



SMALLTALK NEWSLETTER



Fort Smallwood Elementary
1720 Poplar Ridge Road
Pasadena, Maryland 21122
410-222-6450

Vision, Mission and Values Statement

Parents, please review our school's Vision, Mission and Values statement:

These are not just words to us. These are our beliefs. Everything that we do is based on them. Please read them and know we **do** have your child's best interest at heart.

What are we about?

Vision

In partnership with parents, teachers, and the community, Fort Smallwood students will be provided the opportunity to achieve and maintain a solid educational foundation that stimulates thought, celebrates diversity, and prepares students to have a positive impact on their community, country and world.

Mission

We are committed to fostering each child's full academic potential by providing instruction that is engaging, challenging, appropriately supported, and promotes life-long learning.

Values

We value a school supportive of:

- High expectations for learning and behavior
- Instruction that appeals to a variety of learning styles and experiences
- Maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment
- Fostering positive, open, and effective home/school communications
- Promoting parent involvement opportunities within the school
- Respecting all members of the Fort Smallwood School community.



Principal's Message

Greetings, Fort Smallwood Community!

Welcome to December! On December 5th, your students will be coming home two hours early so their teachers can work to continue to build inclusive and welcoming learning environments for all learners. Faculty and Staff will look at the importance of equitable practices in the pursuit of meeting all students as individual people--not just as learners.

Remember, Welcome Wednesday is the first Wednesday of every month. Refer to our website for lunch times by grade level.

Also, be reminded that Fall Picture Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd. Marking Period 2 Interims will be distributed on Friday, December 13th. Be sure to review your students' performance and to set goals with them for the remainder of the Marking Period.

Continue to check your child's grade-level Blackboard Site for information ranging from field trips to units of study.

Thanks to all for your continued support in making Fort Smallwood Elementary School the best place to learn and grow! Together, we make a difference!

Respectfully,
Mr. David Sembly
Principal
Fort Smallwood Elementary School

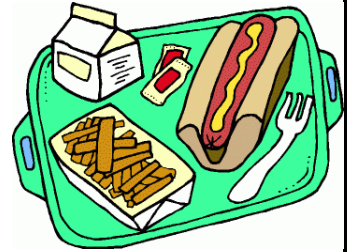


Inside this issue:

COUNSELOR NEWS	3-6
SHARING FOUNDATION	7
SARAH'S HOUSE	8
PTA NEWS	9-11
BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION	12-18
CALENDAR	19
ASK THE PRINCIPAL	LAST PAGE

WELCOME WEDNESDAYS

When you come to visit your child for Welcome Wednesdays it is for **lunch only and not for recess!** Please bring a bag lunch from home or you may buy a lunch from the cafeteria, **do not bring in lunches from fast food restaurants.** You also cannot take pictures during lunch times.



******PICK-UP REMINDER!******

Please help our dismissal run smoothly by following this guideline:

If you need to pick up your child for early dismissal OR if you are calling to have your child be a car rider, please notify the office by 3:15 PM. After that time, children will be dismissed at 3:35 (our usual dismissal time) and intercom messages to the classroom will not be made.

The Anne Arundel County Public Schools System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, natural origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or familial status in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. Questions regarding nondiscrimination should be directed to Mr. Leslie N. Stanton, Specialist in Human Relations, AACPS, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 222-5318, TDD (410) 222-5500 or www.aacps.org



Fort Smallwood School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exteriors public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations.

During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.



Joy December 2019



SAY IT:

Finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way

KNOW IT:

ASK A KID: Think of a time that something didn't go your way. How did you react?

- What are some ways you can show that you're happy even when things don't go your way?

ASK A GROWN UP:

- Share examples of times when things haven't gone your way as a child and now as an adult.
- How have you handled these situations over time as you have gone from childhood into adulthood?

SEE IT:

Athletics is a great place to see how people react when things don't go their way. As a family, watch an athletic event/competition this month either in person or on TV. Pay close attention to the team that is losing at any given time. Watch their body language and take note of their reactions. At the end of any contest it is routine in most sports to walk through and shake each opponent's hand or give them a high five. You will see joy in players who exhibit good sportsmanship. They will enthusiastically and intentionally congratulate the winner, even though they are upset that they didn't win and it didn't go their way.

BE IT:

Be mindful this month about finding a way to be happy even when things don't go your way. Consider how you used to react when things didn't go the way you wanted them to. Now think of ways that you can find something positive in the outcome instead.

Alegría DICIEMBRE 2019



DILO:

Encontrar una manera de ser feliz incluso cuando las cosas no van como quisieras

CONOCELO:

PREGÚNTALE A UN NIÑO:

- Piensa en una ocasión cuando algo no fue a tu manera. ¿Cómo reaccionaste?
- ¿Cuáles son algunas formas en que puedes demostrar que estás feliz incluso cuando las cosas no salen como lo deseas?

PREGUNTAR A UN ADULTO:

- Comparta ejemplos de momentos en los que las cosas no han ido bien como niños y ahora como adultos.
- ¿Cómo ha manejado estas situaciones a lo largo del tiempo al pasar de la infancia a la edad adulta?

MÍRALO:

El atletismo es lugar perfecto para ver cómo reacciona la gente cuando las cosas no salen como quieren. En familia, vean un evento / competencia atlética este mes, ya sea en persona o en la televisión. Presten mucha atención al equipo que está perdiendo en un momento dado. Observen su lenguaje corporal y tomen nota de sus reacciones. Al final de cualquier competencia, en la mayoría de los deportes es una rutina caminar y darle la mano a cada oponente o darles un máximo de cinco. Verán alegría en jugadores que exhiben buena deportividad. Felicitarán entusiastamente e intencionalmente al ganador, a pesar de que están molestos por no haber ganado y no lo hicieron a su favor.

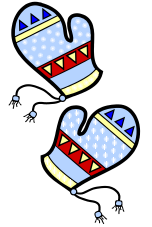
VIVELO:

Pon atención este mes para encontrar una manera de ser feliz, incluso cuando las cosas no van a tu manera. Considera cómo solías reaccionar cuando las cosas no iban como querías. Ahora piensa en formas en que puedas encontrar algo positivo en el resultado.

The Sharing Foundation needs our help!



Fort Smallwood Elementary School
is collecting

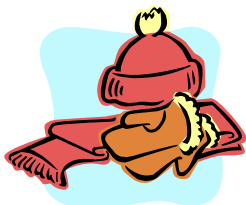


HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, AND COATS

for children in Anne Arundel County
**from November 25th through
December 13th.**

Please bring in your new hats, scarves,
coats, and gloves and clip them onto
our mitten/hat tree in the front lobby.

*This is a great way to spread Joy to those
that need it!*



PTA NEWS

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Collecting and scanning Box Tops is:

- MORE CONVENIENT: Redeem anywhere
- EASY TO USE: No more clipping or sending Box Tops to school
- REAL TIME: School earnings are automatically updated online
- EXTRA CASH: Access special bonus offers on top of your Box Tops earnings



^^ If you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt.

Box Tops are still worth 10¢ each. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online. In the app, make sure you have selected "Fort Smallwood Elementary School | Pasadena, Md." as your school of choice.

NOTE: Please ignore the notice that says you need to scan receipts within 14 days of purchase. If you'd prefer that we scan your receipts, send them in with your student in an envelope marked "PTA mailbox/Attn: Box Tops."

Here is a list of participating products: boxtops4education.com/Participating-Products-Page

If you have printed Box Tops, please keep collecting those. We'll still take them if they have not expired!

If you have questions, email ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com.



PTA NEWS



Wednesday, January 15, 2020

6-7 p.m.

Fort Smallwood Elementary School Media Center

Join us for our first newly reformatted PTA meeting!

You will hear about:

- PTA goals and updates to benefit students and teachers
- Maryland 529 College Investment Plan features and benefits
- Innovators of Science and Engineering Challenge (ISEC) - formerly known as the science fair
- Grade-level STEM class updates

** Open Door will provide free care for Fort Smallwood students whose caregivers are attending the PTA meeting.

If you have questions, email ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com.



Join the FORT SMALLWOOD PTA 2019-20



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Include me in the FSE PTA Directory YES NO
 YES! I would like to help out with PTA Activities

Member 1 First Name _____ Member 1 Last Name _____

Member 2 First Name _____ Member 2 Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email 1 _____ Phone _____ Text? YES NO

Email 2 _____

- \$7 FSE School Teacher
- \$7 Single Caregiver
- \$15 Family
- Check payable to Ft. Smallwood PTA
- Cash
- PayPal via email ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com

Student 1 Name

Teacher

Grade

Student 1 Name

Teacher

Grade

Student 1 Name

Teacher

Grade

List any additional students on the back.

For PTA Use:
 DATE: _____ CASH: _____ CHECK: _____ CHECK #: _____

Chaperone/Volunteer Information

A fingerprint supported background check or commercial background check, along with viewing the Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video, is required to chaperone or volunteer at Fort Smallwood Elementary School. A fingerprint supported background check, once completed is good until your last child leaves Anne Arundel County Public Schools. A commercial background check is only good for 2 years. You will be required to complete the background every 2 years from when you first completed it. Please see attached forms for information and instructions on completing each of these background checks.

You can access the required Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video Viewing at <https://www.aacps.org/Page/2460>.

After viewing the video please complete the attached form and return to school. You are not considered clear for volunteering or chaperoning until we have received this form, along with your approved fingerprint supported background or commercial background check.



CHAPERONE/VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS

Anne Arundel County Public Schools is committed to providing safe and secure learning environments for all students and employees. Successful completion of a background check is required **before** any person has access to students, either on or off school property. The Office of Investigations has continued to work closely with the Office of School Security to review AACPS protocols for conducting background checks.

Background investigations are divided into two categories: fingerprint-supported background checks and commercial background checks. Once a fingerprint-supported background check is performed, applicants no longer need to submit the electronic background check. Anyone applying to be a chaperone or volunteer must be at least 18 years of age.

Fingerprint Supported Background Check

All employees, coaches, bus drivers, and bus aides, must complete a fingerprint-supported background check prior to beginning employment. **Additionally, the following groups of individuals must complete a fingerprint-supported background check:**

- **All overnight volunteers or chaperones**
- **All drown proofing volunteers or chaperones (effective 07/02/2018)**
- **Any volunteer or chaperone with one-on-one unsupervised/unrestricted access to children**
- **Student teachers**
- **All Student Services Interns/Practicum students (effective 07/02/2018)**
- **Any intern with one-on-one unsupervised/unrestricted access to children**

One-on-one unsupervised or unrestricted access- a person having responsibility for a student while not in the direct continuous view of an AACPS employee. This does not include chaperones or volunteers who supervise groups of students (e.g. field trips to the zoo, museum, BSO performance).

Fingerprint-supported background checks must be scheduled through the Fingerprinting Office at 410-222-5045. The Fingerprinting Office is located at the AACPS Central Office on Riva Road and is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, during the school year. The cost of fingerprinting is \$58.25 and it includes the commercial background check. Fingerprint-supported background checks for chaperones should be completed at least 3 weeks prior to the scheduled field trip.

Each applicant requiring a fingerprint-supported background check is provided with a blue **Fingerprint Verification Card**. This card should be kept with the applicant while on school grounds and should be displayed to an administrator upon request. Each school should keep a running list of chaperones and volunteers that have been fingerprinted.

All questions regarding this process, or to confirm the results of a fingerprint-supported background check should be directed to the Office of Investigations at 410-222-5287.

Commercial Background Check

All chaperones and volunteers **without one-on-one** unsupervised or unrestricted access to students must complete the online request for a commercial background check. This group is inclusive of PTA and PTO officers, CAC officers, Booster Club officers, and chaperones or volunteers who work with children in the presence of an approved AACPS representative (e.g. daytime field trip to the zoo). These background checks are at no cost to the applicant and are valid for 2 years. All applications should be submitted electronically at least 3 weeks prior to the intended school event.

*Persons without personal computer access may access this process on a school computer or use computers in a public library.

*This application is not supported by cell phones, therefore, a computer must be used to submit all commercial background checks.

DEFINITIONS

Volunteer - a person who provides a variety of services (e.g., tutoring, mentoring, clerical assistance, chaperoning, athletic coaches, club advisors, etc.) without financial payment from AACPS. A volunteer generally includes persons who regularly, i.e., on more than one isolated occasion, provide scheduled time and service working in an uncompensated capacity. A volunteer may, however, provide uncompensated service on isolated occasions. These types of volunteers frequently include persons who serve as "chaperones" during on and off-campus school events. A volunteer might additionally include student teachers, PTA/PTO officers, and/or office assistants with access to personally-identifiable information, currency and other sensitive matters.

Chaperone - one type of volunteer who provides short-term supervision to students during on-campus and/or off-campus educational activities. The role of the chaperone is to encourage safe and proper student behavior during activities where an AACPS employee cannot reasonably be expected to keep students in his/her exclusive observation. Chaperones, by nature of the duties assigned, are presumed to have uncontrolled access to students.

Visitor - a person who arrives at an AACPS educational location for a short period of time for a specific purpose. Visitors can include family members, vendors, community members and other non-AACPS employees who are doing specific business at that location. Generally, a visitor might have access to students, but this access will be supervised. Supervised access to students occurs when an adult has proximal contact with students while remaining under the direct observation of an AACPS employee. As an example, supervised access to students can occur during "guest reader" events where the visitor provides educational service to students while in the continual presence of an AACPS employee. Other examples of supervised access to students might occur during field day activities and/or science fair judging. Visitors are **not** required to complete commercial background criminal history checks. Visitors will only be required to present photographic identification that allows school personnel to enter the visitor's name into a software program that checks Registered Sex Offender databases in the United States

Screening criteria - the standard of judgment for evaluating an applicant's criminal history record against expected standards for persons who have access to students. It is essential that AACPS consider each applicant's criminal history in totality and in context of law enforcement experience and training. AACPS has the legal and ethical obligation to protect children in the District's care, and as such, no list of disqualifying crimes and adjudicated outcomes can be all-inclusive. Multiple criminal charges are frequently

imposed during singular events. Plea negotiations and other legal strategies dramatically impact each case's disposition. Some applicants will have recurrent misdemeanor criminal charges. Some applicants will have serious felony convictions adjudicated decades prior. AACPS must exercise prudent and conservative judgment when reviewing each request that facilitates a person having access to children in the District's care. AACPS retains the exclusive right to approve or deny any unpaid volunteer the opportunity to have access to students based on unique factors in the applicant's criminal history.

Approval period - the length of time an approved commercial background check remains effective. Commercial background checks are valid for two calendar years. AACPS, however, retains the discretion to require a subsequent background investigation for any volunteer within that two-year period. AACPS additionally retains the exclusive right to revoke volunteer authorization for derogatory information coming to the District's attention during the two-year period.

[APPLY FOR A BACKGROUND CHECK](#)

[SOLICITAR UNA VERIFICACION DE ANTECEDENTES](#)

DO I NEED FINGERPRINTING?

Adults who have **unsupervised access with students** must have either a commercial background check or a fingerprint-supported background check. **(This does not apply to current AACPS employees)**

[Here are some commonly asked questions](#) to help parents and guardians ascertain what they need to do in order to work with AACPS students.



Background Check Process

The AACPS background check process for student interns, chaperones, and volunteers is now electronic. All interns (education, school counseling, SLP, PT, OT, etc.) will need to follow the two-step process outlined below; paper forms are no longer accepted.

1. [Intern Background Investigation Form](#) – you must complete the form at this link as the first step in the background check process. This is so we know for whom to check on approval status and request computer access if appropriate. After completing the form, click “Submit” and then go to the AACPS website to finish the application process.
2. Visit www.aacps.org/chaperone and complete the following:
 - a. Read the information on the Chaperone Information/Background Checks page.
 - b. Click on the link at the bottom of the page to “[APPLY FOR A BACKGROUND CHECK.](#)”
 - i. This takes you to the self-guided application, Online Authorization Process.
 - ii. You will need to enter your first name, last name, and email address.
 - iii. Under “Select a School,” you will pull the menu down to **Student Intern Carver – Student** (see below), **not** your placement site.

Select a School:*

STUDENT INTERN CARVER - STUDENT ▼

- c. Then click on the LOGIN button to continue and follow the prompts to add your information.
- d. Enter N/A in the fields for date of field trip and relationship to child.
- e. After submitting your form, you will receive an email confirming receipt.

It is very important that these instructions are followed. Failure to complete the information found at both links will result in cancelation of the placement request as we will be unable to track your approval.



Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Volunteer Program

Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video Viewing

Once you have viewed the Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse video online, complete this form and return it to the Staff Liaison for Volunteers at your school.

I certify that I have viewed the Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse video in its entirety and I understand the information contained in it.

Name (please print)

Signature

Child's Full Name

Email address/phone number

Date

School

December 2019

◀ Nov 2019

Jan 2020 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Lockdown Drill Chick-fil-A	3 Picture Makeup Day	4 Welcome Wednesday	5 Project Unity – wear orange 2 hr Early Dismissal	6 Honor Roll Assembly	7
8	9 5 th Gr. Drownproofing 11:50-3:25	10 5 th Gr. Drownproofing 11:50-3:25	11 5 th Gr. Drownproofing 11:50-3:25	12	13 4 th Gr. Arlington Echo 9:20-5:30 Interims Go home	14
15	16	17	18 CBMS Music 9:30	19 Winter Chorus Concert 7 PM	20 PBIS : Pajamas & Hot Chocolate	21
22	23 Winter Break – All Schools & Offices Closed	24 Winter Break – All Schools & Offices Closed	25 Winter Break – All Schools & Offices Closed	26 Winter Break – All Schools & Offices Closed	27 Winter Break – All Schools & Offices Closed	28
29	30 Winter Break – All Schools & Offices Closed	31 Winter Break – All Schools & Offices Closed: schools will reopen January 2, 2020				

ASK THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Do you have a question or concern regarding a school matter? This form is provided as a means of open communication with parents/guardians to keep informed of school-related topics. Simply, complete the form and send it back to school. I will respond via a phone call, letter, or e-mail.

Thank You,

Mr. Sembly
Principal

My question

is: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Child's Name _____

Grade _____

Teacher _____