



# SMALLTALK NEWSLETTER



January 2020  
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 Elementary Community!

As the midway point of the school year approaches, there are some dates of which you should be aware. The second marking period comes to a close on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and report cards will be distributed shortly thereafter on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

January has some scheduled early dismissals (for students) and one student closure, all of which will be used by teachers to finalize grades and plan for meaningful, high-impact instruction for the days ahead. January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> are scheduled two-hour early closings for schools with no afternoon ECI or Pre-K classes; and January 30<sup>th</sup> will be closed for students.

Please plan to attend our PTA College Savings (Maryland 529 Plans) Seminar, scheduled for January 15, 2020 from 6PM and 7 PM.

Please remember to visit your child's grade level blackboard site, which is updated monthly, for any and all pertinent information regarding assessments, units of study, field trips, etc.

I would also like to send a heartfelt thanks to the wonderful families and community members of Fort Smallwood Elementary School. The past 3 ½ years have been a time of phenomenal growth and learning for me. I will be forever grateful for the time I spent here and for everything the wonderful students, staff, and families at this school have taught me. Together, we accomplished much; and I eagerly anticipate the wonderful things I'll hear about this school in the future.

Respectfully,  
Mr. David Sembly  
Principal  
Fort Smallwood Elementary School

# January

## Inside this issue:

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| COUNSELOR NEWS    | 3         |
| PTA NEWS          | 8         |
| PTA MEETING       | 10        |
| CALENDAR          | 11        |
| ASK THE PRINCIPAL | LAST PAGE |



### \*\*\*\*PICK-UP REMINDER!\*\*\*\*

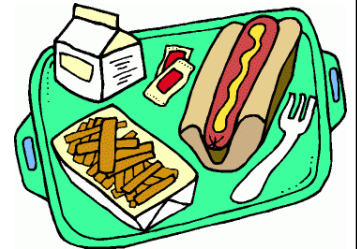
Please help our dismissal run smoothly by following this guideline:

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.

### 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.**

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](http://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.



## Knowledge January 2020



### SAY IT:

Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

### KNOW IT:

#### ASK A KID:

- Every day you are learning new things at school or at home or at play. Think of something specific that you have recently learned. How did learning this help you in other areas of your life?
- What is something that you would like to learn about or learn to do?

#### ASK A GROWN UP:

- What is something that you learned when you were young that has been really helpful to you as an adult?
- Are you eager to learn new things as an adult?
- Discuss any hardships that you have experienced in learning new things as a child or as an adult and how you were able to stay positive and conquer them.

### SEE IT:

Working professionals in most fields participate in something called continuing education or professional development. These activities are designed to teach professionals more about topics that are relevant in their field and possibly refine areas they have already learned about. It is important that people continue to learn so they can be the best they can be at whatever they do. For instance, doctors and nurses are required to earn hours of continuing education in a certain amount of time to ensure they learn new things that will help them be the best they can be in the medical field.

### BE IT:

Think about things that you are interested in or involved in. Seek out opportunities to learn something new this month that will help you in these areas. For example, if you are involved in chorus but are interested in also learning to play an instrument, talk with your music teacher at school about how you could learn this new skill.

# PHASE

Knowledge  
January 2020



In the elementary years,  
a child develops skills that  
equip their future.

Here are three questions that all elementary-aged children are asking:

**1. Do I Have Your Attention?**

In Kindergarten and first grade, a child craves adult attention and approval.

**2. Do I Have What It Takes?**

In second and third grade, a kid wants to know how their abilities compare with peers.

**3. Do I Have Friends?**

In fourth and fifth grade, a kid begins to prioritize friends in a new way.

Relationships create a safe place to resolve who we are. Relationships bring clarity. When kids see themselves the way a loving adult sees them, it changes how they see themselves

## Conocimiento ENERO 2020



### DILO:

Aprendiendo algo nuevo para que puedas ser mejor en lo que hagas

### CONOCELO:

#### PREGÚNTALE A UN NIÑO:

- Cada día estás aprendiendo cosas nuevas en la escuela, en casa o jugando. Piensa en algo específico que hayas aprendido recientemente. ¿Cómo te ayudó esto en otras áreas de tu vida?
- ¿Qué es algo que te gustaría aprender a hacer?

#### PREGUNTAR A UN ADULTO:

- ¿Qué es algo que aprendiste cuando eras joven y que te ha ayudado mucho como adulto?
- ¿Tienes ganas de aprender cosas nuevas como adulto?
- Habla acerca de cualquier dificultad que hayas experimentado al aprender cosas nuevas cuando eras niño y también como adulto. ¿Cómo pudiste mantenerte positivo y conquistarlas?

### MÍRALO:

Los profesionales que trabajan en la mayoría de los carreras profesionales participan en algo llamado educación continua o desarrollo profesional. Estas actividades están diseñadas para enseñar a los profesionales sobre temas que son relevantes en su campo y posiblemente refinar aquellas áreas donde han aprendido anteriormente. Es importante que las personas continúen aprendiendo para que puedan ser mejor en la carrera o campo que están realizando. Por ejemplo, los médicos y las enfermeras deben obtener horas de educación continua en un período de tiempo determinado para asegurarse de que aprenden cosas nuevas que les ayudarán a ser lo mejor que puedan aplicarlo en el campo médico.

### VIVELO:

Piense en las cosas que le interesan o en las que está involucrado. Busca oportunidades para aprender algo nuevo este mes que te ayude en estas áreas. Por ejemplo, si está involucrado en un coro pero también está interesado en aprender a tocar un instrumento, hable con tu maestro de música en la escuela sobre cómo podrías aprender esta nueva habilidad.

# PHASE

Conocimiento  
ENERO 2020



## En los años de primaria, un niño desarrolla habilidades que le van a servir en el futuro.

Aquí hay tres preguntas que todo niño de edad elemental se están preguntando:

### 1. ¿Tengo tu atención?

En Kindergarten y primer grado, un niño ansia la atención y aprobación adulta.

### 2. ¿Tengo lo que se necesita?

En segundo y tercer grado, un niño quiere saber cómo están sus habilidades comparadas con las de sus compañeros.

### 3. ¿Tengo amigos?

En el cuarto y quinto grado, un niño empieza a priorizar los amigos en una nueva forma.

**Entonces, no te olvides:** Las relaciones crean un espacio seguro para resolver quien eres. Relaciones traen claridad. Cuando los niños se ven a sí mismo de la manera que un adulto amoroso los ve, entonces cambia la manera de como ellos se ven a sí mismos.

# PTA NEWS

## Spring 2020 PTA Events/Activities

- **PTA Meeting** – Wed., Jan. 15 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – FSES Media Center (child care for FSES students provided by Open Door in the cafeteria)
- **Father-Daughter Dance** - Fri., Feb. 28 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. – FSES Cafeteria and Gym
- **Teacher & Staff Lunch** – Tues., March 10 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. – Teachers' Lounge
- **Mother-Son Game Night** – Fri., March 13 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – FSES Cafeteria and Gym
- **Goodies with Grandparents** – Tues., April 7 & Wed., April 8 from 7:45 – 8:30 a.m. – FSES Cafeteria (*The alphabet breakdown will be shared soon.*)
- **PTA Meeting** – Wed., April 15 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – FSES Media Center (child care for FSES students provided by Open Door in the cafeteria)
- **Family Movie Night** – Fri., April 17 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. – FSES Cafeteria and Gym
- **Spring Book Fair** - set up: Fri., May 1; sale days: Mon., May 4 – Fri., May 8 – FSES Lobby
- **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week** – Mon., May 4 – Fri., May 8
- **PTA Meeting** – Wed., May 13 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – FSES Media Center (child care for FSES students provided by Open Door in the cafeteria)
- **Field Day Inflatables and Popsicles** – May TBD
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Pancakes** – last day of school
- **2019-2020 Yearbook**
- **Box Tops for Education**
- **Plus even more!**

\* Please do NOT follow the dates in the front of the agenda books that were provided by the PTA in September.

### **Teacher & Staff Lunch** (Tues., March 10)

Our teachers and staff mean the world to us! We will show them a small token of our appreciation at our second teacher and staff lunch of the year. Please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoA4DA9A722A2F85-teacher1> to sign up to donate an ingredient for the lunch. Contact Jaymie Hebb at [ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com](mailto:ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com) with any questions.

## PTA NEWS

### **Mother-Son Game Night** (Fri., March 13 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.)

Sports Mom? Board Game Guru? Musical Maestro? Just like hanging out with your son? Bring him out to the PTA-sponsored Mother-Son Game Night on Fri., March 13 March, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the gym! We will have all sorts of activities to enjoy, including a basketball contest, giant JINGA, Name that Tune, a photo booth, and more! For questions, please contact Jaymie Hebb at [ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com](mailto:ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com).

### **Box Tops for Education**

We are over half way to our \$1,000 goal this year!!! Please keep collecting and sending in Box Tops that have NOT expired.

Also, if you see the label below on products, please be sure to scan your receipt via the Box Tops for Education app. Before you do that, make sure “Fort Smallwood Elementary School | Pasadena, Md.” is selected as your school of choice.



The app will find participating products purchased at most stores and instantly add cash to our earnings online. When you receive the confirmation email, email it to the PTA with your student’s name, grade, and teacher’s name.

**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](http://boxtops4education.com/Participating-Products-Page)

If you have questions, email [ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com](mailto:ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com).





- What:** The first Fort Smallwood PTA meeting of 2020!
- When:** Wednesday, January 15, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Where:** Fort Smallwood Elementary School Media Center
- Why:** We need your participation to discuss important information and share feedback in a new and improved meeting format that focuses on issues of importance to our families!

You will hear updates on:

- PTA goals and what we are doing to support our teachers and help students
- Maryland 529 College Investment Plan features and benefits
- Innovators of Science and Engineering Challenge (ISEC) -- (formerly known as the science fair) – planned for this spring
- STEM updates, by grade
- FSES morning news show segment - starring FSES students and made possible by the new A/V equipment purchased with proceeds from the PTA's Race for Education!

**Need childcare?** Open Door will provide free care for Fort Smallwood students whose caregiver is attending the PTA meeting!

**Please RSVP by Monday, January 13, 2020, by returning the below form!** If you have questions, email [ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com](mailto:ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please complete and send back one RSVP form per family. Forms can be returned to school in your student's homework folder.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend on Wednesday, January 15. Our group will include \_\_\_ adults.

\_\_\_ I have \_\_\_ children who attend FSES and will stay with Open Door during the meeting. Name/grade levels: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attn: PTA Mailbox**

# January

2020

## Good-bye Mr. Sembly

We would like to wish Mr. Sembly all the warmest of good thought & well wishes as he ventures on to a new school. Although we will miss him very much, he has become a very important part to our school & our lives.



| Sunday | Monday                                     | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                             | Friday                             | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
|        |  |  | 1<br>Schools & Offices<br>Closed for Winter<br>Break.      | 2                                    | 3                                  | 4        |
| 5      | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9                                    | 10                                 | 11       |
| 12     | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16                                   | 17                                 | 18       |
| 19     | 20<br>Schools & Offices<br>closed -MLK Day | 21<br>Band Rehearsal<br>10:00 AM<br>Strings Rehearsal<br>2:30 PM | 22<br>Instrumental<br>Concert 7 PM                         | 23                                   | 24                                 | 25       |
| 26     | 27   | 28<br>2-hr Early<br>Dismissal                                    | 29<br>2-hr Early<br>Dismissal<br>End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> MP | 30<br>Schools closed for<br>students | 31<br>Beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> MP |          |
|        |  |  |  |                                      |                                    |          |

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_