



# Spring Ridge Elementary School

## THURSDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



February 19, 2009

**2 Hour Early Dismissal, Friday February 20:** SRES will dismiss at 1:45pm. Boxed meals will be available for lunch.

The preK schedule is as follows:

**Morning PreK - 9:15 - 10:45 am**

**Afternoon PreK - 12:15 - 1:45 pm**

**Meet the Future: School Report:** There's a big change in this year's "Meet the Future" FCPS School Report: It's all electronic! The online report delivers updates for the same data published and printed last year, including enrollment, achievement, audited budget figures and it adds quick-links for easy access for those wanting to know more. Finally, it saves printing/delivery costs and allows FCPS to provide quarterly updates to keep you better informed. Check out the cool new features under About FCPS on the Web: [www.fcps.org/schoolreport](http://www.fcps.org/schoolreport). *Hint: The diamond symbols reveal extra photos and more!*

**Vacation Reminders:** Vacations during the school year are discouraged due to the impact this gap in instruction can have on your child's learning. If you must make vacation plans during the school year, please remember to request approval from Mrs. Thackston beforehand. She will check with your child's classroom teacher to determine the impact this gap in learning will have. Then, she will check your child's attendance history to see that your child consistently attends school. Please remember that by Regulation 400-70, there can be a "maximum of five (5) days with prior written notice to the principal". The 09-10 school calendar is already posted on [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org). Please check the instructional calendar and check with the school principal before making vacation plans.

**Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration:** Open registration will be held on Monday, March 2, 1:00 - 7:00 pm and Tuesday, March 3, 9:00 - 2:00 pm. When registering your child please bring the following information: Birth Certificate, Social Security Card/Number (optional), proof of residence (must be current), and Immunization Records. PreK registration must provide proof of income. Registration will only be accepted if complete. Your child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2009 to register for Pre-K. Kindergarten must be 5 before September 1, 2009. Please inform any neighbors with young children.

**Foster Parents needed:** The current shortage of foster homes in the Spring Ridge school district means that abused and neglected children are rarely able to remain in their original school when they enter foster care. On any given night, there are over 9,000 children in Maryland who are not able to live with their parents due to abuse and neglect.

As a result, children who must enter foster care not only lose their families, but also friends, teachers, coaches, tutors, counselors, administrators, bus drivers, food service workers, and custodians. For many of these kids, school was the only secure and stable piece of their lives.

You could be the solution!

Frederick County Department of Social Services is searching for a few families from your school to become licensed foster parents....just in case a child in your school needs a home. You don't have to be a super human. You don't have to save the world. But maybe...you could make room for one more. For more information on becoming a foster parent call 301-600-2466.

**Student Walking Distances to Increase in 2009-10:** The change, which increases walking distances  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile for elementary students and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile for secondary students, will go into effect August 2009.

Elementary school students whose most practical, direct walking route to school is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles or less will either walk or rely on parent-provided transportation. There is no change for Woodsboro, Thurmont and Middletown primary schools. For students in grades 6-12, the walking distance is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles or less. Exceptions to the guidelines may be made.

The FCPS Transportation Department is developing a list of streets and roads that will be in walk zones, and in March assistant managers will visit schools to explain the changes. Revised bus stops and schedules will be posted on [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org) this spring. FCPS staff recommended the return to longer walking distances as one of 30 potential cost-cutting measures for fiscal year 2010, when the school system anticipates a \$21 million funding shortfall. Although the Board is not scheduled to act on the list of proposed measures until spring, they moved on this cut early to avoid paying penalties for cancelling bus orders.

The decision will save an estimated \$965,000 in bus purchases and operating expenses. FCPS has ordered 11 buses instead of the original order for 20, at a savings of \$719,042.

With the aid of a Safe Routes to School grant from the Maryland State Highway Administration, FCPS is working to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, launch walk-to-school encouragement activities, and implement transportation infrastructure

improvements at schools with a large number of walkers. SRES is one of those schools. FCPS partners in the project are the Frederick County Health Department, Frederick County Division of Planning and Frederick Peddlers, a local bicycling club. More info: <http://www.fcps.org/walktoschool>

**Family Game Night:** Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, join us for a fun evening of games. 6:00 Pizza, 6:30 games begin. The cost is \$5.00 per family for pizza. Please RSVP by February 27<sup>th</sup> to Mrs. Craney.

**Free and Reduced Lunch:** Just a reminder that you can apply any time during the school year for assistance. You can pick up an application from the front office. Or call, and we will send home an application with your child.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:** We will be holding Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 2 in the evening and March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the afternoon. Spring Conferences are only held on an as needed or requested basis. Information will be coming home soon with your child.

**FCPS Elementary Magnet Program:** A Magnet Program Overview for parents interested in nominating their child will be held on February 19, 2009, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Staff Development Area of the Hayward Road complex (7630 Hayward Road). The overview will include components of the magnet program and the processes leading to placement. Please note that this meeting is designed for parents, not students. The snow date for this meeting is February 26 at the same time and location. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Gifted and Talented Education at 301-696-6891.

**Fifth Grade Flag Bearers for Feb/March:** Flag bearers - please be prompt when it is your week. Remind each other!

Feb. 23 - 27	Dakota, Connor Givens	March 16 - 20	Makayla, Ayah
March 2 - 6	Aubrey, Tori Sohm	March 23 - 26	Emily, Gabby
March 9 - 13	Kirsten An,	Mar. 30 - Apr. 3	Leilani, Joshua

#### **UPCOMING DATES:**

Feb. 19 Roy Rogers Night Fundraiser  
Feb. 19 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mtg w/Middle School Counselor in Cafeteria 9:30 - 10:15 am  
Feb. 19 Before School Book Club 8:45 - 9:15 am  
Feb. 19 Chorus Practice 3:45-4:45 pm  
Feb. 20 Interims issued for Term 3  
Feb. 20 2 Hour Early Dismissal @ 1:45 pm  
PreK AM - 9:15 - 10:45 AM  
PreK PM - 2:15 - 1:45 PM  
Feb.20-25 Pre-View Days for Book Fair  
Feb. 23 Peaceful School Bus Mtg. #451 3:15-3:45 pm  
Feb. 25 Math Enrichment Club 3:45-4:30 pm  
Feb. 25 Sign Language Class 8:45-9:10 am #306  
Feb. 25 Peaceful School Bus Mtg. #541 3:15 - 3:45 pm  
Feb. 26 PTA Newsletter  
Feb. 26-3/6 Spring Book Fair  
Feb. 26 Parents and Pastries 8:00-8:30 am  
Feb. 26 Dental Hygiene Ed - Carpenter's class 1:00-1:30 pm

Feb. 26 Dental Hygiene Ed - Spingola's class 1:40-2:00 pm  
Feb. 26 Chorus Practice 3:45-4:45 pm  
Feb. 26 Before School Book Club 8:45 - 9:15 am  
Feb. 26 Peaceful School Bus Mtg. #261 3:15-3:45 pm  
Feb. 27 SRES Spirit Day - Pajama Day  
Feb. 27 PTA Snowflake Dance 6:30-8:30 pm.  
Mar. 2 Schools open 4 hours late. - P/T Conf.  
Mar. 2 Pre-K and K registration 1:00-7:00 pm  
Mar. 3 Schools dismiss 3 ½ hours early - P/T Conf.  
Mar. 3 Pre-K and K registration 9:00-2:00 pm  
Mar. 4 Sign Language Class 8:45-9:10 am #306  
Mar. 4 Dental Hygiene Ed - Reyes' class 1:00-1:30 pm  
Mar. 4 Field Trip to ESSL (Ryan) 11:15-1:45 pm  
Mar. 4 Peaceful School Bus Mtg. #47- 3:15-3:45 pm  
Mar. 4 Math Enrichment Club 3:45-4:30 pm  
Mar. 5 Field Trip to ESSL (Cheng, Ray) 11:15-1:45 pm  
Mar. 5 Chorus Practice 3:45-4:45 pm  
Mar. 5 Family Game Night - pizza and penguin treats 6:00-8:30 pm

#### **Next Week's School Menu**