Dear Parents,

Welcome to Spring Hill Elementary School! Thank you all for attending the New Parent Orientation and our Open House. Many parents attended the Boo Hoo brunch the first morning sponsored by our very welcoming PTO. I have enjoyed meeting all of you and your children. It is our belief here at Spring Hill that “Each child is entitled to the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential. High expectations promote high achievement.” We have a wonderful staff and by all of us working collaboratively together, we can ensure that our students have a successful school experience.

We are pleased to introduce two new second grade teachers, Melinda Coleman and Christy Margeson and new Instructional Assistant, Karen Wilcock. They are enthusiastic about beginning their first year at Spring Hill.

We appreciate your patience as we work with transportation to resolve any bus issues related to the change of start times throughout the county. It may take a few days before all of the “kinks” are worked out.

Our families will continue to be informed weekly through the “Panther Press,” and through our communications folders sent home by our classroom teachers.

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to thank our PTO for helping to welcome the staff back by serving a delicious Greek luncheon on Thursday. As a result, we were able to kick off the year in great spirits! Please join the PTO!

Best regards,

Janet Funk

Janet Funk, Interim Principal

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Spring Hill School is in need of a cafeteria hostess during lunch periods. The hours are Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Please contact Mr. Tritle, Assistant Principal, at (703) 506-3400, if you are interested in this position.
Please review the map below 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.

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.
Welcome to the 2015-16 School Year!

School Hours:
The students’ daily schedule is from 8:50 AM – 3:35 PM Monday through Friday. Since teachers need to prepare lessons and materials, supervision is not provided before 8:20 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m. All students grades K – 6 will report to the Cafeteria if they arrive before 8:35 AM. Students arriving after 8:35 AM should report directly to their classroom. Any child arriving after 8:50 AM (after the bell rings) must report to the front office to gain a 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.

Bus Schedules During the First Weeks of School

Please note that buses may run somewhat early or late during the first weeks of school, as we are trying to work out our routes and the time it takes to complete them. We thank you in advance for your patience!

For Kindergarten children: A parent, designated adult and/or sibling grade 7 or older must be present to receive the kindergartener at the bus stop or the child will be brought back to school and parents will be called to pick up the child.

Calendar

Time Out of School

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 Sept 14:
Friday, Sept 18: 1st PTO Meeting, Lg Pod, 8:45-10:00 am

Week of Sept 21:
Monday, Sept 21: Class Coffees (PTO), Kindergarten Parents, Courtyard, 8:40-9:40 am
Tuesday, Sept 22: Class Coffees (PTO), 1st & 2nd GR Parents, Courtyard, 8:40-9:40 am
Wednesday, Sept 23: Class Coffees (PTO), 3rd & 4th GR Parents, Courtyard, 8:40-9:40 am
Thursday, Sept 24: Class Coffees (PTO), 5th & 6th GR Parents, Courtyard, 8:40-9:40 am
Friday, Sept 25: SHES BLOCK PARTY

Week of Sept 28:
Monday, Sept 28: Fall Photos, Gym
Tuesday, Sept 29: BTSN, K-3, 6:30-8:00pm
Wednesday, Sept 30: BTSN, 4-6, 6:30-8:00pm

Plan Ahead Daters:
Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 26 & 27
Spring Break: March 21-25
Last Day of School: June 23

Full 2015-2016 calendar: click here: http://www.fcps.edu/about/15-16cal.shtml
Important
Please Return Your Forms ASAP

If you haven’t already done so, please return your emergency care form to the office ASAP. We need to be able to contact you in case of an emergency concerning your child. We need the Student Rights and Responsibilities signature page returned also. The Health form, please fill out and return. All forms are due back no later than Friday, September 11.

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!

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.

Family Emergency Plan Preparedness

It is critical that your child knows where to go if for some unforeseen reason nobody is home when they arrive back home. This may occur during an emergency weather related issue which necessitates school closing early. Often, parents cannot make it home in time but we are required to send the children home. Please train your child and have two or three alternative placed they may go if they are locked out.

Footwear

Due to safety concerns – NO SANDALS, OPEN-TOED SHOES, OR SHOES CONTAINING WHEELS (WHEELYS) ARE ALLOWED AT SPRING HILL!

“Thursday Folders”

Each Thursday your child will bring home class papers and other school materials for you to review. Please be on the lookout for these materials.
School Picture Day
Monday September 28

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 and have your child bring it to his or her teacher before picture day.

Cafeteria Information

Parents who wish to apply for free or reduced lunch should complete a new application immediately. Students who received free or reduced lunch in 2014-2015 are eligible for the same service through October 21st only, and may continue receiving this benefit only if a new application has been approved. If you have not received an application for free and reduced lunch, please call or stop by the office and we’ll send one home with your child. Spring Hill will continue to offer breakfast in addition to the lunch program. Menus are sent home to each family at the beginning of the month. All children in grades K-6 are required to eat in the cafeteria. Students may purchase or bring lunch from home. Children bringing lunches also may buy milk, ice cream, and/or an à la carte item. We recommend that parents prepay for their children's meals through our computerized cash register system, www.mylunchmoney.com. A personalized account will be used for purchases. Breakfast service will begin on Thursday, September 10th.

Keep in Touch (KIT) Subscribers

Please make sure the contact information we have for you is accurate so you can be reached in case of emergency and to receive school news. If the information is not accurate, you will not receive school messages and news. Please note that long distance phone numbers are difficult for the school to reach. We appreciate local phone numbers if at all possible.

Please mark any changes in red pen on the Emergency Care Form in your orientation packet, and return the form to the office.

This is also the time to add an e-mail address so you can receive news updates from school to your e-mail account, including this newsletter.

You can also update your child's emergency care contact information via weCare@School at http://www.fcps.edu/kit/.
Non profit flyers may be sent home in Thursday folders on the following days this school year: October 2 and May 19. In the interest of saving paper, we encourage electronic flyers which may be included in our weekly newsletter on these dates.

During the 2015-2016 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 **twice per year – October 2, 2015 and May 19, 2016.**

**Directions for non-profit flyer distribution on designated weeks in October 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 38 sets of 35 fliers.

Fliers must be delivered to the school office by 10 a.m. Monday, September 28 or May 16 for inclusion in these take-home folders.
This month, help our school enter for chances to win BONUS BOX TOPS!*  

Turn in all your Box Tops by MID-SEPTEMBER  
If we send them in early, our school will be entered for a chance to win an early bird bonus...up to 25,000 Bonus Box Tops.

Three BIG Box Tops sweepstakes – enter now!  
Even more chances to win thousands of Bonus Box Tops for our school! The more people from our school to enter, the greater our chances of winning. Enter now at BTFE.com/bonus.

Please send in your Boxtops ASAP - Contest ends: 10-20-15  
Thank you!

Sample

Name:
Grade:
Teacher:
# of Boxtops: