Dear SHES Parents and Community Members:

Spring Hill School is very fortunate to have myriad tools that allow your child(ren) to thrive as young learners. Not only do we possess a wonderful and safe building but we have staff and parents that are second to none, anywhere! We have the financial and moral support of the Fairfax County taxpayers as well as our vaunted Parent Teacher Organization that spearheads volunteer and philanthropic efforts to improve our school.

Recently, Dr. Garza, FCPS superintendent, and many school and high powered community leaders embarked on creating a Portrait of a Graduate (POAG). I was fortunate enough to be chosen to be part of the committee and I am proud of the work we accomplished last school year as a POAG committee member.

In a nutshell, POAG lays a framework of characteristics that we as a school community feel are important for all students to internalize and be able to demonstrate as they graduate from Fairfax County Public Schools. While on the committee I was heartened to see that the four cornerstones of POAG are embedded in the daily fabric of what we do here at Spring Hill School, namely, to be an effective Communicator, Collaborator, Ethical/Global Citizen and Creative/Critical Thinker.

In late August of 2014 we met as a staff and we are continuing to meet throughout this school year to improve our work in all four areas of POAG. I am pleased to outline below just a smattering of the structures/activities we have in place at SHES to bolster the precepts of POAG:

- All classroom teachers teach at the highest instructional level feasible for their grade/curricular level.
- The Program of Study (POS) and Standards of Learning (SOL) are blended into daily instruction in the classroom as well as the arts, PE and technology.
- All classroom teachers incorporate Advanced Academic Program techniques into their lessons which includes Socratic Seminar, Jacob’s ladder, Document Based Questions, and Bloom’s Taxonomy as prominent examples.
- Technological Access is readily available with 5th graders enjoying one laptop per child. The rest of SHES shares four mobile laptop carts, two fully functioning computer labs, thirty I-Pads, ten document cameras, twenty-five digital cameras, and a projector, SMARTBOARD and Sound Field in every classroom.
- Project Based Learning (PBL) is at the forefront of what we educators know is best practice. At SHES, PBL will gradually take a more prominent role as standardized, summative, high stakes type examinations (such as SOLs) have less of an impact as the years progress.

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.
✓ Critical thinking and problem solving are pillars of our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and are woven into lessons on a daily basis in all classrooms.
✓ Giving back to others in our community continues to be a theme here at SHES. We donate foodstuffs to SHARE from the cafeteria and again this year our Thanksgiving food drive has collected at least 3,000 pounds of items (food, wipes and toothpaste) to our local food bank. Each winter, we donate hundreds of items of clothing/shoes to needier schools in FCPS.
✓ Our orchestra, band and choral programs are top performers in the state of Virginia.
✓ Being a friend to one another is not just a statement but a way of life at SHES. Our goal is that SHES is a safe place for all. Anyone who feels left out, bullied (even remotely) or marginalized will have immediate action taken to support them and ameliorate the situation in a timely and humane fashion.
✓ We have an unrelenting verve that SHES is also a fun place to be. Our Fall Parade, monthly Spirit Days, Cultural Arts activities, field trips, after school activities and the staff winter sing-a-long, are just a few ways we attempt to make life long memories of joy for our students.

As you are aware you as parents are instrumental in the success of SHES and your child. On behalf of the staff, thank you for all you do for our wonderful learning community.

Best regards,

Roger Vanderhye

Roger Vanderhye, Principal

Level 4 AAP at Cooper

Arlene Randall, Principal at Cooper MS will be at Spring Hill ES on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 from 9-10 am in the Cafeteria. The topic will be about the Level 4 AAP program at Cooper. All 6th grade parents are invited to attend.

Plan Ahead for Children
Coming Home Early
Wednesday, November 26

Students will be dismissed two hours early on Wednesday, Nov. 26, so that families may prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday. Dismissal is at 1:20 p.m. To avoid hazardous traffic congestion, if you are picking up your child early, please do so before 1 pm that day. School will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27-28. Please call the SHES 24-hour attendance line at 703-506-3434 if your student will be absent additional days for Thanksgiving.

Thank you!
See Inside this Issue:
Page 1-2: Principal Letter
Page 2: Level 4 AAP @ Cooper MS, Thanksgiving Luncheon, Early Closing
Page 3: Calendar, Transportation Changes Procedure, PE Reminder
Page 4: Support the Dennis Family, FLE
Page 5: Thanksgiving Luncheon Flyer
Page 6: Inclement Weather Information
Page 7-12: PTO

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.

Physical Education Reminder

Students must wear athletic shoes, tennis shoes or sneakers for Physical Education classes. For safety purposes, these shoes may not be slip-on or backless styles.

A Fairfax County policy states that a note from home will excuse a student from Physical Education for one week. A student who will miss more than one week of Physical Education must have a doctor’s note.

Thank you
Linda Shaheen,
Mickey Minutoli and Dennis Michaels,
PE Department

Calendar

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.

November 3-21: SCA Spirit Song Competition

Week of November 17:
Friday, November 21: 6th GR FT (Burns, Minutoli & Seagraves), Inner Quest 10:30 am - 4:50 pm

Week of November 24:
Monday, November 24: 2nd GR Thanksgiving Feast Prep, Small pod, 9am-11am
Tuesday, November 25: 2nd GR Thanksgiving Feast, Lg Pod, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Wednesday, November 26: 2 hr Early Release

Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28: Thanksgiving Holidays

Week of December 1:
Tuesday, December 2: FLE Curriculum Preview for parents of 5th & 6th Grade, 6th GR, Room 200, 9:00-9:40 am
5th GR, Room 112, 10:00-10:50 am
Evening preview for both, Library, 6-7 pm
Thursday, December 4: 6th GR FR (Burns,Ginsberg & Papathanassiou), American Art Museum, 9:45-11:35
4th GR Orchestra Concert, Cafeteria 7-8pm
Friday, December 5: Fun Fair Planning Meeting, Cafeteria, 9:00-10:15 am
6th GR FT (Smith, Seagraves & Minutoli) American Art Museum, 9:45-11:35 am

Show your Love for Megan Dennis and her Bravehearted Lions!

As many of you know, our fabulous kindergarten teacher, Megan (O’Brien) Dennis is away from Spring Hill on maternity leave. Her twin boys, James and Leo, were born 10 weeks early on 1/28/14, defying all the odds given by "experts" around the country. Her littlest Lion, Leo, fights on in the CICU at Children's National, proving every day that he is braver and stronger than anyone could ever have imagined. James is at home, crawling and smiling and full of joy. And we can't forget their parents - who split their time between home and the hospital to make sure both their boys know, every hour of every day, just how much they're loved.

To support Megan, Bernie and their bravehearted Lions, a Luau is being held in Philadelphia and raise funds to help support them. In conjunction with this event, a website has been set up and prizes will be raffled off to allow those outside the Philly area to reach out and share in the fun and in sending support. Head over to teambravehertedlions.com where you can purchase raffle tickets for items being given away for the Luau for Love, catch up on Megan and Bernie's blog entries about the boys, or make a secure donation via PayPal.

Thank you for your ongoing love and support of this amazing family!

Family Life Education (FLE)

Fifth and Sixth grade students will soon be taking part in lessons on Human Growth and Development (HGD) as part of the Family Life Education (FLE) Program. These lessons address the many changes that students will experience as they go through puberty and provide them with important information that will help them make positive choices as they grow and change in the next few years. The five lessons will be taught for both grades the week of Dec. 15-19th.

In addition, sixth grade will be teaching the four Emotional and Social Health (ESH) lessons in January. Topics included in ESH instruction include positive self-image, contributing positively to a group or community, child neglect and abuse, and human trafficking.

There will be a daytime and a nighttime curriculum preview for 5th and 6th parents on Dec. 2nd. The daytime preview for sixth grade will be in Room 200 from 9:00-9:40 a.m. The daytime preview for fifth grade will be in Room 112 from 10:00-10:50 a.m. The evening preview for both fifth and sixth grades will be from 6:00-7:00 in the library.
PLEASE JOIN US ON
Thursday, November 20, 2014
Friday, November 21, 2014
FOR
THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON
AT
SRING HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MENU
Roast Turkey w/Dressing
Cranberry Sauce
Whipped Potatoes w/Gravy
Green Beans
Frozen Pumpkin Yogurt
Bottled Water or Milk

PRICE:
$3.90 FOR ALL ADULTS
(Adults not enrolled at Spring Hill)

$2.90 FOR SPRING HILL STUDENTS
AND SIBLINGS (Students may use their lunch card)

***To speed up the process at the cashier, we are inviting parents to pre-pay for their lunch. If you would like to pre-pay, please send this form back with your payment. You may also pay cash in the cafeteria on the day of the luncheon.

ADVANCE TICKET ORDER-
Your Child(ren)'s name(s):
First, Last and Teacher's Name:

____________________________________

Number of Guest Tickets @ $3.90 ea. ___________
Date You Will Be Attending_____________

Total Amount Enclosed $ ________(EXACT AMOUNT ONLY)
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
Appropriations Have Begun!
Thanks to everyone who has joined the PTO and contributed to our fundraisers! Your generosity during our Fall Fundraiser, Book Fair, Spirit Wear sales, and Box Tops collections enables the PTO to appropriate money to fulfill teacher needs at Spring Hill. The PTO has now opened Fall Appropriations to the faculty and staff to submit applications for items they need or would like for their classes. Mr. Vanderhye will review and prioritize the requests, and in early December, the PTO Appropriations Committee will meet with him to approve the appropriations based on available funds.

In mid December, the list of recommended items will be published in the Panther Press. All PTO Members will be able to vote over two weeks – your vote is assumed to be YES unless you respond otherwise to PTO President, Amy Prewett, before the published deadline. Our goal is to provide teachers and staff with the funds to purchase their approved supplies before the end of the second quarter. If you have any questions about the appropriations process, please contact Heather Kadel, PTO Treasurer, at kadelhh@hotmail.com.

Grocery Bonus Forms Still Needed
As the holidays approach and you start thinking about all the food shopping you have to do, please make sure that you turn in your grocery bonus form or submit your grocery card numbers online. You can use the form attached or submit online at www.springhillpto.org. Remember, signing up costs you nothing and Spring Hill earns a portion of everything you spend at Giant or Harris Teeter. Last year we collected almost $15,000...let's try to beat that this year!

Colonial Day Costume Exchange
All 4th graders participate in Colonial Day! If you have a Colonial Day costume that you no longer need, please consider passing it along to another Spring Hill family. 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.

Spring Hill Bids for Kids Online Auction Update
This NEW online auction will be our main fundraiser in the spring. We are looking for donations from our families – sports event tickets, vacation home time, restaurant connections, services such as landscaping, etc. Please consider a donation to the PTO, a tax-exempt organization. Please contact Stephanie Short at skleger@gmail.com or Paula Mosby at PaulaCMosby@live.com.

Extra Directories Available for $10
Do you love your Spring Hill Directory? Would you like an extra copy? A limited number of extra copies will be made available this Friday morning, November 21, from 8:00-9:00 in the lobby, first-come, first served to PTO members (parents or students). Please bring cash (exact change appreciated) or check for $10 made payable to Spring Hill PTO.

If you haven't yet joined the PTO, please join by Friday to be sure to get your copy of this year's Directory! Please fill out the below form and bring it to our table in the lobby on Friday.

No Bus Notes on Friday, December 19th
Please note there will be NO Bus Notes on Friday, December 19th. All after school play dates are cancelled since this is an early release day.
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).

Thank You!

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

Leslie Speidel, Clare Bradshaw, Jessica McMichael, Stephanie Stayin and Maria Kelly for all their amazing efforts to put on the Book Fair, Wimpy Kid pre-orders and art poster contest.

Calli Harris and Maria Kelly for organizing the Ice Cream Social.

To all the Book Fair volunteers! See the attached flyer.

Mia Lee, Halys Vowles, Xu Han, Lauren Rothman, Megan Roberge, Chris Benston, Khoosheh Mirzayan, Molly Sterbutzel and Mark Shankroff for helping their kindergarten classes make their wish lists.

Molly Sterbutzel for staying late and helping close book fair after the Ice Cream Social.

Kim Saxenian (who doesn’t even have a child at Spring Hill this year!) for helping organize the teacher wish lists.

Analusia Martinez and Sherri Nik-Aeen for doing Bus Notes last Friday.

Susan Connery and Amelia Steiner for doing the Birthday Board.

Keuri Patel and Valerie Daniel for organizing our Parent University speaker.

Jina Kim and Pamela Fox for preparing the coffee and goodies for Parent University and Jenny D’Alessandro for her beautiful and delicious treats.

Save the Date

Early Dismissal: Wednesday, November 26th at 1:20 p.m.

No School: on Thursday and Friday, November 27th and 28th for Thanksgiving holidays.

First Organizational Fun Fair Meeting: December 5th at 9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. Committee chairs are requested to attend, all others are invited.

Chili Lunch for Staff: December 10th. Stay tuned for a Sign Up Genius or contact Lynne Emmanuel or Maile Ramzi if you would like to help.

December 19th – NO BUS NOTES. All after school play dates cancelled due to early release.
We’re **WILD** About Our Volunteers!

The Fall Book Fair team would like to thank all of the parents who helped us last week in numerous ways: unpacking boxes, hauling cases, climbing ladders, bagging books, stuffing bags, hanging signs, checking out customers, restocking books, sorting through backorders, packing boxes, counting coins, and more...

It takes a gaggle of Spring Hill parents and teachers to ensure a successful book fair – we couldn’t have done it without you!

We Send A Very Loud Cackling and Roaring “Thank You!” to:

Amy Prewett
Karen DeFilipps
Aruna Subramaniam
Mia Lee
Jen Dzwonczyk
Calli Harris
MaryAnn Rebhan
Kim Saxenian
Keuri Patel
Tara Paikin
Jen Gagnon
Sue Cardenas
Mendy Crews
Cindy Sullivan
Ashley Profaizer
Susan Poliquin
Valerie Daniel
Mark Shankroff
Ericka Rockamore
Patty Keffer
Geraldine Pain Hussein
Ekta Vish
Preeety Wang
Angela Trembler
Elaine Bao
Heather Kadel
Heather Tedesco
Sonya Bearson
Tine Kristensen
Anna Shin
Nancy Dienelt
Jill Cramer

Janet Hugger
Gay Massarky
Tina Zhao
Kathryn Zecca
Megan Roberge
Bryson Donoghue
Julianna DeLong
Irene Lewis
Shannon Durrant
Kristin Alice Loe
Kate Trosch
Maryam Malik
Stacy Kerzner
Elham Hassen
Amen Ashabi
Susan Connery
Sonia Kim
Grace Kim
Hye-youn Kim
Jina Kim
Jounghyo Lee
Sengye Oh
Stacy Kerzner
Katie Darne
Molly Sterbutzel
Changmi Woo
Miriam Smith
Jennifer Jackson
and students:
Aliabigail Rebhan
Emma Hussein
Let’s start planning some FUN FAIR fun!

Spring Hill’s Fun Fair Planning Meeting
Friday, December 5, 2014
9:15 -10:15 am in the School Cafeteria

Everyone is welcome to join!

Our Fun Fair will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 10am to 3pm. It is truly a day filled with FUN for the kids and the community. We need your help to make that all happen!!! Get involved now and let’s start planning.

Mark your calendars and come join us in the cafeteria on Friday, December 5 at 9:15 am to start the preparations for this year’s Fun Fair. We will be discussing some new ideas, themes, t-shirt designs and more.

If you have not been able to find the right volunteer sport, this is a great event to get involved with. There are small jobs, large jobs, jobs that can be done from home and/or jobs just the day of the Fun Fair only. There’s something for everyone and it is truly a fun way to meet new people and become involved in the school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sue Cardenas, suecard@me.com or 571-436-1819.
ONE AND DONE!
Fall Fundraiser and PTO Membership Drive

Please join in support of our Spring Hill community! The Spring Hill Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is again combining our annual Fall Fundraiser with our PTO membership drive so that each family can write ONE CHECK AND BE DONE.

Your donations directly benefit our Spring Hill teachers and students. The PTO supports a variety of programs at Spring Hill each year for all grades, including technology purchases such as computers, sound fields and SMART boards, field trips, teacher development, cultural arts assemblies, art appreciation program materials, music education, classroom supplies and more.

The $100 per student suggested donation is consistent with what other schools in our area request from parents to fund annual needs, but any amount is appreciated.

Your $10 PTO membership includes a printed directory and the ability to register for After School Activities without paying a separate registration fee.

Help us meet our goal of 100% participation by our Spring Hill families. There are two ways to contribute to our Spring Hill PTO Fall Fundraiser and join the PTO:

1. Fill out the form below, place it in an envelope with a check payable to Spring Hill PTO and return it to school in your child’s backpack or to the school office. Or,

2. Contribute online by going to www.springhillpto.org. LOGIN (or REGISTER if a new family) then look for the FUNDRAISER / MEMBERSHIP button on the left.

All donations are 100% tax deductible and will be acknowledged. If you have any questions, contact Alicia Bond at aliciajbond@aol.com or Kitty Gonzalez at kittygonzalez@verizon.net. Thank you for your generous support of our PTO and our school!

__________________________

ONE AND DONE! ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER AND PTO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Parents’
Names ____________________________________________________________

Email Address (for tax receipt and other PTO purposes) ____________________________________________________________

Phone Number (We may need to reach you if we have a question) ____________________________________________________________

Eldest Student + Teacher’s Name ____________________________________________________________

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1. Membership ($10 per family) $10_______________________

2. Fundraiser Donation ($100 per Spring Hill student suggested):
   _______ # of Spring Hill students x $100 per student = _________________________

TOTAL of Lines 1+2 (Please make check payable to Spring Hill PTO) ____________________________

Please return your completed form & payment at SHES’s Open House (8/28 from 2-3pm) in the LOBBY.
Please help us earn FREE MONEY for our school!

Harris Teeter

Every time you shop at Giant or Harris Teeter and use your grocery card, these companies will donate a portion of your grocery total to Spring Hill! It costs you nothing. Last year we earned more than $15,000!

Signing up is easy and now you can do it online at the PTO website! Simply go to www.springhillpto.org and enter your information. You must designate Spring Hill to receive the funds every year, so if you leave or graduate, Spring Hill will not continue to be your designated school year after year.

Or fill out the form below and return it to the Spring Hill office or your child’s teacher.

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<th>Student Name(s)</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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Giant Bonus Cards (need all info - please print)

Cardholder Last Name: ______________________

Card #: 4 4 0 ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ _____________

(MUST be 12 digits total)

Not sure of your card number since you use your phone number at checkout?
You can call the following phone number and they will tell you your card number.
Giant- 1-877-366-2668 option 2 (Mon. - Fri. 9 am - 5 pm).

Harris Teeter VIC Cards (need Last Name plus phone number OR card number – please print)

Cardholder Last Name: ________________

Phone Number: (_____) __________________

VIC Card #: ___________________________

(FIRST 11 digits only) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Do you wish to include other family, friends or neighbors? GREAT! Just provide additional information on the back of this sheet for each store. This form is also available on the Spring Hill PTO website (springhillpto.org).

Questions? Please contact Susan Dooley at susan.dooley@verizon.net or Jennifer Jackson at jejackson97@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

More Free Money News!

TARGET has a REDcard program called Take Charge of Education. Please link your Target REDcard to Spring Hill Elementary for us to receive this free education money!
1-800-316-6142 https://www-secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home