



SANGSTER PTA NEWSLETTER

January/February 2008

President's Message

Hopefully, everyone had a happy and fun holiday season! Now it's time to get back to business and head into the home stretch of the school year.

In case you have not heard, the PTA Lunch Loan Program is back. This program allows students without lunch money to purchase a lunch and repay the PTA the next day. The program was stopped last year because the students were not repaying the loans as fast as the money was being loaned out. So, if you get a call saying that your child borrowed lunch money from the PTA, please

send the money into school the next day. We want to continue this service for our students, but we will be forced to

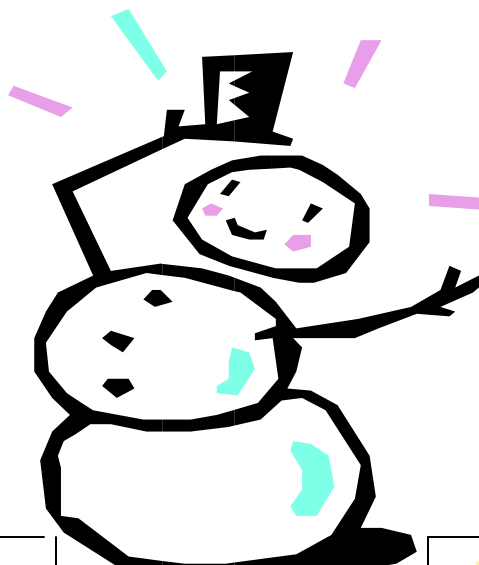
discontinue it again, if the money does not come in on time. Remember, **please send in the exact amount in CASH** with your child's name and PTA lunch loan marked on the envelope.

There are several upcoming events to mark on your calendar. Please check the dates to the right.

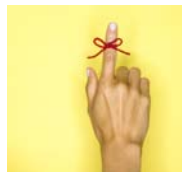
As always, the PTA needs you to help with the upcoming Fun Fair. This is a great night for all of the Sangster families. Please volunteer to help out with the best night of the year! Contact Monica Grose for more information.

Thanks and stay warm-

Leah Esper



LET IT SNOW!!!



Auditions will be held for the Musical Theater production of *Suessical* on January 29th and 30th. Students wanting to audition should go to the cafeteria with their audition form after school on **ONE** of those days. We are blessed at Sangster to have a Musical Theater program. Please remember that this program is extracurricular and that it is run as a professional theater. While everyone would like to get a part, that is not feasible. Whether they get a part or not, this is a great opportunity for students to gain experience in public speaking and auditioning.

Good luck to everyone trying out for a part!

Please Remember ...

- Please don't drop off students in the bus loop between 8:35–9:05. It is against the law to pass a bus that is unloading children, *even in the bus loop*.
- During the day if you are visiting the school or volunteering, please be aware that your car should not be parked in the bus loop in front of the school. This is a designated fire lane and you could get a ticket.
- Now is a good time to check your student's supplies. It may be time for more paper, pencils, crayons, etc.
- Please sign up for Keep in Touch! Go to www.fcps.edu and follow the links to sign up for Keep in Touch.

Mark Your Calendar

- **February 6th** – School Board Meeting for Budget Review
- **February 7th** – PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
- **February 8th** – Jump Rope for Heart
- **February 25th** – Rising Seventh Grade Curriculum night at Lake Braddock 7:00 pm
- **March 6th** – PTA Meeting 7:00pm
- **March 7th** – Sangster Snuggle Up and Read Night 7:00pm
- **March 12th** – Rising Seventh Grade Curriculum night at Irving Middle School 7:00 pm
- **April 11th** – Fun Fair
- **May 2nd** – Sangster Family Night with the Potomac Nationals – tickets on sale soon!

The Sangster Office Staff would like to thank everyone for their generosity during the holiday season. The Staff appreciated your gifts and home baked goodies. Thanks to all of you!!

Friendly Reminder

School starts promptly at 9:00am. Students should arrive before 9:00am so they have time to get to their classroom before the bell. Should the student arrive after 9:00am, please come into the office to sign the student in late.

Thank you for your cooperation.





Principal's Message

Have you heard?

FCPS faces a very tough budget year for school year 2008-2009. The proposed budget is fairly bare bones. Here are some proposed changes and the implications for Sangster.

Increase Class Size By .5 Students

What that means is that the staffing formula will be adjusted. The formula is what is used to determine how many teachers are assigned to a school. The proposed budget has Sangster losing one general education teacher and one GT Center teacher.

Reduce General Education Instructional Assistants

What that means is a reduction in the instructional people available to offer small group enrichment, remediation, re-teaching, help for struggling students, assistance with testing, covering classes so teachers can attend parent or screening meetings providing accommodations and many other services. The proposed budget has Sangster's number of IA's reduced by 1.5 positions.

Transportation Reductions for GT Center Students

What that means is that if a student's base school offers Level 4 GT services, bus transportation to a GT Center will be eliminated. For other students eligible to attend a center, transportation will be

changed to "depot" service. Students would no longer be picked up in their neighborhood, but they would be picked up from their local elementary school and taken to the Center.

Reduction of Inclusive Schools

Resource Teachers

This means there will be less personnel available to all schools for training and support of individualized student needs.

Summer School Will Be Streamlined

We don't know what that will "look" like as the plans are still being worked on.



In reviewing the proposed budget for Sangster, I noted that the money budgeted for our Instructional Supplies is down considerably from past years. Next year is going to be a very difficult one financially.

I think is important for all of us to be aware of what is being proposed. There are many interesting points in this budget. You can find more information by visiting: <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/>

There are opportunities to give input to the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. People can sign up to speak at a Board of Supervisors (BOS) public hearing by calling 703-324-3151. BOS public hearings on budget issues are scheduled from March 31-April 2. You can also speak at a School Board meeting by calling 571-423-1075. February 6 is a FCPS Budget Public Hearing meeting.



Thank you From Lisa Frey

Dear Sangster Community,
WOW!! What a wonderful thing you have done for me and my family. You have so graciously brought us into your hearts. I am honored, and most humbled, to be the recipient of such a generous gift. Your support, encouragement and friendship mean the world to me, my husband Matthew, and our sons Mason (3rd grade) and Bennett (kindergarten next year). We still don't know if insurance will cover this \$70K procedure, but I am going through with it regardless!!

My first attempt at the surgery here in Virginia was unsuccessful. Undeterred, I contacted (from my hospital bed) the top specialist in the country. I am now off to Colorado on January 24 to see Dr. Charles Nutting, the first physician in the United States to perform hepatic radioembolization (there's a mouthful for ya!) with Selective Internal Radiation (SIR Spheres). Basically, millions of radioactive spheres will be sent off into the hepatic arteries of my liver, where they will implant directly into the tumors and kill them.

As a woman with stage 4 cancer, I choose to live my life to the fullest. It is what it is, and I must keep moving forward. I have a lot more living to do! I have two little boys to love and nurture, and an amazing husband to grow old with. I have PTA meetings, little league games, piano recitals, gym classes, and school field trips. I am a busy mom, and I refuse to let cancer get the best of me. My family gets the best of me!

With fondness and gratitude,
Lisa Frey