

Good Evening SFES Families,

Please remember that classroom instruction begins at 9:00 AM. Our doors open at 8:45 AM and we ask that students enter the building no later than 8:55 AM so they have time to unpack.

Other Reminders

- If your student is a walker, we need you to please wait at the bottom of the ramp to allow enough room for students to come down the ramp.
 - In addition, please make sure that you are using the crosswalks to go across the street.
- If you are planning to drive, please plan for extra time in the morning, as we have noticed more families driving last week.
 - Please remember to pull all the way forward to keep traffic flowing safely in the drop/ pick-up line.
- Please remember to send your child with a winter jacket, hat, and gloves as needed for arrival, recess when the temperature allows, and dismissal.
 - If your child needs a winter coat, please reach out to Ms. Pena or Ms. Luckett.

New: Kids Heart Challenge

This February 2025, all Snowden Farm Elementary School students will participate in our annual Kids Heart Challenge where we help to raise funds to support the American Heart Association's efforts to fight cardiovascular disease. This annual event is sponsored by our Physical Education Department in conjunction with the American Heart Association.

Your child will participate in heart healthy activities during **all** PE classes the week of Feb.10-14th to celebrate our fundraising efforts. This is a free program for **all** students at our school to participate in and all donations to the American Heart Association are voluntary. Please consider helping us as it is a great way to show community service and to help promote an increased level of physical activity.

To sign up, your child can register at heart.org/KHC Once there, they will have the opportunity to choose a daily health challenge and to earn thank-you gifts from the American Heart Association based on the amount of money they collect online.

All thank-you gifts will be given to your child approximately 3-4 weeks after the event is completed. Mr. Benco and Mr. Healy will introduce the program to your child during the first part of PE classes on January 21st through Jan. 27th.

If you have any preliminary questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Benco at the following email address: thomas_m_benco@mcpsmd.org

Thank you in advance for being a heart hero!

Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee is scheduled to start this week with fourth and fifth grade on 01/27, and spelling bee finals on 01/28.

- Please arrive 15 minutes before the designated time for your spelling bee to check in participants, so that we can start and end on time.
- At check-in, please confirm the spelling of your child's name as well as their homeroom teacher.
- Once the spelling bee has started, late arrivals will not be allowed to participate.

Crazy About Cookies: 5th Grade Fundraiser

Students are raising funds to support this year's 5th grade promotion ceremony and end of year activities. Help them raise DOUGH by purchasing a box of delicious cookie dough.

- **Why:** It takes a village to make these traditions possible, and we need your support to help raise funds for this special occasion. Your generosity will ensure that all students can be celebrated equitably. Together, we can make this a memorable experience for every child!
- **When:** Orders may be placed between January 16th – February 6th
- **Cost:** Each box of dough sells for \$22-\$26 and contains approximately 36-38 portioned cookies
- **How:**
 - Brochures:
 - Students have received brochures that went home in their Thursday folders.
 - **Group ID:** PE6AX (this ID number will be on the order form).
 - When placing your order with a student using the brochure form, **payment must be provided to the student** (the form comes in an envelope, for cash or check payments, or credit card information may be provided on the form)
 - Orders placed on the form will be delivered to the school address.
 - Order online: <https://needyoursupport.org/>
 - Enter the group ID (PE6AX)
 - Below the countdown timer, choose option "Home" to ensure delivery your desired address. This means family and friends that live outside of Clarksburg can also help support our fundraiser
- **Questions?** Reach out to these 5th grade parent volunteers:
 - Visa: visa.shan@gmail.com
 - Michelle: michelle.l.bellman@gmail.com
 - Danielle: danielle.luckett@gmail.com

Miss Nelson Is Missing at CHS

Clarksburg High School will perform *Miss Nelson is Missing* on Friday, January 31 at 7pm and Saturday, February 1 at 1pm. All tickets are \$5. Bring a children's book for a chance to be entered in a raffle for great prizes!

New: From the Cluster PTA

- Please take three minutes to fill out this [Clarksburg Cluster Input Form](#) to help inform the ongoing collaborative efforts of MCCPTA Clarksburg Cluster Coordinators and our cluster schools.
- Want to learn key strategies to save for college?
 - Join the Clarksburg community and the College Funding Coach for a free online webinar on 2/6 @ 6:30 p.m. about the "Little Known Secrets of Paying for College".
 - See [flyer](#) here to register.

Yearbooks for Sale

Yearbooks are now for sale, \$20 for soft cover and \$30 for hard cover. Please visit shop.yearbookmarket.com/snowdenfarmelementary to purchase one.

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@sfsespta.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:

- 01/27- Spelling Bee for the 4th and 5th Grade
- 01/28- Spelling Bee Final Competition and End of 2nd Quarter
- 01/29- No School for students
- 01/31- 5th Grade visit from Hallie Wells MS
- 02/03-02/07- National Counseling Week

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Fortune