

The Sangster Source

October Issue

October 20, 2011

PTA PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Well, this year is off to a great start: student ac-

tivities and clubs are starting up, our fall fundraiser is in full swing, and the PTA is planning a fun-filled year for our children.

As you know, October brings our big push for our fall fundraiser: "Race for Education." We are in the middle of collecting pledges for the jog-a-thon and sending in family donations. In the past, we sold Sally Foster to fund our school programs, and this year we are sponsoring the jog-a-thon for the same reasons and have the same goals. To give you a little background, Sally Foster raised anywhere from \$17,000-\$22,000 per year in previous years. We hope to raise a similar amount this year with our Race for Education event. Would you like to know where all that money is spent? The money that you collected and donated last year was spent on the items in the table at right.

As you can see, The PTA funds a variety of programs for the school,

| <u>School Programs</u> | <u>Amount from PTA</u> |
|---|------------------------|
| A Brand New Track | 29,926 |
| Instructional Support (Total) | \$9,334 |
| • Discovery Garden | |
| • Music | |
| • PE | |
| • Reading Program ("Good Habits, Good Readers") | |
| Technology | \$6,492 |
| Buses for Field Trips | \$5,925 |
| Teacher Grants | \$1,496 |
| Cultural Arts Assembly (Na Na Pudding) | \$1,375 |
| Teacher Appreciation | \$1,388 |
| Thursday Folders | \$1,100 |
| Student Awards and Recognition | \$732 |
| Special Education | \$500 |
| Odyssey of the Mind | \$418 |
| Science Programs | \$410 |

teachers and students. We have a lot of technology here at Sangster, and part of the credit goes to the PTA. We have established the goals and worked with teachers and parents to prioritize those needs, and thanks to your help, we were able to follow through and fund SMART Boards, ELMOs, projectors, etc. On Oct. 28, the Race for Education donations are due and your students will be jogging or walking around our new track. Donate online or by send-

ing in your envelope. A great big thank-you to Linda Whitestone and Jan Swicord for leading the charge on this event and to the many other volunteers who have helped to make it a success as well.

On Nov. 15, we will hold the ice-cream social, in conjunction with the Book Fair. After shopping for books, stop by for some free ice-cream sundaes.

Our Reflections Program is up and running. See the Web site for details.

Sangster Elementary
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.

Dates to Remember

October 28
Race for Education
First Box Tops Submission

November 3
PTA Meeting
Room R4, 7 p.m.

November 7-8
Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 14-17
Sangster Book Fair

November 15
6-8 p.m.
Ice Cream Social

November 23
Two-Hour Early Release

November 24-25
No School
Thanksgiving Holiday

PTA Officers

President

Monica Grose
monicagro@verizon.net

Vice President

Linda Whitestone
lbwhitestone@cox.net

Secretary

Carol Ochs
cochs153va@verizon.net

Treasurer

Michelle Nocerito
mnocerito@aol.com

Happy October! It is the start of the season of pumpkins, colorful leaves and football! In schools in FCPS, it is also the time when we develop our School Improvement Plans (SIPs) that are submitted to our Cluster VI Assistant Superintendent. All schools use the School Board's three goals as a framework for developing the plans. The goals are Academic, Essential Life Skills and Service Learning.

For all of us, the academic goals are the reason a school exists — the other two goals may need a little bit more explaining.

Essential life skills are those skills that students develop that help them achieve goals throughout their lives. The goals our students will set are based on the SMART goal framework. Goals that are "SMART" are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-Oriented and Time-Bound. Last year, we focused on sixth-grade students developing meta-cognitive skills used in reading comprehension — this year, we are expanding this goal to include fifth- and sixth-grade students. They will be developing individual goals and work plans to develop the specific strategy they need the most work on.

The School Board has established a mandate for sixth-grade students that require them to participate in five hours of volunteer service during the school year. Middle- and high-school students have service learning hour requirements as well. The work can be done through school or in the community. The service is married with a learning component that provides research on a topic and then action. The idea is that



**"Develop a passion for learning.
If you do, you will never
cease to grow."
Anthony J. D'Angelo**

children will identify a need or problem in their world that they could work toward helping. We have always had opportunities for students to offer assistance throughout the school year. This initiative creates a more focused and formalized system. Last year,

the sixth grade had a very successful project helping with supplies for a local animal shelter. We plan to kick this off in the second semester — the sixth-grade students and parents will be receiving more information.

This time of year also brings our annual parent conference days — November 7 and 8. These are student holidays that provide time for our teachers to meet with parents to discuss individual student progress. In traditional Sangster fashion, we look forward to meeting with all of our parents. Report cards will also be sent home in early November.

Amazon Shopping Benefits Sangster!

Starting your holiday shopping early? Don't forget to use Sangster's link on Amazon — each purchase you make through this site earns money for our school!



Find the Amazon link on the Sangster PTA home page (sangster.digitalpta.com/) under "Useful School Links."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOOK FAIR

We need volunteers for Friday Nov. 11 (set-up) through Friday Nov. 18 (break-down), including evening hours on Tuesday, and daily during school hours Nov. 14-17

If you'd like to volunteer, contact Heather Aycock at hmaycock303@gmail.com.

Watch the online calendar for upcoming Family Fun Events (Movie Nights, Bowling, Bingo, etc).

We have a Building & Grounds coordinator this year, and he's ready to get a committee and start making plans. E-mail Dave at David.

Berchtold@osd.mil if you'd like to help out.

The school has given us another

parking spot in the front of the school to use for the "PTA Volunteer of the Month." We will be using this parking spot to reward volunteers for all the good work they do for the PTA and, ultimately, the school.

There will be a sign going up very soon. I'd ask that you do not park in any of the reserved spots, even during non-school hours, because this is when we hold most of our events

and the volunteers benefit most from their perk!

Thank-you to all the support people have been showing to the PTA. Have a great day and stay safe during Halloween.

Monica Grose

PTA President



Robotics Club

It's time to starting building some robots! The Sangster PTA is happy to kick off its third year of the very popular Robotics Club. The club is open to all students in grades 3-6. The club will meet in the cafeteria on the second Wednesday of each month, from 7-8:30 p.m. The students will be broken up into teams of five or fewer people, with an adult leader present at all times. The teams will be challenged with building something different each month, ending in a friendly competition. Some examples of challenges include a drag race, tug-of-war and catapult.

The goals of the Sangster Robotics Club are to foster excitement and enthusiasm for creative problem solving, teamwork, engineering, and science through the design, construction, testing and presentation of robotic systems. The club will provide the resources (including equipment, instruction and mentorship) for students to learn to design and build simple machines, which are the basis for robots and robotic systems. The club will use Lego robotic construction kits.

The annual enrollment fee is \$30 per child. To register, please go to the Sangster PTA Web site (<http://sangster.digitalpta.com/>). Download a registration form and send it and the fee to your child's homeroom teacher. If you have questions, please e-mail jason4747@hotmail.com. We're looking forward to another year of fun!

FLEX Classes Starting Soon

FLEX classes will start Oct. 24 for 15 weeks.

- Spanish level 1 — Mondays from 1:15—2:15 p.m. (grades 1-6)
- Spanish level 2 — Tuesdays from 7:50—8:50 a.m. (grades 2-6)
- Spanish level 3 — Thursdays from 7:50—8:50 a.m. (grades 3-6)
- Sign Language level 1 — Mondays from 1:15—2:15 p.m. (grades 1-6)
- French level 1 — Wednesdays from 7:50—8:50 a.m. (grades 1-6)
- Chinese level 1 — Thursdays from 7:50—8:50 a.m. (grades 1-6)
- German will be **ONLY** 10 weeks — Thursdays from 7:50—8:50 a.m. (for grades 2-6)

For more information and the registration procedure, please visit Sangster's PTA Web site (<http://sangster.digitalpta.com/>). All classes still have spaces available.

Sangster Elementary School

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Sangster PTA

We're on the Web!
[http://
sangster.digitalpta.com/](http://sangster.digitalpta.com/)

Box Tops Due Oct. 28



Did you know that just by cutting Box Tops off of thousands of everyday items, you can earn money for our school? Well you can! Last year, we earned more than \$3,000 through the Box Tops for Education program.

Our first submission deadline for Box Tops for Education is **Friday, Oct. 28!**

There are three great ways you can support instruction and learning at Sangster with the Box Tops for Education program. The Box Tops Marketplace and Reading Room offer you the opportunity to earn money for Sangster — by doing nothing more than simply signing up and shopping on your favorite Web sites, such as Target, Expedia, and Best Buy. Please go to **www.btfe.com** to sign up! And of course, cutting Box Tops off your favorite household items will earn our school 10 cents per Box Top.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at **ALJankovich@fcps.edu** or **MABodnovich@fcps.edu**

RACE FOR EDUCATION

Our second Race for Education is Oct. 28 (rain date: Nov. 3). Please submit all donation envelopes by Oct. 28. All funds go back to Sangster in the form of new technology, equipment, supplies, and more!

To contribute online, access <http://sangster.digitalpta.com/fund-raising/race-for-education/>. If you have any questions, email Linda Whitestone at **lbwhitestone@cox.net** or Jan Swicord at **swicordjan@cox.net**.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Do you have an idea to improve Sangster's buildings or grounds? Sangster PTA has a B&G Committee and seeks your input for desired projects. From one parent, we heard of a need for weather protection at Kiss-and-ride. Other ideas include weeding, classroom shelving/storage, mulching, planting, painting, installing classroom/cafeteria sound attenuation, building a picnic/outdoor classroom shelter, improving the Eagle Scout bench park and placing sports turf playing areas.

Whether it's from the school

staff or parents, the Committee seeks your ideas.

The B&G Committee would also like to identify a SNOW BLAST TEAM, a team of people who have snow blowers and are willing to potentially mobilize for emergency snow removal needs. A few years ago, the school was cancelled for two consecutive weeks and the school requested help with anyone with snow blowers to clear some areas around the school when it came time to reopen.

Lastly, the B&G Committee continues to look for people to serve on

the committee to help solicit, estimate, prioritize, plan and lead the execution of projects. Projects will be executed by professionals or volunteers, depending upon its scope, but it takes some leg work to get them identified and approved.

If you have any ideas to improve the buildings and grounds, are willing to be part of the SNOW BLAST TEAM, and/or interested in being on the B&G Committee, please contact Dave Berchtold, at **berchtold.dave@gmail.com** or during the day at (703) 571-9082.