

# The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

SEPTEMBER ISSUE  
Sept. 10, 2012

## PTA NOTES AND NEWS

Welcome back, Sangster families, and a big Sangster welcome to our new families for the 2012-2013 school year! It's hard to believe that summer is over and school has started, but here we are, and we are looking forward to a great year ahead.

Plans are underway for our big fall fundraiser, which will be Oct. 26. We are hosting "A Night of Delights," which will feature a silent auction and gift basket raffle. You can read more about this below. Also, back by popular request, we will be doing the Sally Foster fundraiser starting very soon. It's a lot different this time around – all internet based and shipped directly to your home! No more forms to carry around and no more school pick up on your items. Just use the Sangster code (which will be issued soon) when you or your friends and family make your online orders, and then your order is shipped to whatever address you choose. Very easy and very beneficial to our school. You will

be receiving the Sally Foster information in your Thursday folders in the coming weeks, so get ready to shop!

So why do fundraisers at Sangster? Do we really have to? Can't I make a donation and be done? Yes to all of the above. We will gladly accept your check; however we do the large-scale fundraisers to actively support the many programs and initiatives at Sangster that require extra funds. For instance, we have a request from

**"So why do fundraisers at Sangster? ... We need your help and support to continue having these wonderful resources for our students."**

our librarian for a few changes and updates to the Sangster Library to make it more comfortable and exciting for our students. Also, Sangster is known for having new technology available to all of its students and teachers, and now is the time to integrate iPads and more smart-response systems for test-taking. There is a need for

*Continued on Page 3*

## SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Shhhh! It's a Silent Auction. But it's not a quiet evening! Oct. 26 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. is the time to be at Sangster Elementary to bid on a multitude of marvelous items and spectacular services donated by local businesses, families, school staff and TEACHERS! You will also be able to enter raffles for gigantically stupendous gift baskets assembled by our Sangster classrooms. From

start to finish as you watch the silent auction bidding process, join in some family games and enjoy great music. Expect a Night of Delights!

This event is the PTA's primary fundraiser, and all proceeds support educational excellence for Sangster students. Funds will purchase technology (such as furnishing all classes with

*Continued on Page 3*

**Sangster Elementary**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice.



### Sangster Elementary School

7420 Reservation Drive  
Springfield, VA 22153  
Phone: (703) 644-8200  
Fax: (703) 644-8297  
Attendance: (703) 644-8282  
[fcps.edu/SangsterES](http://fcps.edu/SangsterES)



### Dates To Remember

Wednesday, Sept. 12  
Back to School Night – K-3 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 20  
Back to School Night – 4-6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 21  
Deadline for Spirit Wear Orders

Monday, Oct. 8  
No School – Columbus Day

Saturday, Oct. 20  
Pyramid Challenge

Sunday, Oct. 21  
Sangster Fun Run

Friday, Oct. 26  
Night of Delights – 5:30-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 31  
Box Tops Due

Friday, Nov. 2  
First Grading Period Ends

Nov. 5-6  
No School

**"Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire."**

**~William Butler Yeats**

The 2012-2013 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: Kim Cherington in 3rd grade AAP, Jenny Brotemarkle in 3rd grade AAP, Jessica Ji in 3rd grade, Brian Ramsey in 4th grade, Ann Pritz in 4th grade AAP, Joseph Kim in 5th grade, Isabel Balke in 6th grade, Kristen Sloan as our Advanced Academic Resource Teacher, Kelly Stratil as our Band Director, Hannah Chen as our Speech Pathologist, Carolyn Minesinger and Kim Schweizer as Instructional Assistants, Melissa Miller as a Multiple Disabilities teacher, Allison McHugh as our part-time art teacher and Melissa Andolina-Staple returns to us as our ESOL teacher. We are very excited to have them all as part of the Sangster team. We still have one position to fill: a 5th grade AAP

teaching position was added in late August, and instead of rushing to hire a teacher, I decided to open the year with a substitute filling that position, which will give us time to find the right match for our students. Mr. Steve Gossin, a retired educator, has graciously been filling that role for us — and we are delighted to have him!

Over the summer, the building was a busy place, playing host to special education extended school year services. Our custodians did an amazing job getting the building ready for the arrival of students. County enrollment is up, and Sangster is definitely not exempt — we have seen quite a bit of growth. Due to enrollment growth, we had to add a few more classrooms to accommodate more students — R-4 (once a resource room) is now a 6th grade classroom and C-4 (once the Art room) is now a 5th grade classroom. Art has been moved to the trailer on the blacktop, and the trailer is now called “The

Studio.”

We would like to give a big thank you to Cub Scout Pack 684 for their hard work in trimming bushes and trees, spreading mulch, planting flowers and MUCH more. Thank you to everyone — it is most appreciated by the entire Sangster community!

I anticipate our back-to-school nights to be very successful and we appreciate, in advance, 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.

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!

## Sangster Library Runs on Volunteer Power!

School’s back in session, and the library volunteers are already at work. Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Woods still have volunteer spaces available: weekly, biweekly, or as a substitute. If you’re looking for a way to get involved at Sangster, come join the Library Volunteer team. It’s a quiet, fun, friendly place to work. If you’d like to sign up or just want to learn more, please e-mail [sangsterlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:sangsterlibrary@gmail.com).



## Box Tops Due Oct. 31

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 \$2,700 through the Box Tops for Education program.

Our first submission deadline for Box Tops for Education is **Wednesday, Oct. 31!**

There are several 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 [btfe.com](http://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 [ALJankovich@fcps.edu](mailto:ALJankovich@fcps.edu).

*Continued From the Cover*

more ELMOs; plus, we must continue to purchase supplies and to maintain the existing technology. All of this and much more are the reasons the PTA raises funds. We need your help and support to continue having these wonderful resources for our students.

This school year marks the 25th anniversary of Sangster Elementary School. If you are interested in helping with some of the special plans this year, please e-mail Karen Layser at [karenlayser@hotmail.com](mailto:karenlayser@hotmail.com). She is coordinating the anniversary celebration for us, and we've got a lot to celebrate!

If you haven't joined the Sangster PTA, we encourage you to do so either online or by turning in the registration form (sent home recently in Thursday folders) to the school office. By joining the PTA, you will receive a Sangster Directory free! If you would like to help with a committee or volunteer with the PTA, there is a separate volunteer form online and we encourage you to fill that out as well. We are always in need of volunteers, so please sign up to help. If you have specific questions about volunteering, please e-mail Denise Krug at [denisekrug@aol.com](mailto:denisekrug@aol.com).

Thanks everyone and welcome to the 2012-2013 school year!

### Can You Help?

Several committees are in need of chairs. If you're able to help, please e-mail Regina Schmitt at [Regina.Schmitt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Regina.Schmitt@mail.house.gov).

- Legislative
- Chess Club

## SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

## JAN SWICORD

*Continued From the Cover*

ELMOs, adding iPads and purchasing replacement parts), will help renovate library and library systems, bolster the Discovery Gardens, and keep our grounds environmentally safe and beautiful. We want to keep "fun" in fundraising for a great cause.

Many delights surface as you get involved in the ways described here:

- As a family or teacher, donate a service or item for auction. These are best sellers and often take just a little time and imagination. Donation sheets are available on the PTA website and will come home in Thursday folders.
- Ask your place of business to

donate an item for auction, a service, or donate cash. We can provide multiple copies of the donation form.

- Serve on one of the committees that will work to make this event happen. Positions and dates are listed online at [SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D44A9AA2B0-sangster](http://SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D44A9AA2B0-sangster).
- Purchase gift basket raffle tickets early when the forms are available. Ask neighbors and relatives to purchase tickets also.
- Review the Auction Catalog carefully with your family when it comes home. Review what's up for auction. Find all the goodies you would like to

have!

- Attend Oct. 26 from 5:30-8 p.m. for raffles, auction bidding and lots of fun. You must be present to win any of the silent auction items. You do not need to be present to win a gift basket raffle; however, tickets will be collected that night only. You can have a third party deposit tickets for the basket you desire.

If you are interested in helping, have items to donate, or just have questions please contact Jan Swicord at [swicordjan@cox.net](mailto:swicordjan@cox.net), (571) 282-3974 (home) or (571) 282-1214 (cell).

## 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://sangster.digitalpta.com/) (sangster.digitalpta.com/) 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.

## Sangster Students: Consider Yourself CHALLENGED!



The seventh annual PYRAMID CHALLENGE is coming up soon, and we want a great representation from our Sangster community! For those who have never participated, the Pyramid Challenge is a cross-country race for the elementary school students of the West Springfield Pyramid. Grades kindergarten through third will run a half-mile, while grades 4 through 6 will run one mile. The courses are on gently rolling hills, all grass and cinder track.

The challenge will again be held at Washington Irving Middle School, on Saturday, Oct. 20.

Is this a competition? You bet! Points will be awarded for school participation as well as for top finishers. There is a traveling trophy that will be awarded at the end! Sangster has not won this yet, so it's time to step up our participation!

Last year, participants "paid" an entry fee of four cans of food to benefit Food For Others (a local food bank). Details have not yet been released about a charity for this year. Each preregistered child will get a t-shirt (a different color is assigned for each school) that you can wear with pride to show you ran a great race!

Ready to race? Want to sign up? Online registration will be available soon through the [PTA Web site](#). See you at the race!

### PTA Officers

**President: Linda Whitestone**  
lbwhitestone@cox.net

**Vice President: Regina Schmitt**  
Regina.Schmitt@mail.house.gov

**Secretary: Julia Byrd**  
j9riter@hotmail.com

**Treasurer: Michelle Nocerito**  
mnocerito@aol.com

### We're Looking for a FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS!

If you have a desire to help our school, whether it be during the school day, in the evening, on a weekend, at the school or in the comfort of your own home, look no further than your computer! We have a wide variety of volunteer positions that need to be filled. Just go to the Sangster PTA Web site (sangster.digitalpta.com/) to access the Sangster Volunteer Sign-Up Form. It will be online soon, and we're ready for your help!