Welcome to all of our new and returning families! I hope that all of our students and families are beginning to settle into daily school-home routines. We are excited for the new school year! As mentioned at BTSN, we have a number of initiatives which we’ll be involved with this year.

For literacy instruction in Grades 1-2, we will begin implementation of the Reading Workshop model. Grades 3-5 are already using this model. We are excited to build upon our work with Project Based Learning (PBL), within the curriculum, an LCPS instructional approach blending key content, critical thinking skills and technology as students engage in learning that is rooted in authentic problems and enables students to connect with others in the local community or in the world. We also will be working with students to facilitate greater ownership in learning. This will include goal setting, reflection and opportunities for students to use voice and choice in their learning.

As we begin the new year, I invite you to be on the lookout for information coming home from the PTA. Our PTA provides a variety of fun family events which serve to build community, school spirit and raise funds that go back directly to classrooms in support of instruction. The program and events our PTA sponsors do not happen easily without our volunteers! I encourage families to volunteer to help with events through the year...many hands make light work and every little bit helps make a difference! Feel free to bring a neighbor or your student to help with events...it is fun and good family time!

The PTA Board and Event Contacts are already working hard! Please see the PTA website, pink flyers that come home, and information in our weekly calls for more details. Monthly PTA meetings will be in the evenings this year—please join us!

Lastly, if you are a new family whom I have not yet met, I hope to see you around the school soon. Or, please don’t hesitate to stop me and say hello! I am looking forward to an exciting school year!

Fondly,

Chris Cadwell
Principal
Stay Connected with Penguin news and highlights  @CoolSpring_ES

**COMING UP!**

Fall Pictures will be held on October 4. Our vendor is Lifetouch Studios. Information about photo packages will be forthcoming.

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**PARENTVUE AND FORMS**

With the LCPS move towards a virtual first day packet, all families are reminded to log in to ParentVue to access various beginning of the school year forms, update emergency/health information and more. All new families should have received their ParentVue activation codes by letter and email. Please contact the school office if you need assistance. ParentVue can be accessed directly from the main LCPS webpage—www.lcps.org.

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**CSP PENGUINS FUN RUN!**

**Ready for FUN!** We will be working with Boosterthon again this year for our main fundraiser, **CSP Penguins Fun Run!** It’s a 9-day program that kicks off with a Pep Rally on Sept. 17 (PK-2 at 9AM; Gr. 3-5 at 10:15AM). Then families will have time to get pledges for every lap your student runs (30-35 laps), and we’ll celebrate at the Fun Run on Sept. 26: PK-2 at 9AM; Gr. 3-5 at 10:15AM! With our big goal to raise funds for Chromebooks and teacher instructional grants, document cameras and continued refurbishing of books for the school-wide guided reading library, we asked the Fun Run experts at Boosterthon to power our Fun Run!

Students will also experience an amazing STEAM based theme, **MIND SPARK MYSTERY LAB!** The program is integrated with the PBIS national framework as well.

Donations will go toward Chromebooks, teacher instructional grants, document cameras and continued refurbishing of books for the school-wide guided reading library. We invite you to help the school and PTA by reaching out to sponsors. All levels of participation are appreciated, and this can be guided by parents/guardians. **Also, all families are invited to come out and cheer on your student at the Fun Run! Thank you for your support! More info to come!**
TECH TIDBITS

As we have continued to expand student access to technology resources, we are able to support teachers and students across the grade levels in integrating technology to support learning across the curriculum. We continue to look for ways to reduce the tech-student ratio to meet the demands for use of these tools. An example of this integration of technology is our use of Google Classroom in many of the grade levels. In Grades 3-5, be sure to ask your student over the coming weeks what he/she is doing in their Google classroom! In addition to Google Classroom, your student also has an Microsoft Office 365 account. With this account, you have the ability to download the Microsoft Office Suite, for FREE! This includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. We are excited about what the future has in store for technology at Cool Spring. Some exciting things are in the works!

KISS AND RIDE

We wanted to offer a gentle reminder for PM Kiss and Ride cars. For safety and traffic flow, we ask parents to please remain in your vehicle, or park your vehicle in a parking space and walk to the Kiss and Ride entrance to receive your student.

RUNNING CLUB!

The Cool Spring Running Club has begun! Running Club is from 7:30-7:50a.m. The club will meet every morning (Monday-Friday) with the exception of school closings, and delays. In case of inclement weather, the club will meet in the gymnasium. All students are welcome and no sign-up is necessary! Grades 3-5 will run on MWF and Grades 1-2 will run TTH. Students must eat breakfast **before** attending Running Club. Kindergarten will be added later in the month.

ALLERGY AWARENESS

The LCPS breakfast and lunch menu is available online at: http://lcpshealthycafe.org and on the Cool Spring website. We will not be including the menu with the monthly school newsletter.

LCPS has reviewed and revised guidelines to promote healthy nutritional habits amongst all students and to support students with severe food allergies.

Related to these guidelines, we cannot accept any cookies, cakes, cupcakes or other food treats for students’ birthdays; including for use during lunch. We are no longer permitted to have ice cream from the cafeteria be purchased for birthdays as well. For classroom parties during the school year, the teachers will work in conjunction with room parents and in communication with parents of students with severe food allergies to ensure safe and health conscious food items are present.

Additional information can be found in the Cool Spring Family Handbook which is available online. We recognize that students like to celebrate birthdays, but these guidelines are in place for the safety of all students. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.