Good evening Stallion Families,

Today we pause to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and his unyielding commitment to equity.

MLK Week of Service

This entire week we celebrate the spirit of service. Snowden Farm Elementary School is committed to ensuring that our students understand their social responsibilities therefore please find our various acts of service below.

- Collecting new socks to donate to The Clarksburg Closet, a clothing bank at Cedarbrook Church that provides clothing to neighbors in need. **The Clarksburg Closet is especially in need of Men's sock.**
- Making dog toys for dogs awaiting adoption! Montgomery County has a wonderful opportunity for a service project in which we make dog toys out of donated t-shirts or fabric.
- Conducting a Manna Food Center food drive.
- Pulling weeds and picking up trash in and around Snowden Farm ES.
- Facilitating a campaign, WE Service Learning Campaign: Cyberbullying.

MCPS announced its new color coding systems for school closures. Please click on the link below for more information.

New Color Coding for Closures: Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) (montgomeryschoolsmd.org)

At Home Devices!

As inclement weather nears, we wanted to remind you of the opportunity to check out a Chromebook for at home use for students who do not have devices available to them. Snowden Farm is using the classroom cart storage model for students in Grades K-2 for chrome books this school year. With this model Chromebooks for students in Kindergarten through Second grade remain in the building. Families can use this form to request a home use Chromebook if your Snowden Farm student does not have access to a personal or home device. The completed form will be submitted to our technology staff at central office, who will monitor the requests, prepare a device and assign it to your child, and deliver it to Snowden Farm so we can give it to your child to take home.

The home use device is to be kept at home. Requesting the device implies consent of use in accordance with MCPS policy (IGT-RA) and acknowledgement that the Chromebook, software, and issued peripherals are owned by MCPS.

If you have questions, please reach out to Mrs. Amy Hunter at Amy_Hunter@mcpsmd.org

Stallion Spotlight

Andrew Xia, is in Grade 4, Ms. Moxley's class. He had just won first prize in the 2022 Charleston International Piano Competition

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N-hsnRU8tI

Fifth Grade News:

5th Grade Parent Night: Hallie Wells Middle School: 1/18 (6:30-7:30pm)

Mark your calendars, on Wednesday, January 18 (6-7 pm) Hallie Wells Middle School will host a middle school parent night. Click here for details!

Message from Rocky Hill Middle Schoool....

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lzn9g-WNl0bYj48Cal2sWFqAZLLq1cuOkjA5HQ1EfXg/edit?usp=sharing

Important Dates:

- **January 16-20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service**
- **Monday, January 16 - Holiday - School Closed**
- **Upcoming Dates:**
  - **January 25 - Parent Meeting (Literacy Resources) 5:30 p.m.**
  - **January 26 - End of Marking Period 2, Heritage Night**
  - **January 27 - Professional Day for Staff; No School for Students**

Tutoring Opportunities:

All MCPS students have access to free, virtual tutoring services through FEV Tutor and Tutor Me Education. Check out the newsletter for detailed information on how to sign up!

PTA Updates:

We are encouraging all families to get involved by joining the PTA. Please use the link below to sign up.

https://www.sfespta.org/membership

Volunteer Opportunities at SFES

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Volunteer Training last Thursday. As promised, here are the links to the presentation and the question document. If you were unable to attend, please make sure to review the presentation document and all links included so that you are able to follow the guidelines for volunteering. *You **do not** need to send your documents to Ms. Ricca*. She will pull the MCPS Synergy Report to identify parents who have met all criteria. If you are not on that report, you will be unable to volunteer. Please email Ms. Ricca with any questions regarding volunteering at Kristi_K_Ricca@mcpsmd.org.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nes_bVLJchtIq0RE7E0m_IhsKYZDel9aUBN7STrVMRE/edit?usp=sharing - Questions

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RpfbB5BTjKUB1bD8I0YotDP81YfujcSdLZky1d1yFjA/edit?usp=sharing - Presentation

Keeping Everyone Healthy!

It remains important that staff and families continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 via this online form. An updated isolation calculator is linked to help you understand when it is OK to return to work or school. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is now offering updated bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccines . This is now the only booster available for ages 12+ at county-sponsored clinics (including school-based clinics). Appointments are currently recommended. Maryland's Vaccine Locator provides information on pharmacies and other locations offering booster appointments and a helpful FAQ on the new boosters.

Welcome Back Packet:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D1r9fPDYmohmMQpS74LV0uD0lyYxCzL8050oY5_NiYA/edit?usp=sharing

Arrival/Dismissal

Our instructional day starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. with morning announcements. ALL students should be seated in their classrooms at this time. This means that walkers and car riders should be in school no later than 8:55 a.m. so they have time to unpack and prepare for the school day.

As we support students with their independence, we ask parents not to accompany/drop off students to their classrooms. This distracts the classroom morning routine. We want all of our students to feel comfortable and independent in school. *exception first day of school*

We begin dismissing our students at 3:25 p.m. Since we are exiting over 600 students, we ask that you wait outside for your child. We also request that you do not ask for your child to be dismissed from the classroom after 3:10 p.m. as this causes a hardship on the classroom teacher who is assigning homework and preparing students for dismissal.

Car Riders:

The second circle furthest away from Snowden Farm Parkway is designated for parent drop-off/pick up. Please enter from Grey Squirrel Street, making a left hand turn into the car circle. Upon exiting please make a right out of the circle toward Grey Squirrel Street. Following these traffic patterns will assist with any traffic jams on Sweetspire Drive.

Out of respect for our neighbors please do not park along Sweetspire Drive directly in front of the school. For the safety of our students, please do not drop students off along Snowden Farm Parkway or in the parking lot of Snowden Farm Elementary School. Students running across parking spaces to reach the sidewalk leading to the entrance is very dangerous. Please allow yourself a couple extra minutes to navigate the drop off and pick up line.

- Car riders are students who come through the car rider loop and have an assigned number.
- Numbers will be assigned the first day of school and then on an as needed basis.
- All car riders must enter the loop from Grey Squirrel St to Sweetspire Dr by making a left. When leaving the car rider loop, you may only turn right. (see map below)

- ***Drivers are not to get out of the car when dropping off students***. Staff members will be present to help students out of the car and into the building. It is helpful to have students on the right side of the car with their backpacks and lunches so they can make an easy exit from the car.
- Cars in the loop ***may not cut through the parking lot or pass cars in front of them*** to exit the loop faster.
- Consider carpooling to reduce the number of cars if possible.
- Remember that in poor weather conditions we will be expecting more cars which may mean more delays. We are asking that you remain patient and continue to follow the expectations shared above at all times.It is never ok to stop on Snowden Farm Parkway at any time. This is extremely dangerous and against the law.

Walkers:

- Walkers are students who walk home or to a vehicle that is not in the car rider loop.
- All Walkers will exit via the side door. (see map below)
- Parents/Caregivers picking up walkers should wait on the outside of the gate. Students will walk down the stairs and meet you to go left or right on the walking path.
- No students are permitted to cross the front of the school/field to walk home.

Bus Riders:

- Bus riders are students who are riding a bus to WWES for Global or Chinese Immersion, other after school programs (KidsCo, Bar-T, etc.), or students who are a part of our SESES program.
- Bus Riders will enter by grade level specific door and exit through the front K entrance by Snowden Farm Pkwy. (see map below)

Any change in dismissal plans needs to be in written form and sent to the teacher and main office in the morning. Last minute requests are challenging and a phone call should be made to the front office as teachers will most likely not be able to check their emails.