

Principal's Message on 09/29

Good Evening SFES Families,

Thank you to everyone that participated in our Fall Spirit Week! It was great to see students dressed in their pajamas, plaid, class colors, jerseys, and SFES gear!

Just a reminder that if you drive your student to school, you should be dropping your student off in the car circle. Over the last week, we have seen families park and double park on Snowden Farm Parkway or New Cut Road. This creates safety concerns for our students who walk to school.

#### **New: Change in Arrival**

Starting on Monday, we will be closing the kindergarten door in the mornings so everyone will enter through the main doors. Our kindergarten teachers have done a great job at talking to students about this change and showing them the route to take from the front door to their classes. We will have staff at the front of the building to support those that need extra help with this change. Please let us know if you have any questions!

#### **New: Sensory Room**

We are in the process of opening a sensory room for our students to use throughout the day and need your help. The student wellness committee has created a list of items we would love to have for the room, [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1AI9RYH7PIZ7G?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1AI9RYH7PIZ7G?ref=wl_share).

#### **New: Battle of the Schools- Chick-Fil-A Night on 10/07**

Help support Snowden Farm Elementary School on Monday, October 07, 2024 from 6:00 AM-10:00 PM. Participate in an all day friendly fundraising battle against competing schools on their selected day! The school that brings in the most sales will win a Chick-fil-A Catering Credit.

- Guests must mention Snowden Farm Elementary School to their cashier.
- For every MOBILE order who selects the “Support Community Care Event” tab before selecting “Complete My Order,” those sales will also count towards our school’s total.

#### **Walk to School Day on 10/09**

Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 9th! Please help to make this a great event for our students by participating in a variety of ways.

- ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS: We would like to line the sidewalks with as many parents, relatives and neighbors as possible to clap in and cheer

on our students. We are also asking that you wear our school colors of Purple or Turquoise. See the map on the back. Please plan to arrive at 8:35 a.m. to line the sidewalk. Your child can stand next to you until 8:45 a.m. We will make an announcement at 8:45 a.m. signaling the beginning of the day and starting the clap in.

- Car Rider Families: Please consider parking in the close by and having your student walk to school.
- Walk to School Spirit Week:
  - Monday: Favorite Footwear - wear your favorite socks or shoes.
  - Tuesday: WILD about Walking - bring your favorite stuffed animal.
  - Wednesday: Stallion Pride - Wear SFES gear or colors to show your stallion pride.
  - Thursday: Wear neon/bright colors - great walking safety tip.
  - Friday: Fit Friday - Wear athletic wear to celebrate walking as a great way to stay fit.

## SPIRIT WEEK to CELEBRATE OUR WALKING COMMUNITY!

Mon 10/7	Tue 10/8	Wed 10/9	Thu 10/10	Fri 10/11
 <b>Favorite Footwear</b> Wear your favorite socks and/or shoes!	 <b>WILD About Walking</b> Bring your favorite stuffed animal.	 <b>Stallion Pride</b> Wear SFES gear or colors to show your stallion pride.	 <b>Bright Colors</b> Wear neon/bright colors – great walking safety tip!	 <b>Fit Friday</b> Wear athletic gear to celebrate walking as great way to stay fit!

***We look forward to seeing you at 8:35 a.m. in your Purple and Turquoise!***

### **New: Clarksburg Cluster Night on 10/10**

Let's come together and show our Clarksburg spirit at our second annual Clarksburg Cluster Night! We invite you to join us on Thursday, October 10th at the Coyote Canyon football stadium, to watch Clarksburg take on Wooton.

Families should arrive at 5:30 PM for check-in at the Coyote Canyon. Cluster schools will march in the parade as a group with students holding a school banner. Each student will get one pom-pom and a spirit bracelet.

- From more information or questions, please contact Eric Hale, CHS PTSA President, [ehaleptsa@gmail.com](mailto:ehaleptsa@gmail.com) or Arti Varanasi, Clarksburg Cluster Coordinator, [artivpta@gmail.com](mailto:artivpta@gmail.com)
- Please sign-up under Snowden Farm ES: using <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4DADAC29A7FD0-51024922-clarksburg#/>

### **New: Family Movie Night at Damascus HS on 10/11**

The DHS Drama Club is hosting a screening of *Coco* in the DHS Auditorium on Friday, October 11th. Doors open at 5:30pm, and the film will start at 6pm. Admission is free; however, donations to benefit the performing arts at Damascus HS will gladly be accepted. All students under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The presentation will end by 8:15 and students are required to have rides waiting at that time. Please email Mr. Kachadorian at [Steven\\_R\\_Kachadorian@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Steven_R_Kachadorian@mcpsmd.org) with any questions.

### **New: Smart Watches**

Over the past two weeks we have had students using smartwatches to contact their parents for various needs. While students are allowed to have smartwatches or cell phones on campus, these devices can not be used during the school day.

- If your child needs to contact you or requires assistance, they should go directly to the front office.
  - The office staff is equipped to handle their needs and facilitate communication with parents, maintaining a consistent and secure environment for all students.
- There should be no smart watches and/or cell phones used during arrival, instructional time, lunch/recess, dismissal, and before/after school activities.
- Students will be asked to remove a smartwatch that distracts themselves or others from learning or otherwise causes unwelcome attention.
  - If these rules are not followed, the device will be confiscated and returned only to the student's parent or guardian.
  - The school is not responsible if the watch/phone is lost or stolen.

### **New: Asbestos Management Plan**

Each year federal regulations for the *Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act* require that an annual notice be shared with the community at all schools. Please see the information about the Asbestos Management Plan,

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/facilities/sustainability/asbestos/non-asbestos\\_annual\\_notification\\_eng.pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/facilities/sustainability/asbestos/non-asbestos_annual_notification_eng.pdf)

### **New: Integrated Pest Management Annual Notification**

Maryland laws and regulations for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Maryland public schools require that:

- Notification be sent home to parents/guardians of each student attending the school and distributed to all staff members each school year.
- Pesticide and herbicide applications within MCPS are applied only as a last resort or in an emergency situation, and only by licensed and registered pest control applicators.
- If at any time a pesticide application becomes necessary, IPM staff will inform you and provide the necessary written notifications to be sent home with students.
- [https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/facilities/sustainability/pest/ipm\\_elementary\\_annual\\_notification\\_eng.pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/facilities/sustainability/pest/ipm_elementary_annual_notification_eng.pdf)

### **New: NAACP Representative Needed**

We are looking for an NAACP representative for our school, please email Mrs. Fortune or your child's teacher if you are interested.

- The Formation of the Parents' Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) came about as an outgrowth of ideas put forth during the 1995 and 1996 NAACP Youth Summits. The Parents' Council is one of the vehicles created to empower African American and other minority parents to take a more proactive role in the education of their children. The Council is made up of parents, guardians and grandparents of minority children enrolled in the Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS) and residents who may not have children in school but who share the goal of equal education for all children, particularly minority children.
- The Purpose of the Parents' Council is to provide a forum through which interested citizens may offer assistance, guidance and support to African American parents and students of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to pursue the highest qualified education possible through encouragement, information sharing, positive motivation, critical evaluation and advocacy.

### **Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) Applications Are Now Open**

Every year, students must apply and be approved to receive FREE breakfast and/or lunch. The Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) is excited to provide regular meal services during the 2024-2025 school year.

- Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for meals! Breakfast: Regular Price: \$1.30; Reduced Price: No Cost, Lunch: Regular Price: \$2.55, Reduced Price: No Cost
- Apply before school starts. One application covers the entire HOUSEHOLD. Translations in other languages are available through the online application.
- Apply now at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>
- Here is a video about how to apply:
  - English Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJUapGLarBo>

- Video en Español: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsdCrtCIFJc&t=4s>

### **Volunteers Needed to Support Our PTA**

We need volunteers to chair many of our PTA sponsored events this year. Please visit our [Committee/Volunteers site](#).

Below is a tentative listing of our events for the year, but we need your help! We need chairs and volunteers to organize and execute our events. Without your help, we simply cannot offer the beloved events that our students look forward to.

- Please send an email to [info@sfespta.org](mailto:info@sfespta.org) to chair an event or non-event.

You will have the support of the PTA board to assist you every step of the way!

- **Event Chairs Needed!**
  - **Trunk or Treat**
  - **Grandparents Day**
  - **Spelling Bee**
  - **Heritage Night**
  - **Geography Bee**
  - **Pastries with Parents**
  - **STEM Fair**

### **Non-event Chairs Needed!**

- **Communications** - Communications are critical in seeking event volunteers and keeping our Stallion families informed of upcoming events and opportunities. We are specifically looking for someone to manage our membership email listing and monthly newsletter.
- **Yearbook** - The Stallion yearbook is a treasure each year to our students and a hot commodity. The PTA needs a yearbook coordinator starting at the beginning of the year. Much of the yearbook work is done at home at a time that's convenient.
- **Photography** - We need photographers to attend PTA and school events throughout the year to take pictures for our yearbook.
- **Spirit Wear** - This is a creative role in that you get to help the PTA design and restock our in-person spirit wear. New ideas are always welcome to help our Stallions stride with pride!
- **Teacher Appreciation**- We need a coordinator for those times where we show our teachers and staff how much they are appreciated. Coordinating breakfast and lunches throughout the year.

### **Key Dates:**

- 10/02- 1st Grade Field Trip to Imagination Stage
- 10/03- Non-Instructional Day for Staff and Students
- 10/07- Chick-Fil-A night
- 10/09- Walk to School Day
- 10/10- Cluster Night at CHS

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Fortune