

# SPRINGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## The Owl Gazette

September 8, 2010



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope all of you enjoyed your recent three-day weekend! As Labor Day brings summer to a close, we are at the point in the school year where the district makes adjustments to our staffing based on our enrollment. As you know, we are under the mandate of the Florida Class Size Reduction Amendment and must adjust classes to meet mandated sizes (18 in K-2 and 22 in 3-5). If we are unable to meet these sizes, the district will be faced with financial penalties. The good news is that our Kindergarten enrollment is so high that we have earned another kindergarten teacher! We are in the process of advertising and interviewing for that special person to take over our new class!

Safety is a priority at Springwood. If you have not already done so, please return your clinic card, internet permission form, and emergency information verification sheet. It is very important that we have correct information to contact you in the event of an emergency.

We would like to remind you that Open House will be next Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. PTO and Watch DOGS will be selling pizza, soft drinks and t-shirts in the cafeteria throughout the evening. In addition, the Book Fair will be in full swing in our Media Center from 6:00 - 8:00! Your child will be able to show you around his/her classroom and you will have the opportunity to sign up for a parent conference. Also, each grade level will be hosting a Parent Night just for you in the near future! Please come out for what promises to be a great evening!

Sincerely,

[Claire A. Frick](#), Principal

### **Important Dates**

**Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>** - District Advisory Council @ Howell Ctr. (6:00 p.m.)

**Monday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>** - **OPEN HOUSE** (6:00 - 7:30 p.m.)

**Tuesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>** - SITE meeting - Media Center (4:00 p.m.)

**Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** - Constitution Day Celebration (9:00 a.m.)

**Wednesday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Progress Alerts go home

**Thursday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>** - CALLED SAC meeting (3:30 p.m.)

**Thursday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>** - **4th grade** Parent Night (6:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

**Testing Dates** ([Tina Austin](#), Test Coordinator)

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>** - FLKRS (K only)

**Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>** - FAIR (K-5)

**Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>** - Writes Upon Request #1 Administration (2-5)

### **Congratulations to our New PTO Officers and Coordinators!**

President - Kelly Wilson

Vice President - Amanda Sasser

Secretary - Carre Welsh

Treasurer - Jessica Ziegler

Fundraising Coordinator - Karen Tobin

Spring Festival Coordinator - Felicia Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator - Antoinette Hunter

**PTO News** ([Kelly Wilson](#), President)

We are looking for more PTO parent involvement this year. Do you have great ideas for our PTO? Come join us! Our next meeting will be Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. You can e-mail us at [Springwood.pto@gmail.com](mailto:Springwood.pto@gmail.com) or call the front office at 488-6225. 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! We hope to see you there!

**Fall Fundraiser** ([Karen Tobin](#), Fundraiser Coordinator)

The Great American fall fundraiser is here! September 7<sup>th</sup> kicked off our fall fundraiser. There will be lots of prizes and pizza parties for the top selling class for each grade level.

**volunteers** ([Antoinette Hunter](#), volunteer Coordinator)

Do you plan on volunteering at Springwood? Then you need to fill out a volunteer form! If you volunteer anytime during the year, please don't forget to post your hours in our Volunteer Log. We currently have 50 approved volunteers! Wow! The log is located on the front counter in the main office. For more information, please contact Antoinette Hunter, Volunteer Coordinator at 488-6225.

**Business Partner** (Tangi Brown, Business Partner Coordinator)

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!

### **Homeroom Parents**

We are looking for an enthusiastic parent from every class to become a homeroom parent. As the homeroom parent, you would be responsible for coordinating classroom events, assisting with our Spring Festival, assisting with PTO sponsored activities, and field trips. We would also call upon the homeroom parent to take the leadership role on volunteer activities that will take place during the school year. If you are interested, please complete a volunteer application and let your child's teacher know that you are interested in volunteering at Springwood in that capacity.

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

([Gordon Sasser](#), [Paul Sweeney](#) & [Leroy Hunter](#), Coordinators)

Watch D.O.G.S. held our first meeting September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with PTO. We are 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](#) in 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.!

### **Changes in Dismissal**

If your child will be going home a different way than normal, please call **before 2:00 p.m.** The last hour of the day is very busy for our front office staff as well as our teachers. After 2:00 p.m., we cannot guarantee that your child's teacher will receive the message. If your child attends our EDEP program, please contact them in addition to contacting the front office. Our goal is to get every child home safely. We appreciate you letting your child know in the morning about any changes in transportation. If you send a note, please remind your child to give the note to her teacher!

### **Student Lunches - Reminder**

[Mrs. Scarborough](#), Lunchroom Manager, would like to remind all of our parents that each year you must complete a new lunch application. Until the form is approved by the district office, each parent is responsible for paying for their child's lunch. The lunch application may be completed online through the Leon County website or you may request a hard copy through our front office.



Have you noticed Leon County's new menu format? Menus will be sent home twice a year rather than monthly. Our cafeteria offers breakfast for \$.75 as well as a hot lunch for students at a cost of \$1.75 daily, which includes milk. (Milk for .50 can be purchased by students who bring their own lunch.) All students will make purchases through their individual food service accounts which they access with a Personal Identification Number. Please help your child memorize his/her number. Please assist us by sending checks, which identify your child, their PIN, and their teacher, on a weekly or monthly basis. Just a reminder that lunches are \$8.75 for the week and \$35.00 for the month. Adult lunches are \$2.75; you are invited to have lunch with your child after signing in at the office and obtaining your visitor's tag. Adults may utilize their child's lunch account, as well.

**You may locate information related to menus, lunch applications, and prices at the following site:**

<http://sharepoint.leon.k12.fl.us/food/default.aspx>

**Extended Day Enrichment Program** ([Chris Brown](#) and [Matt Zadra](#))

Please call us at 488-4527 for information about registration for our EDEP.

### **Car Tags**

If you are picking up your child, please remember to display your car tag.

### **Fire Drill**

On Friday, August 27, 2010, we had a fire drill and our boys and girls did a great job. They were able to exit the building quickly and safely. We will have another drill in the next few weeks as required by state regulations.

**Positive Behavior Support** ([Beverley Kemiano](#), Guidance Counselor)  
Positive Behavior Support (PBS) tickets are given out to boys and girls by ALL faculty and staff members that catch them being responsible, respectful, and safe. Each teacher will reward their students in the classroom. We will have a school-wide drawing each Friday and pick one eligible winner from each class to receive a special treat! At the end of each 9-week period, students that are earning tickets will be allowed to participate in a special event. We are excited about this new program and our students are absolutely thrilled when they earn those tickets. Positive Action lessons are also being taught in each class by the teacher. Each month those lessons will highlight a different character education theme. We held a Positive Behavior Assembly on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 in our cafeteria. At the assembly, we discussed all of the rules for our common areas around campus: cafeteria, parent pick-up, bus ramp, hallways and playgrounds. We are proud to say that our boys and girls already know our 3 expectations at Springwood that should guide the choices that they make each day. Ask your child to tell you what our expectations are!

### **PK Needs** ([Willette Wilkerson](#) & [Ellen Thorp](#))

Do you have any toys that your children have outgrown? We are looking for tricycles, outdoor playhouses, and other toys that are in good condition to use with our smallest owls. We also are looking for volunteers who might be willing to repair some of our tricycles, donate and/or build shelving for our PK storage room, and clean/organize our PK storage area. We would also like to build a clubhouse, add a seesaw, and possibly add a small swing set to our PK playground. Finally, we are looking for a parent to donate/plant some plants on our PK playground along the fence area. We appreciate any help you can give us! Please contact Willette Wilkerson, our lead PK teacher, for additional information!

### **Does your child bring lunch? Please note...**

We do not allow cans or glass bottles in our cafeteria. Glass is dangerous and sodas are discouraged because of health concerns. We appreciate your support as we focus on wellness in our school community!

### **Constitution Day** ([Sara Garguilo](#), Special Area Team Leader)

In honor of our Constitution and great country, Springwood will celebrate the creation of a new government through the adoption of our Constitution which has effectively governed us for 223 years. We will have a flag ceremony along with student performances and a guest speaker. Justice Peggy Quince, the first black female Chief Justice and also the first black female appointed to both the Florida Supreme Court and the Florida District Appellate Court will join us for this special program. The ceremony will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 17th. You are cordially invited to attend.

### **Morning Arrival/Breakfast**

Please note that all children must report to the Media Center between 7:45 and 8:00 a.m. At 8:00 a.m., students are dismissed to the playgrounds. The K-2 students have free play on the K-2 playground; the 3-5 students participate in the mileage club. If your child needs to eat breakfast, he/she must go to breakfast before going out to play or walk. Breakfast ends at 8:30. This means that if your child goes straight to the playground instead of going to breakfast, he may miss breakfast and we do not want this to happen! If you walk your child to the playground, you must report to the front office for a visitor's pass. This is for the safety of all of our children.

### **SITE - School-Based Decision-Making Team**

Our SITE team meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. (or immediately following our 3:30 Team Leader meeting). SITE addresses items that affect the entire school. Parents are invited to attend.

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

SAC will have a called meeting on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> to review and approve the School Improvement Plan. If you are interested in serving on one of our school improvement committees (Reading, Math, Science, Writing, Positive Behavior Support/Attendance, Parent Involvement) please contact [Claire Frick](#) at 488-6225. Committees meet at various times throughout the school year, as necessary. Our next regular SAC meeting will be held October 5th at 12:00 noon in the Guidance Hallway. We will be sharing about our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program. 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. For additional information, contact [Shedric Triplett](#), 850-562-4387.

### **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 stay in your car and follow the car loop unless you need to come into the school office for some reason. Please allow us to open your car doors for your child!
- Never leave your vehicle unattended in the parking lot unless parked in a designated space.
- Please do not leave your car unattended in the car pick up lane.
- You must have a handicapped tag or license plate in order to park in any handicapped parking space.
- Please follow the directions of adults on duty. We will load/unload only at the cones.
- Cross only at the crosswalks. **Children must be escorted by a parent while in a crosswalk.**
- Please **do not use your cell phone** while you are in the pickup/drop off line. 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.
- **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 a.m..
- **Thank you for following our school safety rules!!!**

### **Releasing Students**

**ALL PERSONS, PARENTS OR VOLUNTEERS, MUST ALWAYS SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE BEFORE GOING ANYWHERE ON OUR CAMPUS, EVEN DURING MORNING HOURS BEFORE SCHOOL.** 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 AT SPRINGWOOD.

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 schedule doctor's appointments after students are dismissed. Children who are signed out early receive an unexcused absence unless documentation from a doctor's office is received.

### **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.*

### **Springwood Parent Listserv**

If you are interested in receiving school news (regular and emergency notices) via e-mail, please visit our [web page](#).

### **PE Waiver**

Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, Section 1003.455, Florida Statutes, allows students in grades K-8 to waive the physical education requirement if they meet any of the following criteria:

- The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course.
- The student's parent indicates in writing to the school that the student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

Currently, elementary students are required to receive 150 minutes of physical education per week. Leon County Schools will schedule all students into physical education classes unless a parent requests a waiver to this requirement. To request a waiver for your child to be excluded from physical education classes, you will need to complete a Physical Education Waiver Request form which may be obtained by calling the school at 488-6225. The request must include proof of physical activity being provided for your child outside the school day.

"The Leon County School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, age, color or disability."