

# SPRINGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## The Owl Gazette

August 27, 2010  
SPECIAL EDITION

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a wonderful first week of school! Mrs. Austin and I visited every classroom and were impressed to see that students were working hard and displaying good Owl behavior. Our kindergartners and new students seem to be adjusting quickly to school routines. ☺

At orientation, I had the pleasure of meeting many of you. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet me yet, please feel free to stop by the front office and introduce yourself!

Our theme this school year is "Working Together to Make a Difference". You will find many ways to work together with us to make a difference listed in this newsletter.

We had our first fire drill today and will have a second one next week. I know that you are inundated with information, especially at this time of the year, so I appreciate you taking time to read our newsletter carefully. Just as we review rules with your children, we try to highlight important safety items with you! Thank you for your cooperation as we all work together to keep our Owls safe!

Sincerely,

Claire A. Frick, Principal

### Important Dates

**Monday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>** – Labor Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL  
**Tuesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>** – SAC Meeting @ noon – Guidance Hallway  
**Tuesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>** – PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. – Media Center  
**Tuesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>** – PTO Great American Fundraiser Kick Off  
**Wednesday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>** – Individual Picture Day  
**Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>** – District Advisory Council Mtg. @ Howell Ctr. 6:00 PM  
**Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** – Constitution Day Celebration  
**Wednesday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Progress Alerts go home

### OPEN HOUSE

Open House information will be included in next week's newsletter. Stay tuned!

### New Staff Members Join the Springwood Family

We welcome the following to our Springwood family: **Ellen Thorpe** comes to us from Chaires and is teaching PK. **Laurie Griffin** is teaching Kindergarten. **Danielle Smith** and **Katie Dlugokienski** are both teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. **Christie Owen** from Gilchrist and **Tara Williams** from W.T. Moore are both teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. **Laura Snyder** is teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade. **Kendra Wendeln** is teaching Music and **Dia Combas** is a new Instructional Aide assigned to PE. **Lindsey Reinstatler** joined us as our new speech teacher and **Beverly Remland** has returned to us as guidance counselor. We also have hired **Karen Tobin** to run our Positive Behavior Support program. We will be welcoming a new reading coach soon. Lots of new Owls! Please help us make them feel welcome!

### A Special Thank You

We would like to give a special "thank you" to Watts Mechanical and the Welsh family for donating 2 large Igloo Drink Coolers to our school!

### SPAR Report

The 2009-10 School Public Accountability Report (SPAR) for Springwood is available for viewing in the school office or can be viewed on-line at [www.leon.k12.fl.us/spar/](http://www.leon.k12.fl.us/spar/). The purpose of this report, which contains a summary of vital information regarding our school, is to allow you to review items about our progress this past school year. You may view a full copy of the report by coming to the school office or via the web, at [www.leon.k12.fl.us/SPAR/](http://www.leon.k12.fl.us/SPAR/). The report will also be available on our school website at <http://www.springwood.leon.k12.fl.us/>. We encourage your participation and input with regard to our continuing school improvement efforts."

### PTO News (Amanda Sasser, PTO Acting President)

Dear Parents and Friends of Springwood,  
It's hard to believe how quickly the summer flew by! I hope that you had an enjoyable summer. It's now time to get back in the routine of school. Springwood PTO is looking forward to the 2010/2011 year with lots of excitement. Whether you are a new or returning parent, you can look forward to lots of activities and ways to support and stay connected to your student and Springwood throughout the year. PTO would like to extend a warm welcome to our meetings. The meetings are the first Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be September 7 at 6:00. You can also contact PTO by calling the front office at 488-6225, or by e-mailing us at [Springwood.pto@gmail.com](mailto:Springwood.pto@gmail.com). We would love to have your input and ideas. PTO looks forward to working with Springwood's parents and students. Together we can do great things! We will be waiting in the Media Center, so come on out!

### Watch D.O.G.S. - Dads of Great Students

(Gordon Sasser & Paul Sweeney, Coordinators)

Watch D.O.G.S. will be holding our first meeting September 7th, at 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with PTO. We will be putting together a Leadership Team and discussing objectives for the year. Guys, get in on this second year and be sure to check out the Watch D.O.G.S link on Springwood's homepage. Contact Tina Sweeney at the front office at 488-6225 to take advantage of a great opportunity to get involved with our school and students. If you want to see your child smile, get involved with Watch D.O.G.S.!

### Business Partner (Tangi Brown)

If you own, or know of, a business that would like to become Partners with Springwood, please have them contact the school at 488-6225 or via e-mail at [Springwood.pto@gmail.com](mailto:Springwood.pto@gmail.com). We take pride in our partners!

### Volunteers (Antoinette Hunter)

Do you plan on volunteering at Springwood? Then you need to fill out a Volunteer form! Your teacher should be sending a form home to fill out and return. The last thing you want is to be late for a field trip because you are filling out the volunteer form! If you volunteer anytime during the year, please don't forget to post your hours in our Volunteer Log. This includes hours you volunteer working at home. The log is located on the front counter in the Office. For more information, please contact Antoinette Hunter, Volunteer Coordinator at 488-6225.

### Fall Fundraiser (Tina Sweeney)

The Great American fall fundraiser is coming! September 7th kicks off our fall fundraiser. There will be lots of prizes and pizza parties for the top selling class for each grade level.

### Car Tags

If you are picking up your child, please remember to display your car tag. Vehicles without car tags may be asked to show identification. Also, we suggest that you remove the car tag from your rearview mirror when you are off campus for safety reasons.

### Kindergarten Car Pickup

Kindergarten students have been sitting on the first four benches but will be integrated into the other grade levels beginning next week. Older siblings will be allowed to pick up your child from the Kindergarten benches to help them make this transition. Please help your child learn the first letter of his/her last name.

### EDEP

Please contact Chris Brown or Matt Zadra at 488-4527 for information about registration for our extended day program. We have 141 students enrolled!

### Primary Playground

Students in grades K-2 go to the primary playground for developmental play in the morning before school starts from 8:00 - 8:25.



### Mileage Club (Sara Garguilo)

Students in grades 3-5 will have the opportunity to participate in the Mileage Club led by Coach Garguilo. The Mileage Club initiative will encourage children to begin walking and exercising more and promote daily physical activity. Please contact Tina Austin if you do not want your child to participate in the Mileage Club at 488-6225 or e-mail [austint@leonschools.net](mailto:austint@leonschools.net). We would encourage you to send your child with a change of shoes if you are concerned about the dampness on the field in the morning.

### **On Time for School - Reminder**

Students must be on campus by 8:25 a.m. each morning to be ready for their instructional day to begin at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast is served from 8:00 – 8:30. Please adjust your clocks and watches to our bell schedules. Starting each day on time with your teacher and classmates is an important habit to develop to be successful in school.

### **Student Drop-off/Pick up Procedures**

The front driveway, where adults are supervising, is to be used to drop off students in the morning (**no earlier than 7:45 a.m.**) and to pick up students in the afternoon (**no later than 3:20 p.m.**). We can move cars quickly and safely through the driveway with your cooperation. Please help us keep our children safe by observing the following rules:

- Please follow the directions of the adults on duty at all times.
- Please stay in your car and follow the car loop unless you need to come into the school office for some reason. Each time a car parks and exits, traffic is held up. **Please allow us to do our job and serve you by opening your car doors for your child!**
- Never leave your vehicle unattended in the parking lot unless parked in a designated space.
- Parking in a handicapped parking space without a hang tag or a handicapped license plate is a \$1000 fine!
- Please pull all the way to the end of the loading zone to drop off or pick up your child.
- After you drop off your child, please carefully pull out into left lane and exit in a timely fashion.
- Please do not block crosswalks with your vehicles.
- Cross only at the crosswalks. **Children must be escorted by a parent at crosswalks.**
- Please help us teach your children to be aware of their surroundings at all times.
- Please **do not use your cell phone** while you are in the pickup/drop off line. Be alert to movement of pedestrians. Adults who are walking should also refrain from cell phone use in and around moving vehicles.
- Always have your children exit your vehicle from the right side nearest the sidewalk.
- Be sure your child removes his/her backpack before buckling up!
- Please follow the posted **5 MPH** speed limit at all times.
- Please do not back into parking spaces. All cars should be parked heading in.
- **We also remind you that the driveway behind the school is to be used ONLY by school buses, faculty, and support staff.** Signs are posted at the driveway entrance on Fred George Road. This area is restricted during the hours of 7:00 to 3:30. The only exception is for parents of students who are enrolled in our before school program. They may access this area until 7:30.
- Special thank you to all of you who are following our safety procedures. We appreciate it!

### **Shoes**

Please help us keep your child safe by not allowing flip flops, platform shoes, high heels, slides or backless shoes. Athletic shoes, hard sole lace-up shoes, flat-heeled boots, and flat sandals with heel straps are acceptable.

### **Agenda Books**



All students have received an agenda book. This is a very important form of communication between you and the classroom teacher. Also, many school procedures are addressed in the first pages of the planner. There is a \$5.00 charge to replace a lost planner.

### **Volunteer Information**

*Chapter 2004-81, Laws of Florida, requires that a Sexual Predator Check be processed on all school volunteers. We are recommending that all parents complete the Volunteer Application so you may be cleared to participate at any time. This would include field trip chaperones as well. There can be no more important goal than keeping our children safe from harm. You may obtain a form in the front office.*

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

[www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco/ferpa](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco/ferpa)

### **Releasing Students**

**ALL PERSONS, PARENTS OR VOLUNTEERS, MUST ALWAYS SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE BEFORE GOING ANYWHERE ON OUR CAMPUS.** THIS INCLUDES WALKING YOUR CHILD TO CLASS. YOU WILL BE ISSUED A NAME TAG, WHICH WILL INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE FOLLOWED THIS PROCEDURE. ANYONE NOT WEARING A NAME TAG WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE FRONT OFFICE. PROVIDING A SAFE AND ORDERLY ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS IS A PRIORITY.

Please remember that you must present identification, such as a driver's license with a photograph, when signing out a child early or when coming to speak to your child for any reason. We use this procedure for parents we see often, as well as for those faces that may be newer to us.

Please try to schedule doctor's appointments after students are dismissed. Instruction continues until 2:50. Children who are picked up before that time miss valuable instructional time and receive an unexcused absence unless documentation from a doctor's office is received.

### **Medication**

Students are not to bring medication of any type to school. Medication must be brought to the school clinic by a child's parent. An *Administration of Prescription Medication Permission Form* must be completed and signed before any medicine is dispensed to a child. All medication is kept locked in the clinic. Our school health assistant is available to receive prescription medication, provide forms for completion and signing, and answer general questions. Please remember that this person is not a nurse and cannot provide medical advice. Springwood will follow all Leon County policies and procedures related to the administration of medication. We appreciate your understanding and support.



### **School Advisory Council Welcome Message** (Shedric Triplett)

Dear Parents,  
The Springwood Elementary School Advisory Committee (SAC) wishes to welcome all new and returning Springwood families for the 2010-2011 school year. The SAC is comprised of parents, teachers, and administrators who are committed to providing a quality education experience for all Springwood children as well as enhancing the parent-teacher relationship.

For those that have attended, the SAC monthly meetings have been a great source of information. All meetings are open to the public, so please join us even if it is just for a portion of a meeting!

More information about the SAC is available in several ways: the school's website, the principal's listserv, the SAC regular meetings, or the PTO (our partner organization) and its outreach methods. We invite you to become involved! SAC meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:00 p.m. in the guidance hallway. We are excited about the upcoming year and have many activities planned. Attending SAC meetings is a wonderful way to learn about what is going on at Springwood. We look forward to spending more time getting to know all of you. Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions.

Sincerely on behalf of the Springwood Elementary SAC,  
Shedric Triplett, [satriplett@yahoo.com](mailto:satriplett@yahoo.com), 850-562-4387.

### **SAC (School Advisory Council)**

Our next SAC meeting will be held September 7th at 12:00 noon in the Guidance Hallway. We will be reviewing the 09-10 school data at that time in preparation for writing the 10-11 School Improvement Plan. The SAC assists in preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan, and assists in the decision making process at the school regarding budget, training, instructional materials, staffing, student support services and other matters of resource allocation related to the school improvement plan. SAC meetings are open and subject to the Sunshine Law. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

### **Springwood Parent Listserv**

If you are interested in receiving school news (regular and emergency notices) via e-mail, please visit our web page at <http://www.springwood.leon.k12.fl.us/default.aspx> and sign up!

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