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

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.
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 6:**
- Thursday, October 9: 6th GR FT (All), Alden Theatre, 9:20-11 am
- 5th GR FT (All), Alden Theatre, 9:30-11 am
- Friday, October 10: SCA International Day

**Week of October 13:**
- Monday, October 13: Columbus Day Holiday, No School
- Tuesday, October 14: Mobile Lab / Family Science Night, Cafeteria & Lg Pod, 6-8 pm
- Wednesday, October 15: 6th GR FT (Minutoli,Burns & Seagraves), Inner Quest, 10:30 am-4:50 pm
- Thursday, October 16: 4th GR FT (All), Kennedy Center, 9:15-11:15 am
- Friday, October 17: Parent University, (Spring Hill Tech Resources), Cafeteria, 9-10:30 am

**Week of October 20:**
- Tuesday, October 21: Colonial Day Parent Training, 11am-Noon, Room 210
- 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


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**Vision and Hearing Screening Notice:**

The annual vision and hearing screening will be held on **Thursday, October 23** for all kindergarteners, third graders, and “new to county” students. If your child wears eye glasses for distance, please be sure he/she has them at school on screening day. Parents will be notified by a letter if screening results indicate further evaluation is needed. Vision and hearing difficulties can interfere with learning so a prompt follow-up from the letter referral is recommended.

Parent volunteers are needed for two separate sessions on the day of screening: AM and PM. Specific times will be provided later. Please contact the Health Room, Karen Larkin at 703-506-3410 if you can volunteer to help on Oct 23rd.

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**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.
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.**

The Marine Woodwind Quintet performs for 3rd-6th Grade students.

*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.*
The **fourth grade** classes spent a fun-filled day of “learning by doing” at Great Falls Park last week. The experience was connected to the Living Classroom of the National Capital Region, a non-profit organization that collaborates and develops hands-on environmental lessons with schools. The students traveled through seven stations learning about our watershed and ways to protect it. This fieldtrip would not have been possible if it were not for the parents who volunteered to lead each activity. Many thanks to Rachel Evering, Rebeka Khorrami, Allison McDonnell, Molly Chen, Andrea Adie, Sujira Engkavanish, Susan Schlegel, Maile Ramzi, Ericka Holman, Alicia Bond, Sonaal Luthra, Kathleen Kanzleiter, Hutch Douglas, Jill Ambrose, Angela Sitilides, Molly Farnsworth, Toan Lyons, Chris Mun, Jen Dzwonczyk, Mansi Kohli, and Kristen-Alice Hannestad.

### The Seven Learning Stations

- **What Watershed are We In** (lesson about watersheds... food coloring was used)
- **Water Quality Testing** (lots of scientific information was taught)
- **Erosion in a Bottle** (lesson about erosion... got dirty)
- **Incredible Journey** (fun lesson about the water cycle)
- **Aliens in our Ecosystem** (lesson about invasive species)
- **Wonder of Wetlands** (lesson about wetlands and why they are important... got wet and dirty)
- **Common Water** (fun action filled activity that required lots of water)

The fourth grade looks forward to its next field trip: the NSO at the Kennedy Center, on October 16th!!
Spring Hill Artists featured at
McLean Project for the Arts ArtFest

Sunday, October 5th, was a beautiful day for the MPA ArtFest at McLean’s Central Park. Visitors were able to view artwork at the Children’s ArtWalk in the woods by our very own Spring Hill artists: Maya Pashai and Eleanor Lavin (pictured), as well as Evrim Duransoy, Katia Moroz, Melody Mortazie, Scarlett Adams, Yedda Lee, Sovan Patnaik, Marissa Torres, Anastasia Leonidov, Soo Jin Jung, and Nikki Razavi.

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!
Mark Your Calendar!

Special Education Coffee

Please join the PTO Special Education Committee for coffee and conversation as we introduce our 2014-15 school year theme:

School Success For All:
Providing All Children With The Tools They Need To Succeed!

Tuesday, October 14
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Room 913
Spring Hill Elementary School

For more information, please contact Special Education Committee Chair, Leslie Young at lfy@mac.com.

FLEX Language Registration

FLEX language registration began October 1st. Please go to: https://aceclasses.fcps.edu and choose World Languages (K-6), then choose FLEX. The menu of classes will come up – you will need to choose the specific class to register (for example, Chinese Level 1 (20 hours). Classes will run for 20 weeks so there will be no spring registration for FLEX. The exact website is:

https://aceclasses.fcps.edu/SubjectListing.aspx?CategoryId=10377&ProgramId=362&ProgCatgName=World+Languages+%28PreK-6%29&IsCourse=1&SubjectId=10486&AreaName=FLEX

There is also a Quick Link to the county registration page through www.springhillPTO.org. Please contact Gray Mosby at mosbywine@msn.com with any questions.

Rubik’s Cube Registration Extension

After School Activities would like to extend registration for the Rubik’s Cube class for third through sixth grade until October 10th. Please sign up as soon as possible through www.springhillpto.org.
Chess Club

Chess Club WILL NOT MEET on early release days. These include October 31\textsuperscript{st} and November 19\textsuperscript{th}.

Book Fair

Book Fair is coming soon to Spring Hill! Mark your calendars for the week of November 10\textsuperscript{th} through November 14\textsuperscript{th} with a special Ice Cream Social on Weds., November 12\textsuperscript{th}, 6-8 p.m.

Box Tops Contest: Ends October 22\textsuperscript{nd}

Let's have a contest! Have you been collecting your box tops? Are they taking up room in a drawer or bag somewhere? Well now is your chance to send them in and win!

How do you win?

- Turn in your Box Tops (Box Tops should be turned in groups of 25, either in a baggie or on paper)
- Make sure you include your teacher's name.
- Get everyone in your class involved...the more involved, the more the Box Tops!
- The class with the most box tops will win an ice cream party! Contest ends October 22!

6\textsuperscript{th} Annual Fall Fundraiser and Membership Drive

PRINTED SCHOOL DIRECTORIES ARE A KEY BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP AND THEY WILL BE ORDERED BY MID-OCTOBER. 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 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 let's keep those memberships rolling in! Please join us in support of our school! 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.

FREE Money = Grocery Bonus Plan

PLEASE SUBMIT GROCERY BONUS FORMS

Thanks to the families that have already turned in their yellow grocery bonus forms or submitted information online. All families should have received these forms through the mail. If you did not, you can sign up online at www.springhillpto.org or contact Susan Dooley (susan.dooley@verizon.net) or Jennifer Jackson (jejackson97@gmail.com) if you need a paper form. Remember, signing up costs you nothing and Spring Hill earns a portion of everything you spend at Giant or Harris Teeter. Last year, we earned more than $15,000!
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.

You can still have play dates Monday to Thursday, but those play dates should originate from home after the students have returned from school. No communication with the school is needed for those play dates; you simply need to communicate with the other family to make sure the scheduled play date occurs.

- 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 their 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 to match the notes around 9:30am on Fridays. Please contact Sherri Nik-Aeen at sh_nikaeen@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed: Hearing and Vision Screening

All Kindergarten children and third graders as well as any students new to Spring Hill are screened for hearing and vision. No experience is necessary. Our clinic aide, Karen Larkin, provides training.

We need volunteers for two sessions on October 23, 2014:

- 1st Session: 8:15 a.m.-10:30 p.m. (estimate)
- 2nd Session: 11:10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (estimate)

Contact Karen Larkin at 703.506.2410 or KALarkin2@fcps.edu to sign up.

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 evanangelineemanuel1014@gmail.com.
Fun Fair Needs YOU!

Our annual school carnival is one of the highlights of the school year for Spring Hill students and will take place on Saturday, March 21st from 10am – 3pm. We need your help to make it the fun event it always is!

Fun Fair has always been a fundraiser as well as a whole school community event. This year, the Silent Auction will take place at a different time than Fun Fair so we can shift the focus back to the kids and the community. We are looking for a few volunteers at many different levels.

**Committee chairs:** There are several positions open, while many others have chairs in place for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th or more years in a row. A Google doc compiled by last year’s chairs contains all the information you need to run your event successfully. In addition, many of the materials and props for Fun Fair were repainted, refreshed or rebuilt last year, so everything is in great shape! If you are a past chair, please confirm whether you are willing to return. If you would like information about becoming a chair, please contact Amy Prewett. You are welcome to do this with a friend! K-2 parents are encouraged to try it out!

**Managers:** Fun Fair was getting too large for two people to manage, so we are splitting the responsibilities among more people.

**Games:** We have 3 people in place to organize the games. Delegation is key: each game will have a chair and a classroom assigned to staff it with volunteers. These Managers will touch base with the chairs to make sure everything is in order, reserve bounce houses as needed and get the games ready for the day. Set up was complete in 1½ hours last year!

**Food and Beverage:** We are looking for someone to oversee the food and beverage aspects of Fun Fair including International Foods, Cafeteria and Popcorn/Cotton Candy. This would be a great position for a K, 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade parent or someone with a preschooler at home – most of the arrangements can be made at home on your own time and then you would supervise these areas at Fun Fair.

**Behind the Scenes:** We need 1-2 people who are great organizers to oversee several committees that help Fun Fair run. Security, Tickets, Treasurers, T Shirts, Maps and Publicity, and others will have chairs in place, but need someone to touch base and offer help, bring up issues, etc. Our Google doc will help provide direction.

**Fun Fair Chair:** As you can see, most of Fun Fair is about delegation! The Chair needs to pick the theme (relevant for the T shirts and the Cake design contest), then coordinate with the Managers and Chairs as needed. This is busiest in January, February and March.
Save the Date

No School: Columbus Day Holiday, October 13th.

Special Education Coffee (Room 913): Tuesday, October 14th at 9:00 a.m.

Children’s Science Center Mobile Labs Family Science Night (Large Pod and Cafeteria): Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6-8 p.m.

Technology Resources at Spring Hill (Cafeteria): Friday, October 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Hearing and Vision Screening: October 23rd

Early Dismissal: October 31st

No School: November 3rd and 4th

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)

Thank You!

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

Cindy Sullivan for coordinating the International Walk to School Day on October 8th.

Ann Shankroff for all her preparations to host the Children’s Science Center Mobile Labs Family Night on Tuesday, October 14th.

Holly Piper for providing coffee and snacks at the PTO Meeting.

Jina Kim, Pamela Fox and Jenny D’Alessandro for their assistance preparing coffee and goodies before the Parent University speaker.

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

Jennifer Dzwonczyk, Cristina Tallent and Betsy Vrankovich for getting the Directory ready to print.

Susan Connery and Amelia Steiner for updating the Birthday Board for October
*** DIRECTORY ***

UPDATE BY FRIDAY OCTOBER 10

It's that time of year again – time to confirm and/or update your family’s profile on the PTO Website. This information will be published in the Spring Hill PTO’s Directory, provided at no cost to PTO members. To help us make the Directory a useful product, please be sure to take 3 minutes and check that your family information is accurate. Please make any necessary changes and verify the information is correct and ready for publication to our Directory by scrolling to the bottom of the webpage and reviewing how your information will appear. Please pay special attention to email addresses, which may be carryovers from previous years.

If you wish to opt out of inclusion of your family in the Directory, please send an email by October 10 to Jen Dzwonczyk (jendz@verizon.net) or uncheck the box next to each student’s name (“In Directory?”) in your Family Profile.

IF YOU HAVE A USERNAME AND PASSWORD:

1. Login to the website, www.springhillpto.org, and enter your username and password. Once logged in, click on Update Directory Info or Family Profile on the left-hand side of the screen. Review and update all family information, and scroll to the bottom and confirm the information is accurate and ready for publication as shown on the page. Please note that if you wish for your information not to be published, you must notify Jen Dzwonczyk (jendz@verizon.net) or uncheck the box (“In Directory?”) next to each student’s name to opt out of the Directory.

2. If you have forgotten your username or password, click on “If you forgot your User Name and/or Password, please click here” link, and upon entry of the requested data, a temporary password or username will be sent to the email address(es) associated with your profile. If those email addresses are no longer valid, please send an email to webadmin@springhillpto.org with your name, your child’s name(s), teacher name(s), and home and mobile phone numbers.

TO CREATE A USERNAME AND PASSWORD:

1. Go to www.springhillpto.org, and click on the “If you have never registered for the PTO website and need to create your username/password, click here” link. Enter your home phone number or home address, exactly as listed by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to locate your record. You will be allowed to enter an email address, username and password for each parent that would like a username. Please review and update all family information, and check the box to let us know the information is accurate and ready for publication.

2. If the system cannot locate your record, your data may not yet have been downloaded to the PTO database from the FCPS database. Please click “Help” on the upper right corner of the website to contact our web administrators for assistance.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL INFORMATION IS UPDATED AND CONFIRMED NO LATER THAN THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 FOR US TO MEET OUR DIRECTORY DEADLINE. THANK YOU!!

Special thanks to Betsy Vrankovich and Becky Abbott for their tireless efforts working with the massive database to prepare the foundation for our Directory.
Children’s Science Center Mobile Labs Family Science Night
Coming soon to Spring Hill Elementary!
Tuesday, October 14 from 6pm – 8pm

Bring the whole family for an evening of fun, discovery and science learning!
Lots of fun hands-on science exhibits to check out!
Plus, see a 3D Printer in action!

Explore electricity!
Analyze fingerprints to catch the thief!
Create a satellite!
Launch a rocket car!

The Children’s Science Center Museum, an interactive hands-on museum being planned for Northern Virginia, is bringing their Mobile Labs Family Science Night Program to Spring Hill. The Children’s Science Center’s Museum Without Walls program brings hands-on activities to thousands of children each year. Mobile Labs Family Science Night offers a variety of engaging, hands-on science activities such as:

- Balloon Rocket Cars: Demonstrating Newton’s Laws of Motion
- Aviation: Engineering and Flight
- Sink or Swim: Investigating Density
- And many more!

These experiments are specially designed to help encourage students to take interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) subjects, as well as to encourage students to develop curiosity in everyday life situations. Young children are natural scientists, rationally making observations, testing hypotheses, analyzing data and reaching conclusions, according to a study in Science. Unfortunately, 80% of students lose interest in science by 8th grade, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Join us on October 14th to make sure that your child is not one of them.

Volunteers are needed from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. to set up, assist students with activities, and clean up. We hope to see you there! Contact Ann Shankroff at the_shankroffs@verizon.net if you have any questions.

The Children’s Science Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more: www.TheChildrensScienceCenter.org.
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)

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.
TEAMS ARE FORMING NOW!

Spring Hill is still looking for students and parents to take an Odyssey of the Mind!

What is the Odyssey of the Mind?

• Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college.
• Kids apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.
  • For more info, check out this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvkAB7OhBtl

Benefits of the Odyssey of the Mind

• The Odyssey of the Mind teaches students to learn creative problem-solving methods while having fun in the process.
• By tapping into creativity, and through encouraging imaginative paths to problem-solving, students learn skills that will provide them with the ability to solve problems - great and small - for a lifetime.

Who can Participate?

• Students from kindergarten through 6th Grade; teams are limited to seven students. Each team needs two coaches and other adult volunteers to support practices and participation in the tournament. Volunteers are not limited to parents. Volunteers can be high school students, school employees or other adults. Contact the school coordinator (see below) if you’re interested.

How often should each team meet?

• Varies for each team but suggested meeting time is minimum of 2 hours per week.

How much does it cost?

• Registration fees will be based on the amount of students that join

If you and your children are interested in participating or you simply want more information about Odyssey of the Mind, please email the Spring Hill Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator, Joseph Montie at jmontie167@aol.com.

Teams will be starting shortly

Odyssey of the Mind culminates in a Regional tournament at Oakton High School on 7 Mar 2015