

Good Evening SFES Families,

It has been a great week at SFES with our monthly SEL meet-ups, where students sang our school song and were recognized for being safe, studious, and synergistic.

Thank you to everyone who could attend the winter concert this week! We want to thank Ms. Jackson, Mr. Spitzberg, and our students for their hard work preparing for the winter concert.

Celebrating Staff on 12/17

We want to brighten the staff's day with some sweet treats on Tuesday, December 17th. We are looking for families to donate cookies, cakes, brownies, other sweets, and water for staff to munch on throughout the day. Please drop off any donations by Tuesday, 12/17, at 10:00 AM.

- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084DABAB2FA4F94-53832721-celebrating>

New: Testing

3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be taking the Reading MAP test on Monday and Tuesday. There is no need to study or prepare for these tests, but it would be helpful to ensure that all students receive a full night's sleep and a good breakfast, and arrive at school on time to support their focus!

Winter Spirit Week (12/16-12/20)

Please join us in celebrating the last week of learning before the winter break!

	Monday 12/16	Tuesday 12/17	Wednesday 12/18	Thursday 12/19	Friday 12/20
Spirit Day Theme	Winter Wonderland (Wear winter gear and/or all white/ silver/ gold)	Holiday Headwear (Wear festive headgear or a hat)	Channel your Flannel (Wear flannel/plaid)	Festive Sweater (Wear a festive sweater)	Pajama Day "Cozy Up to a Good Book"

Blessings in a Bag

3rd Grade is participating in a community service project called "Blessing Bags"! A "Blessing Bag" is a bag containing a variety of different items that those without shelter can use to support themselves, especially in cold weather. Please consider donating items from the list below.

- If the sign up gets full, feel free to send in additional items, which will allow us to make as many bags as possible!
- Items can be brought in at any time, but are needed NO LATER than the morning of Friday, December 20th BEFORE 9:00 a.m.
- 3rd grade students will be assembling the Blessing Bags on the 20th after 9:00.
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<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AADA22ABF8C43-53802290-blessings>

Polar Express on 12/19 at Damascus High School

The DHS Drama Club will be sponsoring a special holiday community movie night on December 19th. We will be showing The Polar Express in our Damascus HS auditorium at 6:00 PM, with special holiday arts and crafts starting at 4:30 in the auditorium lobby.

- There is no admission charge, but donations will happily be accepted on behalf of the Performing Arts program at DHS. All children must be accompanied by adults.
- If you have any questions, please contact Steve Kachadorian at steven_r_kachadorian@mcpsmd.org

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 to chair an event or non-event.

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

Events: Grandparents Day; Spelling Bee; Heritage Night; Geography Bee; Pastries with Parents; STEM Fair

Volunteer Opportunities to Strengthen Our Community:

- **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.
- **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:

- 12/16- MAP-R for 4th and 5th Grade; Winter Spirit Week with Winter Wonderland (Wear winter gear and/or all white/ silver/ gold)

- 12/17- MAP-4 for 3rd Grade; Winter Spirit Week with Holiday Headwear (Wear festive headgear or a hat)
- 12/18-Winter Spirit Week with Winter Wonderland with Channel your Flannel (Wear flannel/plaid)
- 12/19-Winter Spirit Week with Winter Wonderland with Festive Sweater (Wear a festive sweater or sweatshirt)
- 12/20-Winter Spirit Week with Winter Wonderland with Pajama Day “Cozy Up to a Good Book”
- 12/23-01/01- school closed for winter break

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Fortune