



SANGSTER SOURCE

October 4, 2007

Sangster Elementary
PTA[®]
everychild. onevoice.

PTA President's NOTE

Fall is officially here! It's a great time to play in the cool weather and enjoy the beautiful fall colors. It's also a great time to get involved with the PTA.

We have several events coming up that need many volunteers. First and foremost, our Silent Auction. So much work has gone into this event to make it a success. There is a huge need for volunteers on the night of the auction. Whether you are scooping ice cream, giving out bid numbers, selling raffle tickets, or just running bids from the classrooms, your help is greatly needed. Please contact Kristen McDaniel 703-569-3516 or kristjames@verizon.net if you would be willing to help. The money generated from the Silent Auction is dedicated for the purchase of

Smart Board technology for the classrooms.

Sally Foster orders are coming in on October 22. Michelle Newman, aka Sally Foster, has done a wonderful job with this fundraiser. We will need volunteers for the 22nd to help sort and distribute the orders. This is a great opportunity for students needing volunteer hours. Please contact Michelle at 703-250-4453 or jeffandmichellenewman@yahoo.com. Sally Foster revenues are used to cover a variety of programs at Sangster – field trip buses, cultural arts programs, technology improvements, etc.

The fall book sale is scheduled for the week of November 12th. We are planning to have Turkey Bingo during this week as well. Plan on coming out to look at the

books and play some bingo. Catherine Beck is looking for volunteers for the book sale. She can be reached at 703-455-0342. If you want to help with bingo, call me at 703-913-0513.

Finally, as you can see, it takes many volunteers to keep things running properly. I wish I could thank everyone personally, but there's not enough room. I have been very blessed to work with such caring and dedicated individuals. Thanks to all of you who are currently volunteering and remember there is always room for everyone to volunteer. If you have any questions about how you can help, please don't hesitate to call me.

Leah Esper
PTA President

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, October 8th
No School
Columbus Day Holiday

Tuesday, October 16th, 9:00am
Gifted and Talented Information
Session

Saturday, Oct 20th
Silent Auction

Sally Foster Order Delivery
October 22nd

November 2nd
First Grading Period Ends

November 5th and 6th
No School
Student Holiday

Week of November 12th
Book Fair and Turkey Bingo

A nOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL GAIL KINSEY

We passed the first month marker in the new school year. The kids are all settled into the routine. Teachers have been assessing students in math and language arts in order to form instructional groups based on the specific needs of the children. For those of you who are new to Sangster, we have been successfully using an approach to math instruction known as flexible math grouping. Grade level teams create assessments to measure the children's skills in a particular strand prior to instruction. This allows us to form instructional groups that best meet student need. Groups are reformed when a new strand is started and the assessments help guide the new grouping. We currently have a compacted math group in grades 3-6. These are students who have already demonstrated mastery of grade level skills and demonstrate the need to work at a faster pace in skill development that is more abstract. As the year progresses, the compacted curriculum will be added to first and second grades, as it was last year.

We welcome Mrs. Carol Sarnosky to the fourth grade team! We were searching for just the right person and were delighted when

Mrs. Sarnosky moved into the area courtesy of a military move. Mrs. Zacharski had relocated to New York this past summer due to her own husband's military orders. She graciously consented to return to us "on loan" till we could fill the position with a wonderful candidate. Mrs. Sarnosky joined her class on September 27th.

This month several Sangster staff members will be attending a national conference on assessment. Mr. Waitschies, Ms. Dowd and Ms. Bershadsky will join me as we travel to Atlanta for four days. The conference will feature national experts such as Doug Reeves and Rick Stiggins. Upon our return we will be sharing information with the entire staff.

Our new assistant principal, Chris Summers joined us on October 1st. Please welcome him to the Sangster community. Our SOL scores are available online for your review. Please go to www.fcps.edu. Once there, click on "Schools and Centers" on a horizontal band near the top of the page, type in "Sangster" when prompted. You will need to click on "Profile" and then on "Test Results".

We hope that all of our families make plans to do something wonderful with their children over the Columbus Day holiday.

PTA Officers

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A NOTE FROM YOUR NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - CHRIS SUMMERS

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to say hello and introduce myself as your incoming assistant principal. I am very excited to join such a wonderful community. Over my years in education I have had many exciting experiences and have been fortunate enough to work with tremendous people. These experiences include having taught 6th grade and a multi-age reading and writing class (grades 4 -6) at Shreveview Elementary School and 7th and 8th grade social studies at Rachel Carson Middle School. In addition, I have worked to develop curriculum for the school system and served on the county's central gifted and talented screening committee. I look forward to adding my strengths to the mix of outstanding talent here at Sangster.

I graduated from George C. Marshall High School here in Fairfax County and earned my undergraduate degree from James Madison University. I earned my Master of Education degree and state administration endorsement with George Mason University and LEAD Fairfax. Over the years I have developed a strong core value that all students can learn given an enriched environment in a school that strives for academic excellence while being developmentally responsive and socially equitable. Moreover, I think internationally known educator, Roland Barth put it best when he said "Let us constantly juxtapose the way things are with fresh visions of what they might become." I look forward to working with the entire Sangster community and continuing the success of all.



Gifted and Talented Information Session

There will be an information session regarding Fairfax County's programs for gifted and talented students on Tuesday, October 16 at 9 am. Information about the levels of service and specifically the services provided here at Sangster, will be discussed, as well as how students are identified to participate. (This includes information regarding the parent referral process for GT center services).

The event will be held in the library at Sangster Elementary. Please contact Morgan Greenawalt, GT Specialist, at 703-644-8263 or morgan.greenawalt@fcps.edu if you should have any questions regarding this event.

All are welcome to attend!

BOOK FAIR!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Sangster Library during the week of November 12. As you know, this is a big event to help raise money for the library to purchase much needed updated equipment and resources. The sale will take place primarily during school hours with limited additional hours after school. *We will be opened during school hours plus Mon., Tues., Weds., Fri. till 5:00 and Thursday till 8:00.* In order for the Book Fair to succeed, we need a very important element, you! Please think about helping the Book Fair by purchasing books or by volunteering your time. We will need help setting up for the fair on Friday November 9th, and then during the fair November 12th to the 16th.



**FAMILY FUN NIGHT!!
SATURDAY, OCT. 20TH!
DON'T MISS IT!**

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!
RAFFLE BASKETS!
SILENT AUCTION!
REPTILES AIVE!

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

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE PTA!

TO EVERYONE WHO HAS JOINED THE PTA: A COPY OF THE 2007-2008 DIRECTORY HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR YOU AND WILL BE SENT HOME VIA BACKPACK MAIL THE 1ST WEEK OF NOVEMBER. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MONTHLY PTA MEETINGS. DATES AND TIMES VARY, SO PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

www.sangsterpta.org

Please note: PTA Membership cards will be issued only if requested.

If interested, contact Carolyn Minesinger at 703-978-3438 or ctminesinger@cox.net.

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SCHOOL

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www.fcps.edu/SangsterES