

# Sangster PTA Newsletter

March 2008

## President's Message

Can you believe there are only three and half months left in this school year? The PTA is busy planning the final events of the year.

This month the PTA is hosting "Snuggle Up and Read Night" on March 7th. The event will let the parents and children spend an hour in the school reading with one another. Hot chocolate will be served and Mr. Hjelm is going to entertain the group by reading one of his favorite books. Please plan on spending a nice night reading with your child.

Another night of fun is just around the corner when the Sangster PTA

hosts the annual FUN FAIR on April 11th from 5:30pm to 9:00pm. Tickets will be sold in advance – take advantage of the savings!!! This night will include moon bounces, karaoke, cake walk, raffle table, games, prizes, vendors for shopping, pizza, hot dogs, cotton candy and more. Volunteers are always needed, so if you are interested in helping, please contact Monica Grose at [mgrose@cox.net](mailto:mgrose@cox.net) or 703-440-3716.

The next night of fun comes on May 2nd when the PTA hosts "Sangster Night at the Ballgame." Come out and enjoy a Potomac Nationals ballgame

with the Sangster family. Tickets will go on sale soon for \$4 each. The tickets usually sell for \$8 each, so this is a great night to enjoy a ballgame at a great price. The Sangster students will be called out onto the field to sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the 7th inning stretch. It should be a great night, so please plan on joining us.

The PTA is always looking for people who want to make a difference in their child's life. Elections will be held in May for the new PTA board and committee positions will be opening. Please think about joining!

Leah Esper

## Principal's Message

We welcome to our staff Kathy Swan who will be finishing out the year in fifth grade. Mrs. Callaghan elected to take a job with the government and will finish with her class on February 29<sup>th</sup>. We feel so fortunate to have Miss Swan available! She is a former FCPS teacher who worked at Hayfield and Weyenoke Elementary Schools. It is a happy coincidence that she was available when we needed her most. As we wish Mrs. Callaghan the best in her new endeavors, we are delighted to bring Miss Swan on board.

This is a perfect segue for me to say how grateful that Chris and I are to work with

our staff at Sangster. As some of you may know, the teaching profession draws fewer and fewer candidates each year. Special education teachers are particularly hard to find. In today's world, there are many incentives for college students to pursue other professions. We lost a young teacher last year to the draw of a fabulous salary and great benefits. I am sure that we will face this same situation again. We all need to stop a moment and think about the work that all of our children's teachers do and be grateful for their service. Too often as parents (and I include myself in this group) we are quick to express dis-

pleasure and slow to express happiness. It is important that we make an effort to let our teachers know that we appreciate the work that they do.

The SOL calendar begins to gear up at this time of the year. We begin with the fifth grade writing test the first week of March. As we have in other years, we have a subscription to SOL Pass which is an online practice for SOL tests. You can reach it through the address [www.solpass.org](http://www.solpass.org). You will have to go to "Elementary" and then choose the subject. At that point, you will be asked for a password. The password is Sangster. Also on this site are released test

## Dates to Remember

- March 6th – PTA Meeting, 7:00pm
- March 7th – Snuggle Up and Read, 7:00–8:00pm
- March 17th–21st Spring Break
- April 1st – 2nd – Board of Supervisors meeting
- April 11th – FUN FAIR 5:30–9:00
- May 2nd – Sangster Night at the Ballgame
- May 19th -June 6th – SOL Testing

items from previous years.

The budget issues are still not ironed out. The Board of Supervisors now has to agree to a "County Transfer" that will cover the proposed budget. Please keep yourself current and involved in these discussions. The School Board presents their budget to the Board of Supervisors on April 1. The public is invited to speak on April 1 and 2. Interested citizens must sign up prior. The Fairfax County Government website provides information regarding the procedure.

Gail Kinsey

## ATTENTION 6TH GRADE PARENTS

*The March 6th PTA meeting will feature Mary Bresser, Middle School Director of School Services, from Lake Braddock Secondary School. Ms. Bresser will answer any questions you may have about the transition for your rising 6th grader. The representative from Irving is unable to attend, but is planning on sending literature. Please plan on attending this meeting!*

### Coming Soon!

Are you looking for a fun activity for your children? The PTA is trying to form a Speed Stacker Club. For more information, go to [speedstackers.com](http://speedstackers.com) or contact Margaret Sita at [msita@cox.net](mailto:msita@cox.net).

### PTA LUNCH LOAN CARD

If your child uses the PTA lunch loan card, please repay the loan promptly. The loans must be repaid in **CASH**. Please send the cash in an envelope marked **PTA Lunch** with your **child's name**. With your help, we will be able to continue this program for the benefit of all the students.

Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Andolina would like to thank the school community for donating personal care supplies during December and January. Thanks to your support, they were able to create over 100 personal care packages for those less fortunate. Thanks again!

Students in Grades 3-8 in our school will be taking the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests from May 19<sup>th</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be very helpful if you can avoid appointments which may take your child out of school during this time period. Also, it will help your child perform his or her best if he or she has had a good night's rest, a healthy breakfast, and comes to school with a positive attitude.

#### May 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 19 6 <sup>th</sup> Reading	May 20 3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading/Part 1	May 21 3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading/Part 2	May 22 5 <sup>th</sup> Reading	May 23 4 <sup>th</sup> Reading
May 26 Holiday	May 27 6 <sup>th</sup> Social Studies	May 28 3 <sup>rd</sup> Social Studies	May 29 4 <sup>th</sup> Social Studies	May 30 5 <sup>th</sup> Science

#### June 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Science	June 3 5 <sup>th</sup> Math	June 4 6 <sup>th</sup> Math	June 5 4 <sup>th</sup> Math	June 6 3 <sup>rd</sup> Math
June 9 Make-Up	June 10 Make-Up	June 11 Make-Up	June 12 Make-Up	June 13 Make-Up