

The Sangster Source

September Issue

September 22, 2011

PTA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hi and welcome back. I am Monica Grose, your PTA President for the 2011-2012 school year. I hope you had a great summer and are ready for the new school year. The PTA is trying to reduce the amount of paper we send home every week. To meet this goal, we have created a new website this year: <http://www.sangsterpta.org/>. Additional capabilities include on-line membership registration, on-line volunteer form, and we now accept credit cards. Please take a moment to browse through the site and join the PTA.

The PTA meets on the first Thursday of every month to discuss the programs that require funding and fundraising options that make it possible to provide a variety of activities for our students. Please take an hour and join us at a PTA meeting to find out the details of these programs and where you can help. See the

calendar for the most current information: <http://sangster.digitalpta.com/calendar/>

The PTA at Sangster is very active and because of that, we are able to provide the school with funding for many items. Last year the PTA paid for a track to be installed in the back of the school and a new reading program. We have purchased technology such as SMART boards and ELMOs. Cultural Arts programs and field trips are paid for from the PTA. An Internet Safety Program was held last June and the PTA provided childcare so that all adults could attend. Last year, the PTA spent over \$25,000 on school support programs.

We have wonderful parents, teachers, and volunteers at Sangster and because of that we are able to offer a variety of programs for the students. These range from Chess Club and Robotics to Craft Club and Odys-

sey of the Mind. We are also planning family fun events, such as an ice-cream social, BINGO, movie nights, and Cosmic bowling.

Last year the PTA was able to finance the installation of a new track all in one year, thanks to our Race-for Education fund raiser. The jog-a-thon raised over \$50,000 and got our children moving at the same time. This year we are still going to host the



Welcome Back!

Race for Education, but we will simplify the program, based on feedback from parents and teachers. Each family will choose how they collect donations, whether it is from neighbors, friends, and extended family or just a donation from your family - you choose. Since we have designed



Dates to Remember

September 27th
9:15 am—10:15 am
New Parent Orientation

September 28th
9:15 am—10:15 am
Volunteer Orientation

October 6th
7:00 pm—8:00 pm
Sangster Library
PTA Meeting

October 10th
Columbus Day
NO SCHOOL

October 15th
Irving Middle School
Pyramid Challenge

PTA Officers

President
Monica Grose
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Vice President
Linda Whitestone
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Secretary
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Michelle Nocerito
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The 2011-2012 school year is off and running! The opening of school has been exciting and your students have been wonderful. The building has been humming with activity from day one! This year we welcome several new staff members: Rachel Saylor is our third kindergarten teacher and Debbie Winkler joins her as her instructional assistant. Bethany Hovis & Laura Wylie in 1st grade, Connie Sliger in 5th grade AAP, Marie Burns, Doran Sirota and Anna Matthews in special education, Kim Cherington, Sukhwant Johal, Erin French and Ann Pritz as instructional assistants, Sophia Zaffaroni as a part-time Spanish teacher and Catherine Stepbis as a part-time art teacher. We welcome Nancy Van Tine as our school psychologist, Roger McCay, Mary Wagner join our music department as part-time strings teachers, Mary Ann Marrone as our ESOL teacher and Lisa Scott as our advanced academic resource teacher. We are very excited to have them all as part of the Sangster team.

Over the summer the building was a busy place playing host to many summer programs. Our custodians did an amazing job getting the building ready for the arrival of

students. We had b-pod closed in to create a new resource classroom and added the trailer as an extra instructional space. The facilities office has also repaired our blacktop that was damaged by the contractors during the installation of the running track. A former Sangster student, John Tuebner, offered up his time as part of a service project, painting 2-square and 4-square areas on the blacktop giving students another option



“Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.”
~Chinese Proverb

great organizations volunteer their time and talent to help keep Sangster looking great. Burke Community Church, under the leadership of TJ Vercooteren, rallied a group of students from the church and

spruced up our bike rack area – also thank you to Shirley Contracting and Smoot Lumber for donating services and materials! We would also like to give a big thank you to Cub Scout Pack 684 for their hard work in trimming bushes and trees, spreading mulch, replacing basketball nets and MUCH more. Thank you to everyone – it is most appreciated by the entire Sangster Community!

Our back-to-school nights were very successful and we appreciate all of our parents for attending – school-home communication is paramount in the success of our students! I encourage you to contact your child’s teacher if you have questions about their progress or would like information on how to best support them at home. On Tuesday, September 27th we will have our New Parent Orientation and on Wednesday, September 28 we will host a Volunteer Orientation – both programs will begin at 9:15 and be held in room R-4.

Thank you for entrusting your children into our care. We take that responsibility very seriously. Being with elementary age children is inspiring, refreshing and just plain fun. We are excited about another great year at Sangster!

YOUR TIME IS THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT IN A CHILD'S LIFE!

Are you able to share some of your time at your child's school this year? No matter what your time availability: whether you're able to spend an hour a week at lunch, a couple hours every couple weeks in the library, or an hour a couple times a year baking for special events, we have an IDEAL job for you.

Please go to the school's website, click on the Join/Volunteer tab, then the volunteer form tab, and fill your volunteer form out within seconds online! There are many different opportunities for you to help out no matter what your schedule! We appreciate whatever time you have to offer!

Thank you! Questions? Contact Denise Krug denisekrug@aol.com

PTA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

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a more flexible program, we hope everyone will participate. Look for more information in your Thursday folders and descriptions of the incentives and prizes you can win.

We need a couple of volunteers so that we can continue to offer the same programs as last year. We need a volunteer to run the Reflec-

tions program, a Family Event coordinator, Building and Grounds Volunteer, and Parent or Teacher to continue our VERY popular Science Club. Please contact me if you have a few extra hours to help out: president@sangsterpta.org.

I think we have a great year planned, so please come join us at the monthly PTA meetings and

find out where you can help. We always need parents to help make our children's day a little brighter and their learning environment more successful.



Monica Grose
PTA President

The School Bus: A Smart Choice, A Safe Choice

The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that the school bus is 60 times safer than other passenger vehicles. School buses manufactured after January 1, 1977, must meet more federal motor vehicle safety standards than any other type of motor vehicle. Why? Because school buses are transporting our most valuable possessions—our children.

So, while your own car may seem to be the most convenient or quickest way for your child to get to school or while it may provide you additional time with your child, the familiar yellow school bus is still the smartest and safest transportation choice you can make for your child.

This year, help not only to get your child to school safely but also to alleviate parking problems and traffic congestion by making the school bus your child's first choice in transportation.

For more information on bus transportation, contact the Office of Transportation Services, Linda Farby, director, by calling **703-446-2000**, or by going to www.fcps.edu/fts/tran/index.htm.

Walker Safety Tips

Parents should plan a walking route to school and choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings. Parents are responsible for selecting their children's walking routes to and from bus stops, schools, and home. Parents are also responsible for providing supervision that is appropriate for their child's age, maturity, and conditions on the route. Parents should be encouraged to outfit their children with reflective clothing.

Students should cross streets at controlled intersections and in crosswalks where available. Students should not cross in the middle of a street unless the crossing is supervised by a crossing guard or a police officer. Before crossing, students should look both ways before stepping off the curb. Students should always pay attention for turning vehicles. Students should be encouraged to turn off personal stereos (iPods) while crossing intersections.

Students who walk to and from school should be encouraged to walk with other students. Walkers should go directly home after school and never take shortcuts. Elementary students should avoid parks, vacant lots, fields, and other places where there aren't many people, and, if they are unable to walk home safely, they should return to the school.

It is important to note that school system staff members do not assess all possible walking routes, supervise those routes, or guarantee the safety of any particular route. Staff members provide general safety information to school communities and respond to requests for specific information and advice when practicable. Staff members also assess routes for unusual hazards when concerns are brought to their attention.

**Sangster Elementary
School**

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Springfield, Virginia
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Attendance: 703-644-8282
www.fcps.edu/SangsterES

Sangster PTA

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

**IT'S THE 6TH ANNUAL PYRAMID CHALLENGE!
OCTOBER 15TH
AT IRVING MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Would your child like to have tons of fun, get a free t-shirt, get some great exercise, and support others in the process?

If so....**Sign up for The Pyramid Challenge 2011!**

October 15th will be the 6th Annual Pyramid Challenge- where kids from 7 schools will run at Washington Irving school: 1/2 mile for K-3rd graders, 1 mile for 4-6th graders. Start times will be between 10am and 11:30 am. The cost is 4 cans of food to benefit Food for Others, a local food bank.

New online registration this year....go to [http://
www.pyramidchallenge.webs.com/](http://www.pyramidchallenge.webs.com/) to sign up! Questions?

Contact Denise Krug denisekrug@aol.com

LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUNTEER AT THE SANGSTER LIBRARY!

Weekly or Biweekly -- The library is already open and students are checking out books. We have several openings, maybe even during your child's library time. Come volunteer, its a great quiet place to work, Mrs. Brewer may even read you a story AND you get a Sangster Library Card or your very own.

BOOK FAIR!

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

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

**TAKING ADVANCED ORDERS FOR
DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: CABIN FEVER
ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!**

Reminder: The library is now taking advance orders for Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever, only \$8.49, no tax, no shipping! Please make checks payable to Sangster, and send orders to our librarian, Mrs. Katherine Brewer. Need further information please contact Mrs. Brewer at kbbrewer1@fcps.edu