

STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY



BOBCAT NEWS

November 4, 2016

Ernesto Diaz
Principal

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<http://sfes.hcpss.org/>

Tracey Albright
Assistant Principal

School Hours are 9:00am to 3:30pm

Doors open at 8:45am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 4 - End of First Marking Period
November 7 - No School for Students, Professional Work Day
November 8 - Schools and Offices Closed, General Election Day
November 9 - Student Photo Retakes
November 9 - PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
November 14 - McDonald's Restaurant Night, 5-9pm
November 14-18 - American Education Week
November 15 - Report Cards Issued
November 21 & 22 - Schools close at 12:30 for parent/teacher conferences
November 23 - Schools are closed for students, parent/teacher conferences
November 24 & 25 - Schools and Offices closed, Thanksgiving Holiday

General Election

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 is General Election Day. We encourage all SFES community members to exercise their right to vote. While there will be no school for students or staff, the building will be open as a polling place. Visit the link below for polling place and election information:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Board-of-Elections>

McDonald's Night

The second restaurant night of the year will be on Monday, November 14. All SFES family members are invited to dine at McDonald's located on Dobbin Road between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. McDonald's has pledged to donate a portion of the proceeds to SFES. Our goal is to completely fill the restaurant with SFES staff, students, and family

members! Please join us for great food and great fun.

Federal Impact Aid Surveys

Federal Impact Aid Survey forms were distributed to students this week. Parents/Guardians who are employed on federal property in Maryland or are active duty military personnel are encouraged to fill out a survey for each child in the household. HCPSS is eligible to receive federal funds based on the number of surveys returned. Please return your completed form as soon as possible but no later than November 18.

Howard County Board of Education Policy Reminder regarding Attendance

Regular daily attendance (including on time arrival) is vital to the continuity of classroom instruction and participation in school activities. Therefore, students are required to be in school or to be attending a school activity each day school is in session. In recognition that situations do arise that necessitate absence from school, the Board of Education allows students to be lawfully absent for a death in the family, illness, a court summons, hazardous weather as determined by the Superintendent, work release, religious obligation, declared State emergencies, suspension, or for other emergencies or set of circumstances which in the judgment of the Superintendent or designee constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence.

American Education Week, November 14-18

American Education Week presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. American Education Week is a great time for parents and guardians to visit their child's classroom or eat lunch together. We invite you to join us that week. Just make sure to sign in upon arrival.

2016 PARCC Results

We are very excited to share that last year's 3rd through 5th grade students exhibited a great deal of growth during last spring's administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. ***In fact, our students led the entire school system in the percentage of growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and were third from the top in Mathematics!!***

As you may recall, PARCC is an assessment to measure student achievement in ELA and Mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school. The primary purpose of PARCC is to provide high quality assessments of students' progression toward postsecondary readiness and success.

The PARCC tests are designed to match the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards and assess whether students are meeting grade-level expectations. In contrast to other assessments, the PARCC is an extension to regular instruction, because students experience engaging, real-life texts and solve meaningful problems based on high-quality classroom work. In addition, built in accessibility features help all students do their best and expand access for students with disabilities.

We are so proud of our staff, students, and entire school community! More information regarding PARCC can be found at this link

<http://www.hcpss.org/academics/testing/parcc/>

Help Wanted

Please consider joining the SFES School Improvement Team (SIT). This team includes staff and school community members who work together to provide input, monitor, and adjust the SFES School Improvement Plan (SIP). The team typically meets three or four times each year from approximately 3-4pm. Please contact Mr. Diaz at ernesto_diaz@hcpss.org if you are interested or if you have any questions.

Early Dismissal

We understand that circumstances may arise when a student may need to be dismissed early for appointments or other reasons. It is important to stress that parents/guardians must report to the front office no later than 3:05pm when picking up their child for an early dismissal. Early dismissals after that time are disruptive to the afternoon dismissal procedures. Students will be called to the front office for dismissal upon the parent's/guardian's arrival. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up the child for early dismissal, the person must be granted permission as indicated in FAMILY File or by providing a signed note from the parent/guardian.

New Call Box on Front Door

We are pleased to share that in an ongoing effort to ensure student safety, a call box was installed where the front door bell was located. This new call box is similar to those in other HCPSS schools and allows communication with school visitors.

All visitors should press the button on the call box upon arrival. One of our secretaries will greet each visitor and ask how they can help. Visitors should speak directly into the box to share the reason for visiting SFES.

While our staff knows many of the school community members, please know that the protocol above will be used with all visitors. Thank you for your help and flexibility.

Child Safety Seats

We care deeply about the safety of all students and feel compelled to remind SFES families of the following points regarding child safety seats:

- Maryland's current law requires that children under eight years old ride in an appropriate child restraint, unless the child is 4'9" or taller.
- Every child from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a child restraint must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt, in every sitting position in the vehicle.
- This law is applicable to in-State and out-of-State vehicles.
- It is the driver's responsibility for making sure all children are correctly buckled up.
- More details on this important topic can be accessed at this link: <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/progr-am-child-passenger-safety.htm>