

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we return to school after the recent snow and ice.

We want to recognize our incredible building services team for their outstanding work. They worked tirelessly in the cold to clear sidewalks and walkways and ensure our building was safe for everyone. Please allow extra time when traveling to school on Monday, as some areas may still be icy.

Lastly, please take a moment to review the updated school events calendar at the bottom of this message.

We look forward to seeing everyone back!

**New: National Counseling Week**

National School Counselor Week is a wonderful opportunity to show appreciation for all that our counselors do to support our students, staff, and families. We invite families to take a moment to write a short thank-you note or message of appreciation through this link for Ms. Peña and/or Ms. Luckett, <https://forms.gle/cU6KMDtRUHaJwaob9>

Your kind words mean so much and help remind our counselor how valued their work truly is. Thank you for helping us celebrate!

**New Dates for the Spelling Bee**

Thank you for your patience as we have had to reschedule the upcoming SFES Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. **Dates are as follows:**

- Kindergarten & 1st - 02/03
- 2nd & 3rd - 02/04
- 4th & 5<sup>th</sup> - 02/05

The top three spellers from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will advance to a school-level competition on February 11th, and the winner of that round will go on to compete in the Scripps National Regional Spelling Bee.

**New: 5th Grade Fundraiser: Help Raise Some Dough for Fifth Grade!**

The fifth-grade class is a little over halfway to our fundraising goal to fully fund a fantastic fifth-grade promotion ceremony, end-of-year celebration, free t-shirts for fifth graders, and a legacy gift for the school.

We would greatly appreciate your support through our latest fundraiser: Mrs. Fields cookie dough! You may place an order using the link below or scan the QR code on the flyer that will be coming home with your child in their Thursday folder.

- <https://brandnamefundraising.com/raise/SnowdenFarmElementaryPTA>
- Each box of cookie dough includes 24 pre-formed discs, ready for the oven.
- Our school keeps 40% of all profits.
- Mrs. Field's has distribution centers all over the United States, for fast delivery of products.

Thanks in advance for your *sweet* contribution and supporting our fifth graders.

-The fifth grade team and promotion committee

### **Movie Night on 02/06 at 6:30**

Looking for a fun night with your ohana? Join us on Friday, February 6, 2026, for Family Movie Night featuring Lilo & Stitch!

- Doors open at 6:30 PM, so grab your blankets, wear your comfiest clothes, and get ready for a cozy night of laughter and island fun.
- Snacks and treats will be available for purchase, and all proceeds will support the 5th Grade Promotion.

We can't wait to see you there. It's going to be a night full of fun, family, and friendship!

### **Enrichment Night on 02/12 from 6:00-7:15 PM**

We're excited to invite families to Snowden Farm ES Enrichment Night 2026 on Thursday, February 12 from 6:00–7:15 p.m. in the All-Purpose Room (APR)! This fun, interactive evening is designed to help students grow, glow, and get inspired through hands-on activities that build critical thinking and a growth mindset. Activities will include Finish the Picture, Story Starters, Word Builders, Guess Box/Bag, Game Master, and more. We hope to see you there for an engaging night of learning and creativity!

### **Kids Heart Challenge during their PE classes on February 9th-13th**

This February 2026, all Snowden Farm Elementary School students will be participating in our annual Kids Heart Challenge during their PE classes on February 9-13th where we help to raise funds to support the American Heart Association's efforts to raise money to help fight cardiovascular disease. This annual free event is sponsored by our Physical Education Department in conjunction with the American Heart Association.

Your child will participate in fun and exciting heart healthy activities during **all** PE classes the week of Feb. 9-13th to celebrate our fundraising efforts. This is a free program for **all** students at our school to participate in and all donations to the American Heart Association are voluntary. Please consider helping us as it is a great way to show community service and to help promote an increased level of physical activity.

*To sign up*, your child can register at [heart.org/KHC](http://heart.org/KHC) Once there, they will have the opportunity to choose a daily health challenge and to earn thank-you gifts from the American Heart Association based on the amount of money they collect online.

All thank-you gifts will be given to your child approximately 3-4 weeks after the event is completed. Mr. Benco and Mrs. Vick will introduce the program to your child during the first part of PE classes on January 20th through Feb. 6th. If you have any preliminary questions please contact our PE Teacher Mr. Benco at the following email address:  
[thomas\\_m\\_benco@mcpsmd.org](mailto:thomas_m_benco@mcpsmd.org)

Thank you in advance for being a heart hero!

### **Join the PTA**

Join the PTA to become an integral part of your child's elementary school experience.

- Fill out the membership form online,  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc98gaet2hNbdVBLPQMYyjdDemfgWNSvYCWmhazRDuDsSE-8w/viewform?usp=preview>
- Pay Dues
  - Pay online via Zelle: [treasurer@sfspta.org](mailto:treasurer@sfspta.org)
  - Individual Membership \$20
  - Family Membership \$40
  - Staff Membership \$15

### **New: Important Information from MCPS**

#### **Water Safety Poster Contest:**

Open to artists in grades K–12, this contest asks participants to create a poster that highlights the importance of water safety. Deadline: Sunday, March 15. [Learn more](#) and [submit](#).

#### **Sustainability Poster Contest:**

All students and staff can participate in this annual contest to increase awareness of energy conservation, waste reduction and responsible recycling.

- Check out the new digital art category! Deadline: Friday, April 3.

## **Additional Information**

- [Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice](#)
- [Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice](#)
- [At-Home Student Device Request](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)
- Food Assistance: Call Manna's main office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm, at (301) 424-1130.
- [Menus - Department of Food & Nutrition Services - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD](#)
- School Cash Online- <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>
- Maryland Anonymous Tip Line - 1-833-632-7233- Report threats or situations that put your safety, or others' safety, at risk.
- In Case You Missed It:
  - [Refrigerator Curriculum](#): See what your children will be learning each marking period.
  - [Register for Saturday School](#). The tutoring sessions are available to students in K-12 in math and English/Language Arts and have in-person and virtual options.
  - MCPS welcomes volunteers! [Here's how to do it](#).
- More MCPS Resources
  - [School calendar](#)
  - [Parent resource page](#)
  - [Remind, ParentSquare, ParentVUE](#): What's the difference?
  - [Student Code of Conduct](#): Read the revised document and watch the video.

## **Upcoming Important Dates**

- Tuesday, February 3rd- Spelling Bee for K and 1st
- Wednesday, February 4th- Spelling Bee for 2nd and 3rd
- Thursday, February 5th- Spelling Bee for 4th and 5th
- Friday, February 6th- 5th Grade Field Trip and Movie Night at 6:30 PM
- Monday, February 9th- Stallion Meet Ups
- Wednesday, February 11th- Spelling Bee Finals
- Thursday, February 12- 1st Grade Valentine's Day Party, PTA meeting, and Enrichment Night starting at 6:00 PM

Tomorrow is **Groundhog Day**! We're all hoping the groundhog does **not** see his shadow, signaling an early spring ahead. After all the snow and ice, we're more than ready to welcome warmer days!

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal