

Good Evening SFES Families,

This month marks the beginning of Black History Month! Throughout February, students will research influential Black leaders from our community and history. At the end of the month, they will showcase their projects to highlight what they've learned.

In addition, this week is National School Counseling week and we are very lucky to have two amazing counselors to support our school, Ms. Pèna and Ms. Lockett. Please join us in celebrating them this week by having your child draw them a picture or write a card!

Join us for our PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 4th, at 6:30 PM in the media center. The meeting will feature updates from the PTA board and an informative session on the SESES (Social Emotional Special Education Services) program at our school. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the program and the dedicated staff behind it.

#### **New: Valentine's Day Party on 02/14**

If you are planning on participating in Valentine's Day on Friday, please review the check in and check out procedures so we can get families in and out of the building in a timely and safe manner.

- Our classrooms will be crowded for the parties, we are asking a maximum of 2 visitors per student and **visitors must be school age or current students.**
- As always, it is imperative that you bring a valid driver's license to check in to the building.
- Having your ID out and ready is extremely helpful.

Dismissal is at 3:20.

- If you plan on taking your student out early, you must sign them out with the teacher in the classroom.
- If you are taking more than one student home early, you must check each student out with each teacher.
- Each student must have a 'check out' sticker on their person to leave the building.
- Please note that fifth grade classes will be going to their special's class after their party.

#### **New: Hearing and Vision Screenings on 02/25, 02/26, and 02/27**

In compliance with Maryland state law, Montgomery County Public Schools conduct vision and hearing screenings for students. Trained screeners will assess the following students:

- Those new to MCPS

- Kindergarten and First Grade students
- Students referred by teachers due to possible vision or hearing concerns

Screenings at Snowden Farm Elementary will take place on February 25th, 26th, and 27th.

Clear vision and good hearing are essential for learning. If your child does not pass the screening, you will receive a referral form by mail to take to their doctor for further evaluation.

If your child is already receiving care for a vision or hearing issue, or if you do not wish for them to participate in the screening due to religious beliefs, please notify the school nurse in writing.

If your child wears glasses or contacts, please ensure they wear them daily and bring them to the screening.

School based vision screenings may not detect every vision problem. To learn more about possible vision problems and symptoms or health conditions that may require additional evaluation go to Montgomery County Government's website at this link:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/PHS/SchoolHealth/HearingVision.html>

Contact your school's nurse if you have questions about your child's screening.

### **New: Read Aloud Day on March 6th**

Hi Snowden Farm Families! Our third annual Read Aloud Day will be held on March 6, 2025. I am going to run it a little differently this year and have our readers come in during a portion of the literacy block in each grade level rather than all at one time. I have invited community members from various roles within MCPS the past two years and would love to have some parent volunteers this year as well! I choose the read aloud books from the Black-Eyed Susan Award nominees each year and plan a short little lesson to go with each book for each reader so all of that work is done (and I promise it will be very simple to follow!) I will need *one reader per class* in the following time blocks:

- Grade 1: 9:45-10:15 am
- Grade 2: 10:15-10:45 am
- Grade 3: 10:45-11:15 am
- Grade 5: 11:15-11:45 am
- Kindergarten: 11:45 am-12:15 pm
- Grade 4: 12:15-12:45 pm

If you are interested in being a guest reader that day, please complete [THIS GOOGLE FORM](#) and I will contact you in the coming weeks if I am able to use you and provide more details! Thank you for your consideration!

## 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](http://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.

If you have any preliminary questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Benco at the following email address: [thomas\\_m\\_benco@mcpsmd.org](mailto:thomas_m_benco@mcpsmd.org)

Thank you in advance for being a heart hero!

## Crazy About Cookies: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser

Students are raising funds to support this year's 5<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> – February 6<sup>th</sup>
- **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://needsyoursupport.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 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent volunteers:
  - Visa: [visa.shan@gmail.com](mailto:visa.shan@gmail.com)
  - Michelle: [michelle.l.bellman@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.l.bellman@gmail.com)
  - Danielle: [danielle.luckett@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.luckett@gmail.com)

### **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, \$25 for soft cover and \$30 for hard cover. Please visit [shop.yearbookmarket.com/snowdenfarmelementary](http://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@sfspta.org](mailto:info@sfspta.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

#### Other Reminders

- 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.
- 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.
- 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. Lockett.

#### Key Dates:

- 02/03-02/07- National Counseling Week
- 02/04- PTA meeting at 6:30 PM
- 02/07- School Meet-up meetings
- 2/14- Valentine's Day Parties (please see information above)

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Fortune