Dear Parents:

As many of you know, our wonderful AART, Mrs. Barbara Ross, retired on October 1. Since that time we have worked hard to find just the right person to replace her and we have! Please join us in welcoming Ms. Erica Berson (rhymes with Person) to our Spring Hill School staff! Erica is highly qualified to fill the void left by Mrs. Ross’s departure. Erica has been the AART at both Daniels Run ES (currently) as well as Vienna ES. She has also been a technology specialist and both an ELL and classroom teacher. With Ms. Berson’s 20 years of experience, we are definitely in good hands.

Ms. Berson will begin her tenure at Spring Hill School in earnest on Thursday, November 6th. However, please mark your calendar to welcome Ms. Berson by dropping in for a coffee and snack on Friday, November 7th between 8-9 AM in room 136 (the Strategies Lab in the new wing).

Please see below an introduction letter from our new AART.

Best regards,

Roger Vanderhye
Roger Vanderhye, Principal

Dear Spring Hill Parents and Students,

I am very excited to join Spring Hill as your new Advanced Academics Resource Teacher (AART). Since the moment I walked in the door, I have only been met with smiling, friendly faces and I am warmed by the numerous emails already welcoming me before I’ve even officially come aboard. Thank you!

Clearly you are a school community committed to having students strive to reach their potential both academically and otherwise and I look forward to challenging them and enriching their learning experiences in ways that might lead them in that path. I encourage you to contact me personally if you feel there is anything in particular you would like me to know about your child or with any questions or concerns you might have about AAP programing or processes. As a resource teacher I am here to support not only students, but parents and teachers as well.

Continued on pg 2
So that you may get to know me, Mr. Vanderhye asked that I share a little bit about my background. I am a homegrown girl...born and raised in the city of Alexandria where I still live today with my son, Matthew, who is nearly 4 years old. He’s a funny, happy little boy who is definitely the light of my life and with whom I enjoy spending every free moment. He's at that great age, where everything is a new adventure or new learning experience and like you, I am always searching for ways to ensure he has opportunities that will allow him to reach his potential.

I graduated with a B.A. in Rhetoric and Communication Studies from The University of Virginia and received my M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction and English as a Second Language from George Mason University. I have been teaching for FCPS for twenty years and have been fortunate to have been able to wear a variety of hats during my tenure. I've been a classroom and ESOL teacher, a technology specialist, a coordinator of enrichment programs for a modified calendar school, and most recently an AART at Vienna and Daniels Run before coming to Spring Hill ES. I have learned so much from each of these positions and they have provided a broad perspective on the variety of ways to best serve the needs of students. I recently finished my administrative endorsement through a combined program offered through UVA and FCPS and while I will likely pursue an administrative role once my son is a bit older, right now, I’m looking forward to having the unique experience of being at a Local Level IV school that has at its core a culture rich in its diversity.

For fun, my favorite pastimes are spending time with family and friends, Latin dancing, being outdoors especially biking and hiking, and taking advantage of the multitude of cultural opportunities available in the DC area. I thrive on challenges, change, and new experiences and as such am thrilled to be starting my new adventure here with you at Spring Hill. Please let me know if and when I can assist you in any way.

Thank you again for your warm welcome. I look forward to meeting you personally over the coming months.

Erica Berson
Advanced Academics Resource Teacher
Spring Hill ES
elberson@fcps.edu

Yabe Organizational Meeting Friday, October 24th

Though we have many children interested already, we have a few places left for children who wish to participate in visiting Japan in June of 2015 followed by the corresponding return visit of our sister school participants in March of 2016. For all who may be seriously interested or just to gain more knowledge of our exchange we will meet from 8 AM- 9 AM this Friday, October 24th in the Spring Hill Library. Children are welcome until 8:30ish where they will be dismissed to their homeroom.

A few tidbits of historical information to peak your interest:
- On September 28, 2010 Mr. Vanderhye and Mrs. Nischino (then principal of Yabe School) signed a friendship and exchange agreement between Spring Hill ES, McLean, VA and Yabe School, Totsuka, Japan
- We sent a group of children to Japan in 2011
- Yabe sent a group of children to us in 2012
- We sent a group of children to Japan in 2013
- Yabe sent a group of children to us in 2014
- We are sending a group in June of 2015
- They will send a group to us in March of 2016

In addition to many Spring Hill children visiting Japan, we have had several parents travel as well. In addition, Mr. Vanderhye has been to Japan twice and several staff members have also visited including Deb and Michelle Rudd, Amy McFarlin, Christine Fowler and Megan Dennis.

We hope to see all interested parties on Friday. If you can’t make it, please let me know and I will e-mail you our discussion points.
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 2 pm.

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.

Early Pick-Up Procedure

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.

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 October 20:
Thursday, October 23: Hearing & Vision Screening (K, 3rd & New to County), Gym
Friday, October 24: Yabe Information Meeting, 8-9 am, Library

Week of October 27:
Wednesday, October 29: 5th GR Author Visit (Mary Downing Hahn), Lg Pod, 9 am-1pm
Thursday, October 30: Cultural Arts, 8:50-10 am, 2:05-2:50 pm, Cafeteria
Friday, October 31: Fall Parade, Lower Field, 9:15-10:15 am
2 Hr Early Release

November 3-21: SCA Spirit Song Competition

Week of November 3:
Monday & Tuesday, November 3rd & 4th Student Holidays

Week of November 10:
November 10th-14th: Book Fair, Lg Pod
Wednesday, November 12: Ice Cream Social / Book Fair Family Night, Cafeteria & Lg Pod, 6-8 pm
Thursday, November 13: Fall Picture Make ups, Back Hallway, 9:30 am
Friday, November 14: SCA College Spirit Parent University / PTO Meeting, Cafeteria, 8:30-10:30 am

Friday, October 31
Fall Festival Parade

On Friday, October 31 at 9:15 a.m. there will be a fall festival parade. Children may wear costumes in the parade.

If children would like to wear costumes, please send them to school dressed in their costumes. We ask that students carry their masks to school and wear them in the parade. If a mask is part of your child’s costume, please ensure it is not worn on the way to school, as this can impede vision and cause falls.

The parade, from 9:15-10:15 a.m. is for grades K-6. Please do not wear weapons, fake knives, swords, hatchets, gorybloody costumes or masks.

For security reasons, parents/adults in costume may not cover their faces. Classroom celebrations will take place after the parade.

Class Parties
Food Orders

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

Pre-paid orders with tip included are appreciated.

Visiting Classrooms

Please visit classrooms only by pre-arranged invitation of the teacher. Unexpected visits interrupt quality time between children and their teachers. You must sign in at the front office and wear a badge while in the building.

Any forgotten lunches, homework, or music instruments must be left in the front office. By request, the office will e-mail the teacher to let them know the item is waiting for your child to pick up.

Please remember our teachers’ first priority is attention to your children and classroom instruction rather than checking e-mail. Encourage your children to check the office for forgotten items. Thank you!

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.
Would you like to be a part of the Spring Hill’s award-winning Science Olympiad team?

Science Olympiad is a nation wide science competition that is conducted at regional, state and national levels. Spring Hill Elementary participates in the Division B level with 5th and 6th graders on its team.

Parent volunteers have coached many award winning teams at Spring Hill and you too can do it!! Volunteers should commit to coaching a few hours every week.

We will hold an information session for 5th and 6th grade students and their parents/guardians on Monday, October 27th from 7-8. Venue details will be sent out later this week.


For further questions please contact Nikki Singh at niki.singh96@gmail.com
Cordially invites all prospective students and their parents/guardians to visit our

**Annual Open House**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2014**

**9:00 a.m. until 12 p.m.**

**IMPORTANT**

Due to the TJHSST building renovations, this year’s Open House will be held at Holmes MS.

- Learn about TJHSST’s academic programs and the admissions process
- Talk to TJHSST students, teachers, parents, alumni, and admissions staff

**Holmes MS: 6525 Montrose St., Alexandria, VA 22312**

Holmes MS is 0.5 miles away from TJHSST, located east of Annandale, Virginia. Take Braddock Road exit 54B from I-495, go east on Braddock Road for 3.2 miles, turn right onto Montrose St., and school is on the right.

**Contact Information:**

TJHSST Admissions Office: 571-423-3770  
www.TJAdmissions.org  
tjadmissions@fcps.edu
Book Fair: November 10th Through November 14th

Book Fair is coming soon to Spring Hill! Mark your calendars for the week of November 10th through November 14th with a special Ice Cream Social on Wed., November 12th, 6-8 p.m. See the attached flyers for details about Book Fair and the Book Fair Art Poster Contest.

Calling All Shutterbugs

The Spring Hill Yearbook Staff is looking for photographers for school-wide events such as last week’s Mobile Labs Science Night and the upcoming Book Fair Ice Cream Social. If you like taking pictures or have some to submit, please email sonyabearson@yahoo.com for more information on how to get involved.

School Success For All!

The PTO Special Education Committee will be bringing helpful tips and important information to you bi-weekly in the Panther Press. Our goal is to give all families practical ways to help their child succeed!

One excellent resource for parents is the website www.understood.org.

- The website offers well-researched, practical information that’s easy to apply to everyday life.
- The goal of www.understood.org is to help the millions of parents whose children, ages 3-20, are struggling with learning and attention issues.
- Understood aims to give parents a direct path to the support they need most to make them feel more confident and capable and less frustrated
- They promise daily access to expert advice that’s free of charge, clearly communicated and never influenced by commercial interests

So check them out! There is something for everyone among the research and articles.

Read more: http://www.understood.org/en/about/our-mission#ixzz3GQjcHQIF
Follow them: @UnderstoodOrg on Twitter | Understood on Facebook

For more information on the PTO Special Education Committee, contact Leslie Young at lfy@mac.com.

Chess Club

Chess Club won’t meet on early release days. These include October 31st and November 19th.
FLEX Language Program Seeks Additional Students for Chinese, French and Spanish

Attention parents:

Due to low enrollment, some of the after school FLEX language courses are in jeopardy of being canceled. Rather than cancel these classes, we are going to ask the county to extend the registration period and postpone the start date of these classes. We have consulted with the teachers and they are happy to teach a greater age range and we hope that this flexibility will allow more parents to enroll their children.

We are seeking additional students for the following classes:

Chinese Level I - 20 weeks Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30—new first class date November 6th. This class was for grades 4 - 6 but will now accept grade 1 - 3 as well. Four more students are needed for this class to run.

French Level I - 20 weeks Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:30—new first class date November 5th. This class was for grades 4 - 6 but will now accept grades 1 - 3 as well. Seven more students are needed for this class to run.

Spanish Level I - 20 weeks Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30—new first class date November 6th. This class was for grades 4 - 6 but will now accept grades 1 - 3 as well. Five more students are needed for this class to run.

A word about the program:

These classes are taught by language professionals, hired and screened by Fairfax County Schools Adult and Continuing Education. The correlation between early language learning and academic success has been demonstrated in many studies. Fairfax County realizes this and is beginning to implement foreign language in elementary schools during the school day but the plan is roll it out slowly; too slowly to benefit my child. When I found that this program was available I asked how to start it at Spring Hill because I wanted my child to start foreign language learning earlier than middle school.

When you average the $225 cost over 20 hours you realize that you are getting language education, taught in the safety of the school for $11.25/hour. This is a chance for your child to begin or increase their language learning in a safe, inexpensive and fun way. Please kindly consider one of the above classes.

We hope to have the enrollment site updated and ready for registration by Thursday of this week:

If you would like to take advantage of these classes, you can enroll your child online using this link starting Thursday:

https://aceclasses.fcps.edu/SubjectListing.aspx?CategoryID=10377&ProgramID=362&ProgCatgName=World+Languages+(PreK-6)&IsCourse=1&SubjectID=10486&AreaName=FLEX

If you have any questions, please kindly email me at mosbywine@msn.com.
Your Help Is Needed!

Volunteers Needed: Bus Notes

The matching note system that allows students to ride each other’s buses will only be allowed on Fridays. BOTH parents who have arranged a play date MUST send in two copies of the current Bus Note form, found on the PTO website (www.springhillpto.org/ptodocs.php) or available in a pad for purchase for $3 in the office. If only one parent sends in a note, both parents will be called to confirm the play date. If it can’t be confirmed before 11am, the play date may not occur.

• Bus Notes are no longer needed for an after-school activity, including Chess. Instead, the ASA or Chess Club teacher will take attendance at the beginning of the activity. If your child will be absent, you simply need to notify the ASA teacher (not homeroom teacher) directly via email by 11am on the day of the absence.

• Bus Notes are no longer needed to arrange an Early Pick-up from school. Instead, parents will come into the school and sign children out on the front office computer at the appropriate time.

• SACC transportation changes should be emailed directly to the SACC teachers.

Volunteers are needed for around one hour to match the notes around 9:30am on Fridays. Please contact Sherri Nik-Aeen at sh_nikaeen@yahoo.com.

Real Food For Kids

Real Food For Kids works in collaborative ways to increase the quantities of healthy foods in Fairfax County Public Schools and supports programs that educate our students and their families on making healthier lifestyle choices. Find out more at www.realfoodforkids.org.

RFFK is looking for a liaison at Spring Hill. Some duties would include:

• Posting news to the PTO Website
• Writing a blurb for the Panther Press
• Sharing ideas about great things SHES may be doing so other FCPS schools may replicate
• Forward questions from SHES to RFFK so we can address individual inquiry and needs

Send your inquiries to rffknews@verizon.net

Keurig Coffee Pod Donations Needed

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. Question? Contact Lynne Emmanuel at evangalineemanuel1014@gmail.com.
Fun Fair Committee Chairs Wanted

Fun Fair is scheduled for Saturday March 21st from 10am – 3pm. These are the committee chair positions that are open or need someone to shadow the chairs this year to take it over next year. Every year, some parent leaders “graduate” or otherwise move on. Please consider one of these positions and contact Amy Prewett!

**Security:** After 9 consecutive Fun Fairs, John Fennell will be leaving after this year and needs a “shadow” volunteer to take over next year. The Security chair wears the orange vest at Fun Fair to help with crowd control and coordinates getting a Public Safety officer or two to help during the day.

**Cafeteria:** The Google doc indicates how much food and beverages to order and from where, then the Cafeteria manager helps manage the food sales of pizza, subs and drinks during the day. Shobana, the Spring Hill cafeteria manager, is also on duty that day to help you.

**Decorations:** These are very minimal, but some elements to reflect the theme in the lobby help make Fun Fair feel festive!

**Popcorn and Cotton Candy:** It wouldn’t be a carnival without popcorn and cotton candy! John Mealey and Linda Somogyi will be “graduating” after this year – come learn about the popcorn maker and sales!

**Hospitality:** This person sets out the coffee machine and supplies the day before Fun Fair. At 11:30am, you receive the trays of sandwiches from CPK and put them in the teacher’s lounge for volunteers. You do not need to stay in the room all day.

**Tickets:** Two people cut tickets in strips of 25 or 20, then get helpers (or use the Fun Fair meetings) to fold into bundles. The week before Fun Fair, we sell the tickets in the lobby (a few times in the Kiss and Ride line). Teachers sell the tickets on Fun Fair day.

**Volunteers:** We lost one experienced chair last year to graduation and will lose Mary Welch at the end of this year. We are looking for one to two people to learn the ropes and help!

“I said somebody should do something about that. Then I realized I am somebody.”

~ Lily Tomlin ~

6th Annual Fall Fundraiser and Membership Drive

**FREE PRINTED SCHOOL DIRECTORIES** are a key benefit of membership in the PTO. **BE SURE TO JOIN THE PTO** in order to receive your free printed directory this year!

Spring Hill families continue to join and support the Spring Hill PTO Membership Drive and Fundraiser – thank you! If you haven’t yet, there is still time to join us. As you know, every dollar donated through our annual PTO Fundraiser directly benefits our Spring Hill teachers and students. Families support annual programs at Spring Hill for all grades, including field trips, teacher enrichment and classroom supplies. Over the last three years, your PTO funds have purchased technology, including student laptops, ceiling projectors, sound fields and SmartBoards, as well as refurbished the courtyard and installed whiteboards in classrooms.

This year, the suggested donation to the fundraiser is $100 per student, which is in line with requests at other local elementary schools. **We also encourage you to join the PTO for just $10 per family.**

**We’re only half way to meeting our goal of 100% participation** – so please keep those memberships rolling in! To contribute to our fundraiser and join the PTO, fill out the form and return it to school in your child’s backpack. You can also contribute online at www.springhillpto.org. Either LOGIN or REGISTER (if first time user), then look for the Fundraiser/Membership button the left of the page.
Save the Date

**Hearing and Vision Screening:** October 23rd – Contact Karen Larkin if you can help.

**Yabe Exchange Information Session (Library):** October 24th from 8-9 a.m.

**Fall Festival Parade (Soccer Fields):** October 31st at 9:15 a.m.

**Early Dismissal:** October 31st, Quarter End

**No School:** November 3rd and 4th

**Book Fair Art Poster Contest Deadline:** November 5th

**Book Fair (Large Pod):** November 11th-14th

**Ice Cream Social:** November 12th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Parent University Speaker:** November 14th at 9:00 a.m. (Coffee at 8:30 a.m., PTO Meeting at 8:45). Tiffany Washington will be the speaker about “Is this Normal?” Common behavioral challenges in school-age children and strategies to cope with them.

**PTO Meeting (Cafeteria):** Friday, November 14th starting at 8:45 a.m.

Thank You!

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

Ann Shankroff, Mary and Beth Pottanat, Jack McFayden, Maile Ramzi, Hisham Ramzi, Cheryl Page, Leslie Young, Heather Tedesco, Clare Bradshaw, Bill Shvodian, Mary Papathanissou, Randy Kanzleiter, Michael Yue, Sally An-Yeung, Hamid Isber, Abida Rattani, Afshin Pashai, and Amina Khan for volunteering at the Children’s Science Center Mobile Labs Family night on Tuesday, Oct. 14th.

Jennifer Tam and Natalia Simonova for helping with Bus Notes this week.

Calli Harris for getting donations for the Book Fair Ice Cream Social from Walmart.

Leslie Speidel, Clare Bradshaw, Jessica McMichael, Stephanie Stayin and Maria Kelly for all their preparations for the Book Fair.
Children’s Science Center
Mobile Labs Family
Science Night
Go WILD for Books

at the
Spring Hill Elementary School
PTO Book Fair!

Come shop our tremendous selection of books, games, craft kits and gifts for all ages.

Tuesday through Friday
November 11th-14th

Please join us for the very popular
Family Night Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, November 12th

Featuring FREE ICE CREAM
& evening shopping hours
CULTURAL ARTS

Is pleased to present

Music Technology with Brent Daniels!

Brent will use his keyboard, recording microphone, and
digital sampler to teach students how music is composed
using technology for albums, movie soundtracks, television
shows and video games.

Students will participate in the
program to help Brent create a
one-of-a-kind, on-the-spot sound
creation and song composition that
will raise the roof!

You will be amazed at how Brent relates to the students and
brings out the EAGER MUSICIAN in each of them!

On the Cafeteria stage Thursday October 30, 2014

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grades     8:50– 9:20 a.m.
3rd & 4th grades                     9:30–10:00 a.m.
5th & 6th grades                     2:05– 2:50 p.m.
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 aliciabond@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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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.