

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

JANUARY ISSUE
Jan. 10, 2013

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

Welcome back, Sangster families! Hopefully, everyone enjoyed some nice time off during the break, albeit a short one, and is ready to tackle the second half of the school year. Of course, if you're still feeling like you need a few more days off, we have a four-day break coming at the end of the month!

To make things more interesting for this winter

month, we have scheduled an exciting event for the students in mid-January. The Dome Theater will be here Jan. 17-18 to provide the students with a full science experience! Students will walk inside the theater (which looks a bit like an igloo) and watch a movie shown on the entire inside of the dome, giving them the feeling of being in whatever location their show is about. Some students will feel like they're in outer space, some will travel around the world, some will walk with dinosaurs and more. Different grade levels will have different experiences, so be sure to ask each of your children about their programs!

We continue to work on Sangster's 25th anniversary celebration and have some plans for early March. We'll have a spirit week with fun things for the students to

do each day, and we'll also be adapting the 26 Good Deeds (you may have heard about that effort in conjunction with the Sandy Hook Elementary School) to Sangster and promoting 25 Good Deeds to honor Sangster's 25 years. Watch for more details coming home in Thursday folders and in next month's newsletter.

At the January PTA meeting, Principal Summers spoke about the safety and security measures in place at Sangster. Please expect questions when you ring the bell to enter Sangster during the day, and always check in with the front office upon arrival. A safety and security audit recently occurred at Sangster, and we're pleased to say that went fine. The county and state are currently reviewing safety and security procedures, but we've not yet been made aware of any changes.

The PTA Web site is a wonderful resource for all kinds of information and we encourage you to check out that site for any flyers you may have missed, a schedule of events and more!

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Sangster Elementary
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.



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Dates to Remember

Thursday, Jan. 17-Friday, Jan. 18
Dome Theater

Monday, Jan. 21
Student Holiday

Friday, Jan. 25
Second Grading Period Ends

Monday, Jan. 28-Tuesday, Jan. 29
Student Holidays

Thursday, Feb. 7
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

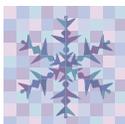
Friday, Feb. 8
Grade 2-6 Level IV Referrals Due

Monday, Feb. 18
Student Holiday

Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29
Spring Break

"Getting an inch of snow is like winning 10 cents in the lottery."

— Bill Watterson



Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break! It's hard to believe we're in our second half of the year. As Valentine's Day approaches and the students get ready to pass out Valentines, we ask that students provide a valentine to all classmates. I also ask that we not attach candy treats to the cards — many students have food allergies, and the candy treats make it hard for teachers to monitor who is touching or eating items they shouldn't. If you want to make the Valentine special, consider attaching an eraser, a sticker or a pencil — but the card is thoughtful enough!

We are having some traffic issues at Kiss & Ride and in the front of the school — we need your help. The front bus loop is one way and specifically reserved for busses only from 8:40-9:15 a.m. and 3:30-4:15 p.m.; however, busses always have the right of way. Individuals have

been pulling in the exit of the bus loop to drop students off — this is very dangerous, and I must ask that everyone use the Kiss & Ride area. When using Kiss & Ride, please don't pass cars and only allow your students to exit and load the cars on the passenger side. We all need to slow down and keep the safety of our children in mind. In addition, it is against the law to pass school busses that are preparing to unload and load students — even in the bus loop! Life in northern Virginia is hectic enough — let's all slow down when in a school zone.

During the past few weeks, safety and security has been on everyone's mind. I want to assure you that we take the safety and security of everyone in the building very seriously. We continue to review and revise our security processes here at school to provide the utmost protection for our students and staff — it's a delicate balance to maintain a welcoming learning

environment. As a school, we practice evacuation drills (fire drills) every month, as well as tornado drills, and a lockdown drill will be done by the end of the month. In addition, we have procedures in place for shelter-in-place (e.g., if there is a toxic spill in the area) and a crisis plan that is updated every year in conjunction with the FCPS Office of Safety and Security. We ask that when you visit the school, ring the doorbell, and an office staff member will ask you to state your name and your purpose for visiting and to report to the office. Each person needs to be "buzzed" in separately, so don't be offended if someone closes the door in your face. We thank you for your cooperation in helping maintain a safe and secure environment for all Sangster community members.

The end of the second quarter is just a few weeks away — be on the lookout for your student's progress report. Monday, Jan. 21 is the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, and Jan. 28 and 29 are also student holidays. Have a wonderful January, and let's hope for a couple of snow days!!

Sangster Fundraising Opportunities

Did you know that you can support Sangster with your everyday purchases? Check out these easy ways to help your school!

- **Shop with Amazon:** Find the Amazon link on the [Sangster PTA home page](http://sangsterpta.org) (sangsterpta.org) under "Useful School Links." Raise money for Sangster just by buying items on Amazon!
- **Collect Box Tops:** Cut out box tops from selected products, and turn them in to your child's teacher. The first submission deadline is **Oct. 31**.
- **My Coke Rewards:** Purchase Coke products and enter codes online.
- **Giant/Safeway:** Go to the store's Web site, enter your loyalty card number, and designate Sangster as your school of choice. You can also e-mail your bonus card numbers to Ms. Jankovich at ALJankovich@fcps.edu.
- **Sally Foster:** Simply use Sangster's fundraising code (504034) at checkout, and Sangster will receive 40% of the proceeds. It's a great way to stock up on holiday supplies and help your school.

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