



Spring Hill Elementary School



The Bi-Line

No. 2

Website: <http://www.fcps.edu/SpringHillES/>

August 31, 2011

Office Hours 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Absent? Tardy? 24-hour attendance line at (703) 506-3434

Dear Parents & Students of
Spring Hill Elementary School,

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year. We are delighted that your child(ren) are attending our wonderful school and that your family is part of our Spring Hill community.

In 2011 Spring Hill was awarded the prestigious **2011 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence** by the State of Virginia. Though we assess children more than through the lens of a "test score" last year our grade 3-6 students surpassed even higher levels of achievement on external exams. We are proud of the fact that Spring Hill has made a firm commitment to encouraging the highest levels of education for every child who attends our school.

Spring Hill's vision again this year is to focus on our quest that all students reach their highest level of academic success possible. Our highly professional staff utilizes a combination of the latest instructional techniques coupled with tried and true methods of teaching to effectively reach every student. Some of the teaching techniques our teachers use include: differentiated instruction, flexible mathematics groupings, guided reading, reading intervention, an emphasis on critical thinking and a systematic writing program that instills rigor as well as creativity. Again this year, we have been able to fund our science laboratory staffed by a full time teacher who encourages scientific thinking throughout our school. Student technology skills are mastered via an integrated approach throughout the various subject areas.

The true spirit of Spring Hill can best be seen through our numerous service projects. Clubs are sponsored jointly by staff members and parents. Our clubs and service learning projects offer all

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Bi Line Submissions:

Please submit to Susan.Chait@fcps.edu

students the opportunity to tap and develop their visual and performing arts talents, citizenship skills, academic interests, and an appreciation for and awareness of geographic diversity. Spring Hill has been recognized as one of the most environmentally conscious schools in Virginia and a major facet of our School Improvement Plan is to continue to instill the ideals of positive stewardship of our planet's resources.

And lastly, a vital aspect of Spring Hill's success lies with our parent and community volunteers. Spring Hill Elementary School is dedicated to its educational partnership with the community it serves. Parents and staff members share a common commitment to help students develop and grow socially, emotionally, physically, and academically.

Best Regards,

Roger D. Vanderhye, Principal

This school newsletter will be issued every Wednesday during the school year at our website address above, under "News and Events." You will receive an e mail link to the newsletter if we have your current e mail address. Please update your contact information at

<https://signup.blackboardconnect.com/fcps/Default.aspx>

Time Out of School

Please schedule your family vacations during FCPS designated holidays / breaks. Be aware that missing school for extended periods of time negatively impacts your child and your child's teacher.

Plan ahead: 2011-12 School Year Dates

Wednesday, August 31:

New Family Orientation

Last Name A-L: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Last Name M-Z: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Friday, September 2:

Open House 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 6:

First Day of School

Monday Sept 26:

Back To School Night Grades K-3

Tuesday September 27:

Back to School Night Grades 4-6

Thanksgiving Break: November 24-27

Winter Break December 23-January 2

Spring Break April 2-6, 2012

Last Day of School 2012: June 19

Full 2011-2012 calendar: click here:

<http://www.fcps.edu/about/11-12cal.htm>



PTO After-School Activities

After-School Activities (ASA) registration will open on Monday, September 12th and close on Friday, September 23rd. Classes will start the week of October 3rd. Please stay tuned to the Bi-Lines and the PTO website (www.springhillpto.org) for the upcoming list of after-school activities. A variety of classes will be offered in areas such as dance, karate, yoga, robotics, foreign language, drama, sports and art.

There is an \$8 registration fee per session if you are not a PTO member. For PTO members, registration is free. To become a PTO Member for this school year, go to www.springhillpto.org or use the paper forms in your Back-to-School folder.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen DeFilipps, Jennifer Jackson or Lori Gormly at ASASpringhill@gmail.com.

Riverbend Park Events

Virginia Indian Festival: Saturday, September 10, 2011, 10am-4pm

Riverbend Visitor Center, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls, VA 22066.

Phone 703-759-9018

The 2011 festival includes eight Virginia and Washington, DC area tribes including the Rappahannock dancers and drummers. Indian crafts, pottery and music for sale. Enjoy live demonstrations, talks by tribe members tool-making experts and local archaeologists, plus bow and arrow shooting and spear throwing with an atlatl. Help build an authentic dug-out canoe. No reservations required. \$5/person

Animal Vets - School Holiday Camp at Riverbend Park

Riverbend Nature Center, 8814 Jeffery Road, Great Falls, VA 22066. Phone 703-759-9018.

Spend the day with our exhibit animals: turtles, toads and snakes. Check their health, weight, and size; clean and refresh their tanks; and enjoy some fun activities and games. Wear old clothes. Appropriate for children ages 8-12 years. Date: Monday, November 7, 9-3pm, \$75, Registration code: 357 421 2201
Registration: on line <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/> or call 703-222-4664.

Mad Science - School Holiday Camp at Riverbend Park

Riverbend Nature Center, 8814 Jeffery Road, Great Falls, VA 22066. Phone 703-759-9018.

Become a mad scientist through hands-on experiments and activities. Discover the wonders of science in nature and everyday objects. Get ready to make things ooey and gooey. Experiments change each session. Wear old clothes. Appropriate for children ages 8-12 years. Date: Tuesday, November 8, 9am-3pm, \$75, Registration code: 357 421 2101
Registration: on line <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/> or call 703-222-4664.

State Champion 9/10 All Stars Softball Team Includes Spring Hill Student

Jamie Wang, in Mrs. Bulford's rising 5th grade class, is a member of the 9/10 All Stars softball team that took the Virginia state championship title this summer. Please click here for an article from the Sun Gazette: <http://www.sungazette.net/articles/2011/07/28/fairfax/sports/sp232m.txt>

2011 US Junior Chess Championship in Houston Spring Hill Student Brings Home Trophy

Tristan Ma in Mrs. Fisher's rising 3rd grade class won a second place trophy and earned the Co-Champion title in the 2011 US Junior Chess Championship Under 8 Division. The Tournament was held in Houston, TX in July. After six rounds of competition, Tristan scored 5.5/6, tied with the 1st place player, and shared the title of champion. Tristan is very proud of be a Virginia player and a Spring Hill Elementary school student.



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!

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!



Kiss-n-Drop

In order to alleviate frustration and ensure the safety of our students, we ask that you take a look at the maps at the end of the Bi Line.

They detail the proper procedures for dropping off and picking up children from school. Whether you are a driver new to the process, or have been using the Kiss-n-Drop for years, we all will benefit from familiarizing ourselves with this information and following these guidelines. Plenty of staff and parents will be available to assist you the first several days.

Parents of children with a last name that begins with the letters A – L must drop them off at Kiss n' Ride #1, which is at the driveway entrance closest to the stoplight.

Parents of children with a last name that begins with the letters M - Z must drop them off at Kiss n' Ride #2. This area is the school entrance farthest from the stoplight. Watch carefully for buses pulling out on the right from the front driveway. Continue PAST door number 5 and pull up as far as possible between the orange cones.

Afternoon pick up at Kiss n' Ride will be through Kiss and Ride #1 ONLY, as we must leave Kiss N Ride #2 free for buses to exit.

As a reminder, to keep children out of the path of moving buses, no vehicle should enter the main driveway, in front of the school, between the hours of 8:00-8:50 am, because this area is used exclusively for buses. Please do not let your children out of the car on Lewinsville Rd. or in the bus lanes. In addition, parents are ***never*** to park where there is a yellow curb.

Safety is first and foremost in our minds and we will give this plan a try as long as parents comply with our staff direction, guidelines and procedures of dropping children off safely and in an orderly manner.

Thank you!
From the Spring Hill Safety Committee

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/> .



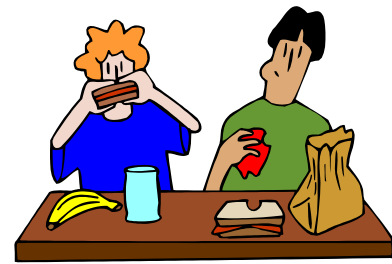
School Picture Day Friday September 30

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.

SAY CHEESE

Looking for volunteers to help with Spring Hill's Picture Day on Friday, September 30. Picture Day runs from 9 - 3 and we are hopeful that volunteers can commit to one of the following two hour shifts: 9 - 11; 11 - 1; 1 - 3. Volunteers will receive a \$15 voucher from Splendid Portraits as a thank you. If you are interested, please contact Spring Hill Volunteer Co-Chairs, Julie Hyams at jules02116@yahoo.com or Shawna Tunnell at shawna.tunnell@hoganlovells.com

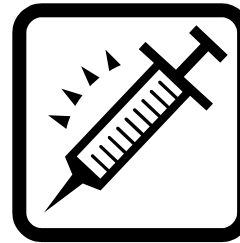


Cafeteria Hostess Needed

Spring Hill School is in need of a cafeteria hostess during lunch periods. The hours are Monday 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Tuesday-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.

6th Graders:

Don't Forget to Get Your Tdap



All students in Virginia must receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine prior to entering sixth grade. Please bring your

proof of immunization to the office as soon as possible.

If your child's birthday falls prior to the end of school, please make every effort to get the immunization and bring the documentation to school by June 21.

If your child's birthday falls after school is out but by Sept. 2, please get documentation to school by 9/2/11.

If your child's birthday falls after Sept. 2 you must bring documentation from your child's doctor **stating the date immunization will be given** (should be on or soon after 11th birthdate.)

CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COME TO SCHOOL WITHOUT THE PROPER DOCUMENTS.

DISTRIBUTION OF FLIERS/NEWSLETTERS

Non profit flyers may be sent home in Wednesday folders on the following days this school year : September 21 and May 16.

During the 2011-2012 school year and according to regulation 1367, 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:

Fliers can be displayed in the front foyer literature rack for community review and pick up.

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

Fliers can be distributed via student take home folders **twice per year – September 21, 2011 and May 16, 2012.**

Directions for non-profit flyer distribution on designated weeks in September 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 19 or May 14 for inclusion in these take-home folders.

Morning Drop Off A-1

Afternoon Pick Up A-2

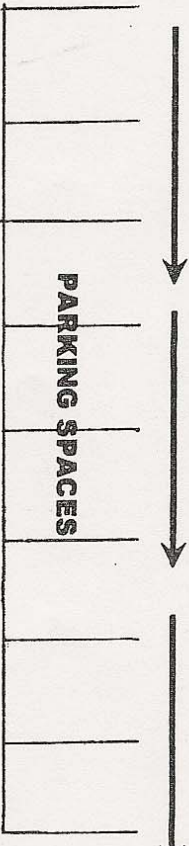
(not drawn to scale)

SIDEWALK DROP-OFF ZONE



PLEASE NOTE:

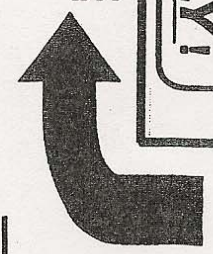
- PULL AHEAD AS FAR AS YOU CAN WHILE WAITING TO LET YOUR CHILD(REN) OUT OF THE CAR. THUS ALLOWING ROOM FOR OTHER CARS TO ENTER THE LOT IN A TIMELY FASHION.
- STAY TO THE **RIGHT** WHEN CIRCLING BY PARKING PLACES, AS TEACHERS AND OTHERS ENTER THE LOT TO PARK THEIR CARS DURING DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES.
- THERE IS **NO PARKING** ON LEWINSVILLE ROAD IN THE AREA SPECIFIED BELOW!
- FINALLY... **NO LEFT TURNS** ONTO LEWINSVILLE ROAD FROM THE KISS & DROP LOT, AS THIS SNARLS TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CIRCUIT!!!



CAUTION: NO LEFT TURN ON TO LEWINSVILLE ROAD FROM LOT: RIGHT TURN ONLY!

NO PARKING ZONE

LEWINSVILLE ROAD



PARKING

Playground

Morning Drop Off Only

LAST NAMES STARTING WITH M THROUGH Z

ENTER #7 ENTRANCE DOOR

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

SIDEWALK

ENTRANCE FOR SACC ONLY

Drop off zone

SIDEWALK

#7

KISS & DROP #2

SPRING HILL EL SCHOOL

LEWINSVILLE ROAD

