

December 2016

Coming Up.....

- Dec. 2 – PTA Winter Wonderland, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 5–9 – Scholastic Book Fair in Library during library time
- Dec. 7 – Chorus Concert for School, 2:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8 – Book Fair for Family & Friends 3:30–6:00 p.m./Chorus Concert for Family 6:30–7:30 p.m.
- Dec 13 – Math/Science Night, 6–8 p.m.
- Dec. 17 – Polar Express showing at Alamo Theater to benefit Bright Futures, 11 a.m.
- Dec. 20 – DARE Graduation "5 Grade" in cafeteria, 2:00–3:00 p.m.
- 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. 30 – NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day



Message from the Office

Dear Parents,

As it will be for many of you personally, December will be a busy month here at school. Please note the special activities going on, which include our PTA's "Winter Wonderland" on December 2, our book fair, running from December 5–9 (with after school hours on December 8 from 3:30–6:00); our "Rhythm Rockers" (4th and 5th grade chorus group) performance on December 8; math & science night on December 13; and DARE graduation for our 5th graders on December 20. We welcome your and your child's presence at all of these events, and thank you for staying "connected" in whatever way that you do. On behalf of our staff, I wish all of our Stonewall families a restful, joyful, holiday season!

Wishing you a happy, restful holiday season,

Darren Thomas

Darren Thomas
Principal

Reminder

If you would prefer paper copies of the Connector, please contact the office.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE REMINDER

Frederick County Schools will be closed December 22, 2016 through January 2, 2017 for Winter Break. Schools will be closed January 3 for a flexible teacher workday. Schools will reopen on Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

The school building will be closed December 23 through January 2.

Emergency School Closing Information... This information was handed out in August at the beginning of the school year. Please review it before bad weather arrives. It is also at the end of this newsletter.

Yearbook Sales! Stonewall yearbooks are going on sale during the month of January. All yearbooks will include the student's name. 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 on line for 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.

Lost and Found...Please come in and check the lost and found box. There are quite a few items of unclaimed clothing. The unclaimed clothing will be donated after Christmas break.

Wildcat wellness...

It is that magical time of year when we gather with friends and family to celebrate family traditions. Enjoy the holiday season with these 5 health tips from www.active.com. During this time off, ask your child to show you what he/she has been participating in during physical education class and then join in on the fun!

Tip 1. **SHOP WELL FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY** Have your family go to the grocery store with you and decide together what healthy snacks you should stock in your kitchen. You do not have to deprive yourself from the delicious holiday desserts-- it is just a matter of being more mindful of what you are eating. Check out what fruits and vegetables are in season as they will be cheaper, as well as healthier for your mind and body.

Tip 2. **SCHEDULE YOUR EXERCISE.** You are important! Your physical, mental, and social health is especially important this time of the year. Everyone gets hectic traveling and shopping; therefore, it is important to take time for yourself and get moving outside or inside for at least 60 minutes per day. The choices to be active are numerous!

Tip 3. **JUST SAY NO:** This is often referred to as "the thumb exercise." Once you have eaten a portion of the delicious foods this holiday season push your self away from the table with "your thumbs." Decide what you really want to eat before you take that food and remember it is okay to say, "no, thank you." Be mindful of your consumption habits as it is easy to over-indulge this time of year.

Tip 4. **SKIP THE BAKING:** There it has been said...vow to create a gift instead of baking a gift. The calories add up

when we sample what we bake to give friends and family (we all do this)!

Tip 5: **HYDRATE:** Health professionals have stated many times that adults need to drink eight, 8-oz glasses of water each day. Sometimes our thirst is masked by hunger so keep a 64 jug (filled in the morning) of water close and know you have to finish it by the end of the day. Your skin and body will thank you. Checkout the following website to determine how much water you need to drink daily on the www.h4hinitiative.com.

Happy Holidays,

Cathie Lineburg & Joy Haun
Stonewall P.E. Teachers

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.

Please Complete the 2016 Speak Up

Survey... Frederick County Public Schools is encouraging students, parents, educators and community members/business partners to complete the 2016 Speak Up survey by December 16. The brief, anonymous survey is available online at <http://bit.ly/SU16survey> or through a link on the FCPS homepage or our school homepage. Completing the survey will take about 15 minutes. The primary goal of the survey, which is administered each year by the non-profit organization Project Tomorrow, is to collect and report the authentic feedback and ideas of students, educators, parents and community members in order to inform national discussions on the use of technology in education. Results will also be used to refine the FCPS Educational Technology Plan.

We appreciate your participation in the survey. Our School leadership team has been working this year to address those areas identified as needs from the School Quality & Perceptions Survey from the spring. Your participation in these surveys gives us valuable feedback for which to improve.

We also welcome your input this school year as our staff participates in a comprehensive needs assessment, which will drive our school improvement

plan moving into next year. Please contact Mr. Thomas if you would like to provide feedback in the domains that will be reviewed, which include the following language arts, math, science, history, leadership, professional learning, safe & orderly environment, and parent and community engagement.

Scholastic Book Fair... The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way!

At the book fair this year you will find the latest and finest titles for kids, as well as books of interest to parents.

Mark your calendar for our Family Event where the whole family can join in the fun. It will be held Monday, December 5th through Friday, December 9th. It will open during students' regular school day and on Thursday, December 8th we will stay open until 6:00 p.m. (Feel free to then stay for our choral performance beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

The Book Fair is a great way to get everyone excited about reading.

Click on the link below to find further information on the book fair times, shopping online, volunteer information, book fair apps, and our book fair goal. <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/stonewallelemschool>

See you at the Book Fair!

SCA NEWS...

December 5-9 and the 12 will be SCA rainbow week

Monday, Dec. 5 - Red Day

Tuesday, Dec. 6 - Orange Day

Wednesday, Dec. 7 - Yellow Day

Thursday, Dec. 8 - Green Day

Friday, Dec. 9 - Blue Day

Monday, Dec. 12 - Purple Day

Wednesday, Dec. 21 - Green and Red Day

PTA News...

Winter Wonderland, December 2nd. Dinner catered by Jordan Springs (\$8 presale, \$10 at the door), vendors & crafters will be selling their wares, a secret holiday shop for the children to buy gifts (this is the only opportunity students will have this year to do this), an opportunity to make winter themed crafts (free this year), an indoor snowball fight (free!) an opportunity to see Motorcycle Santa and have your picture taken, and a silent auction/raffle. For more detailed information, go to Stonewall Elementary PTA's facebook page or check your child's backpack for our flyer. You will not want to miss this fun night!!

Holiday Grams... coming to Stonewall on December 19th! Send your friends either a candy or a pencil for .50 each. Orders will be taken on Dec. 15th and 16th and delivered on the 19th. More info and order forms will be coming home on the 13th. Spread a little cheer!

The next **PTA meeting** is scheduled for January 4th at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. We need more parents to be involved if we are going to be able to continue having our great events and raise money to support our school.

Coming in 2016. The schedule for the second half of the school year is still being planned but we hope to have spirit night at Chick Fil A, Talent Show & Bingo Night.

Ink Cartridges/Cell Phones: Our school needs your help!..Save your empty inkjet printer and toner cartridges and old cell phones - they have value! Send your cartridges and cell phones to the school office in a plastic bag to prevent leakage. If you own or work for a company that is interested in teaming with us by giving us their used ink/toner, please contact us at stonewallpta15@gmail.com

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.