Dear Spring Hill Parents,

It seems every time I write for the Panther Press we are coming off of a snow day. I hope everyone kept safe and warm and enjoyed a 4-day weekend. I am going to keep this brief and touch base on two things: Stop Hunger Now and the new Visitor Management System.

I want to personally thank each of you for supporting our school in raising over $10,000 for the Stop Hunger Now campaign. Spring Hill was well represented at the event, with many volunteers. You should be proud of the students at Spring Hill, as they spearheaded this event and took it upon themselves to raise funds through a variety of methods. I am personally grateful to be the principal of a school where so many of our students take pride in helping out others in need. Special thanks to Mrs. Fishbone and Ms. Manning for organizing the event and handling all monies for Spring Hill ES. Way to go Panthers!!!

As a reminder, the new Visitor Management System will be up and running within the next month. This system will be used to keep track of all visitors to our school, including volunteers. It is important that once the system is up and running, that when entering the building you bring a government issued ID. We understand that this is new and we will be patient with each of you as we learn the system together. Look for further information regarding the system in future KITs and Panther Press newsletters.

All the best and stay warm,

William O. Olk
William O. Olk, Principal

*This school newsletter will be issued every other 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.*
Spring Hill Fifth Grader Caroline Fox, with the moral support of Ellie Fox, Alexa Holloman, and Kate Douglas, spoke to the School Board the last week of January about the importance of keeping Fourth Grade Strings in all Fairfax County schools. The program is threatened due to budget cuts. Caroline's impassioned speech doubtless swayed many listeners! Mrs. Donahue is proud of the girls for taking a stand and fighting for something they think is important.

2-hour Delayed Opening Days—
Children to be Dropped Off 
No Earlier Than 10:20 am

Teachers do not arrive at school until 10:20 a.m. on a day with a 2 hour delayed opening. There will be no one at school to watch your children until this time. On a regular school day, children should not come to school before 8:20 am. Please make the necessary arrangements to keep them home until this time. Thank you!
Children’s sports author and Washington Post/KidsPost columnist Fred Bowen will be visiting Spring Hill on February 18th. Grades 2nd-6th will have the opportunity to participate in interactive discussions about the fun and excitement of sports and see how Mr. Bowen begins his writing process. He has written over 20 kids sports books about baseball, basketball, soccer, and football. Check out the KidsPost in the Style section every Thursday to read his sports column designed especially for kids. Students are welcome to bring in their own Fred Bowen book to be signed by the author. Please attach a sticky note with the student’s and teacher’s name on it and give it to Mrs. Hugger by Wed. Feb. 17.

Visit his website for book reviews and descriptions: www.fredbowen.com

Janis Lefcourt and Janet Hugger
Box Tops- contest ends 2-19-16- raffle ticket below!

Five (5) names will be chosen via a drawing in March on the ‘Morning Show’, and each name drawn will win 25 Spring Hill PTO Fun Fair 2016 tickets! (One entry per student).

New! Class party details- Principal Mr. Olk will deliver the class party reward! All classrooms that send in a total of 550 Box Tops by June 1, 2016 will earn a chocolate chip cookie party!

Please send in your Box Tops early and often – running class totals starting from Sept. 2015 will be posted in the cafeteria in March.

Kids, scour those drawers and cabinets at home for products from these big brands: Ziploc, Cheerios, Chex Mix, Fiber One, Hefty, Green Giant, Kleenex, Land O’Lakes, Mott’s, Nature Valley, Pillsbury, Totino’s, Yoplait, etc. http://www.boxtops4education.com/

Then clip and submit!

Our “TOP 10” submitters will be recognized in the Panther Press in addition to the 5 ‘fun fair ticket’ winners from the Spring Hill ‘Morning Show’ drawing.

Rules:
☐ Box Tops must be the complete ‘Official Coupon’, and include visible & valid (3/1/16 or later) expiration dates.
☐ Please put the box tops (torn or clipped) in a Ziploc bag- no need to count.
☐ **Include your name, grade, and teacher’s name**

Deadline: Please give them to your teacher or leave in the main office’s box by February 19, 2016.

Thank you! Questions? please email Kim Saxenian at springhillboxtops@gmail.com

Raffle Ticket- please send in your Box Tops by 2-19-16.
Thanks!!

Name:
Grade:
Teacher’s Name:
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
Help Feed the Children of Hybla Valley Elementary School!

It’s easy to forget that even within the Fairfax County Public School District, there are schools with a high percentage of low-income families. Students from these families receive free lunches and breakfasts at school every day. During the week of spring break when students are not at school, it can be difficult for these families to stretch their grocery budgets to cover the increased food demand placed on their families. Spring Hill will be running a food drive to collect non-perishable foods to give to those in need at Hybla Valley Elementary School, located in southern Alexandria. Please help others by picking up some extra food items and bringing them in to school. The PTO will be collecting donations throughout the weeks of February 22 – March 8. Collection boxes will be in the front lobby and across from the back door where the walkers enter the school. Items particularly appreciated are:

- Rice/Beans
- MASECA Corn Flour
- Cereals/Oatmeal (boxes or individual sized)
- Pasta/Sauce
- Canned Tuna
- Granola Bars
- Cheese Cracker Snacks
- Individual Juices
- Mac and Cheese
- Mashed Potatoes
- Beef or Turkey Jerky
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly/Jam
- Ready to Eat Snack Mixes
- Drinks
- Powdered Milk
- Other Non-Perishable Food Items
- Grocery Gift Cards
Create Your Perfect Summer!

Fairfax County Public Schools presents...

INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS

Visual and Performing Arts
Summer Programs for Rising 4th - 12th Grade Students

Transportation Included!
Extended Day Programs Available!

Institute for the Arts (IFTA)
Rising 7th-12th grade
July 11-August 4, 2016 (M-F)

Elementary Institute for the Arts (E-IFTA)
Rising 4th-6th grade
July 11-22, 2016 (M-F)

Lake Braddock Secondary School
8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

http://www.fcps.edu/is/finearts/ifta.shtml
http://www.fcps.edu/is/finearts/eifta.shtml
MORE THAN 93 PERCENT OF FCPS FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS ARE IN CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS SERVING OUR STUDENTS.
Excellence at Risk

A 2013 STATE SCHOOL EFFICIENCY REVIEW CONFIRMED THAT FCPS IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFICIENT SYSTEMS IN THE METRO AREA.