

Good Evening SFES Families,

Thank you to all the families who were able to attend the PTA Movie Night on Friday night! We really appreciate your support of the 5th-grade fundraising efforts!

**New: Lunchtime location during Ramadan**

Ramadan begins this week, and we know some of our students may be fasting. If your child needs a different location for lunch please complete the google form, [Ramadan - Fasting](#)

**New: Piano Sale**

We are pleased to inform you of an opportunity to purchase a piano for your family. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has an agreement with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to provide MCPS with new grand, upright, and digital pianos to be used in schools. Schaeffer's Piano Co. Inc., located in Rockville, Maryland, is the area's oldest piano store. This agreement also provides MCPS families and staff an opportunity to purchase these and other pianos for considerably reduced prices at an annual piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place March 8–16, 2025, at 105 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Sales will be by appointment only to provide an opportunity for you to purchase these pianos before they are offered for sale to the public. All pianos will carry a 15-year transferable warranty. Each piano will come with a bench and one free in-house tuning.

For additional information, you may visit the Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., website at [www.schaefferspiano.com](http://www.schaefferspiano.com). To make an appointment for the sale, between March 8–16, 2025, please call the Schaeffer's Piano Company appointment desk at 301-424-1147.

We are grateful to be working with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to support our school music programs and help MCPS keep new and well-maintained instruments in our schools each year. If you have any questions, please contact Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., at 301-424-1144.

**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!

### **Online Kindergarten Enrollment Now Open!**

Do you, a neighbor, or a friend have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1? MCPS kindergarten online enrollment is now open! Early enrollment helps us plan for the upcoming school year, so please register as soon as possible. Click the link below for step-by-step instructions. Simply create a ParentVUE account (or log in if you already have an MCPS student enrolled) and upload the required documents. Thank you for enrolling early. We appreciate your support!

- <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/enroll/kindergarten/>

### **Safe Routes to School Walkability Survey**

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation is conducting a survey to get an understanding of the current landscape of safety for students traveling to and from school. This will help MCDOT understand the safety needs and concerns of parents and students as they walk/roll, bike, or scooter to school. Your input will help MCDOT better understand the needs and challenges faced by our schools and ultimately inform initiatives that support student success.

- The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete and can also be accessed via this link (Click your school name): [Safe Route to School for Students - Montgomery County, MD \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#)

### **Recycling Poster Contest**

The Montgomery County office of Waste Reduction and Recycling Section would like to invite your students to enter this exciting poster contest. The theme of this year's contest is **“Reduce Single-Use Plastic at School.”**

The artwork must show the importance of reducing or eliminating plastic items that are used one time and then disposed of such as plastic water bottles, sandwich bags or plastic cutlery (forks, spoons, knives).

- All contestants must be residents of Montgomery County, Maryland.

- Posters may be drawn free-hand or digitally.
- Contestants will be divided into the following grade groups: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.
  - \$25 Visa Gift Cards, Great swag and more plus Personalized Bamboo Award Plaques will be awarded to every individual winner in the following categories: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, and Honorable Mentions within each age group - a total of 16 winners.

All of the winners will all be invited with their family members and their teacher to an awards dinner and ceremony.

- **The Entry deadline is Friday, March 28, 2025, at 12:00 noon EST. Please see the attached official rules and the entry form for all details or download them [here](#).**

### **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@sfespta.org](mailto:info@sfespta.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:

- 02/24- Family Life Meeting for 5th Grade Families via Zoom
- 02/27- Kindergarten Field Trip to Imagination Stage
- 02/28- Early Release
- 03/03- Read Across America Week/ Reading is ACTIVE!
  - Dress in your favorite workout or athletic gear, MISA section 1 for 5th grade
- 03/04- Read Across America Week/ We are WILD about reading!
  - Wear animal print and MISA section 2 for 5th grade
- 03/05- Read Across America Week/ Hats off to reading!
  - Wear a favorite hat today!
- 03/06- Read Across America Week/Read Aloud Day/ Reading Gives You Superpowers Day!
  - Dress up as a favorite superhero to represent the superpowers you get from expanding your mind through reading!

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Fortune