elementary at Region 9 Odyssey of the Mind (OOTM) Tournament. Thanks to the great efforts and leadership from Amy and Joe Montic, Spring Hill parents who jump-started OOTM at Spring Hill three years ago, kids from K to 6th grade are learning many skills including teamwork, creativity, public speaking, artistic expression, problem-solving, critical thinking, Improv and most importantly having a blast while solving life’s problems (many snow days and cancelled practices) along with Odyssey problems.

If you are interested in coaching a team, please contact Joe Montic jmontie167@aol.com or Alice Guo guofreedomteam@gmail.com.

Here is our team chant: Spring Hill Rocks! Go Spring Hill Go!
Superintendent Garza to Visit Spring Hill March 13th

Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza speaks at PTO Meeting March 13th

Dr. Karen Garza will be the featured speaker at the March PTO Meeting at 9:00am on Friday, March 13th. Come hear what’s going on with the School Board, the Fairfax County budget process and how it affects Spring Hill school! Among the hot-button issues this year, the advertised FCPS budget addresses:

• Salary increases for faculty and staff to remain competitive
• Class size funding
• Later school start time funding
• Full day Monday funding

See the recent Bottomline publication from FCPS for more information before Dr. Garza’s visit. Learn

Fun Fair Is 10 Days Away!

See the attached flyer for information about games, activities, International Foods and Cake Contest, ticket sales and volunteer needs at Fun Fair.

Bids For Kids

Bids for Kids 2015 is now CLOSED! Thank you to everyone in the Spring Hill community for making it a rousing success!

Thanks to our generous local and national business donors, and our amazing and generous bidders; we raised thousands of dollars for PTO Appropriations towards technology purchases and other classroom needs.

Congratulations to all of our winners! We’re excited to have you collect your items as soon as possible. Come to Spring Hill Elementary School on Thursday, March 12th from 5pm - 7pm, or Friday, the 13th from 1pm - 5pm. Remember: if you bid, you won. And Bidder Bundles with coupons to our local business donors are also available for pickup at the same times. If you are not able to participate during these windows, please email auction administrators Stephanie Short or Paula Mosby with your requests: skleger@gmail.com or paulacmosby@live.com.

Save the Date for Fun Run on Sunday, May 17th

The 8th annual Spring Hill 3K Fun Run will take place Sunday, May 17th at 8:00am. There will be music, a fun warm-up and breakfast after the race.

Sponsors are needed! What are the benefits of being a sponsor? Sponsors receive:

• Name and logo printed on the back of the Fun Run T-Shirts
• Acknowledgement on Fun Run print and display materials
• Complimentary family registrations and event T-Shirts

If you or someone you know is interested in being a sponsor, please contact Krista Page at krista.page333@gmail.com.
Help! Bus Notes Volunteers Needed!

Our matching bus notes program is short in volunteers. Please email Sherri at sh_nikaean@yahoo.com if you are available to help. Shifts are assigned once a month on Friday mornings. Without parent volunteers, our Bus Notes will not be able to continue!

Hybla Valley School Food Drive

It’s easy to forget that even within the Fairfax County Public School district, there are schools with a high percentage of low-income families. Students from these families receive free lunches and breakfasts at school every day. During the week of spring break when students are not at school, it can be difficult for these families to stretch their grocery budgets to cover the increased food demand placed on their families. Spring Hill will be running a food drive to collect non-perishable foods to give to those in need at Hybla Valley Elementary School, located in southern Alexandria. Please involve your Spring Hill student in the process of helping others by picking up some extra food items and sending them in to school with your child. We’ll be collecting during the week of March 17 – March 20. Collection boxes will be in the front of the school near the office and in the back of the school by the door for the walkers. Items particularly appreciated are:

- All types of rice
- Dry or canned beans
- Red and white Maseca corn flour for making tortillas
- Pasta
- Canned vegetables
- Cereals, hot and cold
- Canned tuna

In addition, Hybla Valley has a backpack program to help the students who do not have much food over the weekends. In connection with this, the school would appreciate the following types of food, preferably in individually sized items:

- Individual cereals or oatmeal
- Individual juices and non-refrigerated milks
- Mac and cheese
- Individual chef Boyardee’s
- Individual soups
- Granola bars
- Cheese cracker snacks
- Ramen noodle bowls
- Goldfish
- Individual cookie packets
- Individual fruit packets
- Hot chocolate packets

Thank You

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

- Stephanie Short and Paula Mosby, committee chairs, and Valerie Daniel, Renée Boudreau, Lisa Ross, Jessica McMichael, Maria Kelly, Miriam Smith, Stefanie Stayin and Jill Holloman for getting fantastic auction items and creating the Bids for Kids auction from scratch!
- Leslie Young for lining up our Special Ed speaker, Dr. James Herrera
Graders will enjoy an awards assembly hosted by the principals. Bring your cake (in a cake box or disposable container) to the stage the morning of Friday, Mar. 20. (Any clean box is fine, but we suggest actual cake boxes with see-through covers). Please be sure to clearly note your name, grade, teacher, AND any common food allergens, like nuts or chocolate. The next day the cakes will be used as prizes for the Cake Walk. If you have any questions, please email Paula Mosby, paulacmosby@live.com, or Karen DeFilipps, kudefilipps@msn.com.

Spring Hill Fun Fair
March 21, 2015 ~ 10 am -3 pm

Buy Your Tickets Early and Save!

Tickets are needed for games, activities and the Fun Fair Raffle. Discounted tickets will be sold in the front lobby next week, 8 - 9am & 3-4pm. We strongly encourage buying in $5, $10 or $20 increments. Please make checks payable to “Spring Hill PTO”.

$1 = 5 tickets
$5 = 25 tickets
$10 = 50 tickets
$20 = 100 tickets

On the day of the Fun Fair, Mar. 21, tickets will be sold in the lobby for:

$1 = 4 tickets
$5 = 20 tickets
$10 = 40 tickets
$20 = 80 tickets

Please put your name and telephone number on the back of EACH ticket. You need this for the Fun Fair Raffle, and should you lose them (which happens often), we can return them to you. If you can help sell tickets, email Lori Gormly, lgormly@yahoo.com, or Kate Trosch, kate.trosch@gmail.com.

Who will have the coolest cake?

Start planning how to decorate your cake for the Cake Decorating Contest. The theme is **Blast Off to Fun**... and you are encouraged to use that for your decorations. Prizes will be awarded in each grade (K-6), plus the 4th-6th graders will enjoy an awards assembly hosted by the principals.

Bring your cake (in a cake box or disposable container) to the stage the morning of Friday, Mar. 20. (Any clean box is fine, but we suggest actual cake boxes with see-through covers). Please be sure to clearly note your name, grade, teacher, AND any common food allergens, like nuts or chocolate. The next day the cakes will be used as prizes for the Cake Walk. If you have any questions, please email Paula Mosby, paulacmosby@live.com, or Karen DeFilipps, kudefilipps@msn.com.

Calling for International Food Contributions

Come and join us at the International Food tables. It is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy ethnic food and to contribute to our school. You’re welcome to bring your hometown food from anywhere in the United States (it doesn’t have to be international). Your grandma’s recipe would be awesome too!

If you wish to donate food, please contact Joung Hyo Lee at R505afl@gmail.com or Tracy Comstock at tracy@silverlinerealtygroup.com. In your message, include your name, email address or phone number, eldest student and teacher, name of the food (origin/nationality) and ingredients of the food.
Win a Fabulous Prize from the Fun Fair Raffle

Buy tickets and increase your chance of winning a prize from dozens of selections, including:

- iPad and iPad mini
- iPod
- Chromebook laptop
- American Girl Doll of the Year - Grace
- Large Lego Sets
- Electric Scooter
- Beats 2.0 Headphones
- Gift cards for your favorite retail stores, including Amazon, Target, Game Stop and many others

Tickets for the raffle prizes may be deposited in the raffle boxes at the Fun Fair. Remember to put your name and telephone number on the back of EACH AND EVERY ticket. All winners will be announced during the Fun Fair, you need not be present to win. For more information, please contact MaryAnn Rebhan, mjrebhan@yahoo.com, or Jen Dzwonczyk, jendz@verizon.net.

Blast Off...To Fun! T-Shirts

The official Fun Fair t-shirt is lime green--tie-dye--100% cotton. Only $20 a t-shirt, both child and adult sizes! These awesome shirts will be for sale in the lobby Mar. 17-20 from 8:00 – 8:25 am and of course, the day of the fair while stocks last! Make sure you get yours. If you want to help sell t-shirts, please contact Amelia Steiner at ameliasteiner@gmail.com.

Win a Fun Experience with Spring Hill Teachers

The Fun with Faculty raffle is all about winning one of the following experiences with Spring Hill teachers:

- Lunch with Mr. Vanderhye at Shake Shack
- Dinner with Mr. Tritle
- Sundaes with Kindergarten teachers
- Pizza & ice cream with 1st Grade teachers
- Pizza, pajamas & pampering with 2nd Grade teachers
- Movies with 3rd Grade teachers
- Laser Tag with Mr. Mosher
- Pot Belly Feast with 4th Grade teachers
- Trip to the Zoo with Ms. Greene
- Ice Cream Sundae Party with Mrs. Bulford & Miss Iesue
- Lunch @ Cheesecake Factory w/6th Grade teachers
- Mini-golf with Ms. Sheehan
- Scrapbooking session with Mrs. Ashe
- Cello lesson with Mrs. Donahue

You can enter to win by completing an entry form at the Fun Fair, and promising to pay $25 should you win. You may enter to win as many experiences as you want and may complete as many free entry forms as you wish per experience. Please note that participation in some of the experiences is limited to specific grades. Winners will be drawn at the Fun Fair shortly after 1:30 pm, and will be announced. You need not be present to win. Please email questions about this activity to Ashley Profaizer, profaizer4@gmail.com, or Megan Roberge, megan_roberge@yahoo.com.

Parking for Fun Fair

Please use the overflow parking, across Lewinsville Rd., on the day of Fun Fair. Tickets have been given for parking in illegal, undesignated spots around the school.
Bids for Kids ♥ our donors! Including:


Please be sure to consider and support these local and national businesses that made in-kind donations to our school when you are making buying decisions throughout the year!
Earth Day Celebration at Spring Hill
Art Contest / Talent Show

What: Use any form of art to express:
“Why Recycle? How I can make a difference!”

When: Due date Mon 4/13 at 8:30am
Assembly & Awards ceremony Earth Day Wed 4/22 during school

Judging 1) Originality
Criteria: 2) Usefulness and ability to inspire others
3) Use of Recyclable material

Use your imagination! Work alone or in groups, act out a play, sing a song, submit a painting, sculpture, clothing, poem, video, or anything else. Artwork will be on display in Large Pod for all to see!

The best from each of the 3 categories will win 6 MOVIE TICKETS!
1) Best 3D (sculpture, video, any 3-dimensional artwork, etc.)
2) Best 2D (anything on paper; written work, painting, picture, etc.)
3) Best Performance (music, play, performance, fashion show, etc.)

Plus, one person from each grade will win a spirit Panther.
And every participant receives recognition.

All works must be registered on the google form and turned in to the science room by 8:30am on Mon 4/13: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11om5zkIwxBf8iOu-03rIR0c0ItDXTEObkswYQOw-XOY/viewform. Performances must submit video in .mov format only, limited to 5 min.

For assistance or questions of any kind, contact Nancy Bao @ nihao100@hotmail.com.
Hoop Life
Spring Basketball Camp

Does your child like basketball? Do you need a fun and safe place for them to spend their Spring Break? Well, enroll them in the Hoop Life Spring Basketball Camp.

Hoop Life is a premier basketball training organization that trains players ranging from beginners to professionals. Our camps will raise your child’s basketball skills and IQ in a fun, safe, and competitive basketball environment. All of our coaches have playing or coaching experience on higher levels of basketball including the NBA.

Each child will leave with a wealth of basketball knowledge and a renewed sense of the value of the game.

Go to www.myhooplife.com to register online for any camp

Spring Basketball Camp Registration Form

Head of Household (first/last name) __________________________ City __________________________ State ______ Zip ________

Home Ph. __________ Work Ph. __________ Cell __________

Email __________________________ Camper Name __________________________

Gender M__ F__ Grade _____ Date of Birth__/__/__ Camper T-Shirt Size ________

(Check All that Apply)

Glasgow MS: *$40 Deposit __ $175 Early Registration before Feb. 6th ___ $200 Normal Registration ___

$205 Early Registration with Lunch before Feb. 6th ___ $230 Normal Registration with Lunch ___

NOVA FH: *$40 Deposit __ $200 Early Registration before Feb. 6th ___ $230 Normal Registration ___

$230 Early Registration with Lunch before Feb. 6th ___ $250 Normal Registration with Lunch ___

Cooper MS: *$40 Deposit __ $200 Early Registration before Feb. 6th ___ $230 Normal Registration ___

$230 Early Registration with Lunch before Feb. 6th ___ $280 Normal Registration with Lunch ___

One Life: *$40 Deposit __ $200 Early Registration before Feb. 6th ___ $230 Normal Registration ___

$230 Early Registration with Lunch before Feb. 6th ___ $280 Normal Registration with Lunch ___

*Lunch includes 2 slices of pizza & Gatorade daily

*Multi-Family Discount of $15 per child available

*Multi-Family Discounts cannot be applied to the early registration price

Register online at: www.myhooplife.com

Total Enclosed $ __________

Mail completed registration form with payment to: Hoop Life, Inc.

Make Checks Payable to: Hoop Life, Inc. P.O. Box 25672 Alexandria, VA 22313

Hold Harmless Agreement: In consideration of Hoop Life, conducting various programs and allowing the above to participate in such programs, the undersigned realizing the risk of injury attendant to such programs, does hereby and forever discharge Hoop Life and its officers, agents, and employees from any and all actions, claims or liability resulting from or arising out of or based upon any bodily injury or property damage which may be sustained by the undersigned or the undersigned’s child while participating in such programs.

Signature required of adult participant, parent or guardian of child __________________________ Date __________

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