

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

We hope you had a wonderful week! The first quarter officially ended on Friday, October 31. Please remember that there is no school for students on Monday, November 3, as staff will be participating in professional development.

This week was full of exciting learning experiences! Our kindergarten students had a fantastic time on their field trip to the farm, exploring animals and learning about life on the farm. Meanwhile, our first graders enjoyed an in-school field trip with the Reptile Man, where they were able to see and learn about a variety of reptiles up close.

Check out [October's Enrichment Choice Board here](#) for family enrichment opportunities!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to starting the second quarter strong on Tuesday!

Mental Health Awareness Week (Friday 10/31- Friday 11/7)

Taking care of our mental health is so important! When we prioritize our mental health and wellness, we are happier, healthier and more productive.

- Join us for Spirit Week and Family Zumba Night on Wednesday 11/5 from 6:00- 7:00pm in the Gym!




Snowden Farm Mental Health Awareness Week October 31st–November 7th

*Friday 10/31 Feel Good Friday Wear something that makes you happy! 	Tuesday 11/4 Trusted Adult Tuesday Trusted adults help us feel safe and heard. Dress like a trusted adult in your life! 	Wednesday 11/5 Winning Wednesday When we care about mental health, we all win! Wear your favorite sports gear to celebrate. 	Thursday 11/6 Thinking Cap Thursday Have a clear and open mind to think and learn. Wear your favorite hat! 	Friday 11/7 Bright Future Friday Looking forward to brighter days ahead! Wear sunglasses and/or neon colors.
---	---	---	--	--

*No School Mon, 11/3!

ZUMBA Family Event!
Time: 6:00–7:00 pm

New: Has Your Child Brought Home a Book this Week?

Hi families! 

Encourage your child to stop by the school library this week! There are so many great books waiting to be discovered, 19,000 to be exact! Students in kindergarten through second grade come to the media center weekly with their class to get new books. Please remind them to bring back any overdue books.

Grades three through five are able to come daily to get new books. We'd love to see them visiting more often. Please remind your child to stop by the library this week to pick out something new to read.

Thanks for helping us keep the love of reading growing!

Amy Hunter, Media Specialist

Sally Jacobs, Media Assistant

New: Veterans Day Celebration

Attention all Veterans! First and foremost, THANK YOU for your service to our country. It is important to the staff at Snowden Farm that you know how much we appreciate your service, and that we teach the students about the importance of respecting and learning from our Veterans.

We will be celebrating Veterans Day a day early this year on Monday, November 10th at our Meet Up Assemblies in the morning. We would like to include Veterans connected to our Snowden Farm Community in this celebration. This can include attending in person (ideally in uniform if this is a possibility) one or both assemblies to stand and be honored while information is shared, or through sharing information below that we can include in our presentation on your behalf. We will also have a Veteran speaker from our Damascus Lions Club community partner.

If you are a Veteran, please fill out [THIS FORM](#) by 11/5 so we can help educate our students on the importance of Veterans in our community. If you have a family member that is a Veteran, you can fill this out on their behalf or pass the link to them.

Thank you again!

Fall Book Fair and Volunteers are Needed!

- We are two weeks away from the Fall Book Fair - and we have MANY VOLUNTEER SPOTS STILL OPEN!
 - Please remember that if we do not have any adults to work a shift the Book Fair will be CLOSED, which is very disappointing for students.
 - Please click on the [Sign-Up Genius](#) for Volunteer Slots being offered every day of the Book Fair; 8am-10am, 10am-12pm, 3-5pm, and a few special late night slots from 5-7pm. Kicking off Monday, November 10th (Preview Day) - Tuesday, November 18th, please consider volunteering your time.
- If you would like to create an Ewallet account to provide money for your child to purchase items from the Book Fair, please create a profile at the Scholastic website [here](#).
 - *For those that have signed up for Ewallets in the past, remaining funds do not automatically move over from fair to fair. You need to log into your account and manually move those funds over to this Book Fair.*

Grandparents/Special Friends Day (November 13th or 14th)

The PTA will be hosting breakfast for our students and their Grandparents/Special Friend(s) on Thursday, November 13th and Friday, November 14th from 8:00 am-8:45 am in the all-purpose room. We will provide coffee, juice, donuts and fruit. It's also a great time to visit the Book Fair!

If your student will be attending along with their Grandparents/Special Friend(s):

- [please RSVP](#) no later than Monday, November 11th.
- Please only select the one day they will attend, not both dates.

New: SFES Heritage Night "Around the World in One Night"

December 17, 2025 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

We are excited to invite our school community to celebrate the incredible diversity that makes our families so special! Heritage Night is an annual tradition where families host tables that highlight their culture, traditions, and heritage.

Please check out the signup genius to indicate whether your family/student would like to...

Do a Cultural Dance/Instrumental Performance 🎭 🥁

- 3-5 minute MAX dance/musical performance that REPRESENTS your culture

Host a table display of your culture:

- Traditional foods or recipes 🍲(add card that has main ingredients listed)
- Clothing 👗
- Photos, artifacts, crafts, or games 🎨
- Fun facts about your country or region 🌍

Heritage Night Sign Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA9AF2EA1F8C43-59548611-sfes>

New: FOOD ASSISTANCE DURING PAUSE IN SNAP (FOOD STAMPS) BENEFITS

There is a pause in SNAP (food stamps) benefits due to the federal government shutdown. If you need food assistance during this time, please register with Manna.

- Call Manna's main office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm, at (301) 424-1130.
- Manna needs to receive your call by 12:00 pm the day before you would like to receive food so they can have your order ready.

Updates from the Student Wellness Committee

Each month, our **Student Wellness Committee** will share a short activity or conversation starter families can try at home to support students' social and emotional well-being. These simple ideas will help families slow down, connect, and build healthy habits together whether it's taking a walk, sharing about your day, or trying a moment of mindfulness. By setting aside time for connection, reflection, and fun, we help students feel supported both at school and at home because wellness grows stronger when we grow it together. ***If your family participates in one of these monthly challenges, please take a picture and send it to your teacher so we can put it on display!***

- For this month:
 - Try this: **Gratitude Walks**-Take a short family walk and have everyone share one thing they're grateful for.
 - Why: Gratitude helps kids (and adults!) focus on the positive and build resilience.
- November:
 - The student wellness committee wants to remind you to prioritize your social and emotional well-being!
 - Try this: **Family Dinner Conversations** -During dinner, go around the table and each share one "high" and one "low" from your day. Why: Regular family

check-ins help kids feel heard and connected while strengthening communication skills.

Updated Chromebook Policy

As part of our commitment to enhancing the learning experience of all our students, we are pleased to provide each student with access to Chromebooks in school for educational purposes. These devices are valuable tools that empower students to engage in digital learning, conduct research, collaborate on projects, assessments and access educational resources both in and out of the classroom.

In order to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of these devices, please review the following Chromebook guidelines with your child:

- Encourage your child to handle the Chromebook with care.
- Avoid any rough or careless handling that could potentially lead to damages.
- Carry a chromebook with two hands when moving from place to place, especially in hallways.
- Keep chromebook away from any liquids or food items.

While we strive to provide the best possible resources for our students, it is important to note that damages to Chromebooks may occur from time to time. In the event of accidental damage or loss, please be aware that there may be associated repair or replacement costs involved. These costs may vary depending on the extent of the damage and will be communicated to you accordingly. Please see the MCPS repairment costs on page 2.

We understand that accidents can happen, and we assure you that we will handle each situation with care and understanding. However, we also believe it is important for students to take responsibility for their actions and to understand the consequences of mishandling school property. Our goal is for students to take care of school equipment and not to incur a penalty. Please sign the document below with your student and return it to your classroom teacher.

We appreciate your continued support in fostering a safe and conducive learning environment for all our students. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding Chromebook usage or damages, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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 Company, 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 in stock pianos for considerably reduced prices at an annual piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place November 15–23, 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.
- To make an appointment for the sale, between November 15–23, 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.

New: Stallion Pride Sweatshirts

We have a new sweatshirt available in both Youth and Adult Sizes! They are all sport grey. Looking forward to seeing everyone showing their Stallion Pride!

Available for pre-order until November 21, 2025. Sweatshirts will be delivered before Winter Break.

<https://sfepa.membershiptoolkit.com/store/20329>

Join the PTA

Join the PTA to become an integral part of your child's elementary school experience.

- Fill out the membership form online,
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc98gaet2hNbdVBLPQMYyjdDemfgWNSvYCWmhazRDuDsSE-8w/viewform?usp=preview>
- Pay Dues
 - Pay online via Zelle: treasurer@sfespta.org
 - Individual Membership \$20
 - Family Membership \$40

- Staff Membership \$15

New: Important Information from MCPS

New: Don't Miss Upcoming Boundary & Secondary Programs Analysis Engagement Sessions

In the next few weeks, MCPS is inviting the community to participate in a series of Q&A engagement sessions on the boundary studies and academic programs analysis efforts. [Learn more here.](#)

- Oct. 30: John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring (Region 3)
- Nov. 4: Watkins Mill High School, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg (Region 5)
- Nov. 10: Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring (Region 1)
- Nov. 13: Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac (Region 4)
- Nov. 17: Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville (Region 2)
- Nov. 18: Clarksburg High School, 22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg (Region 6)

In addition, be sure to join MCPS for a virtual “Pregúntale a MCPS” [live on Facebook](#) for Spanish-speaking families at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5. The session will focus on the boundary study options and new academic programs in secondary schools.

[Why It Matters](#)

[Academic Programs Analysis Webpage](#)

New: Clocks Fall Back Sunday—Safety First as Days Get Darker

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour this Sunday, Nov. 2, as we return to Standard Time. With shorter days and darker evenings, it's important to stay alert and safe.

Safety reminders:

- Stay alert on the roads and watch for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Make sure your headlights are working properly.
- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms; replace batteries if needed.

For more tips on staying safe during the time change, visit:

- [MCPS Safe Routes](#)
- [Montgomery County Vision Zero](#)

New: Capital Budget Public Hearings and Work Sessions Set

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Capital Budget and FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) requests \$2.7 billion over six years. However, it represents only about half of what district facilities actually need. Join us for the upcoming [public hearings and work sessions](#).

Additional Information

- [Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice](#)
- [Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice](#)
- [At-Home Student Device Request](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)
- [Menus - Department of Food & Nutrition Services - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD](#)
- [School Cash Online- https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/](https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/)
- [Maryland Anonymous Tip Line - 1-833-632-7233](#)- Report threats or situations that put your safety, or others' safety, at risk.
- **In Case You Missed It:**
 - [Refrigerator Curriculum](#): See what your children will be learning each marking period.
 - [Register for Saturday School](#). The tutoring sessions are available to students in K–12 in math and English/Language Arts and have in-person and virtual options.
 - MCPS welcomes volunteers! [Here's how to do it](#).
- **More MCPS Resources**
 - [School calendar](#)
 - [Parent resource page](#)
 - [Remind, ParentSquare, ParentVUE](#): What's the difference?
 - [Student Code of Conduct](#): [Read the revised document](#) and [watch the video](#).

Upcoming Important Dates

- 11/03- Grading and Planning Day - No School for Students
- Tuesday 11/4: Trusted Adult Tuesday-Dress like a trusted adult in your life!
- Wednesday 11/5: Winning Wednesday -When we care about mental health, we all win! Wear your favorite sports gear to celebrate and Family Zumba from 6:00-7:00
- Thursday 11/6: Thinking Cap Thursday-Have a clear and open mind to think and learn. Wear your favorite hat!
- Friday 11/7: Bright Future Friday- Looking forward to brighter days ahead! Wear sunglasses and/or neon colors

- 11/10- Fall Book Fair (PTA)/ Stallion Meet Ups

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a safe and caring school environment for all students.

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal