



# SANGSTER SOURCE

NOVEMBER ISSUE

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

**Sangster Elementary**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild. onevoice.*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

General PTA Meeting  
Thursday, November 5th  
Room R4  
7:00 pm

Scholastic Book Fair  
November 16th - 20th

ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
Tuesday, November 17th  
6:30 pm

Thanksgiving Break  
Wednesday, Nov 25th  
2 hour early dismissal  
Thursday, Friday, Nov 26th-27th

We're on the Web!  
[www.sangsterpta.org](http://www.sangsterpta.org)

## PTA Officers

### President

Paul Sita  
703-455-0085  
[paulsita@gmail.com](mailto:paulsita@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Monica Grose  
703-456-1775  
[vp@sangsterpta.org](mailto:vp@sangsterpta.org)

### Secretary

Stephanie Leitzel  
703-455-1423  
[swleitzel@verizon.net](mailto:swleitzel@verizon.net)

### Treasurer

Mark Marsden  
703-913-7815  
[treasurer@sangsterpta.org](mailto:treasurer@sangsterpta.org)

## PTA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello Sangster families and welcome to our November edition of the Sangster Source. The air outside is starting to feel a little crisper and the leaves are starting to pile up on my lawn faster than I can tend to them. Fall is definitely here.

This is the time of year that the FCPS superintendent begins the budget planning process for the next school year. Rumors start to float around about various school programs that could be on the chopping block. It is difficult to say with any degree of certainty which programs might or might not be cut. The one bit of advice I can give is: involve yourself in the process. Grass roots programs have proven very successful in Fairfax County. For example, look at the changes made in the grading procedures of FCPS. One of the programs at Sangster that might be at risk is the Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES). Currently our K-3 students benefit from this program with plans to include all grades. If you

are interested in being an advocate for Sangster's FLES program please contact Sandy Knox at [sandyknox@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyknox@yahoo.com). Sandy is currently forming a group to educate school board members on the importance of childhood foreign language experience.

Have you noticed the improved landscaping around the front of the school this year? Dave Gillum, Sangster's full time counselor and part time green thumb, along with members of the student council have been working in conjunction with Tony Case from Hybla Valley Nursery to improve the landscaping around the school. Tony is a long time resident of the area and we thank him for volunteering his time & talents to help improve our school. Another project that was completed this fall is the laying of the additional commemorative bricks near the flagpole. Take a wander around a see all of the nice improvements.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Karen Ray the school directories should

be sent home soon to those families that have joined the PTA. When you receive your directory please take the time to look at our wonderful advertisers list on the back pages. Please help support the businesses that support Sangster PTA.

And last but not least, I have to thank the two ladies along with the countless volunteers that tireless worked on the Sally Foster Fundraiser. Thank you to Leah Esper & Margaret Sita and all of their "friends". They did a great job organizing the fundraiser that brought in over \$17,000 for the PTA. The PTA appreciates all of your support in making this fundraiser a huge success.

Go out and enjoy the remainder of the fall weather. Take some time to slow down and consider all of the many amazing gifts in your life you have to be thankful for. Most importantly give your kids a hug and tell them you love them.



**Paul Sita**  
PTA President

## A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

## GAIL

### THANKSGIVING LUNCH AND BREAK

We are planning to have our traditional Thanksgiving lunches on Nov 18-20th. Your child has brought home information about the specific day and time their class will be having lunch. The flyer has information about ordering tickets.



### BUDGET

As you may have heard, the FCPS school budget was cut this year and that translated to inconveniences and financial difficulties for every school. Next year, the outlook is very grim. There are many programs on the chopping block as the county works to trim over 176 million dollars. Some of the programs being considered are: elimination of strings and band instruction in the elementary grades, increase in class size, elimination of full day kindergarten in all but 34 Title 1 schools, 25% reduction in assistant principals, 50% reduction in school based technology support, increase in fees at middle and high schools, elimination of Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools and Foreign Language Immersion programs and much, much more.



As it stands, our teachers and staff did not receive a raise or cost of living adjustment this year and will not again next year. This has necessitated that people take after school jobs or leave immediately after contract hours to avoid additional child care costs. As a result, teachers are less available to work with students or for any parent meetings after contract hours. We will be scheduling all of our IEP meetings and re-evaluation meetings during the school day in order to allow our staff to meet their other obligations. We realize that this will be an inconvenience as people have come to rely on teachers making themselves available for meetings and conferences.

### DR. DALE'S VISIT

Our Superintendent, Dr. Dale, visited Sangster on October 27<sup>th</sup>. He was accompanied by Assistant Superintendent of Cluster VI, Leslie Butz. When Mrs. Butz introduced us to Dr. Dale she said that we were the administrators of "the highest performing school in Cluster VI". WOO HOO! Congrats to our staff and students for that amazing accolade.



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

## FCPS Family Life Education Instructional Program for 2009-2010

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides a comprehensive, sequential Family Life Education (FLE) program for kindergarten through grade twelve. The FLE program is designed to provide students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make healthy, responsible, respectful, and life-enhancing decisions related to human growth and development, relationships, substance abuse, and emotional and social health. Instruction is seen as a partnership among parents and guardians, the school, and the community in supporting the learning essential to the development of strong families, positive relationships, and a healthy community.

Parents/guardians may choose to opt their child out of all or part of the Family Life Education program. Students who are opted out are provided with age-appropriate, nonpunitive alternative health instruction, and every effort is made to foster respect for family choices. If you wish to opt your child out of all or part of FLE for this school year, or would like more detailed information about grade level programs, please access the opt out forms, opt out letter, and program descriptions for each grade level at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OMSI/fle/index.htm>. Please fill in the opt-out form and return it to your child's school prior to Family Life Education instruction. FLE curriculum and media may be reviewed at your child's school. Program questions may be addressed at your child's school or by contacting Elizabeth Payne, Health and Physical Education Coordinator at 703-846-8666.

## A NOTE FROM YOUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## CHRIS

The school year is in full swing – it is hard to believe we are beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter already! Before we know it we will be feasting on turkey and then winter break will be upon us. The kids have been wonderful – I love to see their excitement and engagement as I visit classrooms.

Recently, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and students new to Fairfax County Public School took the Naglieri Non-Verbal Abilities Test (NNAT) and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) – the scores should be returned to the school in late December and I will mail the results to your home. If your child missed two or more days of the CogAT due to illness or other reasons, they will be re-tested in February.

Since we are well into the school year I would like to offer a few gentle reminders regarding safety when dropping off and picking up your students.

- The bus loop is reserved for buses only from 8:40 – 9:10 and 2:45 – 4:00 – please avoid using the loop during these times.
- It is illegal for a car to pass a bus when it is loading and unloading – even in the bus loop.
- The kiss and ride line is longest on Mondays, Fridays and rainy days – due to this, we see a rise in tardy students. Students need to be in their classroom before 9:00, please plan accordingly.
- Passing cars in the kiss and ride lane is dangerous – there have been near misses between two cars and pedestrians and cars – please be patient and wait for the line to move. Courtesy is paramount – we are all busy but safety comes first.
- Pedestrians always have the right of way in the parking lot and bus loop.
- Parking on Elk Street and having students cross with the crossing guard to meet their parents at their car has become a growing trend. This is causing a safety issue for students who walk home – they cannot see past/over the parked cars to know when it is safe to cross – they are guessing and running across the street. It terrifies me to think about the chance of a car driving up the street while our students are crossing and the driver is unable to see them because of the parked cars. This practice also causes our crossing guard to negotiate an increasingly complex traffic pattern. Moreover, it has caused complaints of homeowners who live on Elk Street.

Let's all work together to maintain the safety of all 805 students at Sangster!

**We need a few VOLUNTEERS** to help run our new Cool the Earth program. This new program teaches our kids about the effects of global warming and how we can take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and therefore reduce global warming. We need people to:

- Collect Actions Coupons weekly
- Copy Flyers
- Help run the Action of the Month
- Hand out Action Coupons to the Kids

Please contact **Monica Grose** at [vp@sangsterpta.org](mailto:vp@sangsterpta.org) or 703 440-3716 to sign up.

You can learn more about Cool the Earth on their web site: <http://www.cooltheearth.org/>



## Sally Foster Fundraiser a Huge Success!



Thank you to the wonderfully generous Sangster Community for helping to make this fundraiser such a success. We were able to raise over \$17,000 for Sangster. This money is used for educational support, field trips, cultural arts programs & various other programs that benefit our children's school lives.

# SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!

## FLES SPANISH AT SANGSTER

iHola! Me llamo Sra. Butler. I am the FLES Spanish teacher at Sangster Elementary School. Our foreign language program now reaches students at Sangster in grades 1 - 3. Every year the next grade level is added. If all goes well budget-wise, next year we will not only continue grades 1-3, but also add 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Keep your fingers crossed!



Currently, most students in grades 1-3, come to my classroom twice a week for a Spanish language lesson that is coordinated with the grade level curriculum. We sing songs, read books, play games, roll-play and practice speaking and writing in the Spanish language. Your children continue to amaze me with their enthusiasm for foreign language learning and their interest in cultures and countries other than their own. Your encouragement at home is very helpful and greatly appreciated!

Mark your calendars now! Don't miss our Scholastic Book Fair. This year's fair theme is World Destinations and will be during school days on November 16 through 20. The fair will run during the day from 9:00 to 3:40.

NOTE: CHANGE IN HOURS....Family times (for students and parents to come together) are scheduled for Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00. And also Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:40 to 5:00.

Students will find books here for recreational and academic reading. Parents may also want to purchase a book for their child's classroom teacher. Simply select one or more Book Wish Donation Cards from the Wish List display at the Fair. The titles are hand picked by the teachers as desired library selections for their classrooms. Your child will be able to personalize a bookplate to place in each gift book you purchase.

Proceeds from this event will enable our school library to purchase additional library materials for Sangster students to use and enjoy!

Katherine Benda  
Sangster Librarian



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## MORE FLEX PROGRAMS STARTING 11/13/09 FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM



- German beginner/intermediate for 15 weeks starting 11/13 from 3:45 to 4:45pm for 15 weeks.
- Sign Language beginner for 15 weeks starting 11/13 from 3:45 to 4:45pm for 15 weeks.
- Spanish beginner for 15 weeks starting 11/13 from 3:45 to 4:45pm for 15 weeks.



Questions?

Contact: Marina Elsisí @  
703-644-7577 or  
Marina.elsisi@fcps.edu

The cost is \$ 145 included are the Materials and lessons.  
Registration is by paper only.

