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September 2, 2014

EXCELLENCE STARTS HERE

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### ***From Mrs. Ketterer:***

We had a wonderful first week of school and celebrate our community being reunited again for a new and exciting school year! The PTA hosted an extremely well attended Ice Cream Social where hundreds came to share ice cream and visit together, including more than 25 Swansfield Staff!

We hope to see you at our **Back-to-School Nights** for Pre-K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, when we will share even more about what's ahead for your child this school year. Be sure to bookmark our school website <http://ses.hcpss.org> in order to read the latest news updates, check for upcoming program dates, and view photos from recent events!

### **Welcome to our New Swansfield Staff Members**

We are so happy to welcome the newest additions to our Swansfield Staff Family! Many of you met them during the Open House held on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our newest staff members are:

<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:</i>	<i>Miss Lauren Bonnette</i>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Grade:</i>	<i>Miss Alexandra Narron</i>
<i>Health Room:</i>	<i>Kelly Tabak, RN</i>
<i>Intervention:</i>	<i>Mrs. Lisa Hairston-Jones (K and 1<sup>st</sup> Gr. Support)</i>
<i>Reading Support:</i>	<i>Mrs. Robin Kokolis</i>
<i>Special Ed:</i>	<i>Mrs. Cassie Colosimo</i>
<i>Band:</i>	<i>Mr. Doug Lea joins us and is also half-time at Deep Run ES</i>
<i>Strings:</i>	<i>Mrs. Amanda McKay joins us and is also half-time at Harper's Choice MS</i>

Some changes on our staff include:

<i>1<sup>st</sup> Grade:</i>	<i>Mrs. Stephany Warner is now teaching 1<sup>st</sup> Grade</i>
<i>Intervention:</i>	<i>Mrs. Jessica Hummel is now our full-time Reading Recovery Teacher</i>
<i>Technology/Title I:</i>	<i>Mr. Wilson is now our Technology/Title I Teacher</i>

We had staff members move on to new opportunities. Mrs. Anzures is now a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Forest Ridge Elementary. Our Cluster Nurse, Stacey Storm, is now serving full-time at Marriotts Ridge HS. Our Intervention teacher, Miss Lori Carrino, married this summer and is working in a new location. Our Reading Support teacher, Mrs. Liz Morris, is now a HCPSS Literacy Coach serving at four schools. Our Special Education teacher, Mrs. Lauren Taylor, is serving in a Fellowship Program at Kennedy Krieger.

### **Our Website is Updated with a New Design and Layout**

Please log on to our updated website <http://ses.hcpss.org>. We will soon be providing updated photos of our Staff. We were fortunate to once again have Mr. Chris Brunn, father of our Reading Recovery teacher Jessica Hummel, come and take professional photos of our staff. Find his work on [www.imagesbybrunn.com](http://www.imagesbybrunn.com)

### **Continuing our Breakfast Program: School-wide and Free!**

We continue to enjoy participating in our school-wide breakfast program. All students and staff are offered a free breakfast to start each day off right. A Grab & Go breakfast in a bag is offered with milk and fruit being part of breakfast. Breakfast carts are delivered to the pods at 8:30. Each class has its own bin of breakfast foods. Students eat breakfast in their classrooms. Breakfast should be finished by 8:45. More information will be shared at our Back-to-School Nights.

### **Lunch Prices Remain the Same This School Year**

Elementary school lunches cost \$2.75 again this school year. Please note that prices for milk and reduced-price lunch also remain the same. Milk costs 50 cents and the reduced-price lunch is 40 cents.

### **Arrival and Dismissal Times**

Our breakfast program begins as students arrive at school at 8:30 a.m. Staff comes outside to support arrival of our students at about 8:25 a.m. each morning. Please ensure that your child is not arriving at an earlier time so that we can ensure adequate supervision for their safety.

**To ensure the safe dismissal of your child, we request that early dismissals and/or changes in transportation for dismissal be communicated to the Front Office prior to 2:45 p.m.** This policy allows our front office to run smoothly and ensure communications are clear to staff and students. *Parents arriving to pick up their child after 2:45 p.m. will be asked to remain until dismissal begins at 3:05.*

Remember our dismissal begins each day at 3:10 p.m. when bus riders are dismissed first. Then at 3:12 our car riders are dismissed followed by walkers and van riders at 3:15.

### **New Security for Sign-In in our Front Office**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we continue procedures we began last year securing the building for our students' safety. All the doors will be locked at Swansfield from 8:45 a.m.-3:05 p.m. After dismissal, the doors will be locked again at 3:25 p.m. The Main Entrance has a buzzer system. Please ring the bell, state your business, and we will unlock the door for you to enter the building.

**When visiting the school, whether to volunteer or if you are picking up your child for early dismissal, please have identification with you.** We now have additional security through a Lobby Guard check-in, which scans a visitor's license and issues a photo ID that is to be visibly worn while in the school building. Please be patient as we adjust to this system.

We will continue to follow school safety procedures and our school emergency plan. These procedures guide our annual staff trainings and school-wide emergency response drills (fire drills, shelter-in-place, lockdown) that are scheduled regularly throughout the year. We want to assure parents that our Staff is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment. If you have any questions, please feel free to call at 410-313-6907 or email Mrs. Ketterer at [molly\\_ketterer@hcpss.org](mailto:molly_ketterer@hcpss.org).

### **Guidelines for School Visitation**

The Howard County Public School System welcomes visitors to our schools. To limit interruptions and distractions to teaching and learning and to maximize safety for all, persons who wish to visit a school campus, building or classroom are asked to comply with the following procedures:

- *Anyone wishing to visit a school is asked to contact the Principal to discuss the purpose of the visit and to establish a convenient time for both the visitor and the school.*
- *A teacher will be notified, either orally or in writing, in advance by a school administrator that a visit to their classroom has been requested. The teacher may request that the visit be rescheduled based on the instructional needs and best interests of the students.*
- *Upon entering a school, all visitors must sign in at the main office and receive a visitor badge.*
- *To avoid interrupting instruction, no students are allowed to shadow HCPSS students.*
- *Understandably, interactions between visitors and school staff and students will be limited.*
- *If a follow-up meeting with school staff is desired, the visitor will schedule it for a mutually convenient time.*

**The PTA and our Administration will co-host a Parent Volunteer Orientation in late September. The date will be announced soon. This has become a very useful way to share opportunities to work with our students!**

### **Please Return Paper Opt-In Forms; Subscribe to HCPSS News**

Coming soon in your child's Monday Folder, you will find a form to complete if your family wishes to receive paper correspondence from school. Please return these forms by Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, in order to allow us to begin reducing the amount of paper used to communicate from school to home. Remember, one way you can help us reduce the paper used is to join HCPSS News using this link <https://www.hcpsnews.com/user/ParentSubscribe.aspx>. HCPSS News allows messages to be sent to your email, while emergency communications are sent to your email and your cell phone. You can also check our web site for the latest news!

### **Spotlight Winners begin on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**

Look for students to arrive home with Spotlights given to them by staff members celebrating their use of one of our 3 school rules. On Fridays, look for students who earn special Spotlight stickers. This means they represent their whole class as an example of a student who follows our school rules! If your child arrives home with a Spotlight sticker and a Spotlight prize, that means they represent the entire grade! We can't wait for our first celebration! This year we will continue taking a photo of all classroom winners and announcing all 24 winners each week in the Trumpeter!

### **Wellness Through Nutrition and Physical Activity**

We work hard at Swansfield to ensure that the school environment promotes and protects students' health and ability to learn by providing nutrition education, physical activity, and a variety of food and beverage choices. We believe we have a responsibility to help students develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

We are encouraged through the Wellness Policy to consider wellness issues and student allergies when planning special activities that involve food and beverages. We are not able to offer birthday snacks when a student celebrates their special day. Schools limit activities to once a month, after the end of the last lunch period, involving allowable foods as stated in the Policy.

These are some of the ways we promote a healthy lifestyle here at Swansfield:

- We have 30 minutes of recess every day. This helps us get closer to the goal of 60 minutes of activity a day.
- Our teachers strive to incorporate movement in their lessons and offer breaks and opportunities for water and a healthy snack to balance nutrition throughout the day.
- We continue with our instruction of an excellent Health Curriculum, which shares comprehensive information about nutrition and physical activity.
- Our PE program continues to offer excellent skills and strategies to establish and lead a healthy lifestyle.
- Our ¼ mile walking path is utilized daily with a special emphasis on the days dedicated to our Striders Program.
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We welcome your thoughts and input as we work together throughout the year promoting the wellness of our students, staff, and community!

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thursday, September 5

Wednesday, September 11

Thursday, September 12

Tuesday, September 17

Wednesday, September 18

Thursday, September 25

Tuesday, September 30

Monday, October 6

PTA Catalog Fundraiser Kick-Off

Band/Strings Presentation: Back to Music Night @ 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria

SCHOOLS CLOSED for Students: Professional Day

Back-to-School Night: Pre-K to Grade 2 @ 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

GT/Enrichment Program Parent Orientation @ 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (Cafeteria)

GT Math Orientation at 5:30 / Enrichment Program Orientation at 6:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night: Grade 3 through Grade 5 @ 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SCHOOLS CLOSED: Rosh Hashanah

BRIDGES Parent Night @ 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Pod

1<sup>st</sup> Q Midterm Progress Report Goes Home