

The Stonewall CONNECTOR

Keeping the connection between school and home...

January 2017

Coming Up.....

- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 – NO SCHOOL Winter Break
- Jan. 3 – NO SCHOOL, Teacher workday
- Jan. 4 – **School Reopens**
- Jan. 12 – Report Cards go home
- Jan. 16 – NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 19 – 5th Grade Spelling Bee at 1:45 PM in the cafeteria
- Jan. 30 – NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day



Message from the Office

Dear Stonewall families,

We would like to welcome everyone back from the winter break and hope that all were able to enjoy the time to relax and participate in some memorable activities with family and friends. As we move into the second half of the 2016-2017 school year, we want to welcome any families who are new to Stonewall and trust that you will find yourselves to be part of a positive and supportive learning community.

In looking ahead, students will return to school on Wednesday, January 4. We want to ask our families to be mindful of re-establishing the necessary routines to ensure that your students are in attendance and on time each morning to get every school day off to a great start. In addition to morning routines, we also ask our families to continue to be mindful of early dismissal habits. Although there are times when an occasional early dismissal is necessary, early dismissals should be minimal as this loss of instructional time can affect a student's performance. As always, we appreciate your support as our teachers and students strive to maximize their instructional time shared each day.

We want to thank all of our families for everything you do in supporting our students and teachers and look forward to an outstanding second semester here at Stonewall!

Sincerely,

Linda Farringer

Assistant Principal

Reminder

Refer to the December Connector for Emergency School Closing Information.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE REMINDER

Frederick County Schools reopen on Wednesday, January 4, 2017.
Frederick County Schools will be closed on January 16 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and closed on January 30 for a professional development day for teachers.

Yearbook Sales! Stonewall yearbooks are going on sale during the month of January. All yearbooks will include the student's name, so they **must be ordered and paid for in advance**. Look for an order form coming home in January to reserve your copy. You will be able to purchase your yearbook online by sending checks made payable to "Stonewall Elementary". Your check should include your phone number and street address (No P.O. box).



Time for Coats...Our students go outside for recess unless the weather is severe. Please make sure your child comes to school with warm jackets, gloves and hats. Labeling coats with names will help keep them out of our lost and found box. If you think your child has lost clothing/glasses at school, please have him/her ask to check our lost & found items.

Wildcat wellness...To stay healthy during the cold winter season, try to eat plenty of fruits and vegetables. Raw veggies with a dip or by themselves are a good example. YUM!
Additionally, as noted by the CDC, "keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean, running water. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol to clean hands."

FCPS Rapid Communication System Text Messages...Parents have the ability to receive messages sent through the FCPS Rapid Communication System via text messages as well as phone call and e-mail. In order to receive text messages sent through the Rapid Communication System, parents must have the phone number of the device on which they want to receive text alerts included on their child's student record. If that information hasn't been provided to the school previously, please provide it to the front office. In addition to having the phone number included on the student record, parents must opt-in to receiving text messages from the school division. This can be accomplished by texting "Yes" to 68453 from the device on which you want to receive text messages. Once the process of opting-in to receive text alerts has been completed, you will receive a confirmation message via text.

SCA NEWS...

- January Spirit Days are:
- Jan. 12 - Jersey Day
 - Jan. 18 - Superhero Day
 - Jan. 23 - PJ Day



PTA News...

Winter Wonderland was a great success. Thank you to all those who came out to help volunteer and to attend this AWESOME event. We had an amazing turnout. Our preliminary numbers show that we made somewhere close to \$3000! Thanks also to all the local businesses that donated items to help make our silent auction such a success.

Here is a preliminary schedule for January through May. Please make a note of these dates:

PTA Meetings

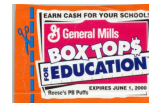
- Jan. 4 - 6:30 PM
- Feb. 1 - 9:15 AM
- Mar. 1 - 6:30 PM
- April 5 - 9:15 AM
- April 26 - 6:30 PM

PTA Events

- Feb. 3 - BINGO Night (snow date Feb. 10)
- March 22 - Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night
- April 21 - Talent Show (location James Wood HS)

Box Tops Competitions

- Jan. 23 - Feb. 3
- April 3 - April 13



If you are interested in helping plan BINGO night or the Talent Show, please email stonewallpta15@gmail.com.

Help earn money for Stonewall

Have you signed up to get Martin's A+ Rewards and Amazon Smiles? Our school makes money just by you taking a few moments to sign up with these programs. If you haven't signed up and are interested in doing so, please contact the PTA at stonewallpta15@gmail.com or leave a message in the school office and someone from the PTA will get in touch with you.

Get involved

Are you interested in getting more involved and having more of a say in what the PTA does? We are looking for individuals that are interested in becoming PTA Board members and chairpersons. Some of our board members will be stepping down next school year and in order for our PTA to continue to move forward, we need new parents to step up and carry on the great progress that has been made. If you are interested, please contact either Mr. Thomas (at the school) or Kim Gresko at stonewallpta15@gmail.com.

School Board Takes Action to Address Overcrowding and Enrollment Growth...

The Frederick County School Board adopted a revised Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) on December 6. The top three priorities on the CIP are construction of a fourth high school, the Armel Elementary School addition/renovation, and the construction of a 12th Elementary School. Each of these priorities is needed to address current overcrowding, future enrollment growth due to residential development, and to provide the space needed to facilitate engaging instruction that is most effective in preparing students for the future. The Board also has asked the Board of Supervisors to provide the funding needed proceed with the construction of the new

schools and the addition/renovation at Armel so they can be completed over the next 2-3 years. At its meeting on December 14, the Board of Supervisors voiced concerns about the three projects and took no action which will result in the projects being delayed and likely increase the cost of the projects due to construction inflation. Any delay will also result in the School Board having to consider less favorable options to address enrollment growth in the short-term such as attendance zone changes and using additional modular classrooms. Additional information on the School Board's Capital Improvement Plan and each of the plan's top priorities is available at <http://bit.ly/2h3SYe6>. Students, parents and FCPS staff members are encouraged to share their perspectives on these important projects with members of the School Board and Board of Supervisors.

The Frederick County Spelling Bee will be held in the JWMS auditorium on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Contestants and alternates are asked to meet in room 133 (choral room) at 6:15 PM. In case of inclement weather, the Bee will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

Fourth High School Information Meeting...

A public information meeting on the construction of Frederick County's fourth high school will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 4 at Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School. Representatives from the school division and the architectural firm designing the school will provide an overview of the project and seek community input.

Information on the project is available at <http://bit.ly/2g6Hulq>.

Free and Reduced Meal Program... Frederick County Public Schools are reminding the community of the availability of the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Under the program, both school breakfast and lunch are available each day for free or at a reduced price for eligible students. Eligibility is based on income and applications are accepted at any time. Information on students participating in the Free and Reduced Meal Program is kept private and students who participate are not singled out as they go through the line in the cafeteria. Applications for the Free and Reduced Lunch and Breakfast program are available at the Frederick County Public Schools Administration Building, each Frederick County Public School, and the school division's website (www.frederick.k12.va.us). Anyone with questions about the program should contact FCPS Food Service Specialist Jennifer White at 540-662-3889 x88159.



Share your views on key educational issues, particularly concerning digital learning and the use of technology in schools.

Please take the survey: <http://bit.ly/SU16survey>

Spelling B...

The Stonewall Spelling B will be held on January 19 at 1:45 p.m.