

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

NOVEMBER ISSUE
Nov. 8, 2012

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

Happy November, Sangster families! It's hard to believe we are ready to talk turkey, but that special time is here. Thanksgiving lunches will be coming up soon, and we look forward to seeing everyone for that wonderful activity with Sangster students. This month is also a time for the Sangster Book Fair and Social and you can read more about that below.

As we celebrate this time of Thanksgiving, we give a very special "thank you" to everyone who helped make our Night of Delights fundraiser so successful. It truly was a Night of Delights with the raffle baskets, auction items, food, dancing and more. Thank you to **Jan Swicord** and her incredible

"As we celebrate Thanksgiving and all its meaning, we pause to give thanks for our wonderful teachers, our school community and all of our blessings."

volunteers for all of the work they did to make that night so amazing. Thank you to everyone who donated items and their time! Thank you to those who participated and helped celebrate our school! We raised \$20,000, which surpassed our fundraising goal. Way to go, Sangster! We put the "fun" back into fundraiser.

The Sally Foster fundraiser is also underway, and we encourage each Sangster parent to view the items online at sallyfoster.com. We will

receive 40% of every purchase, so pass

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SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! This is a heartfelt thanks to the many great and hardworking volunteers and for the generosity shown by parents, home-based and community businesses, and teachers and school staff with our recent Night of Delights fundraiser. I can't thank enough the committee members and volunteers for their hard work getting decorations set, finding games and music, ordering and serving food, setting up

and taking photographs, playing local celebrities, selling tickets, organizing raffles and the donations for auction, and cleaning up. Room parents and parents in general deserve their own standing ovation for creating feats of wonder in each of those raffle baskets in a very short timeframe. Winners needed help carrying their prizes outside!

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Join us for Our Book Fair Cookie Social Nov. 13

Come to the "Every Reader is a Star" family cookie social on Tuesday, Nov. 13 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria (the book fair will be open 5-8 p.m. that evening). Look through the book fair's hundreds of books and enjoy cookies, lemonade, and the company of Sangster family. You have the opportunity to browse and buy during Thanksgiving lunches next week, too. Can you help with the book fair? We need volunteers! E-mail Sangster-Library@gmail.com if you can help kids select books or man the registers or visit signupgenius.com/go/4090B44AFAD2BA20-every.

Dates To Remember

- Nov. 9
Thanksgiving Lunch Money Due
- Nov. 12-16
Book Fair
- Nov. 13-15
Thanksgiving Lunches
- Nov. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Book Fair Family Cookie Social
- Nov. 15
Progress Notes Sent Home
- Wednesday, Nov. 21
2-Hour Early Release
- Nov. 22-23
Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 30
School Picture Retake Day
Sangster Shopping Night at
Doodlehopper
- Dec. 4
Cynthia Lord Author Visit
- Dec. 6
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

"Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world."
~Nelson Mandela



Happy November! 'Tis the season to give thanks, so let me start off by thanking the amazing Silent Auction and Night of Delights team, who put on an amazing, fun-filled event for our community! A special thanks to **Jan Swicord**, the fearless leader of this fundraising activity!

At conferences, you likely discussed the new standards-based elementary progress report system that FCPS will be using. Teachers will now report academic achievement, effort, reading level, life, work and citizenship skills using a 4-point rubric that better describes mastery in each area. A legend is located on the report so parents can understand the meanings of the numbers. Please go to www.fcps.edu — click on **Parents** and look for information regarding the Elementary Progress Report to learn more. Progress Notes for the first quarter will be coming home in Thursday folders on Nov. 15. If you

have questions about your child's report, please contact his/her teacher.

Last year, our Military Spouse's Club started a new tradition at Sangster that we will continue this year! In honor of Veteran's Day, on Monday, Nov. 12, our student choir and handbell ensemble will perform patriotic songs starting at 9:30 a.m. in the lobby and a representative from each branch of the military will be performing a flag-raising ceremony outside for our sixth-grade students. Inside, a slideshow honoring family members of our students and staff will play on the lobby TV. Thanks to this group for helping Sangster to honor our military men and women!

We're gearing up for our annual Thanksgiving luncheons! The children look forward to sharing this special lunch with their parents and we hope that everyone will make an effort to attend. While we would love for every child to have a parent, a grandparent or another family

member to eat with, the reality is that sometimes work/personal issues don't allow for this. Let your child's teacher know if you won't be attending so he/she can ensure your child has a close friend or even Sangster staff member to have lunch with. On the two days that your child does not have his/her Thanksgiving lunch, please remember to send in a bagged lunch (with a drink) in if possible. Students will be allowed to buy, however it will be a bag lunch.

Finally, we want to warmly welcome **Barbara Thomas**, our acting principal while Mr. Summers is in China. Mrs. Thomas is coming to us from HR and will be working with us until Friday, Nov. 16. Please join me in helping to make her an honorary falcon for the next 9 days!

We hope that your Thanksgiving is filled with your favorite foods and that your table is crowded with those you love the most!

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER**JAN SWICORD**

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Local brick and home-based businesses poured great items into the silent auction, which attracted a wide network of clientele. And finally, teachers and staff — you provided a service or services or worked the evening or both! Such tremendous

support was awesome and without this, the night would have failed. It is that simple.

Thank you for caring about Sangster and keeping it at the level to which we've become accustomed these last 25 years. You will see all these monies applied in some critical Sangster

operation or activity or for maintenance. It was my privilege to work with such a fantastic group of people preparing for the Night of Delights. I hope you all come back for next year's PTA fundraiser, "A Night of Music." But more about that later (smile).

"Meet the Author" Dec. 4 — Cynthia Lord Comes to Sangster

Sangster is very excited to welcome author Cynthia Lord to our school on Dec. 4. She will speak to all our students during the day and have a book signing in the evening. You can order copies of her books online or through a local bookstore. Look for her chapter books "Touch Blue" and "Rules" or her picture books "Hot Rod Hamster" and "Happy Birthday Hamster."

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along the Sangster code (504034) to anyone who might be ordering gift wraps, ribbon and candy. Your items will be shipped directly to your home! See below for more.

Doodlehopper, one of our local businesses in Huntsman Plaza, has offered to have a “Sangster Shop-

ping Night” on Nov. 30. They are offering a 10% discount on every purchase and will stay open late (until 10 p.m.) for our shopping. Make sure to mention that you are a Sangster shopper so you will get your discount. Doodlehopper will then donate 10% of those sales to Sangster! If you have some specialty items that you need to purchase, take advantage of this

offer!

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and all its meaning, we pause to give thanks for our wonderful teachers, our school community and all of our blessings. Give an extra hug to your children and remind them that you are thankful for them, too.

Happy Thanksgiving!

ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers a continuum of advanced academic services for all students in grades K-8. Learning experiences are designed to develop higher-level thinking through enrichment, acceleration, and extension of the Program of Studies (POS). Teachers, administrators, and advanced academic resource teachers (AARTs) work together to provide the following Levels of Service:

- **Critical and Creative Thinking Lessons, Grades K-6 (Level I).** The first level is provided to all students in grades kindergarten through grade six and consists of model lessons that are designed to teach critical and creative thinking skills. The lessons are modeled in all classrooms by AARTs and the thinking strategies are then used throughout the year by classroom teachers and other teachers who work with stu-

dents. Student responses to these lessons are used as part of the identification process for levels II-IV. Parents may also practice these strategies during family conversations and activities. A description of the nine critical and creative thinking strategies can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/level1.shtml>.

- **Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength, Grades**

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Sally Foster Is Back

Sally Foster is back at Sangster, but she is bringing all of the good and leaving out the hassle. No more forms. No more pressure. Simply order online and let Sally come right to your — or your friends’ or family’s — door.

- Go to www.SallyFoster.com and click **Support a Fundraiser**.
- Click the **Support a School or Group** radio button, then **Continue**.
- Type **504034** in the **School/Group Account Number** box, then **Continue**.
- Confirm **Sangster Elementary School**, then **Continue**.

Have your order shipped directly to you. Shipping is free for orders over \$50 and just \$3.95 for orders less than \$50.

Sangster receives 40% of the proceeds from every order that uses our code. So please encourage friends, family and colleagues to shop Sally Foster and help us earn dollars for our school.

Volunteers Still Needed!

Sangster continues to need family support to make all our wonderful activities run smoothly throughout the year. We can’t continue all of these great activities without your participation. Please complete our [online volunteer form](#) by accessing sangster.digitalpta.com and then clicking **Join/Volunteer**, then **Volunteer Form**. It takes less than one minute to complete! Or complete the paper form that came home in Thursday folders. Thanks for supporting your school!

ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

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K-6 (Level II). The AART collaborates with classroom teachers to provide additional challenge through lessons and resources that extend and enrich the POS. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year. The Young Scholars Model begins at this level and is designed to find and nurture advanced academic potential in students from historically underrepresented populations.

- **Part-Time AAP, Grades 3-6 (Level III).** Students identified by a local school screening committee for part-time advanced academic services Level III are challenged through models and strategies designed to extend and enrich the POS in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service is ongoing throughout the school year.
- **Full-Time Advanced Academic Placement, Grades 3-8 (Level IV).** Students found eligible for placement in full-time Advanced Academic Programs Level IV through a central selection process receive a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas. Screening for this level of service occurs in the fall for students who are new to FCPS and in the spring for all other students. The referral deadline is in October for students who are new to FCPS and the first week of February for spring screening. Additional information is available in the Parent Information Packet, published on the AAP website, <http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap>.
- **International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP): Selected Schools, Grades 6-10.** The IBMYP is designed for students ages 11-16. The program helps students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world. The curriculum is supported by the fundamental concepts of intercultural awareness, holistic learning, and communication.
- **Honors, Grades 7-8.** Advanced and/or accelerated classes are available for students in grades 7- 8 through an open enrollment process. Students receive instruction that is differentiated for advanced learners in the four core subjects in one or more areas of academic strength or interest.

SCREENING

Multiple criteria are reviewed to determine eligibility for all FCPS advanced academic services. The local school committee determines student eligibility for part-time school-based services. The countywide central selection committee determines eligibility for full-time AAP Level IV placement.

TESTING

Each fall, all FCPS first-grade students are administered the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT). Students in second through seventh grades who do not have an NNAT score may also be administered the NNAT. Each fall, all FCPS second-grade students are administered the Fairfax County Public Schools CogAT- Custom Form, grade 2 Test. Students in grades 3-6 who do not have an ability test score may also be administered the NNAT or Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). A second-grade screening pool is established using the test results from first- and second-grade testing. Students in the second-grade pool are automatically screened for full-time AAP Level IV placement. Parents or guardians may exercise a one-time retest option during the fall testing cycle.

REFERRALS FOR FULL-TIME ADVANCED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT LEVEL IV (GRADES 2-7)

Parents or guardians of students not in the second-grade screening pool may initiate the full-time AAP Level IV screening process by completing and submitting an Advanced Academic Program Level IV Referral Form to the local school principal no later than February 8, 2013. No late referrals will be accepted. Second graders not in the pool and all students in grades 3-7 are screened only by referral. Forms are available on the AAP Web site (www.fcps.edu/is/aap/forms.shtml) and in the Parent Information Packet available at the local school. (Please note: Parents or guardians of students who are in the grade 2 pool will be notified by the school. Students who are not in the grade 2 pool will not receive notification. The benchmark score used to create the grade 2 pool will be published on the AAP Web-site mid-January.)

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