

# Spring Ridge Elementary School

## THURSDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 28, 2008

### Welcome Back to a New School Year!

We've had a wonderful opening to this school year. There are so many to thank for their hard work that assured every student found his/her right classroom, teacher, and desk. It's been such a pleasure to greet our happy and excited boys and girls each day and see them eagerly participate in their assignments. Thank you, parents, for putting badges on to walk down the hall, parking in the designated areas, and saying good-bye to your children at the front door. Our boys and girls are clearly on their way to a successful 2008-2009 school year.

Just a few reminders... please be sure that at least one adult is at the bus stop with the children every day. You may want to take turns with other parents in the neighborhood, in order to assure that someone is there each morning. Adult supervision at the bus stop is an important way to assure safety for all boys and girls. It is important that we are diligent in providing safe care by being alert to unusual behaviors that may even occur around or near the bus stop. Children often do not notice suspicious behaviors, and for this reason, adults help to keep the bus stop surroundings secure. In addition, the presence of parents at the bus stop keeps children from throwing objects, getting into arguments, and bullying behaviors. Thank you for making the extra effort to provide safe bus waiting areas for our children.

Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> is Back -to-School Night. There are three sessions - each a half-hour in length - to give you the opportunity to find out the details of "life in your child's classroom" for all of your children. Enjoy yourself, and ask all the questions you have.

**Back to School Night:** If you are a parent/guardian of a student in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, please plan to join us on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for Back -to-School Night. The evening will begin with a very short program in the cafeteria, starting at 6:30 pm, followed by three classroom sessions: 6:50 pm, 7:25 pm and 8:00 pm. This is your opportunity to hear what is planned for your child this year as well as classroom expectations. As this evening is geared toward adults, we recommend finding someone to care for your child. However, if this is not possible, please bring your child along; we believe the information presented is too important to miss.

**Dismissal Procedures:** The SRES staff has been working for several weeks to firm up dismissal routines. Car rider passes have been requested and are being distributed either in person or are being sent home in this Thursday folder. You may still request one from Mrs. Thacker in the front office. Walkers are dismissed via the front door. Students are to proceed to the crosswalk and follow the directions of the crossing guard.

1. If you are picking your child up, please use the CAR RIDER LANE located next to the Kindergarten wing, NOT the front parking lot. There is limited parking in front of the building and traffic backs up due to the arrival/departure of buses. You must have an SRES Pick Up Pass to pick your child up

in the Car Rider Lane. Please be careful when pulling around other cars and pay attention to those crossing in the crosswalk.

2. Children who are leaving school as walkers will continue to exit from the front of the building. We are asking that parents or siblings of any 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grader, who wish to meet their child at the school, wait in front of the school at the bench area. This will allow for less congestion in the lobby area where parents of the younger children (grades prek, K and 1) can meet up with their child. Naturally, in the event of inclement weather, parents of any age student are welcome to wait in the lobby. However, we ask that parents of older students wait in the back, closer to the front door area.
3. Our bus rider students are following a slightly different routine. The first three bus loads of children are being dismissed from their classrooms. At approximately 3:50, the remaining bus students will be walked to the cafeteria by their teachers. There, they will sit at tables (labeled with bus numbers) and will be monitored by SRES staff as they wait for their buses to arrive.

**Emergency Cards:** If you have not yet filled out and returned two Emergency Cards for your student, please do so immediately. If you have any changes to the information on this card during the school year (e.g., new phone number, change of work number, etc.), please contact the front office. Should we need to contact you regarding your child due to illness, we need to have the most accurate information on file.

**Custody Issues:** If there is a court order regarding custody of your child, please be sure that we have a copy of it on file at the school. Without this paperwork, we will not know if there is a non-custodial parent with restricted access to your student.

**Free & Reduced Meal Form:** If your child is eligible for free or reduced breakfast and lunch, please be sure to fill out the Multi-Child Meal Benefit Form as soon as possible and return it with your child to school. Last year's approval expires shortly so please submit your form as soon as possible. Due to the volume of forms being submitted at this time of year, processing time may take up to ten days.

**Find Out First:** On any given day, there could be late breaking school news that you will want to be aware of. By subscribing to *Find Out First*, you will always be on top of what is happening with FCPS. If you don't subscribe to Find Out First, we encourage you to sign up. Go to [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org) and click on the blue envelope at top right. When completing your profile, be sure to check a full range of topics of interest, including your school. That way, you'll be in the same loop as parents who subscribe! (Also, if you already subscribe but you've switched schools, you'll want to update your profile to reflect your new affiliation.)

**Volunteer Orientation:** If you plan to volunteer in the school this year, please attend the Volunteer Orientation on Tuesday, September 8th 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. If you are a new volunteer to SRES, you must attend one of these training sessions. If you volunteered last year, you may attend one of the "refresher" sessions on use of the office machines (copier, laminator, etc.) during Back to School Night. They will be held in the workroom.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

Sept. 1	School closed - Labor Day	Sept. 22	Students start 2 hours late (11:15 a.m.) -Teacher Work Session
Sept. 4	Back to School Night, 6:30 - 8:30	Sept. 24	Interims to be issued - midterm
Sept. 8	Vol. Orientation, 9:30 -10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Sept. 25	SRES Community Picnic, E.3 <sup>rd</sup> St. Park, 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 10	School Pictures 9:20 - 3:30	Sept. 29	SRES Sprit Day - School Colors: blue and white
Sept. 18	Coffee with the Principal, 9:30	Sept. 30	Schools Closed - Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 19	School Closed - Fair Day		

