

The Sangster Source

December/January Issue

December 15, 2011

PTA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to the cold weather (sometimes) and the Holiday season. Are you ready for the holiday activities; school parties, cookie exchanges, shopping? I'm not quite ready yet, but I'm getting there.

In order to encourage greater participation by a wider audience at the monthly PTA meetings, the membership decided to alternate meetings between morning and evening. Meetings will still be held the first Thursday of the month, with the exception of January and April, due to the holiday breaks. See the schedule below.

At the January meeting, we will be modifying our budget and creating a spending plan for this year. We are considering purchasing an electronic sign for the front of the school, ELMOs for classrooms, new projectors for existing SMART Boards, and Personal Response



Systems (PRS) for the classrooms. We need your input and your vote. We cannot approve a new budget or allocate funds to programs

without a quorum. Please attend to help plan for this year's expenditures.

Attending the PTA meetings gives you access to early information about the school, such as new report card formats coming next year, the new Teacher Collaboration Professional Development Room and its purpose, the SOL testing schedule, and a new AVID organization system for the students. Mr. Summers and Ms. Jankovich share lots of good information with us at the meetings.

The PTA has sponsored two Family Fun Events so far

...Continued on page 3.



Dates to Remember

Winter Break
December 23rd—January 2nd

Thursday, January 12th
9:30 am—Room R4
PTA Meeting

January 22nd
Cosmic Bowling



PTA MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Location
January 12th	9:30 AM	R4
February 2nd	7:00 PM	R4
March 1st	9:30 AM	R4
April 12th	7:00 PM	R4
May 3rd	9:30 AM	R4
June 7th	7:00 PM	R4

PTA Officers

President
Monica Grose
monicagrose@verizon.net

Vice President
Linda Whitestone
lbwhitestone@cox.net

Secretary
Carol Ochs
cochs153va@verizon.net

Treasurer
Michelle Nocerito
mnocerito@aol.com

Season's Greetings!

As the weather begins to turn cold the excitement of winter break begins to build in the school. This time of year is always fun for the entire school community. It begins with a brilliant turn out for our annual Thanksgiving lunches and continues with 4th grade's Colonial Day. We look forward to fun filled days off learning of course but also classroom celebrations. Many families will be traveling this holiday season and throughout the winter for a variety of reasons. Family vacations are certainly very valuable and we appreciate those families that have notified us of the students' absences - please know that we do not ask teachers to provide work for students who take extended trips. Instruction is based off of the mastering of skills and the time frame can change based on how students respond to instruction; moreover, most instruction needs to be in the classroom.

We ask that students who go on extended trips continue to read nightly and keep a trip journal - this keeps them actively involved with literacy



One kind word can warm three winter months.

~Japanese Proverb

skills. To reinforce math skills - review basic addition, subtraction and multiplication facts. For lower grade students - have them help count out money when paying in cash or make change. Encourage upper grade students to spend wisely - give them a set amount of money and have them budget for their

wants. Most certainly, we want them to enjoy the quality time with their families.

Students last day of school before the Winter Break is December 22nd which is a full day of school - students will return on Tuesday January 3rd. Sangster's Main office will be closed during the winter break.

As we get closer to the dark cold days of winter, please pay close attention to the weather - if there is a chance of snow or ice watch your local news for school closings and delays.

Our January PTA meeting will look a little different - as it will be held in the MORNING! We will be holding our next PTA meeting on January 12th at 9:30 am - we hope the time change for this meeting will allow parents to attend who are unable to attend the evening meetings.

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season filled with lots of family, friends and good fun!

Best wishes and Happy Holidays!!

"Reflections Theme Search entries have been chosen by the Virginia PTA Arts in Education Committee to go on to National PTA for consideration as the 2013 - 2014 Reflections theme."

One of the winning Theme Search entries chosen to go on to the National PTA for consideration is "Bullying is..." submitted by Wilson Dodd.

Congratulations to Wilson Dodd!

(ice-cream social and movie night). We will be holding several more events throughout the year and I hope you can attend. In January, we will be setting up Cosmic Bowling night at Bowl America in Burke. They turn the lights off, the music up and the kids have a great time. Snuggle Up and Read will be held in February and Shamrock Bingo in March. We're also going to hold a new activity in May, called Fitness Fun Challenge (Hula Hoop Contests, Standing on one foot contest, Long jump contest etc...) and we can attend the Potomac Nationals baseball night in June. Join the fun and let your children hang out with their friends. We always need volunteers to help run these activities, so contact Karen Laysen to help: karenlaysen@hotmail.com.

Mark your calendar for the annual Fun Fair on Friday, April 20th from 5:30 - 8:30 PM. We will have moon bounces, games, food, Karaoke, and the cake walk! Look for more information after the holidays.

The students will see a "Bash the Trash" cultural program this month and Nana Puddin' will return in March. We will also be scheduling Jeff Blum to present an anti-bullying program soon too.

Watch for a new Restaurant program announcement. We are partnering with two area restaurants (*Hard Times and Pane-e-Vino*) to enjoy dinner out and raise money for Sangster at the same time.

In order to save trees, we will be posting the monthly newsletter on the web site and NOT printing 600 copies (1200 pages) every month. You will receive a Keep in Touch with a link to the newsletter when it's posted.

Have a fun and safe holiday season!

Monica Grose
PTA President



Hello Sangster Community!

Thank you to those of you who sent in box tops for our most recent submission!! Over 175,000 box tops were submitted, earning our school around \$1750.00. WOW! The PTA will use this money for student-related activities such as school assemblies, after-school clubs, and instructional materials. Our next submission date is quickly approaching - end of February. Let's see if we can beat our November earnings and raise over \$2000.00!

Did you know that just by cutting Box Tops off of thousands of everyday items from Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Kleenex, Ziploc, Chex, Hefty, Cheerios, Nestle and hundreds more you can earn money for our school? Well you can! Consider looking around your place of business or asking relatives to save Box Tops - every box top brings us 10 cents closer to our goal!

Please go to www.btfe.com for more information.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!
Ms Jankovich

Sangster Elementary PTA Reflections Program 2011-2012

"Diversity Means..."

The Sangster Elementary PTA Reflections Program 2011-2012 Theme: "Diversity Means..." is proud to announce their winners this year. The photography, visual arts, music and dance entries were judged by artists from the Workhouse Arts Center and the literature entries were judged by our principal, Mr. Christopher Summers. The Sangster Elementary PTA Reflections Program 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are as follows:

Literature:

- * Primary 1st - Title: Diversity means ... by Catherine N.
- * 2nd - Title: We All Have Different Parts by Zoe G.
- * Intermediate: 1st - Title: The different soccer team by Adam G.
- * 2nd - Title: Me and My Friend by Adam G.
- * 3rd - Title: Diversity by Adam G.

Dance:

- * Middle 1st - Title: Diverser Cultures Diverse Dance ONE WORLD by Sana S.

Music:

- * 1st - Title: Diversity Means ... by Allison G.

Photography:

- * Primary 1st - Title: A beautiful beach by Samantha Z.
- * 2nd - Title: Autumn by Samantha Z.
- * 3rd - Title: Mom's Mum by Zoe G.
- * Intermediate 1st - Title: Starry Stars by Alexa R.
- * 2nd - Title: The American Pots by Avery R.
- * 3rd - Title: Sports Balls by Alexa R.

Visual Arts:

- * Primary 1st - Title: Colored Rainbow by Charlotte A.
- * 2nd - Title: A garden of flowers by Samantha Z.
- * 3rd - Title: Soccer world by Syon S.
- * Intermediate 1st - Title: Diversity means many countries coming together to form a whole by Joshua Y.
- * 2nd - Title: Diversity is beautiful difference by Kaitlyn N.
- * 3rd - Title: Sea Ground by Sarah C.
- * Middle 1st - Title: Everyone is a friend to me by Elizabeth M.

The photography, visual arts and literature entries will be displayed in the cafeteria for the remainder of the year.

Please note that all of the 1st place entries have been submitted to the Fairfax County PTA Council for judging. If they win at the County level, they will be sent to the State level of judging. We will be notified whether or not our entries will be selected as winners to be submitted to the State level and thereafter submitted to the National level of judging. This process will be completed by May of 2012 so we will plan to have a formal ceremony to congratulate all the winners and participants at this time. An email will be sent in the Spring with further details.

In addition, Ms. Patricia Franck who heads the Reflection Program for the Fairfax County PTA Council came to the ice cream social on Tuesday, November 15th to present the Workhouse Arts Center with a plaque of appreciation for their artistic services to our Sangster Reflection Program.

We thank all the participants and encourage all to come view the display.

Sangster Elementary School

7420 Reservation Drive
Springfield, Virginia
22153

Phone: 703-644-8200
Fax: 703-644-8297
Attendance: 703-644-8282
www.fcps.edu/SangsterES

Sangster PTA



Menne Dodd
Reflections Chair
Sangster Elementary PTA