

The Stonewall CONNECTOR

Keeping the connection between school & home...

September 2016

Coming Up.....

- Sept. 2 – No School, Staff Development Day
- Sept. 5 – No School, Labor Day
- Sept. 14 – First Grade Field Trip to Marker Miller
- Sept. 20 – Fall School Pictures taken
- Oct. 1 – PTA Color Run

This version of the *Connector* will be the only paper copy sent home to all students, as subsequent ones will be posted on our website when they come out each month. (You will receive a notification from the Frederick County Rapid Communication System when it is posted.) If you desire to receive paper copies for the remainder of the year, please contact our office by sending a note to the school.

Message from the Office

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! It's hard to believe that it's here already. Our back-to-school nights have passed and the "real thing" is upon us. We'd like to welcome our families who are new to Stonewall this year and encourage all parents to be active participants in your child's education. We also welcome new staff (see inside for names), including our new assistant principal, Linda Farringer (see below).

This opening newsletter will provide you with information that will cover a variety of topics relevant to beginning the school year. If there are any questions left unanswered, please feel free to contact me or our front office. We look forward to another successful school year in partnering with you!

Sincerely,

Darren Thomas

Darren Thomas
Principal

Hello, Stonewall students and families. My name is Linda Farringer, and I am the new assistant principal. As the instructional coach at Stonewall last year, I worked closely with teachers to ensure our students received high-quality instruction and meaningful learning opportunities. I am looking forward to serving Stonewall as assistant principal and celebrating the learning and growing of our students. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Linda Farringer

Linda Farringer
Assistant Principal

The Stonewall website address is ses.frederick.k12.va.us

PTA Officers...

The PTA officers for the 2016-2017 school year are:

President - Kim Gresko

Vice President - Carley Walker

Secretary - Traci Trenary

Treasurer - Delsie Jobe

Ice Cream Coord. - Stacey Mullins

Schools Closed

Frederick county public schools will be closed on **Friday, September 2 for Teacher Development Day and Monday, September 5, 2016** for Labor Day.

Please note there are NO scheduled early dismissal days this year except for the last day of school in June.

Welcome! The staff of Stonewall Elementary anticipates a great year working with you and your child.

New Staff Members at Stonewall.....

We would like to welcome the following individuals to Stonewall's staff:

- Mrs. Linda Farringer – Assistant Principal*
- Ms. Cathie Lineburg – PE*
- Mrs. Tori Meyers – Grade 3 teacher*
- Mrs. Mary Crotti – Grade 4 teacher*
- Mrs. Erica Botha – ESL teacher*
- Ms. Lori Taylor-Smith – Instructional aide*

We are glad to have you on board!

School Schedule.....

- Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Instruction: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Breakfast: 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
- Home Room: 8:45 - 9:00 a.m.
- Lunches: 11:20 a.m. - 1:05 p.m.
- Dismissal: 3:30 p.m.

Parents are requested to schedule doctor and dentist appointments, etc. after or before school, whenever possible.

School Visitors.....Parents and visitors are welcome at Stonewall School. It is school policy that all parents and visitors report to the office to sign in and to fill out and put on a visitor sticker before going to any part of the school. Please remember to fill out your name and date on the sticker.

Teachers have been instructed not to admit any non-school personnel to their classroom unless they have first been to the office. This is done for the safety and protection of your children as well as to eliminate interruptions to your children's instructional program. Visitors who enter the school without reporting to the office will be required to return to the office.

Arrival and Dismissal...Buses will arrive at school at or just before 8:45 a.m. Please note that students not riding the bus should be dropped off at 8:45 to report to their classrooms, unless they are eating breakfast at school, in which case they can be dropped off as early as 8:30. Please refrain from dropping students off prior to that time.

The instructional day begins at 9:00 and ends at 3:30. Thank you for making sure that your children are rested and ready for a great day.

School is dismissed at 3:30 p.m. *Parents who pick up their children must report to the **cafeteria** to sign them out and then **remain in the cafeteria** where the children will meet them.* Please know that any parent, guardian, or other person authorized to pick up a student will need to present ID if not recognized by our staff supervising pick-up. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our students safe.

Students who are being picked up or who are to ride a different bus **MUST** have a note. If there is no note or phone call, the child will go home on his/her regular bus. **We would appreciate being called before 2:00 p.m. with any schedule change for your child as the office can become quite busy near dismissal time.** Please see the section about Early Release Policy.

Policy Manuals...The FCPS policy manual and Student and Parent Information Handbook are available electronically at the FCPS website, ses.frederick.k12.va.us.

FCPS Tardy and Early Release Policy...As per FCPS policy, students who are tardy to school must report to the office with their parent or guardian in order to be admitted to class and receive credit for attendance. Tardiness will be considered as excused for delayed school buses or verified physician's or court appointments. Also, students dismissing prior to 3:30 p.m. will be considered unexcused early release until a doctor's excuse or documentation of court appointment is received. Unexcused tardiness and early releases shall result in the following disciplinary actions:

- First** in a quarter – warning
- Second** in a quarter – warning with parent informed
- Third** in a quarter – detention/school based discipline with parent informed
- Fourth** in a quarter – detention/school based discipline

Continued offenses will result in additional consequences determined by school administration. Students will be expected to make up work missed for tardiness and early releases.

Lunch Program...Monthly menus will be posted on the Stonewall webpage and sent home to those who requested paper copies of the newsletter. Cafeteria prices are:

Lunch	\$ 2.60
Breakfast	\$ 1.40
Ice Cream	\$.75
Adult Lunch	\$ 3.55
Extra Milk	\$.50
Bottled water.....	\$.50 (8 oz.)
Juice	\$.75 (6.75 oz.)

There will be **NO** ice cream charges. Students who charge their lunch **cannot** buy ice cream. Students may not accumulate more than \$15.00 in lunch charges. Weekly lunch and breakfast payments for the week will be accepted in the cafeteria on Monday morning before school. Ice cream, milk, and juice purchases cannot be paid for in advance. When approved for free lunch, and you purchase a school lunch, your milk is included for free. However, if you pack lunch, you have to buy your milk. Also, if your child packs a lunch, please make sure he or she has plasticware/silverware and napkins from home.

1. Parents are encouraged to register to use the on-line school payment system to deposit money in their child's meal account.
2. Students are expected to pay for breakfast/lunches in advance or at the time of purchase.
3. Students must have either a packed lunch or money for food unless he/she is eligible for free meals. The responsibility of providing breakfast/lunch money or a packed lunch for a student rests with the parent or guardian.
4. No charges will be allowed for a la carte items or for second meals on accounts with zero or negative balances.
5. Students and parents may contact the school principal should assistance be needed to provide food for the student.
6. Parents can view their student's account balance on-line through the on-line school payment system.

Meal Charge Procedure....

Each school principal will determine the procedure to be followed in the event that a student arrives at school with neither a lunch nor money. Such procedure shall include the following:

1. If a student forgets his/her money for breakfast or lunch, the meal may be "charged" as an amount owed. This may occur up to a total of \$15. When the limit is reached, parents/guardians will be notified and urged to pay the charges.

2. If a student's charge balance goes over \$15, the student will be provided an alternate meal.

Parents of students who habitually arrive at school with no lunch or money will be asked to complete an application for free/reduced price meals.

If your child has a disability that may require him/her to have to substitute lunch items, a form is available on the FCPS website which may qualify him or her. Forms need to be returned to

Jennifer White
Supervisor of Food Services
FCPS Administration Building
1415 Amherst Street
Winchester, VA 22601

More information is available on the webpage.

Ice Cream Sales...Ice Cream sales will not start until **Tuesday, September 6, 2016**. Ice Cream will be sold for 75¢ on Tuesdays and Thursdays this year. Students are encouraged to only purchase ice cream if they have eaten at least two food items from their lunch.

Student Negative Cafeteria Balances...

Friendly Reminder:

Any negative cafeteria balances from the prior school year are rolled into the new school year. To keep your student in good standing, please pay balances owed by sending cash or a check to your student's school or by utilizing the online payment system, MySchoolBucks, located on the school's webpage.

Refer to the student handbook regarding the division's practices concerning negative balances.

If you feel you may be eligible for reduced-priced or free meals through the National School Lunch Program, the form can be obtained from the principal at your school or downloaded from www.frederick.k12.va.us.

Classroom Treats....Anytime you send in food treats for the class, please ensure that they are store-bought and have a nutrition label. We have a number of students with food allergies and need to check the labels to make sure it is safe for them to eat it. Thank you for your attention to this.

If your child will be absent from school, please let the office know by 9:00 a.m. The parent/guardian should notify the school of the student's absence either by calling 540-662-2289, e-mail the office at sesattnd@fcpsk12.net, or a note on the day of the absence. If you would like to pick up the work your child missed during his/her absence, please request it by 9:00 a.m. so that teachers have an opportunity to gather it. It will be ready for pick up by 3:30 p.m. Thank you!

Attendance Call System...Frederick County Public Schools is using an automated program to make attendance calls at the elementary school level. Whenever your student is absent from school, you will receive an automated call through the system making you aware that your child is not in school and reminding you to provide a note upon their return to class so that the absence may be excused.

Assignment Books and Folders.....All students at Stonewall will have an assignment book or folder to keep track of their assignments. This will also keep parents aware and involved with the educational progress of their children. Be sure to look for this important folder for students in kindergarten and the assignment book for students in grades 1 through 5. These materials will go home daily for parents to review and sign.



From the School Nurse... Health screenings this year will be height, weight, vision and hearing on our kindergarten, third grade and new students to FCPS. If you have a concern throughout this year, you may request your child be screened.

If your child is to take a prescribed medicine at school for longer than one month (long term), a form must be completed by your child's doctor and parent/guardian. It must be returned to the school before the medicine can be given. (All health related forms are available online on the Stonewall homepage.) Area doctors have copies of this form or you can obtain one from the school clinic.

We have a clothes closet in the clinic to use for students when needed. Any donations of new socks and undergarments and new or gently used clothes are appreciated throughout the year.

Notes from Parents.....Notes from parents are necessary for the following reasons:

- When a student is to receive medication during school hours. We recommend that the parents bring the medicine to school and pick it up after school.
- When a child is going home with another child after school. Notes must be received from **both** parents for either bus or car riders.
- When a student stays after school for any approved activity. Please include transportation arrangements for getting your child home after these meetings.
- When a student is to be picked up by someone other than a parent or guardian. In case of an **emergency**, a phone call is acceptable.

ALL written notes from home **MUST** be signed by parents or guardians and approved by the office. Please include the child's first and last name on the note. **If we do not receive a note, students will ride their regular bus.**

Notification to Parents...The federal law, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, provides parents of students in schools receiving Title I funds the opportunity to request information about the qualifications of teachers instructing their children. Stonewall is a Title I school.

If you wish to receive information about your child's teachers' qualifications, please contact Mr. Darren Thomas, Principal.

Student Conduct.....Our **School Rules** are:

- We will respect the rights, feelings, and property of others.
- We will take pride in ourselves, our work, and our school.
- We will not bully others and will help students who are bullied.
- We will include students who are left out.

Incidents of misbehavior reported to the office will be disciplined as deemed appropriate by administration.

Thank you for impressing upon your child the need for proper conduct while at school.

Returned Checks...Frederick County Public Schools has an agreement with a third party administrator for the collection of all returned checks. If your check is returned by your bank, it will be automatically forwarded to a third party administrator after the first presentation. They will contact you in order to collect the face amount of the returned check plus \$35.00 returned check fee. Further action within the limits of law may be taken if you do not properly respond and Frederick County Public Schools may elect to cease accepting checks from you.

Credit Card Payment System... MySchoolBucks is the online payment portal. Parents will be able to view current account balances, review recent purchases, receive low-balance alerts, and setup recurring payments on a weekly or monthly basis if desired. VISA and MasterCard accepted 24 hours a day. If you are a new parent, you will need to register. In order to register, you will need your student's ID number which can be found on report cards or progress reports. The 9-digit student ID number is the 5-digit PIN number used in the cafeteria with the number 7000 at the beginning. All existing account balances will remain on account. **Register on the school's website or on the FCPS homepage. Look for the MySchoolBucks Payment link.**

From Edline to Parent/Student 360... Frederick County Public Schools will begin using a new student information system from Tyler Technologies called Parent/Student 360 in the 2016-17 school year. Parent/Student 360 is replacing Edline and will provide parents and students with a variety of information including student schedules, grades and attendance data. Over the next few weeks, parents and students will receive a user name and password that will allow them to login to Parent/Student 360. The Parent/Student 360 link can be found under Parents & Students on the school division's website and each individual school website.

Student Accident Insurance... For the students' protection, if medical insurance is not currently provided through the parents' employer or individual plans, parents are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance from a private vendor or the student accident insurance program available through the school division vendor—The Young Group, Inc. Information about plan types and enrollment instructions can be found online. Go to your child's school website, click on [Parents and Students](#) then [Health Services](#) then [Student Accident Insurance](#), where plan information and enrollment instructions are located. Enrollment and claim forms are also available in each school office. Frederick County Public Schools' insurance plan does NOT provide medical coverage for accidents or injuries to students during school or during school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

PTA Dates:

Aug. 31 – 6:30 p.m. PTA Meeting in cafeteria
Sept. 28 – 9:15 a.m. PTA Meeting in cafeteria
Oct. 1 – Color Run, 9:00 a.m.

Find us on Facebook.... Find us (Stonewall Elementary School) and like our page to keep up with all the great things happening here at Stonewall Elementary.

You're Invited to the Bright Futures Food Drive and Community Fair... Bright Futures-Frederick County is hosting a Non-Perishable Food Drive and Community Fair on Saturday, September 24 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Bright Futures Distribution Center located at 178 Indian Hollow Road (just off Route 522 N). Admission is free with the donation of non-perishable, child-friendly food items (no glass containers). The Event will include lots of family activities, vendor displays, food and music. All of the food collected will support the Bright Futures-Frederick County Food Pack Program which provides food for FCPS students whose families experience food insecurity on the weekends. Approximately 300 students are currently being served through the program. For more information, contact Nancy Mango at 540-667-2490.

Food Drive Week for Bright Futures Sept. 19-23, 2016...

Monday, Sept. 19 = Twin Day - Bring a jar of peanut butter or Jelly and dress like your friend.

Tuesday, Sept. 20 = Juicy-Fruity Day – Bring a can or box of your favorite fruit or juice and dress up in its color to match.

Wednesday, Sept. 21 = Yankee Noodle Hat Day - Bring a box of noodles (mac and cheese, spaghetti, Spaghetti-O's, Beefaroni, etc.) and wear a hat

Thursday, Sept 22 = Souper Sports Day – Wear favorite sports shirt and bring a can of soup.

Friday, Sept. 23 = Snacky-Wacky Hair Day – Wear wacky hair and bring a box of snacks.

FCPS Rapid Communication System Text Messages...

The Frederick County Public Schools' Rapid Communication System includes a SMS text message function. In order to receive text messages sent through the FCPS 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. In addition, they must opt-in to receiving the text messages if they have not done so previously. To opt-in, text "Yes" to 67587 from the device on which you want to receive text messages.

Once the opt-in process has been completed, you will receive a confirmation text message. The FCPS Rapid Communication System is used to contact parents in a variety of situations ranging from severe weather and power outages to other emergencies that may cause a school to evacuate, relocate or lockdown. They system also is utilized to inform parents when schools are closed, opening late or closing early due to inclement weather. Individual schools also utilize the system to communicate information to their school communities.

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. Families should also be aware of Virginia's FAMIS program. FAMIS stands for Family Access to Medical Insurance Security and helps families provide health insurance to their children. For more information on the FAMIS program, contact your child's school nurse, FCPS Coordinator of Health Services Pam Unhoch (540-662-3888 x88131) or call 1-866-87FAMIS (1-866-873-2647).

Frederick County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination process:

Title IX Coordinator

John Linaburg

Executive Director of Human Resources

1415 Amherst Street

Winchester, Virginia 22601

(540) 662-3888

Section 504 Coordinator

Michele Sandy

Director of Special Services

1415 Amherst Street

Winchester, Virginia 22601

(540) 662-3888

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, see list of [OCR enforcement offices](#) for the address and phone number of the office that services your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.