This will be the ONLY paper copy of the YSES bi-weekly newsletter!

All newsletters will be available on our school website and sent out through Find Out First. If you wish to receive a paper copy all year, please send a note to Mrs. Foit in the front office requesting that paper copies be sent home.

ADMINISTRATOR’s MESSAGE
What a wonderful start we have had to the 2016-2017 school year! Students arrived with smiles and enthusiasm and warmly greeted staff members and one another. They are settling into their new surroundings, and adjusting to teachers, classmates and routines. Arrival, lunch, recess and dismissal procedures are established. Timeliness and effectiveness will improve as we continue to practice these routines. Thank you for your patience as students start the year and get accustomed to expectations in and out of the classroom. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning and growing with our school families. Follow us on Twitter @YellowSpringsES to see photos and hear about what is happening at school throughout the year. Also, sign up for FindOutFirst to receive the latest YSES news; the link is on our website: http://education.fcps.org/yes/

THANK YOU
We would like to extend a warm thank you to the following YSES families and community volunteers for donating their time to help us ensure school grounds were in pristine condition for the start of school! This effort was coordinated by Alicia Feuer, a YSES parent, who has committed countless hours of her time to support students’ understanding of environmental wellness and support school-based initiatives like our recycling and compost programs. Such caring and committed community supporters help make YSES a special place for students to come and learn!

Thank you to:
Barbara and AnneMarie Millunzi, Master Gardener and community volunteer
Jenny and Dennis McDaniel and their children James and Laurel, YSES family
Andi Gnuschke and her daughter Colbie, YSES family
Julieta Wolfe and her daughter Isabella, YSES family
Katie Alvarez, YSES family
Alicia and Matt Feuer and daughters Anna and Elena, YSES family

Dismissal Procedures
We have spent this week documenting and confirming student's ‘typical’ dismissal routines. If for some reason your child is going to have a dismissal arrangement that is DIFFERENT than the way they normally go home, please send in a note, or call the school prior to 3:00 PM.

If your child has a different mode of transportation on specified days throughout the week, please let their teacher know exactly what their schedule for the year should be. (For example: Monday- YMCA, Tuesday- Bus G3, Wednesday- YMCA, Thursday- Bus G3, Friday- YMCA) This will help alleviate any confusion at dismissal time and ensure our staff can escort your child to the correct dismissal routine each day!

EMERGENCY CARDS
If you have not already, please be sure to return the pink emergency card for your child(ren). A signature is required at the bottom of the form.
**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**
We will hold our Parent Volunteer Orientation on Friday, September 9 at 2 pm in the media center. If you are a new volunteer at YSES, orientation is required before volunteering can begin. If you are a veteran volunteer at YSES and you are unable to attend the orientation on the 9th, you may read through our presentation on the school website and print, sign and return the confidentiality agreement to the front office (available after September 9)

**BIRTHDAY TREATS**
If you wish to provide a birthday treat for your child’s class, only **non-food treats** are permissible. Possible **non-food birthday treats** could include pencils, stickers, fun erasers, trading cards, etc. Students’ birthdays will continue to be announced on the morning announcements each day. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**ABSENCES**
FCPS regulations require a written excuse any time a child is absent. The excuse should be received by the school within two days of the absence and should include the student's first and last name, the date of the absence, the reason for the absence, and signature of the parent. Without this information, the absence is coded as unexcused.

**MySchoolBucks**
MySchoolBucks is where you can prepay for your student’s school meals. Prepayment of meals protects against forgotten or lost money and allows students to move through the serving lines more quickly.

A few of the *MySchoolBucks* benefits include:

- Up to 90 days of purchase history
- Automated low-balance emails
- Scheduled payments allow parents to pay weekly, biweekly or monthly if desired
- Low-balance payments can automatically add money when an account runs low
- Families can download a mobile app for smartphones

Parents may also send cash or a check (made out to YSES) to their child’s school cafeteria to pay for school meals. A payment in any amount may be placed in the child’s account. For more information visit [http://www.fcps.org/food-services/](http://www.fcps.org/food-services/)

**Free and Reduced Lunch Applications**
Free and reduced-price meals are available to families with limited ability to pay. Eligibility is based on family size and income guidelines developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Meal Benefit Application forms were distributed to students in August. The forms should be filled out completely and returned by families who wish to be considered, although application can be made at any time during the school year. Only one Meal Benefit Application form per family is required. FCPS Food and Nutrition Services will notify families whether they qualify. For more information, contact the Food Services office at 301-644-5061.

**BAND AND STRINGS:**
Students in grades 4 & 5 will receive detailed BAND and STRING information today (Fri. Aug. 26). We will be meeting on FRIDAYS this year as usual, and our first day will be Sept. 9. Ms. Crum and Mr. Racster look forward to seeing everyone!

**Dates to Remember:**
August 31- Back-to-School Night *(Grades K,2,4 5-6 pm  Grades 1,3,5 6:30-7:30 pm)*
September 5- Labor Day- Schools Closed