



SANGSTER SOURCE

Sangster Elementary
PTA[®]
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September 13, 2007

PTA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome back everyone. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and that everyone is ready to come back for a fun filled school year.

The Sally Foster fundraiser is in full swing. The money raised from this fundraiser is used to pay for field trip buses, cultural arts programs in the school, instructional support and a number of other programs that benefit our children. Please try to participate in the sale. Fifty percent of all sales come back to the school.

Mark your calendar now for our big fundraiser for the year – the Silent Auction – to be held on October 20th. The proceeds from the silent auction will be used entirely for the purchase of Smartboard technology for the classrooms. I hope everyone had a chance to see a Smartboard in action at the Back

to School nights. The boards are truly amazing and are very beneficial in the classroom.

We are asking for donations for the Silent Auction. This donation can be anything. Ideas include going to your favorite businesses and asking for their support, making a monetary donation toward the purchase of a Smartboard, or making up your own donation. Several parents and teachers are donating their time by offering to address holiday cards, wrap holiday presents, make cupcakes for a class party, do yard work, or host a sleepover. The ideas are endless and all donations are needed to make the Silent Auction a success. Our goal is to have Smartboards in all the classrooms. Please check your Thursday folder for a donation form or come by the office and pick some up. If we all pitch in and

help, the auction should be a tremendous success.

Finally, I want to thank Merrifield Garden Center for donating the labor and plants for the flagpole area. The bricks look great – if you haven't seen them already, please stop and look. Also, for those who didn't get to purchase a brick last year and want to purchase one this year, we will be offering the bricks for sale in the spring.

I look forward to meeting the new faces at Sangster and seeing the familiar faces again. PTA meetings will be announced on the website and we will try to get Keep in Touch messages sent out as well. Please try to attend and share your ideas and vision for Sangster!

Leah Esper
PTA President

DATES TO REMEMBER

Volunteer Orientation
September 18th, 9:30 am.

Fall Pictures
September 21st

Sally Foster Orders Due
September 26th

Spirit Wear Orders Due
October 1st

Saturday, Oct 20th
Silent Auction

Sally Foster Order Delivery
October 22nd

WELCOME BACK!

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

GAIL KINSEY

Welcome back! We hope that everyone enjoyed their summer break and were ready to share their kids with us again. We are opening school with almost 760 children and the first week was smooth in spite of some transportation bumps.

Our assistant principal, Rhonda Mayfield, will be retiring on October 1st. While I am happy that she will have more time to enjoy her ever expanding family and start yet another professional chapter, on a personal note I am sad to see her leave Sangster and FCPS. We are grateful for her contributions to the school and wish her only the best of all things.

During the summer the AP position was advertised and we were blessed with over 65 applicants for the position. A panel interviewed candidates and forwarded our suggestions to our Assistant Superintendent, Leslie Butz, who did the final rounds of interviews. We are happy to announce that Christopher Summers was offered and accepted the position. He will join us in October. Please make it a point to introduce yourself to him when he comes on board.

Since we had a fair number of retirements last year, we have some new staff for you all to meet. Kevin Hjelm joins us as the librarian. Kevin comes to us from the Fairfax County system and brings lots of ideas and enthusiasm to his new job. Tina Williams has transferred from Brookfield ES and brings to us lots of experience and

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positive energy as our part time counselor. Our first grade team added three new members: Jennifer Lent from a teaching assignment in Michigan, Catherine Staier, transferring from Springfield Estates, and Kylie Whalen who joined us from Wolf Trap ES. Silvana Fierro is our Spanish language teacher who is here to help launch our Foreign Language in Elementary School Program (FLES). In second grade we welcomed Linda Rydholm from Arizona as well as Melissa Andolina who was previously in 6th and Teresa Schier who was in 1st grade last year. Our upper grades added some new staff as well. Lucy Callaghan joined the fifth grade team after working as a GT Resource Teacher in FCPS. Mary Hughes is our new sixth grade teacher but not a new face as she was with us last year working in fifth and first grades. Molly Bodnovich is working with Dawn Lawson while Dawn is out on Family Leave enjoying her new son. La-Monica Brevard has officially joined us in our autism program. Nathaniel Ho has joined our special education staff after transferring from Fairview. Catherine Prosser brings her talents to the Strings program. Morgan Greenawalt has joined us from Newport News as our GT Resource Teacher. We are so happy to welcome them to our Sangster Family.

As you may be aware, there is a growing national shortage of teachers with some curricular areas considered to be in critical need. We are fortunate at Sangster to attract talented and passionate teachers and staff. We need to be sure never to take them for granted.

This year you will be hearing about Renzulli Learning as this is a program that we purchased to allow for further differentiation based on individual student interests. It is an amazing opportunity for enrichment for all of our students.

The FCPS School Board has announced three core achievement goals that will form the foundation for every School Improvement Plan (SIP) as well as pilot the future course of the school system. The three achievement goals are: Academics, Essential Life Skills and Responsibility to the Community. In our next newsletter, I will be sharing Sangster's plans for meeting those goals. We have some exciting ideas to share with you.

Enjoy these closing days of summer! Hope to see you all at the Auction Night!



FAMILY FUN NIGHT!!

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 20TH
AT SANGSTER!
DON'T MISS IT!**

Sangster Elementary school will be having a family night of fun on the night of **SATURDAY, October 20th**. The evening kicks off with an **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** in the cafeteria (tickets will be available for pre-order and at the door) from 6:00-7:00pm.



Following that, students, parents, staff, and community members are invited to explore a variety of **themed raffle baskets** and place their bids! Children are invited into the gym at 7:00 to enjoy **Reptiles Alive** while their parents participate in a **Silent Auction** of goods and services!!



All proceeds will go towards new technology (such as Smart Boards) for our school. Volunteer opportunity information will be coming home soon in Thursday folders. Please join us for an exciting night with a good cause!

**WOW!
ICE CREAM SOCIAL!
RAFFLE BASKETS!
SILENT AUCTION!
REPTILES ALIVE!**



**We're on the Web!
www.sangsterpta.org**

DO YOU HAVE A COOL COLLECTION?



Do you have a collection of cool stuff that you would like to display at school for a week? We have a large glass showcase in Sangster's front hall where we can display fun stuff for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to have your collection displayed, please send a note to Ms. Kinsey. There will be a special box in the office for the names of students who have something they would like to showcase. Names will be randomly selected and a week for your showcase will be assigned. We are looking forward to seeing some truly awesome stuff.



SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS

The first SPIRIT WEAR orders are due by Oct. 1st with order arrivals around October 15th. Look for order forms in Thursday folder. Questions? - Email Michelle Remus at remus6@verizon.net

A FAREWELL NOTE FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RHONDA MAYFIELD

It surely has been my honor and pleasure to serve as assistant principal at Sangster School. Being a member of such a talented professional team under outstanding leadership has been a highlight in my 32 years in education. Without a doubt, I know that dedicated and caring individuals give their best to your wonderful, inquisitive youngsters. It has been important to me that students know that I am interested in their well-being as well as their academic success and good conduct. Many of you know that children get to "press my buttons" when they visit with good news. (*I have an easy button and other buttons that play portions of popular songs*). I count it good fortune to be a part of the Sangster community. I will long cherish the many great memories that I take with me. I wish more great years for your children and that each develops to their best potential.

SANGSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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