

# SPRINGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## The Owl Gazette

August 28, 2009



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a wonderful first week of school! Mrs. Austin and I visited every classroom on the first day of school and were impressed to see that students were working hard and displaying good Owl behavior. Our kindergarteners 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!

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 1st** – SAC Meeting @ noon – Guidance Hallway  
**Tuesday, Sept. 1st** – PTO Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. – Media Center  
**Tuesday, Sept. 1st** – PTO Fall Fundraiser Kickoff  
**Thursday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Cub Scout Registration @ 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Cafeteria  
**Monday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>** – Labor Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL  
**Tuesday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>** – Spirit Night - Sonny's BBQ @ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>** – Individual Picture Day  
**Monday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>** – OPEN HOUSE @ 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Meet in cafeteria  
**Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** – Spirit Night – Skate Inn West @ 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Progress Alerts go home  
**Tuesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>** - Writes-Upon-Request (grades 2-5)

### PTO News

#### PTO Meeting (Amanda Sasser)

Please plan to attend the PTO General Meeting to be held on September 1<sup>st</sup> in our Media Center. We need your input!

#### Fall Fundraiser (Tina Sweeney)

The Great American fall fundraiser is coming! September 1st kicks off our fall fundraiser. There will be lots of prizes and pizza parties for the top selling class for each grade level.

#### Volunteers – 2 Hour Involvement Pledge (Antoinette Hunter)

If we can get every Springwood Elementary School parent to commit just 2 hours to helping out, we can do amazing things for our kids and our school.

*Will you please take the 2 Hour Involvement Pledge?*

We've started using a program called 2 Hour Power that emphasizes that all help, any help, makes a huge difference for schools. The research is so clear – kids at schools with a broad base of involved parents perform markedly better on all kinds of key school measures.

As you'll see from the **Volunteer Application Form**, we'd love to help you get involved in any way that works for your schedule and interests. What would you like to do? When would you like to do it? We'd like to work with you to make sure all parents can pitch in. Involvement is for everyone.

Some of the volunteering work can be done from home and on your own schedule. Our VOLUNTEERS are mothers, fathers and all who fill those roles. We have a wide range of volunteers who: stay-at-home; work part-time to full-time; have little ones at home, preschoolers, high schoolers and/or college students; and more. Yes, there is volunteering during the school day if you are able to do so. But no one does it all, so choose what works best for you.

Together, we can make a huge difference at our school! Please feel free to call Antoinette Hunter, our PTO Volunteer Coordinator, at 488-6225, or email her at [morecarpool@yahoo.com](mailto:morecarpool@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **New Staff Member Joins the Springwood Family**

We would like to welcome Robin Krause to our school family! Robin teaches Kindergarten and comes to us from Gilchrist.

### **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:

- When dropping off or picking up students, 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 an adult at crosswalks. (Our staff even escorts adults across!)
- 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 have already had one accident this year.
- Thank you for observing reserved spaces!
- Please follow the designated traffic pattern at all times. No u-turns!
- 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!

### **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.

### **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.



### **Releasing Students**

ALL PERSONS, PARENTS OR VOLUNTEERS, MUST ALWAYS SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE BEFORE GOING ANYWHERE ON OUR CAMPUS. 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 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.

### **Primary Playground**

Beginning on **Wednesday, September 2nd**, students in grades K-2 will go to the primary playground for developmental play in the morning before school starts. They will not be allowed to play on the equipment if it is damp.

### **Mileage Club**

Beginning on **Wednesday, September 2nd**, 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@mail.leon.k12.fl.us](mailto:austint@mail.leon.k12.fl.us). 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.

### **EDEP**

Please contact Chris Brown or Matt Zadra at 488-4527 for information about registration for our extended day program. We have 118 students enrolled!

### **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.



### **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.*

### **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)

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

Our next SAC meeting will be held September 1st at 12:00 noon in the Guidance Hallway. We will be reviewing the 08-09 school data at that time. 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.

### **DAC Representative Needed!**

One very important role which has not been filled is that of the District Advisory Council Representative. The DAC representative represents our School Advisory Council at district meetings. The DAC has become an important advisory board for the Superintendent and School Board. They provide input on all proposed policies and other major issues such as changes in school start times, rezoning, and budget reductions. The district meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 at the Howell Building. Please let me know if you would be willing to serve our school in this very important capacity. You may call me at 488-6225.



### **2009-2010 School Improvement Plan**

The 09-10 SIP was approved by the School Advisory Council on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The plan will now be submitted to the district office for review prior to being submitted to the DOE. We appreciate all of you who gave input.


### **Springwood Parent Listserv**

If you are interested in receiving school news (regular and emergency notices) via e-mail, please visit our web page: <http://www.springwood.leon.k12.fl.us/default.aspx>  
We have 274 members on our listserv.

### **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 – 8:25. 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 Lunches - Reminder**

 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 putting on your visitor's tag. Adults may utilize their child's lunch account, as well.

### **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.

"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."