

# *News From Mr. P.*

## *Parent Praise*

Special thanks to the many parents who worked tirelessly to support our Wildcats at Tuesday night's ball game. The following parents sold tickets, worked concessions, kept stats, and did whatever it takes to make a home event go smoothly. They are Susan Groover, Bobby Wood, Melanie Lanier, Donny & Jerri Bolton, Bill Rodimon, Maria Edge, Lisa Smallwood, Dana Miller, Thomas & Jennifer Moore, Robert & Leta Carmichael, and John Samanie/Lori Harrell from Shawmut First Baptist Church. *Thank you!!!!!!*

## *It's About Family*

We had another "family meeting" Thursday at lunch. Every week or two I like to address the student body during lunch about issues important to our Wildcats. Today we invited the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders to join the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade lunch and we watched a CNN report covering the devastation in Haiti. It became very personal to everyone when we introduced some of our own students with Haitian heritage and saw their heartache. It was a very emotional time as we prayed together and hurt as one.

Their mom is flying to Haiti on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January to try and help family there. I've challenged the kids to help me raise funds to help that family rebuild. We started today. We will be gathering funds next week and invite everyone to participate.

In addition, our elementary school will be doing "Shoe Boxes for Haiti". Each child or small groups of children will fill a shoe box with everyday items that will be of use to those who need it.

We have come face to face with what the Wildcat Way is all about!

## *Technology*

I had a meeting with all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students on the first day back after the Christmas holidays. We talked about expectations for second semester including being on time, honesty in all work assignments, and the importance of being a good steward with the student lap tops. I also reminded students about the importance of not downloading certain information onto their computers. I thought it would be wise to also educate parents regarding the importance of carefully protecting the technology at Springwood. Below are guidelines to follow regarding the use of technology and the student lap tops. The guidelines are many so as to protect the investment of all technology on campus. Because it is a bit wordy, we have summarized the importance of the policy in the paragraph below:

*The AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) is a mandate from the federal government that all schools must follow. It is designed to protect students from random hacking by outside sources in which viruses can be sent to your computer and private information can be stolen from computers. By using secure filters on our network, Springwood protects our students from these types of internet threats. However, when students bypass the security on Springwood's network, they are opening their computer to possible viruses and malicious theft of information by outside sources. We have seen this increase this year and as a result we have seen an increase in student computers turned in for problems. Most of these problems have been linked to viruses on student computers. Thankfully, none of these viruses have made it to our network. If a virus did make it to our network, our entire tablet program could be shut down for weeks as we try to fix the network and remove the viruses.*

Before the holidays we had several students who downloaded information that bypassed our network. Their information was not obscene or vulgar, but could have had caused major problems if it had a virus attached. When I spoke to the students involved they truly meant no harm and did not realize how significant the ramifications could have been. That is why I took the time to review it with all students. That is also why I have taken the time to explain it to all parents. The entire policy is provided below. I encourage you to read it and remind your Wildcat about the importance of abiding by the policy provided. Together, we can protect our technology and use it to enhance achievement in many ways.

## **Acceptable Use Policy**

### Honesty:

I will respect all copyright laws and I will not plagiarize.

I will obey all local, state, and federal laws when using the internet.

### Applications:

I will not use the network for financial gain.

I will not purchase or subscribe to any service for which a fee is charged.

I will not download or install any unauthorized software to include software that allows access to another computer, tablet, or network server.

I will not engage in network use or applications that interfere with the use of the network by others.

I will not engage in activities which tie up a large portion of bandwidth for an extended period of time.

Specifically, I will not utilize peer-to-peer file sharing applications such as Frostwire, Morpheus, Lime Wire, Gnutella, IMESH, WinMX, Audiogalaxy, Log Me In, or other similar applications.

I will not use dedicated network game servers, or applications designed to send repeated email messages or mass email messages such as spam and chain email.

I will not play or download games to my tablet, instant message, chat or read or post online social networks like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Youtube, or other such programs during the school day.

I will not intentionally waste limited storage space on the hard drive or server.  
I will not load any online/gaming software on my tablet computer.  
I will not use firewall proxy sites to bypass school internet filters.

#### Respect:

I will respect and protect the personal information of my teachers, classmates, family, and self.  
I will not provide any identifying information about myself or other people through the internet.  
I will respect my teachers by staying on task with my tablet in class. I will not access email or the internet during class without teacher permission.  
I will be careful when surfing the web, avoiding any sites that are profane, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate.  
I will use appropriate language and will not write anything in email or online that I would not want to say to my teachers, parents, and friends.  
I will read all emails sent by teachers and staff.  
I will follow the Wildcat Way when using my tablet each and every day.

#### Passwords and Privacy:

I will not give out my password to anyone else and I will never use anyone else's username and password.  
I will not access anyone else's account, harm, or destroy their files, or make any changes to their tablet settings.  
I will not attempt to gain access to any area of the network or other tablets/computers that I am not authorized to access.  
I will not attempt to use any software that will allow me to gain access to any other tablet, laptop, and computer or sever.  
I will not change, delete, or turn off any software that is loaded on my tablet or attempt to bypass it.  
I will keep my mailbox and network folders clean. I will only store school work in my network folder.  
I understand that nothing on my tablet or the network is totally private. Springwood School and my parents have the right to access any and all of files and folders at any time.

#### Student Responsibility:

I understand I must bring my tablet to school each and every day in working order. The battery will be fully charged, the sound will be turned off, and all educational software will be operational.  
I will take my tablet to the help desk if it is not working properly, if it needs repair, reset of passwords, install of software, or any physical damage such as cracked case, missing keys, mouse button replacement.  
I will keep my tablet in a safe place, such as my locker, when I am not using it. I will be certain to secure it during and after school activities. I will not leave it on school campus overnight.

I understand it is my responsibility to back up my files to my home directory on the server on a regular basis.

I will never use computer problems as an excuse for not having assignments when due unless I have tried my best to get them resolve them in a timely manner.

I will not back up personal files such as music or picture files to the server.

I will always store my tablet in the provided carry case. I understand that if the tablet is not in the carry case and is damaged, I and my parents may be held responsible for the repair/replacement cost of the tablet.

I will not attempt to fix the tablet myself. I understand pulling the hard drive and or having an outside party attempt to fix my tablet will violate the warranty of the computer.

Honor:

I understand Springwood's Honor Code applies to the use of technology on campus.

I will honor this policy and follow the rules. I understand I will face appropriate consequences to include:

**First offense:** Written warning and tablet suspension for two days.

**Second Offense:** Written honor code violation placed in permanent records and tablet suspension for one week.

**Third Offense:** Written honor code violation placed in permanent records and tablet suspension for 10 days.

**Fourth Offense:** Written honor code violation placed in permanent records and permanent suspension of tablet.

***I hope your weekend is filled with God's rest, peace and overwhelming love.***

***God Bless,  
Mr. P.***