Back to School Update for White Oaks Parents

White Oaks Elementary School
703-923-1400 Fax 703-923-1497
Attendance Line ~ 703-923-1430
School Website: http://www.fcps.edu/WhiteOaksES/

Open House
Open House will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2016 from 3:00 pm — 4:00 pm. Class assignments will be posted at 10:00 am prior to the beginning of the Open House. This is an opportunity for parents and students to meet the teacher, tour the school and get comfortable with your child’s school. Student information packets with Emergency Care Forms, PTA Membership Forms, etc. will be available at this time for each student to take home. Parents are urged to complete all Emergency Care and Medical Forms and have your child bring them to his/her teacher on the first day of school. Consider Open House as a good time to deposit funds into your child’s lunch account in the cafeteria and bring in medication to the clinic. We also encourage parents to bring student school supplies to Open House, so children do not have to carry them in on the first day. The reassuring visit during Open House can mean a more restful weekend for your family and a better night’s sleep for that exciting first day of school.

First Day of School
The first day of school is Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Classes will begin at 9:20 am and students will be dismissed at 4:05 pm. Walkers, car riders/kiss N ride should arrive to school no earlier than 9:00 am. The building will not be open prior to 9:00 am, and there is no adult supervision until that time. Students who arrive at school after 9:20 am will be marked tardy, so please be prompt!

Please remember that all students must have updated immunization information on file and a complete registration packet in order to start school on September 6th. Students who do not meet these requirements will not be placed with a classroom assignment until these requirements are met. This is especially important for 6th graders as all 6th grade students are required to have the Tdap immunization prior to school starting. See page 5 of this memo for more information.

Class Assignment Postings
Class Assignments will be posted at approximately 10:00 am the morning of Open House, Thursday, September 1st. The lists will be posted on the windows at the main entrance (Door 1), facing outward so they can be viewed from outside. Doors will open for Open House at 3:00 pm.
WELCOME TO
OUR NEW STAFF
& MOVES

We are excited to welcome the following staff members to White Oaks ES. They come with impressive backgrounds and experiences and will be sure to add to the talented staff we already have and fit right in.

Sixth Grade Team
  Erin Gilmore
  Angie Clarke

Fifth Grade
  Eric Struzik
  Stella Photiou

Fourth Grade
  Lori Darden - AAP
  Talar Kasbarian - AAP

Second Grade
  Jillian Borsos

First Grade
  Katie Gilmore
  Nichole Rowley

Kindergarten
  Georgia Hyland - IA

Special Education
  Brianna Streeter
  Michael Manion –IA

Instructional Coach
  Joanna Hansen

Instructional Assistant
  Catherine Wimer

Library Assistant
  Anne Comfort

Principal’s Message

On behalf of the entire staff at White Oaks Elementary School, we would like to welcome you and your children to the 2016-2017 school year. This year will prove to be another great experience for our students, staff and parents.

At White Oaks, we encourage parents to be actively involved in your child’s education, and believe it is essential to develop a strong partnership between home and school. Whether you work full time or stay at home, make sure you take time every day to connect and be present with your child. Talk to your child about what her/she is doing in school by asking specific questions, have your child read to you, provide a quiet place to do homework every day, and help your child stay organized!

Our dedicated PTA is essential in supporting the work of our school. We are working together to offer some new events for students and families, while continuing with many of our traditional events as well. The PTA provides numerous family events, fundraisers, and instructional initiatives that support student learning, and for this we are very grateful.

We are a school where everyone shares in the responsibility for the success of each of our students. That being said, we are in a very unique position this school year and need the community’s support more than ever. The PTA is currently looking for a new Treasurer to join the Executive board. This position is highly important and the PTA cannot do business without a Treasurer. Currently, there is a temporary treasurer in place, however, a permanent replacement must be found or the PTA will dissolve. Please consider inquiring about this position and making a commitment to supporting our school community.

As I look forward to my fourth year as principal of WOES, I will continue my commitment to strengthening our instructional program by focusing on high expectations, being visible and communicating frequently, and offering new opportunities for families to provide input and feedback about our school and programs. This year we will continue with our focus on improving literacy for all students. Our kindergarten teachers will be implementing a new instructional model for Language Arts that will make the program more uniform and will enhance each child’s Language Arts experience. You will hear more about this during the kindergarten BTSN presentation.

Here’s to another year of strengthening relationships, collaboration, community building, and a commitment to ensuring high expectations for all children to maximize their learning potential. I am excited to begin another school year and our renovation project together.

Ryan Richardson
Principal
Back to School Packet

Please make time to review documents in the Back to School Packet that you will receive at Open House. Please note that the forms should be filled out, signed and returned to school immediately. Emergency contact and medical update information are critical for the safety of your child. Please be sure the emergency contacts you provide are people that will be available to pick up your child if called.

Parents should also look for the FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities book which has been revised this year. In accordance with state regulation, parents are required to review the information and return the signed signature sheet to school. Thank you for your prompt attention to these forms.

Back to School Night

Mark your calendar now for Monday, September 19, 2016 at 6:00 pm for Grades K, 1, 2, and 3 and at 7:15 pm for Grades 4, 5, and 6. We will be using the same format as last year for our BTSN event. For the first 20 minutes of each session, we will meet in the cafeteria for a short group presentation. You will then have the opportunity to visit your child’s classroom, meet the teacher and learn classroom procedures and expectations. You will have an opportunity to preview the year’s curriculum and the variety of teaching strategies that will be used to ensure your child’s success. You will also be provided with an opportunity to sign up for your November teacher conference. Back to School Night is a very important event and sets the tone for your child’s school year.

We hope to see you there!

School Lunch

This year the price for school lunch is $3.00 including milk. Applications for free and reduced lunch have been automatically mailed home to you. All students will receive a monthly lunch menu. The lunch menu is also available at www.fcps.edu. You may deposit money into your child’s lunch/snack account during the open house or by one of the following methods.

- **ONLINE USING** [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. Once the account is open, parents may check the fund account at anytime.

- **CHECK** Make checks payable to White Oaks Elementary School Food Services and send the check in with your child to his or her teacher. **Please include your child’s name on all checks.** One check may be written for more than one student account, if indicated on the check.

- **CASH** Cash may be sent in for deposit in student’s account, or students may pay cash on a daily basis. Please do not send large amounts of cash with your child, and be sure any cash is in a sealed envelope with your child’s name and teacher written on the envelope.

Money can be added to the accounts at any time during the year. Accounts may be designated as “Lunch Only,” or “open” which allows students to purchase a la carte items. **Purchase of extra items adds up quickly and will impact the amount of money available for students to purchase regular meals.**

If your child is receiving free or reduced lunch based on last year’s application, please be sure to turn in your new application during the month of September. For assistance please call Food Services at 703-813-4800. Applications are available in the school office. Please call our cafeteria manager, Mrs. Graves, at 703-923-1421 with any questions you may have.

What’s New at White Oaks

White Oaks has hosted Rec Pac and our summer Technology Camp, which have both been very successful and well attended.

We are continuing to prepare for the upcoming renovation project. The new addition will be built beginning in November and the Department of Design and Construction will hold an information presentation during the October PTA meeting. Thank you for your continued support of this fantastic opportunity.

There will be more information about our renovation project throughout this school year. Stay tuned!
**Personal Devices at White Oaks**

Continuing an FCPS program from last year, White Oaks would like to offer 4th, 5th and 6th grade students the opportunity to bring their own tablet or laptop computers to school for educational use. If you would like additional information, please visit the parent page on the school’s website. You may also contact Brian Rever at bprever@fcps.edu with any questions you may have.

---

**Keep In Touch**

The FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT) Basic is the automatic enrollment service of KIT for parents of FCPS students and employees of the system. It draws contact information from the student information system and the employee databases. FCPS central offices and schools use KIT Basic for three types of messages: emergency, attendance, and outreach. It is important that parents keep their child’s emergency contact information up to date with the school. Contact information may also be updated online through weCare@School, a feature of FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard).

If you have any questions, please send them to fcpskit@fcps.edu

---

**Attendance**

When your student is absent or tardy, please let the school know by calling the attendance line at: **703-923-1430**. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day. This is a critical safety precaution for your child. If we do not hear from you, you will be contacted from an automated system using the information from your child’s emergency care sheet.

---

**SCHOOL SECURITY**

Safety continues as an overriding priority at White Oaks Elementary School. We regularly review our security procedures in order to ensure a safe learning environment for our students. We appreciate your assistance in helping us keep our students safe by following these procedures. **NOTE - New procedure in bold print below.**

- We require all visitors and volunteers to sign in at the school office using our electronic system and obtain a visitor’s badge. Visitor badges should be removed before you exit the school. Please be aware that you will need your driver’s license to register for the first time.
- The requirement to sign in and out of the building includes all Fairfax County Public Schools employees who do not work at White Oaks Elementary School.
- Visitors can expect to be questioned by school personnel if they are not displaying the visitor’s badge issued at the office.
- Parents and guardians are expected to discuss their child’s progress or other school-related matters with the teacher by appointment before or after school, or most easily through email. We strive to strongly protect teacher’s instructional time with children.
- Please keep our children safe during arrival and dismissal when driving near the school. Avoid dangerous U-turns and please pay attention to crosswalks and your speed. In addition to the recommendations above, the front bus loop will remain closed until 9:30 a.m. Please do not use the bus loop as a kiss and ride lane.

These recommended procedures have been adopted to protect the safety of our students. We appreciate your support in ensuring a caring, happy and most importantly safe, learning environment.
School Drop-off Times

To ensure safety for our children, we ask parents to remember that students should arrive no earlier than 9:00 am every day. The school does not provide before or after school student supervision. For the first days of school, staff members are assigned to assist children in finding their classrooms. As a safety measure, we ask that all Kiss–N-Ride students be dropped off in the designated area only. Please respect the perimeters of the bus area and the Kiss-N-Ride area for the safety of our students.

Transportation

Those students eligible to ride the school bus to school will receive individual bus schedules in late August. Please report to the bus stop five minutes before the listed time. Students are required to board and depart the bus at the stop nearest to their homes to prevent overcrowding on buses. Any changes require permission from the school office. Please be patient with any changes or delays in the transportation schedule as some needed adjustments are made during the first week of school. Kindergarten students will not be let off the bus unless an adult is present. The bus driver may not accept responsibility for another person picking up your child. For this reason, if someone else will pick up your kindergarten student there must be a note sent to school from a parent.

6th Grade Immunization Update

A booster dose of the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine is required for all students entering the 6th grade. The Fairfax County Health Department has scheduled clinics to administer these vaccines at no charge. More information is available at http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pubs/myfcps/family/2016_08_03/tdap2016.shtml Students who have not provided documentation of having obtained the Tdap vaccine must be excluded from school.

Medical Permission Form

The school is not permitted to administer any medication unless a parent has completed a Medical Permission Form that requires a doctor’s signature. All Fairfax County Public Schools are required to count medications prior to dispensing and provide parents a receipt for the amount received.

Students are not permitted to transport medication which include all over the counter medication. Parents must bring any medicine to school and check it in with the clinic aide or one of the secretaries. If this is an issue for your child, the clinic aide is available to assist you.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Isa in the Health Room or Denise Mizeski School Public Health Nurse at 703-388-1360. Thank you for your cooperation.

Take-Home Communication

Friday is designated as our “take home” day. Parents are encouraged to look for communication from school each day, but we will try to limit most correspondence to Friday. Correspondence will come home in a white Friday envelope that will be signed by the parent before returning it to school the following Monday.

News updates will be delivered by PTA and will continue to be sent through the Keep In Touch system (email), so be sure your email is registered. See page 4 of this newsletter for details on how to register for Keep In Touch alerts.

Also follow them on Facebook.

White Oaks Elementary School
PTA 2016-2017

Officers

President: Elle Bogle
Vice President: Alli Shrives
Secretary: Sandra Guaqueta
Treasurer: Jen Wissmann (Temporary)
President Elect: Vacant