Dear Parents,

A hearty welcome to Spring Hill Elementary School! We had a wonderful start to the year with your child(ren) the first two days of school. Kudos are in order to our wonderful staff and parents for working so closely together to ensure that each child’s first days of school were successful.

A special thanks to the parents of bus riders who put their child(ren) on the bus the very first day. We find that allowing your child(ren) to ride the bus from day one makes for a much easier transition, and also reduces the probability of congestion at the Kiss and Drop which can sometimes result in children being late to class. Also, we ask that if you drop your child off at school that you do not follow them to their classroom. We are trying to develop independence in the children as early as possible. Thank you for your assistance in this endeavor.

We ask that you be patient, as it takes a few weeks to get the kinks worked out with the bus routes. Buses may run late both morning and afternoon for the next few days.

Please review the map on Page 2 of this issue illustrating our traffic pattern for Kiss n’ Drop. All Kiss n’ Drop students and SACC students will enter the school at DOOR #9. Please understand that it is up to each driver to insure the effectiveness of our system. Traffic is eased when you pull your vehicle up to where our staff member on duty waves you to stop, deliver your children out of the passenger doors quickly and depart safely.

Thank you again for all of your support.

Best regards,

Roger Vanderhye

Roger Vanderhye, Principal
This school newsletter will be issued every Wednesday during the school year on our website, under “News and Events.” You will receive an email link to the newsletter if we have your current email address.

Deadline for submissions are Mondays by Noon. Email nelda.hirji@fcps.edu

Please include Bi-Line in the subject.
Welcome to the
2014-15 School Year!

School Hours:
Monday-Friday  8:40 AM – 3:20 PM.

Since teachers need to prepare lessons and materials, supervision is not provided before 8:10 a.m. or after 3:45 p.m. All students grades K – 6 will report to the Cafeteria if they arrive before 8:25 AM. Students arriving after 8:25 AM should report directly to their classroom. Any child arriving after 8:40 AM (after the bell rings) must report to the front office to gain a tardy pass.

If your child rides the bus, we highly encourage you to put him/her on the bus beginning with the first day of school!

Dr. Brad Sachs
Presents
Building Resiliency:
Working Toward Authentic Success For Our Youth

Dr. Brad Sachs, psychologist, educator, consultant, and best-selling author, will teach parents how to attain a healthier family dynamic resulting in more resilient children with an eye toward attaining authentic success. He’ll offer hands-on exercises that guide parents to a greater understanding of how they can be good enough — rather than perfect — parents. Dr. Sachs is the author of Emptying The Nest: Launching Your Young Adult Toward Success and Self-Reliance, and The Good Enough Child: How to Have an Imperfect Family and Be Perfectly Satisfied, which was the Amazon Best Seller of the Year, featured on The Today Show and excerpted in Family Circle Magazine.

September 30, 2014
7-9 p.m.
Alden Theatre
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean

Tickets are FREE and available on a first come, first served basis at www.safecommunitycoalition.net.

Consider reading one of Dr. Sachs’ books before the event (available at a discount at Books-A-Million in McLean): The Good Enough Child: How to Have an Imperfect Family and Be Perfectly Satisfied * Emptying The Nest: Launching Your Young Adult Toward Success and Self-Reliance * The Good Enough Teen: Raising Adolescents with Love and Acceptance (Despite How Impossible They Can Be)

This event is sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and well-being of McLean area youth, in collaboration with The Alden and McLean Community Center. Donations are needed and welcome. www.SafeCommunityCoalition.net
School Picture Day
Thursday September 25

School pictures are provided as a service to our families and are also a valuable fundraiser for the school. These portraits will also be used in the school yearbook. Picture Order Envelopes will go home with your children in mid September. If you would like to place an order, please complete the envelope, with payment enclosed and have your child bring it to his or her teacher before picture day.

Fall photos are pre-order only.

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Early Pick-Up Policy

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 times, you will need to wait until dismissal @ 3:20 pm.

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CLINIC HELP WANTED

Our school health aide, Karen Larkin, would like some assistance this fall. If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact her at 703-506-3410. The following is needed:

1. There is a continuous opportunity for parents to volunteer as a substitute in the clinic when we are unable to get a Health Department substitute. Volunteers would need to take a 3-4 hour class but no prior medical experience is necessary.

2. Administrative assistance in September alphabetizing and filing.

3. Help coordinate the Hearing and Vision screenings of Kindergartners and 3rd graders plus any new students to FCPS later in the fall.

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Physical Education

In Physical Education, we would like to welcome every one to a new school year. In addition to welcoming everyone back, we would like to make sure that all students are able to participate in Physical education. The 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.

We look forward to working with all students and having a great year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you-Linda Shaheen, Mickey Minutoli and Dennis Michaels, PE Department
Non profit flyers may be sent home in Thursday folders on the following days this school year: September 25, 2014, January 29 and May 14, 2015. In the interest of saving paper, we encourage electronic flyers which may be included in our weekly newsletter on these dates.

During the 2014-2015 school year and according to regulation 1367.3, the following will be in effect.

**Newsletters** will announce events or activities sponsored by the school, P.T.O. and governmental agencies only.

**Fliers for Non-Profit Organizations:**
Flyers can be displayed in the front foyer literature rack for community review and pick up.

Flyers may be distributed at Back-to-School Night via a non-profit organization’s staffed table.

Flyers can be distributed via student take home folders **three times per year:** September 25, 2014, May 14, and January 29, 2015.

**Directions for non-profit flyer distribution on designated weeks in September, January and May:**

All fliers must be submitted in advance to the principal for review.

All non-profits are treated the same, regardless of the view they express.

Fliers and other community materials must be related to the school’s educational mission, be directed to students, not be harmful to children, be age-appropriate, and not be violations of the current versions of Regulations 2601 and 2612 (Student Responsibilities & Rights).

At least 48 hours must be allowed for the principal to review the flier.

**All fliers must contain the following disclaimer:** “These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.”

Fliers must be collated into 36 sets of 30 fliers.

Fliers must be delivered to the school office by 10 a.m. Monday, September 22, January 26 or May 11 for inclusion in these take-home folders.
Welcome back to Springhill for a new and exciting year! AWESOME! We all look forward to the well-established programs in our school, but teachers always find innovative and current ways to challenge and motivate our students!

Keep an eye on this weekly newsletter that will appear every Wednesday in the PANTHER PRESS for AAP Updates and information about new programs and activities.

The bottom line is that we all want our students to feel success in the cognitive and affective domains concerning school. What to do? Let’s start with some simple tips for parents to give your student an edge as we begin the year.

Scholastic Books has 4 recommendations:

**Step 1: Set Goals**
Sit down with your child and figure out the things he would like to achieve this year. Why? Because it puts the student in charge of how to spend time (with your help, of course). Now he’s not just following his teacher’s plan for the year, he’s making his own as well.

**Step 2: Team Up with the Teacher**
Lay the groundwork for a friendly partnership by telling the teacher how excited you are that your child is in his/her class. Setting up good parent/teacher communication is vital.

**Step 3: Tap into your Child’s Learning Style**
Most kids have a natural way of picking up new info — they learn best either by listening, looking, or doing.

**Step 4: Create a Stress-Free Homework Space:**
The right atmosphere can make all the difference in how much information your child retains. See how you can transform your den or basement — or kitchen table! — into a smarter learning environment.

Please check this website for more details: http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/parent-child/4-school-success-tips

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Students, parents, teachers, and administrators have been reading this summer. Of course!! We’ll soon be able to see student book reviews that will be displayed in the hallways in the coming weeks. Please take a look at what our SHES kids are reading.

One of my favorites for this year is *The Organized Mind* by Daniel Levitin. He discusses brain-science in a practical way, giving advice on how to improve memory and attention to the challenges of daily life. More to come in the next few weeks...

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**THE ORGANIZED MIND**

Students, parents, teachers, and administrators have been reading this summer. Of course!! We’ll soon be able to see student book reviews that will be displayed in the hallways in the coming weeks. Please take a look at what our SHES kids are reading.

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**AAP Important Dates:**

**October 15-24, 2013:** Testing window for CogAT for students in grade 2, those new to FCPS, and for retesting. Students in grades 3-6 can be retested one time after grade 2. Parents need to contact the AART for this additional testing session.

**February 2-13, 2015:** Testing window for any student new to FCPS since November 2014 who is missing an ability test score and will be screened for AAP Level IV services.

**March 9-13, 2015:** Testing window for NNAT for students in grade 1. The test will administered online this year.

**AAP Resources:**
- Barbara Ross
  Advanced Academic Resource Teacher: barbara.ross@fcps.edu
  703-506-2863
- AAP Office Contact:
  571-423-4740
  703-279-5208 (Fax)
- AAP Website: https://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/index.shtml
- AAP Parent Information Packet: https://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/
The first PTO Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 9/10 at 9:00 am and Roger Vanderhye will be the featured speaker. We will vote on the PTO budget. If you can’t be at the meeting, please contact Amy Prewett at acprewett@yahoo.com with any questions and your vote.

FREE Money = Grocery Bonus Plan

All year long, when you shop for groceries at Giant or Harris Teeter you can earn free money for Spring Hill simply by providing your grocery card numbers one time! When you login to www.springhillpto.org, look for the Quick Link to enter your grocery card information. Alternately, you can complete the Grocery Bonus form and return it in your child’s backpack.

You will be asked annually whether you want to continue in the program, so we won’t continue to be your designated school after your students have graduated. Target Red Card holders can also participate through Target’s Take Charge of Education program at www.target.com. Our school ID is 103704.

6th Annual Fall Fundraiser

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. Benefits of membership include a free printed directory and the ability to register for Chess Club and After School Activities without a separate registration fee, as well as the joy of directly participating in your child’s education at 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.
Library Volunteer Positions Available!

- Primary responsibilities include checking out books to students & shelving returned books
- Weekly or bi-weekly 2-hour shifts are available
- Choose the schedule that works for you
- Orientation and training provided
- Personal check-out privileges
- A great way to learn the names of your child's classmates!

For more information, please contact the library co-chairs, Irene Lewis (iymjlewis@hotmail.com) or Amy Minton (amy.minton@gmail.com).

Art Appreciation

*Sign up for Art Appreciation and bring art into your child’s classroom!*

The Spring Hill PTO Art Appreciation Program is designed to give our children the opportunity to examine, explore, discuss and learn to appreciate a wide variety of art. Volunteers will have the opportunity to present an Art Appreciation lesson to their child’s class. Materials are provided along with a volunteer information session.

Sign-ups available at Back to School Night!

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Murphy (christina.l.murphy@gmail.com) or Jamie Loving (jamie.loving@verizon.net).

Green Initiatives Volunteers Needed

Spring Hill is currently running a successful recycling program and an outdoor classroom program and we need your help to ensure these continue in the long term.

The recycling program is student led and at present involves mainly food and materials from the cafeteria being recycled, upcycled and donated to the SHARE food pantry in McLean. We are planning some add-on’s to this during the school year that will extend upcycling into the classrooms too.

The Outdoor classroom program mainly involves planting lessons for K-2 grades that are led by parent volunteers – however there is co-ordination and preparation beyond that which needs parent involvement.

We are in urgent need of a couple of volunteers to help us keep this running. This is a fabulous area of school life where there is the opportunity to do more than we currently do and to make a real difference. If either or both of these areas interest you please contact Kristin Mears (kamears@hotmail.co.uk) or Nancy Bao (nihao100@hotmail.com).
Chess Club Registration

Chess Club registration begins on September 8, ending September 25.

Students from 2nd through 6th grades may register. The first day of the fall session is Friday September 26 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. The registration cost is $95 per student per session. Registration is online at www.springhillpto.org.

Register early! There are limited spaces available for the fall session. For questions, please email springhillchessclub@gmail.com.

Save the Date

First PTO Meeting (Large Pod): Wednesday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m. Get up to date on all that's going on at Spring Hill. Roger Vanderhye will be our speaker. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Back-to-School Nights (parents only in classrooms): K-3rd grades Sept. 15, 6-8 p.m. and 4th-6th grades Sept. 22, 6-8 p.m. Sign up to volunteer in your child(ren)'s classroom, meet other parents and learn about the grade-level curriculum.

Chess Club Registration begins September 8th. Log on to www.springhillpto.org to sign up. Make sure you have a valid account several days prior to the start of registration!

Room Parent Meeting (Cafeteria): September 26th at 9 a.m.


Parent University (Cafeteria): October 3 at 8:30 a.m. Lisa Bennet: “There’s No I In Team,” working together as a team to build independence, integrity and a strong work ethic.

Family Movie Night (Gym): Target date, October 10th at 7 p.m.

Mobile Labs Family Science Night (Large Pod and Cafeteria): Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6-8 p.m. No experience necessary! Sign up to volunteer (basic training provided) or bring your entire family to explore science and STEM concepts with fun hands-on activities!
Help Wanted

Fun Fair
Looking for at least three energetic people to coordinate the Fun Fair school carnival in March.

Spirit Wear
You take orders for one week with samples in the office. A little time is needed for distribution of items to promote Spring Hill spirit!

After School Activities
Our ASA volunteer will be graduating from Spring Hill this year! We need someone to shadow her through the fall process and be willing to take it over next year. This is a fairly complex position, but if we don’t have a volunteer, ASA will not be able to continue next year.

Green Initiatives
Co-lead with Kristin Mears. This person helps coordinate cleaning up the Outdoor Classroom raised beds, educates students early in the year about our cafeteria Recycling program and SHARE food bank, and schedules time with teachers for Stewardship projects around the school grounds.

Thank You!

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

Alicia Bond and Kitty Gonzalez for managing the Fall PTO Membership drive and fundraiser

Susan Dooley and Jennifer Jackson for managing the Grocery Bonus program

Sonya Bearson, Mendy Crews and Holly Piper for donating desserts for the Welcome Back brunch for the staff

Lynne Emanuel, Maile Ramzi, and Holly Piper for washing all the clothes in the Lost and Found so they were ready for donation

Pamela Fox, Jina Lee, Nadia Omais, and Michelle Garcia, our Parent Ambassadors, as well as Leslie Speidel, Susan Poliquin, Michelle Blanton (our Military Ambassador), Aejin Lee, Sue Yoon, JoungHyo Lee, and Sina Lee for attending and assisting with many facets of New Family Orientation night last week.

Jina Lee, Michelle Garcia, Meltam Tunasar, Callie Harris, Hisham Ramzi, and Sujira Engkavanish for translating at New Family Orientation.

Holly Piper, and Kitty Gonzalez for answering questions and helping collect PTO forms at Open House

Betsy Vrankovich for continuing to add functionality to our PTO website
Mobile Labs Family Science Night

We are thrilled to announce that Spring Hill Elementary has been selected by the Children's Science Center to host a Mobile Family Science Night!

What is the Children’s Science Center?
The Children’s Science Center is an interactive hands-on museum being planned for Northern Virginia. Its mission is to install a love of learning science, technology, engineering and mathematics in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create, and be inspired. The Children’s Science Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more: www.childsci.org.

What is a Mobile Labs Family Science Night?
Mobile Labs is a two-hour evening program that combines science learning and family bonding. Hands-on activities demonstrate a variety of scientific principles and make STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning fun and accessible. The program is designed for parents and teachers to self-guide their students through each station, thereby supporting family-learning experiences that encourage children to continue pursuing STEM subjects through higher academic levels. And best of all, the Children’s Science Center provides all of the supplies for the hands-on science activities.

How can Spring Hill Parents/Teachers get involved?
We need 15 volunteers to help out on October 14th from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Volunteers will run each of the hands-on, science based activities. Training will be provided by staff from the Children's Science Center. If you are interested, please contact Ann Shankroff at the_shankroffs@verizon.net no later than September 20, 2014.

Save the Date!
Tuesday, October 14
Mobile Labs: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Volunteer Shifts: 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: In the Cafeteria/Large Pod

Stay tuned for more information, as the Mobile Labs Family Night gets closer!
Please help us earn FREE MONEY for our school!

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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
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

<table>
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<th>Amount Enclosed</th>
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<td>$10</td>
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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.