



SPRINGWOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

3815 Marquis Place Woodbridge, Virginia 22192 | (703) 590-9874

The PATRIOT
September 2017
Reaching for the Stars



Prince William County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Providing A World-Class Education



Visit our website at: www.pwcs.edu/springwoods

Dear Springwoods Families,

Welcome to the first edition of *The Patriot* for the 17-18 school year. This newsletter is published monthly. Welcome, also, to a new year of teaching and learning at Springwoods! We're celebrating the success of the 16-17 school year and setting higher goals for this school year. The partnership between home and school is essential to our mission of providing a world-class education to all of our students. What better way to get on the same page than coming to visit with your child's teacher(s) on Back to School Night! Remember this is a night for parents to connect with teachers and receive important information. We ask that you do not bring students, if possible. See you there!

Back to School Night

September 26 Grades K-2 6:30 pm
Gifted Orientation 6:00 pm

September 28 Grades 3-5 6:30 pm
Gifted Orientation 6:00 pm

The event begins at 6:30pm in the gym with an introduction from Springwoods' Administrative Team. After the presentation in the gym, at about 7pm, parents will go to classrooms for presentations from their child's teacher. If you would like language or sign interpretation for this event, please send your child's teacher a note or call our main office at 703.590.9874. (The Gifted Orientation by grade level begins at 6:00pm on both nights.)

We look forward to connecting with you at Back to School Night, as well. Please track us down and introduce yourself so that we can meet you.

Mrs. Mainor and Mr. Burton

Your Administrative Team

"Springwoods- A bright shining legacy, a sky's the limit future."

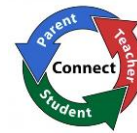


Look for the Thursday Folders

Each student at Springwoods Elementary School was issued a Thursday folder at the beginning of this school year. This folder will come home with your child each Thursday with school communications, PTO newsletters, class letters, permission forms, completed school work, etc. Please remove all papers from the folder and return it to school on Friday. Thank you in advance for your partnership.

Dates to Remember:

September 4	NO SCHOOL
September 6	PTO Spirit Night at Campbell's Custard
September 7	PTO meeting 6:30pm Advisory Council 7:30pm
September 15	PTO Night Pizza Under the Stars
September 26	Back to School Night Grades K-2, 6:30 pm Gifted Orientation (6:00 pm) Please, no students at this event
September 28	Back to School Night Grades 3-5 6:30 pm Gifted Orientation (6:00 pm) Please, no students at this event
September 29	End of Interim period for Quarter 1



Parent Portal

Parent Portal, the school Web site interface which allows parents to view student grades, attendance, and edit contact information, is currently available. Please use the Parent Portal button on our school Web site for instructions on how to register for your login account.



PWCS Mobile App

Don't have the My PWCS mobile app? The free download is available in the iTunes App Store and Google Play store. It's a great way to stay connected to your schools. Links to contact directories, lunch menus, and other important resources remain available, and also urgent information when rough weather hits.

ATTENDANCE: Students must seated by 8:45am.

Springwoods absentee policy states that when your child is going to be absent, a parent should call the attendance line at 571.298.0357 before school or as early as possible. In order for the absence to be excused, a note from the doctor, for medical appointments, or a note from the parent explaining the absence is required within two days of your child returning to school. Absences may be excused for the following reasons only:

- Personal illness of the student or Medical/dental appointments
- Death in the family
- Religious observance
- Court appearance
- Emergency situations related to weather conditions

Excessive absences or tardiness will not be tolerated. Please note that children will be marked tardy after 8:45am, when the tardy bell rings.



PTO meetings 6:30 in the library, first Thursday of each month.

Our Parent Teacher Organization plays a critical role in students' education by fundraising and building community. Please consider lending your time and talents to the PTO this year. Come and meet the new PTO Leadership!

President: Kathleen Bodie (Mom of 1st grader and 4th grader)

Vice President: Melissa Utz (Mom of Kindergarteners)

Secretary: Michelle Hall (Mom of Kindergartener and 2nd grader)

Treasurer: Shiloh Dorgan (Mom of 1st grader and 3rd grader)

Parliamentarian: Jeanenne Butler (Mom of 3rd grader and 5th grader)



Our Parent Advisory Council supports the Principal and community by providing information to support the development of the school education plan and to inform budgetary recommendations and instructional initiatives. Here are the 2017-2018 meetings dates. All meetings are on Thursday at 7:30pm in the Springwoods Library and immediately follow PTO meetings.

September 7 **February 1**

October 5 **April 5**

November 2 **May 3**

January 4

Changes to Transportation Home by Noon

If you need to change your child's normal routine at the end of the day, i.e., riding the bus instead of AlphaBest, car rider instead of bus, etc., **this must be communicated in writing by a parent to the teacher and office by 12:00 pm.** This will ensure safety of your child and eliminate confusion and anxiety for your child at the end of the school day.

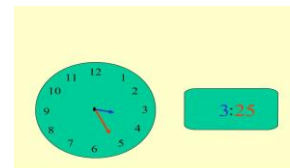


Kiss-n-Ride is for families who cannot access bus service.

8:30

Morning Kiss and Riders

- **Cue in the Parking Lot**
- Arrive no earlier than 8:30am.
- Pull up close to the car ahead.
- **NEVER pull ahead of another car.**
- After 8:45am, please park, walk students inside and sign them in.



Afternoon Kiss and Riders

- **Cue on Marquis Place**
- Register and receive a number.
- Use the service at least 3 days every week.
- Place car number in windshield.
- At 3:25pm, arrive in cue on Marquis to make right into the driveway/bus loop. Do this no sooner than 3:25pm, please.
- Kiss-n-Ride begins at 3:35pm after busses have exited the lane.
- **NEVER pull ahead of another car in the bus lane.**



Breakfast

The cafeteria will continue to serve breakfast this year. Students eating breakfast will be allowed to enter the building at 8:25 a.m. and go directly to the cafeteria. Breakfast will be served from 8:25 until 8:45 am. The cost for a full-paid breakfast is \$1.50.

Free and Reduced Price Meals

Free and reduced price meals are available to students whose households qualify under federal standards. Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch.

You can apply for free or reduced price meals online. Complete and submit the application at www.pwcsnutrition.com. If you wish to complete a traditional paper application, you can obtain a copy from your child's school office or from the School Food and Nutrition Services Office (703.791.7319). You will be notified by US mail or e-mail of your child's status. Until you are notified, you must provide your child with meals or money for meals. If you submitted an online application, you can access your electronic eligibility letter by visiting www.school lunchstatus.com and entering your confirmation number.

Your child's application from last year is only good for that school year, plus the first few weeks of this school year through October 10, 2017.

Contact School Food and Nutrition Services at 703.791.7319 or 703.791.8142 with questions, or visit our website, www.pwcsnutrition.com, for more information.

PWCS Food Services

MySchoolBucks.Com is an online service that enables prepayments into student cafeteria accounts and is now available for the 2017-18 school year. Cash and checks will continue to be accepted as prepayments in the cafeteria.

Information about student accounts, menus and nutritional information is available on the food services

Web site www.pwcs.edu/menus/. Also available online is a **Virtual Cafeteria**; this interactive tool helps students make wise food choices at home and at school.



Self-Serve Garden & Fruit Bars at Elementary Schools

PWCS School Food and Nutrition Services is so excited about our Self-Serve Garden and Fruit Bar.

Research and experience shows that kids increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables when given a variety of choices in a self-serve environment. We've seen this increase first-hand in our middle and high schools. This type of independence helps to prepare students for a lifetime of healthy eating.

Self-serve also increases the likelihood that students will try new fruits and vegetables. For example, they can try one celery stick instead of committing to an entire portion as one of their choices. When kids try new fruits and vegetables, they incorporate greater variety into their diet, which ensures they get all the nutrition their body needs.

Students may select *unlimited vegetables* from the self-serve cold bar, and up to ½ cup of fruit. Visually, ½ cup of fruit is the size of a tennis ball.

Visit our website, www.pwcsnutrition.com, for more information and a helpful video with tips on how to make your students trip to the garden and fruit bar efficient, safe and tasty! Contact School Food and Nutrition Services at 703.791.7314 with questions.

The Springwoods Patriots Get a Mascot

"Mascots embody that desire to support your school and (they) are a visual representation of what we believe to be the best parts of our school." Jackie Esposito

The tradition of organizational mascots dates back to before the American Civil War. Though Springwoods has long been the home of "the Patriots," there's been no common public image or identity of a Springwoods Patriot. Well, that's all about to change. This year, you'll have the opportunity to weigh in on our student and staff generated mascot creations. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting endeavor!

Go Patriots!



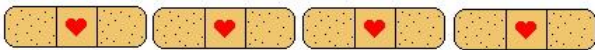
Librarian's Corner



Don't forget that September is "National Library Card Sign up Month." If your child doesn't have a public library card (i.e. Chinn Park Library,) please consider having them get one this month.

Everyone should use their public library.

Carla Tapp – School Librarian



Nurse's Corner

Beth Williams –School Nurse

As a reminder, if a child requires medication during the school day, it must be accompanied by the appropriate paperwork (asthma action plan, allergy action plan, medication authorization, etc.). A new form must be submitted to the clinic every new school year. All medications must be brought to school by a parent or adult designee. Per regulations, **students are not permitted to transport medications at any time.** This is for the safety of all students. The nurse's nook page, on the Springwoods website, has all forms that may need to be downloaded and printed. Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance.

EXTRA CLOTHES: PLEASE, provide Kindergarten and 1st grade students with an extra set of clothes in the backpacks. This should include a pair of pants, socks and underwear in a gallon zip lock bag, labeled with your child's name.

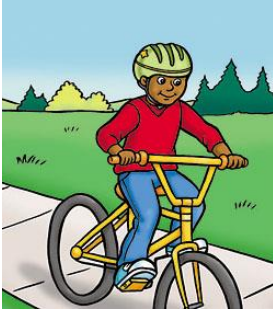


Student Accident Insurance

Many parents without insurance coverage worry about protecting their children in the event of an illness or injury. Optional student accident insurance is an inexpensive way to provide medical coverage in such events. Student accident insurance is not just for those without health insurance. Optional student accident insurance is a secondary level of coverage for those students who are already covered under a parent or guardian's primary insurance plan. In such cases, optional student accident insurance may cover expenses not paid for by the primary insurance plan such as co-pays and other out-of-pocket expenses.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase at a group rate with two plans offered through the School Division for the 2017–18 school year. Both plans begin on or after July 1. Markel Insurance has a \$50,000 maximum coverage limit. For more information or to enroll in the plan offered by Markel Insurance, call 877.444.5014 or visit <http://markel.sevencorners.com>. VML Insurance Programs costs less and has a \$25,000 maximum coverage limit. For more information or to enroll in the plan offered by VML Insurance Programs, call 800.727.7642 or visit <https://www.k12specialmarkets.com>. PWCS does not provide accident coverage for students but offers the optional insurance for purchase from external companies as a way to help parents recover medical costs.

Student Bikeriders to Springwoods



There are rules for safety that must be obeyed to ensure the safety of all.

1. Helmet required by state law. Bike locks necessary to secure bikes to bike rack during the school day.
2. Please use safe routes as you ride. Students should not access the nonsidewalk side of Springwoods Drive while on bikes.
3. Students should walk bikes through crosswalks.
4. Once on school grounds, students walk bikes to the bike rack along the fence located on the rear side of the building.

The Prince William County Public School Division does not discriminate in employment or in its educational programs and activities against qualified individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, age, veteran status, disability.