

Important February School Dates:

Fechas importantes febrero escuela:

T-W	3&4Feb	Talent Show Tryouts	330-530p
Tues	3Feb	Roy Rogers Restaurant Night	5-8pm
Thurs	5Feb	PTA Meeting	7pm
Thurs	12Feb	SEES Spelling Bee	
Fri	13Feb	SCA Red Day	
Mon	16Feb	Presidents Day	NO SCHOOL/no hay escuela
Wed	18Feb	Market Day Pick-up	7pm
Mon	23Feb	Talent Show Rehearsal 1	130p
Mon	2Mar	Talent Show Rehearsal 2	130p
Thurs	5Mar	PTA Meeting	7pm

VOLUME 6



FEBRUARY 2009

Springfield Estates Elementary
Mary Randolph - Principal
6200 Charles Goff Drive
Springfield, VA 22150

Monday Schedule
8:40 AM First bell
8:50 AM School begins
1:20 PM Dismissal bell
Tuesday - Friday
8:40 AM First bell
8:50 AM School begins
3:25 PM Dismissal bell

703-921-2300 Office
703-921-2397 Fax
703-921-2323 Attendance Line

Library NEWS

WE'RE GOING GREEN in the library!! Starting in January, overdue notices will be printed on recycled white paper. To conserve on paper, notices will only be sent out on a monthly basis instead of weekly. Please remind your children that books may be returned anytime during school hours into the book drop (including before and after school). The fewer overdues we have, the fewer notices we have to print out, and the less paper we get!! *Biblioteca atrasados avisos se envían con una periodicidad mensual en lugar de semanal. Los libros pueden ser devueltos en cualquier momento durante el horario escolar en el libro gota.*

SAVE this DATE: March 11th will be the Scholastic Book Fair *Family Night*. The book fair will be open in the evening from 4:00pm-8:00pm. In addition to the Family Night, parents and students may purchase books starting Tuesday, March 10th through Thursday, March 12th during school hours. *11 de marzo será la Feria del Libro Scholastic Noche Familiar. La feria del libro estará abierta en la tarde de 4:00 pm-8:00pm*

February 2nd through March 2nd is **Love a Book Month** at SEES!! Students and teachers will celebrate the joy of reading during the month of February ending with the national **Read Across America** on March 2nd. The halls will be filled with hearts as students post their favorite books. Towards the end of the month we will celebrate our favorite poems with **Put A Poem In Your Pocket Week**. **Read Across America** day will be filled with different types of celebrations such as guest readers, book swap, Dr Seuss trivia and class read-ins.

SEES Spelling Bee

February 12th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the cafeteria. Two students from each 3-6 grade classroom will compete. The winner will represent SEES at the county Spelling Bee on March 21st. All SEES families are welcome to come and cheer on our top spellers. Snow day is February 26th.

SEES Traffic Rules:

From the Safety Committee

- Always use the crosswalk when crossing the street during arrival/dismissal
- Do Not pick up children on foot from Kiss-n-Ride. Kiss-n-Ride is intended for children being picked up from the Kiss-n-Ride line.
- Enter the Kiss and Ride line off Deepford Street
- School buses have right of way; do not block their coming and going from the front of the school.

We're on the Web
<http://www.fcps.edu/SpringfieldEstatesES>

NEW PTA Website
www.seespta.org



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100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed

There are many ways that you can help your child succeed! A few small activities each week will pay huge dividends over the course of the year. Here are a few that you can do this week:

- Provide encouragement and praise for your child's efforts. *Aliente y felicite a su hijo por sus esfuerzos.*
- Share your interests, hobbies, and talents with your child. *Comparta sus intereses, pasatiempos y talentos con su hijo.*

Developing Your Child's "Super-Ready" Literacy Skills

The National Institute for Literacy's Early Literacy Panel just released its "[Developing Early Literacy](#)" report. The report identified essential early skills and abilities important to later literacy development. It also found that parent involvement had a significant impact on measures of oral language skills and cognitive abilities.

The findings and recommendations inspired Liza McFadden, president of the Volunteer USA Foundation, to compile this "To Do" list of actions to help children become "super-ready" for school.

Finding #1. Alphabet Knowledge

"Alphabet Knowledge" is the knowledge of the names and sounds associated with printed letters. I think of this finding as if my kids were wearing superhero costumes while becoming "masters of the alphabet." Their job: to learn the name of every letter and the sound each letter makes. My job: to switch on the TV closed-caption option so words are part of my child's every TV experience; to point to the beginning letter of words and make the sounds of the letter.

Finding #2. Phonological Awareness

This finding says super-ready kids have "phonological awareness"— which means they have the ability to distinguish words and syllables, independent of their meaning. It's critical that children truly hear the sounds in words and play with these sounds. It means reading fun poetry like Dr. Seuss books and singing songs like "Clap, Clap, Clap your Hands" where children clap to syllables.

Finding #3. Rapid/Random Order Learning

By age 5, super-ready kids must be able to instantly identify letters, numbers, colors and objects in "rapid" and "random order." So it's not just knowing the numbers one to 10 in order—it's important to recognize them quickly in any order.

Finding #4. Writing Skills

Super-ready kids need to be able to wield powerful pencils. While most of us spend lots of time reading bedtime stories, I'm not sure we've been as conscientious about writing skills. Specifically, at age 5 children should be able to write their own name and write any letters that are called out. One idea is to have your child write their name in all their books.

Finding #5. Phonological Memory

This finding is a doozy; researchers call it developing a child's "phonological memory." Simply stated, super-ready kids have great recall and we know how they love to "retell" their favorite stories.

Previous reading research suggested parents read to their kids 20 minutes a day. If you've been doing this, you're ahead of the curve! But the takeaway here is that simply reading doesn't get us all the way there.

With just a little more effort, we can become Super-Parents to our Super-Kids. For more tips, go to Volunteer USA's [Love.Read.Learn](#) program.

Liza McFadden is president and founder of Volunteer USA Foundation. To learn more, go to volunteerusa-foundation.org



Hope everyone is getting back into the swing of things now that we've made it through the first month of the New Year!! We missed some of you at the January sale, but look forward to seeing you at the February sale! Market Day has a **special offer** for February – all February orders help SEES earn a **\$250 Barnes & Noble Gift card** to use toward library books! Stock up this month to help us achieve our fundraising goal and **help our library!** Market Day's Spring Frequent Buyer program also begins in February. Qualify to earn a **FREE** large insulated bag that's great for frozen food, picnics, and game-day snacks!! See the February order sheet for details.

Also check out your February order sheet or visit marketday.com to see prices and descriptions for great selections of **customer favorites, quick meal ideas, budget friendly brown bag lunch ideas, chicken specials** and **several new product ideas**. Great new offers this month include **Four Cheese Potatoes, Shrimp Fries, Stuffed Chicken Florentine, Turkey Cubano Sandwiches and Snyder's Snap Pretzels**.

There is still time to place your **February** Market Day order -- there are three easy ways. Simply fill out your order sheet and **return it to school before** February 10, call one of the co-chairs (listed below) to help you place your order or place your order online – it's that easy! **Orders can be placed on line** at www.marketday.com by **NOON on Thursday, February 12 (the SEES school code is 16604)!!** Check out the flyer for details! We're looking forward to seeing you at the next Market Day sale on **Wednesday, February 18 between 7-8 p.m.** in the cafeteria. All orders must be paid for and picked up on the sale nights. If pick-up times are a problem for you, try to coordinate with neighbors or a friend on alternating pick-up days. Remember all food has a **100% satisfaction guarantee**.

We appreciate your continued support to help us raise funds for our school children – **you really make this a great fundraiser!!** We're looking forward to seeing everyone again at the next sale! If you have **any questions** or would like to **volunteer to help at the sales**, please call Sue Berry at 703-719-0388, Carol Davis at (703) 922-0724, or Edna Padilla at (703) 624-4176 – we'd love to hear from you!! It's a great way to **meet new people** and it is a fun, easy way to **help our school**. *I would also like to ask everyone to please consider running this fundraiser next year. If you think you might be the person to keep this fundraiser going in the future, please call Sue Berry.* Thank you for your continued support!!



Community/ Corporate fundraisers

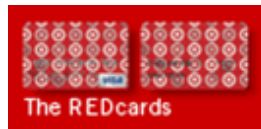
In this time of budget cuts all fundraising is important to your child's school. Show you believe in their education by supporting their school.



giantfood.com/aplus
#02075



eScrip.com
6567371



Target.com/tcoe
Take Charge of Education
103705



clip & save



Happy February! We are already beginning the second half of the school year!

Report cards will be coming home in Friday Folders NEXT week. Please review them with your children and talk together about what they learned this quarter!

This is the time of year to be sure you are participating in Keep In Touch. FCPS uses this email system to let parents know about delayed openings or early closings or other weather-related schedule changes. If you are not receiving emails from the school or FCPS, please email Mrs. Davis at Ardenia.Davis@fcps.edu so we can add your email address to our distribution list.

Also, weather-wise, please be sure your children are wearing warm coats, hats, gloves, and boots to school. It will help to have your child's name in each piece of clothing. Our volunteers work hard to reunite children and their separated clothing—labeling makes a big difference!

Please check out the following websites which are GREAT for kids and provide fun, FREE practice opportunities for **reading**: www.raz-kids.com, and **math**: www.mathfactcafe.com, and www.aplusmath.com. All of these websites provide skill practice at many different levels—much more fun than watching television!

Please plan to join us for the **School-wide Spelling Bee** and the **Annual Talent Show** coming up this quarter! We love to see you at school!

Mary Randolph, principal

Dear SEES families,

If you have been reading the Metro section of the Washington Post newspaper you know that several changes are coming to Fairfax County schools: bell schedules may change, grade scales will change and school budgets will be reduced. It is the responsibility of every parent to stay informed and to speak out when they feel it is necessary. If reading the newspaper is not giving you the detailed information you want, you can go to www.fcps.edu and click on the left side for School Board. You can navigate through these pages and get to all the documents (click on the + sign) that the school board receives and you can see their full schedule of meetings, public hearings and working sessions. If you cannot attend a meeting you can watch them on channel 21 of your television. The budget cuts are looming over the horizon. The fact is the windfall of Fairfax County property tax income is no longer there – the county revenues will drop drastically. The question for the County then becomes how will it distribute the revenues it does receive, which services are most important to the county? Once the county decides how it will spend its revenues, then the school board will know what share of the county money it will have for the school system. The drastic reductions to the budget are inevitable; but, drastic reductions to the quality of our children's education are not inevitable. There are many dedicated principals, teachers and school personnel (not the least of which are located at SEES) who will work hard to make sure every child reaches their full potential. But, their work load will be eased if you the parent stays engaged in your child's education and their school. Each student's parent must be vigilant to their child's progress and be committed to helping their child succeed no matter what is happening with the school budget. In this newsletter are two short articles on how a parent can help their child. For the older students, it is important that the parent use persistent communication to understand what is happening in their student's classroom. The amount of time and effort the parent places on their child's education is every bit as important, if not more, than the amount of dollars spent in the classroom.

Marion Zoretich

PTA President