

Spring Hill Elementary School
 201 East 15th Street
 Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130
 812-288-4874
 Virenda Cunningham-Lester, Principal
 www.gcs.k12.in.us

February 2018

February 2018



Dates to Remember

The Wildcat Journal

Spring Hill's Beliefs

We Believe....

- in **mutual respect** throughout our school.
- a **positive attitude** will encourage a strong work ethic and a supportive school climate.
- a **professional learning community** will enhance our collaborative culture; provide a focus on student achievement and learning by all.

all staff members and students will have **high expectations** for themselves and one another.

all students can learn in a variety of ways and at different rates based on their individuality.

all students must be **challenged** and given opportunities to develop and expand their knowledge.



2018

Cheerleaders

- China Beasley**
- Nikkeya Brown**
- Marianna Bush**
- Jessie Ford**
- Tyanna Horsman**
- Emily Izquierdo**
- Litzy Rubio**
- Nikeeyah Stephenson**
- Coach: Tiffany Embry**



Boys Basketball Game @Bridgepoint	Feb. 5th
Mid Terms Go Home	Feb. 7th
Boys Basketball Game @Spring Hill	Feb. 7th
Jump Rope for Hear	Feb. 16th
Muffins with Mom	Feb. 16th
School Open	Feb. 19th
Black History Program	Feb. 22nd

Reminder To All Parents

Update your telephone numbers or address for your child in the school office. We always need this information for emergencies.

New Automated Attendance Call

Student safety is a top priority for Greater Clark County Schools. In an effort to know the whereabouts of students at all times we will begin an automated attendance call beginning February 19, 2018, through our district School Messenger System. The system will begin making automated phone calls to the families of absent students who have not reported an absence to the school office by 10:00 a.m. Families who have followed handbook protocol and requested and received approval for an excused absence in advance will not be called. The message will read as follows:

Hello, this is a message from the attendance office at (school), calling to inform you that your student (name) was absent from school at 10:00 today. Please contact the attendance office of your student's school at (phone number), to clear the absence, or send a signed note upon returning to school. If you have already contacted the school office you can disregard this message. If you would like to replay this message, please press the star key. Thank you.

We appreciate your support and cooperation to work as partners in your child's educational programming. We know attendance has significant impact on overall student success. Please contact the school office if you have any questions about this process.

Just For Parents



Special Day

Spring Hill's Purpose

Muffins With Mom



February 19, 2018
Presidents' Day
School is Open!

To improve the education of every student while challenging each child to become a life-long learner.



Friday
 February 16, 2018
 8:15

In the Cafeteria
 See you there!!

Black History Program
Thursday
February 22, 2018
6:00 PM



Inclement Weather Transportation Plan

2017-18 School Year

If weather and road conditions become bad enough to cause a change in the normal school schedule, one of the following plans below will be announced to the media on the morning in question. The district uses -10 degree wind chill as a starting point when considering a delay or closing of school due to temperature.

The district's status will also be posted on our website and social media sites. Please do not call school offices or school employees because it ties up phone lines which are needed for emergency communications.

Cold Weather Hot Line

A School Messenger notification will be sent regarding a delay or closing of school during inclement weather by 5:30 a.m. to staff members and 6:00 a.m. to parents/guardians. In the event that school is delayed and weather conditions deteriorate, an announcement to close schools will be made by 7:30 a.m. A recorded message will also be available at 288-4802 (press 1) or check the GCCS website at gccschools.com.

Plan 1: Two Hour Delay

- a) School will begin two hours late. Buses will run two hours later on their normal routes.
- b) Afternoon dismissal will remain the same.
- c) The morning sessions of preschool programs will be cancelled.

Plan 2: Schools Closed

- a) No school will be open that day.
- b) School will be open the next scheduled day unless another closing announcement is made.
- c) Make-up days will be announced.

During slick road conditions, bus drivers may decide, after approval by the Director of Transportation, that a portion of their route cannot be safely traveled. In such cases, every effort will be made to notify the affected homes. The following rules will apply for students whose bus did not run:

- a) Attendance will be taken and recorded with a notation that absence was due to no bus transportation.
- b) If the student has perfect attendance in progress for the year, he/she will remain eligible for the recognition.
- c) All make-up requirements must be met.

Inclement weather conditions sometimes cause buses to run late. Parents are asked to prepare their children to wait a reasonable amount of time for the bus and to be prepared for some variation in normal schedules. Questions about these procedures may be directed to the **school principal**, the **Chief Financial Officer's Office** (288-4802 ext. 50120), or the **Transportation Office** (288-4809).

Thank you for your cooperation.



Spring Hill News

5th Grade News

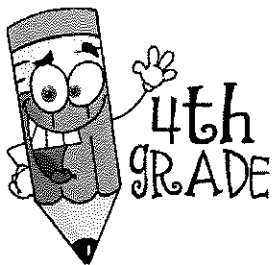
The 5th graders are continuing to learn and display ROLE MODEL behavior. Be sure to check out their Class Dojo points! In February, the 5th graders will have a field trip to tour River Valley Middle School. This will help the students become more familiar and comfortable with the new school atmosphere.

In the classroom, we are researching for our Black History projects as well as our State project. They are learning many fascinating facts about both. In math, we still need your help by practicing multiplication facts every night with your child. This is a very important standard that needs to be mastered. Also, please have your child read to you nightly. This will help with their fluency and is a great way to build the love of reading with your child.



Special Needs News

We will be studying planets, 5 senses, and emotions/feelings over February. We have finished our Star Testing!



The state poster project is coming due---February 19 is the due date!

Be expecting a poster rubric to come home so you can get started.

Posters can be purchased for \$0.50 here at school---just ask Ms. Carter or Mrs. Riley!

Please continue to study multiplication facts with your child.

We are working on Informative (expository) Writing in class and our Black History biographies are coming right along!

Spotlight on Second Grade

Reading: We are working on finding cause and effect in a text. Students are also working on finding the main idea of a text. Please encourage your students to READ! We are still participating in Book-It! They can earn a free Pizza Hut coupon!

*Please continue to have students practice their weekly Spelling and Vocabulary words!

Language: Students are working on identifying adjectives and adverbs!

Adjectives: describe a noun

Example: tall man/ blue shirt

Adverb: describes a verb or tells where, when, or how an event happens.

Example: ran quickly/ talk quietly

Math: Students are practicing telling time on both digital and analog clocks. We are practicing telling time to the half hour and hour. We will be working on this over the next couple of weeks!

Thank you for your continued support!



Preschool

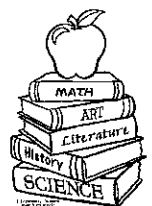
Preschool has been hard at work. We are working on a unit on space, learning our letters and matching numbers to sets. We are looking forward to starting a unit on friendship as we near Valentine's day. Keep practicing those skills at home as well!



We are doing fine in 1st grade! We have been in school 100 days and finally get to use the class chromebooks. We also have hardback reading books like the 2nd through 5th graders. We are doing just fine!

Technology News

I am proud to say that the majority of intermediate students have successfully increased their WPM (words per minute) to 27! The national average for elementary students is 25 WPM- way to go Spring Hill! Students have been working on Language Art skills in IXL to assist with testing in February as well. We encourage students to work on any IXL skill at home on their Chromebooks. It will be beneficial this month during testing!



Special Area News

Art The Kindergarteners are finishing painting a Snowman Portrait. We talked about what a Portrait is. We then discussed all the different parts that a snowman needs. They chose different colors for scarves & drew & painted different kinds of hats. These paintings are going to be Snowerrific! Their next project will be painting African Collars. Grades 1-5 are all creating something that comes from the continent of Africa. First are using paper & African stamps to weave & decorate Kente Cloths. Second & Mr. Deakin's Class are painting Lion Faces. Third are making Senofu Spirit Animals using stamps, oil pastels, & black paint.

Fourth have been working on making Calabash Bowls out of Plaster Cast/Craft. They will begin painting & decorating in the following weeks. Fifth have begun making African Masks using clay. Even though the students wear aprons, it is best not to wear new clothes on Art days.

Music K-2nd are learning about Instrument Families-Percussion, String, Brass, & Woodwinds. 3-5 are continuing to work on songs for the **Black History Program** which will be **Thurs., 2/22 at 2 & 6 p.m.** They should be bringing permission slips home for speaking parts on Mon., 2/5 or Tues., 2/6. The students began working on this in December. Not only do we work on it in Music, but they work on it in Technology, Library, & the classroom. It is important for them to be here the evening of 2/22, especially the 5th graders, as it may be the last Black History Program they participate in. We look forward to seeing you at SH on 2/22.

PE All students just finished learning how to use the scooters correctly & how to play some fun games using the scooters. There are photos & videos on the SHES Facebook Page.

This week Ms. Larson brought out the Kin-Ball. It is a giant, hot pink ball. The students are learning to keep it off the ground by hitting it correctly & to stay in their area. Grades 3-5 will learn to play Omni-Kin.

PLEASE work with your children on learning to tie their shoes.



This semester the students will be working extra hard to prepare for first grade. Some of the skills that we will be working on in February are: short vowel sounds, the main idea of a story, blending and segmenting words, writing a story, teen numbers, and simple addition and subtraction. These are great skills to reinforce and practice at home. Students will be expected to read at a level 4-6 at the end of the year. Please encourage your child to read daily and complete their Book-It Calendar. They will also be expected to know 70 or more of the kindergarten sight words by end of the third quarter. Lastly, we will be exchanging Valentine's on Feb. 14. We will not be having a celebration though, just exchanging valentines. Class lists will go home next week. Please remember you can contact us at (812)288-4874.



We have had a very busy start to the new year. The students have been working hard to master their multiplication facts and have been working on Geometry and fractions. They are becoming great math problem solvers! Don't forget the Black History Celebration is coming up on February 22nd at 6:00. There will be a program full of singing and speakers. The students will also be presenting all of their projects that they have completed. It will be a great night so mark your calendars! In Social Studies we have been learning all about our community and students will be coming home with an interview project relating to the great people who make up our community. Please make sure your child comes to school every day and arrives on time. We start the day off quickly and you don't want them to miss out on any new learning.

Library News

Primary students learned about one of their favorite authors, Tedd Arnold, this month. They wrote him letters about his process of writing and illustrating the Fly Guy books and we are eagerly awaiting a reply. They have been on fire with Reading Counts this year! Leaders in 1st grade are: Brandon Rubio with 248 Points and in 2nd grade: Corbin Bush with 124 Points.

Intermediate students have been learning about how to find books by using our online catalog. They are becoming masters of finding books by author and help one another locate them! The intermediate leaders in Reading Counts are 3rd grade: Davontrea Saunders with 157 Points, 4th Grade: Litz Rubio with 651 points and 5th grade: Shanian Wolfork with 343 Points.

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION[®]

February 2018

Spring Hill Elementary School



SHORT NOTES

I love you because...

Family members can share what they love about each other with this writing activity. Have your youngster cut out paper hearts. Write love notes on them and hide for others to find. For example, maybe your child will put one under her sister's placemat that says, "I love you because you make me laugh."

On the road again

Carpooling with other parents is a great way to save time and money—and to get to know your youngster's classmates. When you drive, you'll probably hear them discuss school, sports, and friends. *Note:* Ask parents about booster seats—if a child uses one in his parents' car, he'll need one in yours, too.

Indoor "recess"—at home

When winter weather keeps your family inside, ask your child to show you what she does during indoor recess at school. She could teach you games, crafts, or songs she enjoys. Then, encourage her to come up with new ideas to try at home or in class.

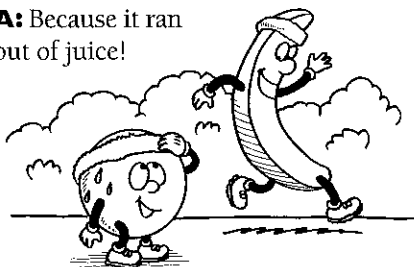
Worth quoting

"Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale." *Hans Christian Andersen*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the orange lose the race?

A: Because it ran out of juice!



Olympic-sized learning

While the 2018 Winter Olympic Games are taking place thousands of miles away, your child can earn a "medal" in learning at home. Turn Olympic magic into educational gold with these suggestions.

Reading

Speed skating, ski jumping, luge...which Winter Olympics sports does your youngster enjoy watching? Head to the library together to pick out books about their history, the rules, and how the athletes train. *Idea:* Hold a "reading Olympics." Let family members count the books they read in February. At the end of the month, everyone can award medals to their three favorites.

Math

Your child will practice gathering, recording, and calculating data to find out which of his favorite countries wins the most medals. Encourage him to divide poster board into four columns: "Country," "Gold," "Silver," "Bronze." In column one, he can list teams he'd like



to follow. Every day, have him check a newspaper or olympic.org and add tally marks for each country's medals. After the Olympics end, he can total them up to see who got the most in each category.

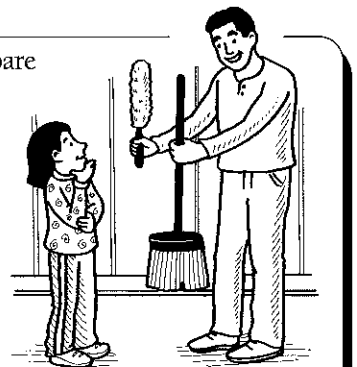
Social studies

Where in the world do the Olympic athletes come from? To explore geography, help your youngster use a map to find countries represented in the Olympics. He might put star stickers on the countries on a wall map. Or let him print out a world map and make a dot on each competing country.♥

Decisions, decisions

Learning to make smaller decisions now will prepare your youngster to make bigger ones later. Here are ways to build her decision-making skills:

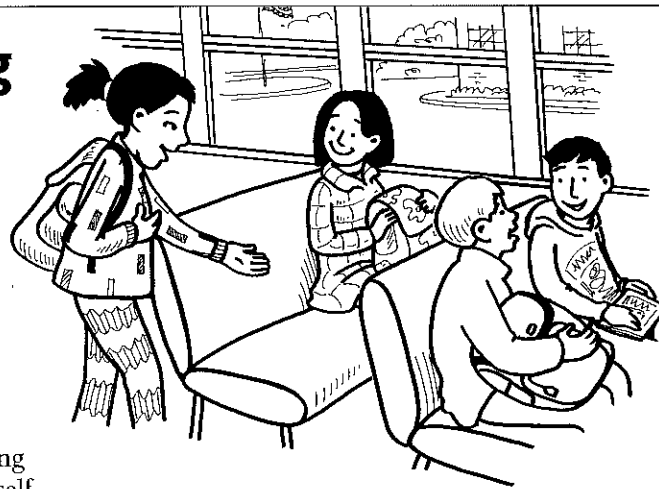
- Hearing you think through your choices gives your child an example to follow. You might say, "I'd like to visit Aunt Sue tonight, but then I might not finish this proposal for work. I'll go Saturday instead."
- When possible, give your youngster two to three specific options. That way, she can make a decision without feeling overwhelmed. *Example:* "Do you want to sweep or dust?" rather than "Which chore would you prefer to do?"♥



An anti-bullying attitude

Having a positive attitude toward others can help to keep your youngster from participating in bullying. With these ideas, she'll be more apt to be kind to others and want them to feel included.

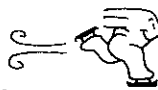
1. Watch your words. Let your youngster know you expect her to speak kindly. Before she says something she's unsure about, she could ask herself if she would want you to hear it. If she overhears another



student calling a classmate names or gossiping, she could counter the unkind words with nice ones. ("I hear you're really good at gymnastics.")

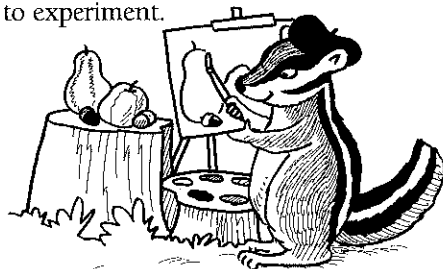
2. Accept everyone. Leaving people out on purpose is a form of bullying. Suggest that your child look for chances to make others feel that they belong. For example, she might ask to

join someone who normally sits alone on the bus. Or she could invite a new student to her birthday party. She'll see how good it feels to make someone's day—and perhaps she'll even gain a friend!♥



ACTIVITY CORNER Inspired by art

Art unleashes your child's imagination and lets him practice fine-motor skills. Try these tips to encourage him to experiment.



Use natural supplies

Challenge your youngster to find free art materials right in your backyard! For instance, he might use sticks or feathers as paintbrushes. Or he could draw on rocks with colored chalk.

Try new formats

Suggest that your child arrange objects (toys, fruits) on a table and sketch a *still life*. Or go outdoors where he can paint a *landscape* of natural scenery like trees or a pond. If he wants to draw a *portrait*, he could ask a family member to pose—or look in a mirror and create a *self-portrait*.♥

PARENT TO PARENT

Safe to make mistakes

My third grader, Mark, gets discouraged when he can't do something correctly right away. While he was practicing his typing skills, he said, "Forget it, I'm no good at this," and walked away from the computer.

I told Mark that mistakes are part of learning. I admitted that when I was his age, I wanted to quit the violin because I couldn't get the notes right on my favorite piece. Luckily, the school music teacher encouraged me to continue, and Mark knows that I enjoy playing the violin to this day.

To show Mark his mistakes were "stepping-stones," I drew circles across a sheet of paper. Each time he made a mistake while typing, I suggested he cross out a stepping-stone and start the sentence again. I knew that if he kept trying, he'd type an error-free sentence before he got to the last stone—and I was right.

Now Mark has a way to track his progress with typing and other things that require persistence.♥



Q & A Study with a pencil in hand

Q: When my daughter studies for a test, she simply reads through her notes or textbook chapter once and announces she's finished. How can I help her study more effectively?

A: Reading is an important part of studying. But writing and drawing can help cement the information in her mind—in fun and interesting ways.

For example, if she's studying a textbook chapter, she could write answers to

the end-of-chapter questions or even design her own quiz. When she studies with a classmate, they might write questions on index cards and play "quiz show."

Sketching pictures is another good study strategy. To prepare for a test on planets, she can draw and label the solar system. Or she could draw pizzas and write fractions on the slices while studying for a math test.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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