

SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

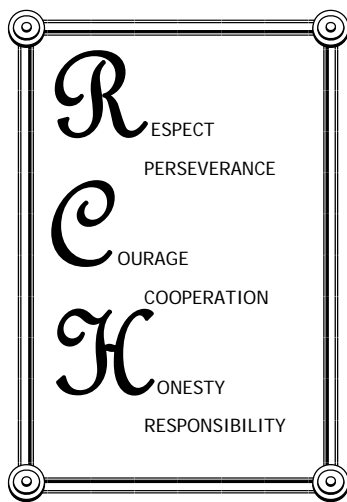
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North Springfield Elementary School Beaver Bulletin

Principal's Monthly Newsletter
Mrs. Alice Alexander, Principal
Mr. Chad McRae, Assistant Principal

www.fcps.edu/NorthSpringfieldES/

Message from the Principal



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Dear North Springfield Families,

I am delighted to welcome you to another wonderful year at North Springfield Elementary School. Whether this is your first year with us or you have been a part of the North Springfield community for several years, we are glad that you will be here. I hope that you had a restful and relaxing summer and you are now ready for a very productive school year.

A few new staff members have joined our NSES family and I hope you will get to know them soon. Ms. Jennifer Mrowka is our new school counselor and Ms. Maggie Lubinsky will teach students in fourth and fifth grade how to play a stringed instrument if they choose that program for the year. Ms. Ellie Horner will teach art one day a week and Ms. Tuanchai Horvath will leave our K-5 program and join the preschool autism staff. Candace Thompson returns to us as a fifth grade classroom teacher and Mr. Kenneth Jackson will be a student teacher with Ms. Metz and Mr. Nocera in PE. Also, Ms. Joy Kim will be our new clinic aide.

We have great news about our SOL scores and I am pleased to announce that we made great strides in our reading comprehension skills this past year. We will continue to focus on reading comprehension as a school wide initiative and our Silent Sustained Reading program will take place at the end of each day. We are confident that this extra reading will contribute to the success of each student this year. Another new development will be our Silent Dismissal. Students will be given the

signal for dismissal from our TV news show and they will walk to one of the areas to be dismissed for the day. Patrols and staff will help the students at each area and we are confident that new system will be a great success. It has been tested at many local schools and found to be a quiet and peaceful ending to the student's day.

As always, please know that you are welcome partners at North Springfield and together, I believe that the North Springfield Beavers will shine this year!

With best wishes for a super year,

Alice E. Alexander
Principal

Student Directory Opt Out

If you do not want your child's name or phone number included in the student directory you **MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN** the opt out form to school by September 19, 2008.

NSES Mascot "Chopper"



School Colors
Blue and White



North Springfield Elementary School

www.fcps.edu/NorthSpringfieldES/



Important Phone Numbers



- **Attendance Line** 703-658-5555
NorthSpringfieldES.Attendance@fcps.edu
- **Main Office** 703-658-5500
- **Clinic** 703-658-5510
- **Cafeteria** 703-658-5521
- **Guidance** 703-658-5575
- **Preschool** 703-658-5511
- **SACC** 703-658-5560

Inclement Weather 1-800-839-3277

School Hours

Monday
7:30-12:35pm

Tuesday—Friday
7:30am -2:40pm

Please do not drop children off before 7:30am



YOUR PTA AT WORK FOR YOU

<http://NSESPTA.googlepages.com/>

President	Jim Hatch	256-3391
1st Vice Pres.	Amy Hughes	354-7402
2nd Vice Pres.	Cyndi Brown	866-3044
Treasurer	Vacant	
Secretary	Maryanne Germaine	923-9540



Annandale High School Pyramid



Holmes Middle School

Office:703-658-5900
www.fcps.edu/HolmesMS/

Poe Middle School

Office:703-813-3800
www.fcps.edu/PoeMS/

Annandale High School

Office:703-642-4100
www.fcps.edu/AnnandaleHS/

Important Dates for 2008-2009

September

- 11 Sally Foster Fundraiser begins
- 18 Back to School Night (Cafeteria/Classes)

October

- 2 Sally Foster Fundraiser ends
- 7 Fall Picture Day
- 13 **Columbus Day Holiday (School Closed)**
- 14 Preschool Parent Coffee
- 15 Literacy Night
- 23 4th Grade Colonial Day

November

- 3/4 **Teacher Workdays (Student Holidays)**
- 4 Sally Foster Pick Up
- 11 Fall Picture Make-up Day
- 13-18 Fall Book Fair
- 18 Kindergarten Parent Coffee
- 26 **2-Hour Early Dismissal**
- 27/28 **Thanksgiving Holiday (School Closed)**

December

- 9 First Grade Parent Coffee
- 24-31 **Winter Vacation (School Closed)**

January

- 1-2 **Winter Vacation (School Closed)**
- 13 Second Grade Parent Coffee
- 15 Group Pictures
- 19 **Martin Luther King Holiday (School Closed)**
- 20 **Inauguration Day (School Closed)**
- 26/27 **Teacher Workdays (Student Holidays)**

February

- 10 Third Grade Parent Coffee
- 16 **President's Day Holiday (School Closed)**

March

- 3 Spring Picture Day
- 10 Fourth Grade Parent Coffee

April

- 3 **Teacher Workday (Student Holiday)**
- 6-10 **Spring Break (School Closed)**
- 21 Fifth Grade Parent Coffee

May

- 12 5th Grade Panoramic Picture
- 18 SOL Testing Window Opens
- 25 **Memorial Day Holiday (School Closed)**

June

- 1 SOL Testing Window Closes
- 18 Last Day of School



New Staff Members

Candace Thompson	5th Grade Teacher
Debbie Rice	GT Teacher
Jennifer Mrowka	Guidance Counselor
Joy Kim	Clinic Aide
Maggie Lubinski	Strings Teacher
Elizabeth Horner	Part-time Art Teacher



Cafeteria Notes

Students are encouraged to bring or buy a well balanced nutritious meal every day. If your student will be buying lunch please follow these helpful steps:

1. **Make checks payable to NSES Food Services and include your student's full name (first and last) and cafeteria PIN on the memo line.** Please specify if the money is to be used for the purchase of breakfasts, lunches, milk or a la carte items.
2. **All money must be sent in a sealed envelope with;** student name, teacher name and Food Services labeled on the front.
3. When the balance on the card reaches 3 meals remaining, the student will be given a reminder sticker to notify you of the low balance. Please keep an eye out for this sticker and ask your children if they have received one lately.
4. 2008 school lunch costs; lunch including milk—\$2.40/day, milk—\$0.60, breakfast—\$1.50/day.



2007-2008 Yearbooks Still Available

Did you forget to order a yearbook last school year?

No problem! We still have some copies remaining. Just stop by the office and pick up your copy for just \$15.



Going Home with Another Student

1. After school arrangements should be made prior to the school day.
2. **All** students requesting to go home with a friend must bring a note from his/her parent.
3. If the school **DOES NOT** receive a note from **BOTH** parents then the children will **NOT** be allowed to go home with the other student.
4. Notes should be given to the classroom teacher that morning so that a bus/walk pass can be issued.

Thanks for helping in the safety of our students.

School Attendance is a Key to School Success

When children miss school, they miss opportunities to learn. This can hurt their grades and confidence at school. Here are some common family factors that affect attendance:

- **Sleep routines.** Have your child go to bed at a regular, reasonable hour each night. Otherwise she'll be tired, and possibly late, the next day.
- **Transportation.** Help your child arrive at school on time. If she takes the bus, be sure she gets to the stop a few minutes early.

Kiss and Ride Safety



Please follow the Kiss and Ride rules listed below to help us keep our entire NSES family safe.

Do's

- Remain in the Kiss and Ride lane at **ALL TIMES**.
- Drop off/Pick up your child(ren) at the Kiss and Ride cone. (Entrance 2)
- Post your child(ren)'s laminated name sign on the passenger side dashboard of your vehicle.
- Remain in the Kiss and Ride lane until the car in front of you has moved back into the flow of traffic.
- Wear seatbelts at all times.

Don'ts

- **Do Not** - Pass cars to get to the parking lot.
- **Do Not** - Park your vehicle and:
 - Wait for your children on the sidewalk.
 - Wave your children to cross the parking lot.
- **Do Not** - Drop off/pick up students at the front door. (Entrance 1)
- **Do Not** - Drop off/pick up students at the circular driveway (Entrance 9)
- **Do Not** - Pull out of the line of traffic and pass vehicles once you have received your children.



Communicate With Your Teacher

It is understood that parents and teachers both lead busy lives. Staying in touch with one another is an easy way to help your child have a great year of learning.

- One of the easiest ways to communicate with one another is via e-mail. You can find your teacher's e-mail address on the NSES website, www.fcps.edu/NorthSpringfieldES/
- Remember, that **Thursday** is the designated take-home day when announcements, newsletters, menus, student folders, progress reports and any handouts will be sent to parents.

In Other Words

Please check out this television show produced by Fairfax Public Schools on Channel 21. The show talks about important information for parents such as transportation, curriculum, volunteerism, student behavior, information, graduation requirements, registration dates and more. The show airs at 5:30pm and 9:30pm in English and also:

- Sunday—Farsi
- Monday—Arabic
- Wednesday—Spanish
- Friday—Korean
- Saturday—Vietnamese



Renew Your Free and Reduced Lunch Status

Final Deadline September 30, 2008

If your child(ren) qualified for free and reduced lunch last school year you **MUST** reapply before September 30, 2008. If you do not reapply you will be responsible for your child's cafeteria account.

NSES School Song

In the city of North Springfield on Heming Avenue,

There's a school that's number one with the students, yes its true.

They have a beaver mascot. Chopper is his name.

You will always see him smiling. He'll never lose his fame.

Oh, we are the Beavers, happy, smart and true,

Knowing every minute of the day just what we have to do.

We love our teachers; yes we do,

'Cause they work so very hard to get us through.



Energy Zone

Office of Food and Nutrition Services



Why Buy a School Lunch?

- Lunches planned by registered dietitians reflect the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and federal guidelines which recommend no more than 30 percent calories from fat and 10 percent calories from saturated fats
- Lunches provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances of protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, iron, calcium and calories
- Portions based on established federal lunch patterns
- Food specifications include low fat, low sodium standards
- Several choices, salad lunches and milk available daily
- Food is prepared and served under safe and sanitary conditions
- School lunch cost less than bringing an equally nutritious lunch from home

Compare the costs of a lunch brought from home with school lunch prices and you will see that the school lunch is a bargain.



A Note From Our Parent Liaison

Greetings and welcome to another school year. My name is Tere Mathieu and this is my 5th year as Parent Liaison at North Springfield. I am here to assist all families and to be a communication link between home and school. I am also fluent in Spanish. I will be at North Springfield on Tuesday and Wednesday after 8:30am. Please come by and let me know how I can help you.

Saludos y bienvenidos a otro año escolar. Yo me llamo Tere Mathieu y este es mi quinto año siendo Parent Liaison en la escuela de North Springfield. You estoy aqui para ayudar a todas las familias y servir como un enlace de comunicacion entre la casa y la escuela. You hablo espanol. Espero verlos en nuestras reuniones de Café y Conversacion en espanol que tengo durante el año. Yo estoy en la escuela Martes y Miercoles despues de las 8:30am. Por favor pasen para conocerlos y ayudarlos.

PTA Newscorner

PTA Membership

Today you will find a PTA membership application. Your PTA is very active and provides many programs for our students and assistance to our school. We encourage everyone to join the PTA and become an active voice in your students education.

Grocery Store Award Programs

Thank you to all of our NSES families who participated in local grocery store award programs last year.

These programs are a great way to earn money for the school with very little effort. Please consider joining the reward programs at Giant Food and Harris Teeter. All you need to do is go to the following websites and sign-up today designating North Springfield Elementary School as your reward school.

www.harristeeter.com account #4530
 www.giantfood.com account #02079

Don't forget, you need to sign-up for these programs each year. As always, thank you for helping to keep NSES the great school that it is!

Football Game

Mark your calendars for North Springfield Night at the Annandale Atoms football game. This year our NSES students will run across the football field **Friday, October 24 at the Varsity game again West Potomac High School.** This is always a fun event as we get a chance to run across the field before the game. We hope you will join us.

Student Directory

Each year the PTA publishes a student directory and makes it available to parents as a handy reference for play dates, birthday parties and homework buddies. If you do not want your child's

name or phone number included in this publication you **MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN the opt out form to school by September 19, 2008.**

Volunteer Opportunities

You may sign up to lead or assist with a PTA committee at Back to School Night. Please become an active member of the PTA by supporting your school community. We need parent assistance and support to enrich our school's efforts. Look for the PTA Membership application in a future Thursday envelope.

Attention Parents Interested In Art!

Do you like art? Do you want to expose your children to more art?

The PTA Art Committee is offering presentations about famous artists and art styles in your children's classrooms. We are hosting an information session for interested parents at the school on **Wednesday, September 24, 10-11:30am.** Exact location will be announced. If you cannot attend at that time, please still contact us about getting involved. No previous art experience is required, just enthusiasm! (This project is part of the GRACE Art in Schools Program.) For more information, contact, Dana Cibulski: (703)642-0375 or danacibulski@cox.net.



YOUR PTA AT WORK FOR YOU

<http://NSESPTA.googlepages.com/>

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1st Vice Pres.	Amy Hughes	703-354-7402
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