

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

SEPTEMBER ISSUE
Sept. 12, 2013

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

Welcome back to school, Sangster Families! It seems only days ago that summer began, but school has started, and the PTA is already busy working on events and programs for this school year. It's going to be an exciting year!

Please be on the lookout for the PTA membership form that was in your student's Thursday folder last week. If you don't have one, you can get one from the office or the PTA Web site (sangsterpta.org). We will continue using the "oldest or only" format for forms, which means your oldest child at Sangster or your only child at Sangster will have most of the forms sent home in his or her Thursday folders. If you're missing something or waiting on a particular form, check the oldest or only folder first. The PTA volunteer form will be coming home soon. Please take a moment to fill out both important forms and return them to school. We can't have our special events without the help of our fabulous volunteers!

The fall means school is starting again, and so are our fundraising initiatives.

Back this fall we have Sangster Pizza Nights at Ledo's Pizza! Visit the West Springfield Ledo's Pizza Oct. 7 and 8 from 5-9 p.m., and Sangster will receive 20% of all dine-in and take-out sales. See below for more information. The more who go or order takeout, the more money for Sangster! Help support a local business and support the school at the same time.

"Please take a moment to fill out [the volunteer] forms and return them to school. We can't have our special events without the help of our fabulous volunteers!"

Speaking of fundraising, Jan Swicord has once again graciously agreed to chair our BIG FALL FUNDRAISER coming up very soon. This fundraiser is going to be super-easy and super-fun! Some of you will remember it from a couple of years ago and wanted to do it again, so here we go.

It's as easy as putting money in an envelope. Read more about it on page 3.

As we plan for the upcoming school year, the PTA will continue to use its funds to help Sangster and the students. We're very proud and fortunate to have new technology for our students to use, and we have more needs

Continued on page 4



Sangster Elementary School

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

Dates to Remember

- Thursday, Sept. 12
Back to School Night, Grades K-3
- Friday, Sept. 13
Claudia Mills Book Orders Due
- Thursday, Sept. 19
Back to School Night, Grades 4-6
Volunteer Forms Due
- Sunday, Sept. 22
Online Spirit Wear Orders Due
- Thursday, Sept. 26
Make-a-Difference Kits Come Home
- Thursday, Oct. 3
PTA Meeting
- Monday, Oct. 7-Tuesday, Oct. 8
Sangster Nights at Ledo's Pizza
- Thursday, Oct. 10
Claudia Mills Author Visit
- Monday, Oct. 21
Deadline for Fall Fundraiser
- Friday, Oct. 25
Make a Difference
Music Masquerade



Don't forget to check the PTA Web site for current school information and dates.

sangsterpta.org

Sangster Nights at Ledo's Pizza



The West Springfield Ledo's Pizza (8324 Old Keene Mill Road) is offering a chance to enjoy a great family dinner while raising money for Sangster Elementary on Monday, Oct. 7 and Tuesday, Oct. 8 from 5-9 p.m. Sangster receives 20% of all dine-in sales for each night! Sangster also receives 20% of takeout orders when mentioning Sangster! Call ahead for takeout: (703) 451-5336. Bring a friend, and tell your neighbors too!

Welcome back to the 2013-14 school year! I hope that all of you had a pleasant summer and had some time for rest and relaxation. This summer, I took some time to visit family and friends in my hometown of Mercer, Penn. and was lucky enough to spend a couple of beautiful days at the beach. For educators, often summers are best when we're able to move a little slower and laugh a lot louder with our loved ones. Never feel bad for teachers who tell you that they didn't go anywhere special over their summer break. Trust me, they're just fine with that decision.

What a privilege it is to be a part of the long and rich tradition of academic success, community involvement and instructional excellence that surrounds our school. WE ARE THE BEST SCHOOL IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, and I'm looking forward to a great school year ahead.

We're starting this new school year focused on engaging students in rigorous activities that support deep thinking and collaboration across the curriculum. Our continuing goal is to prepare stu-

dents with the knowledge and skills they'll need to become 21st century learners, while also encouraging creativity, curiosity and a lifelong appreciation for learning. The staff is excited about what the 2013-14 school year holds, and under the guidance of our newly appointed Division Superintendent **Dr. Garza**, we plan to "Dream, Design and Deliver" like never before! In addition to strengthening our collaborative learning teams at each grade level, we're focusing on raising the bar and closing the achievement gap for all students.

I'm thrilled to announce that we welcomed a new member to our leadership team this summer, **Ms. Addison Smith**. As our second assistant principal, Ms. Smith brings a plethora of talents and skills with her to Sangster. Ms. Smith comes to us from the Lead Fairfax Administrative Cohort, and she has spent time working with students, staff and parents at Rolling Valley Elementary, Hayfield Elementary, Lynbrook Elementary and Laurel Hill Elementary. Ms. Smith has taught special education students in grades 3-6.

She is a firm believer in co-teaching and daily collaboration between all teachers involved with a student's education. Please extend a warm welcome to Ms. Smith, and make it a point to introduce yourself to her.

In addition to welcoming Ms. Smith, we have welcomed many fantastic educators to our Sangster staff over the summer: **Patty Belcher** (kindergarten), **Livia McAleese** (first), **Cathy Glasgow** (third), **Alexis Yang** (third/special ed), **Maddie Rendulich** (fourth AAP), **Rachel Szal** (fourth/special ed), **David Finney** (sixth/special ed) and **Medhane Teclay** (art). And several of our staff members transitioned into new positions: **Joseph Kim** from fifth grade to fourth, **Brian Ramsey** from fourth grade to sixth, **Jenny Brotemarkle** from third grade to first, **Kim Schweizer** from general ed IA to kindergarten IA and **Jen Lambert** from fifth grade to Advanced Academics Resource Teacher/Coach. Again, please be sure to welcome all new staff members to our community!

We encourage you to join our PTA, volunteer in our school and continue to support the hard work being done every day by this incredible staff. We love your children, and please know their happiness and safety remain our top priority.

Thank you again, and we're looking forward to a fantastic year!

Sangster Library Needs YOU!



School is in full swing and the library has a full schedule of students coming in. We still have an urgent need for volunteers to fill empty volunteer spaces. If you have a few extra hours every week — or every other week — we have a spot for you! 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, e-mail sangsterlibrary@gmail.com.

FALL FUNDRAISER

JAN SWICORD

Hello! I'm **Jan Swicord**, and I have a few words about money. Every year, the Sangster PTA raises money for our school in a variety of ways. This year is no different. Over recent months, several people have asked us to keep it low-key, and this year, we will.

The 2013-14 PTA fall fundraiser is still our primary source of funding, but this year it's incredibly simple, easy and certain to be festive. Most importantly, it allows Sangster parents, teachers and staff to support Sangster and keep some special programs going. All funds go to maintain the educational excellence that Sangster is known for in the county. In addition, it creates an opportunity to support some of the needs in our local community. Here is a short and sweet "to do" list for busy parents.

1. Watch for manila envelopes that contain Make-a-Difference Kits that will be coming out to each student in Thursday folders on Sept. 26. These kits contain instructions about collecting donations, information about PTA fundraising goals, and some goodies for the Music Masquerade itself. Kits will also contain 10 raffle tickets, because we want someone to win the six gift baskets the PTA is putting together.
2. Collect or donate funds as you see fit, and send in all the envelopes to the main office by Oct. 21. We're working to create an online donation option as well. More to follow on that.
3. Join the Sangster family for the "Make a Difference Music Masquerade" on Oct. 25 from

6:30-8 p.m. Bring your raffle tickets! Wear a mask or costume, and receive an additional raffle ticket at the door. Bring a bag of donations for any one of the featured organizations listed in the kit, and receive five additional tickets. We'll have lots of great music and sounds in all parts of the school and six gift baskets to send home with lucky winners.

That's it. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact me at swicordjan@cox.net or (571) 282-3974. Like music notes work together to form a special sound or song, we can work together to keep Sangster special. We can certainly make a difference to Sangster and for others in our community.

Claudia Mills Author Visit

Author Claudia Mills will visit Sangster on Thursday, Oct. 10 and will speak at two sessions for students. (We also plan to have an evening program for families.) She is the author of this year's Virginia Readers' Choice nominee "Fractions = Trouble." She will also autograph her books for all interested students.

An order form went home in last week's Thursday folders to order Ms. Mills' books. Order forms are due to the library by Friday, Sept. 13. (There is no obligation to purchase a book.)

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Brewer at (703) 644-8228.

Book Fair Dates

Our annual book fair will be Nov. 18-22. This year, we are going to have an online component, so sold-out titles can be ordered and shipped to the school at no cost. The online fair will open before the fair and stay open a week after.

Box Tops Due Oct. 30



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! Cutting Box Tops off your favorite household items will earn our school 10 cents per Box Top.

Our goal this year is to raise \$3,000. Our first submission deadline for Box Tops for Education is **Wednesday, Oct. 30!** If you have any questions, contact ALJankovich@fcps.edu.

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. A PTA Volunteer form is in your Thursday folders this week — please fill it in and return it to school by Thursday, Sept. 19. You can also go to the Sangster PTA Web site (sangsterpta.org) to access the Sangster Volunteer Sign-Up Form. We're ready for your help!

We have an immediate volunteer need for the PTA fundraiser (5-6 people to put take-home kits together). This should take about six hours of total work and can be split up. This task needs to be done by Sept. 25. Please e-mail **Jan Swicord** at swicordjan@cox.net if you can help!

We can MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

Save Friday, Oct. 25 from 6:30-8 p.m. for our **Make a Difference Music Masquerade**. That's a party at Sangster where we'll celebrate the **end** of our fall PTA fundraising campaign. We'll have six great gift baskets for raffle and loads of fabulous music — and you can donate items needed in our community. We'll support:

- Fairfax County Animal Shelter & Friends of Fairfax County Animal Shelter
- Collect for Kids & Fairfax County Public Schools Homeless Liaisons Office
- Goodwill Industries
- Lorton Community Action Center
- Capital Area Food Bank (Lorton warehouse)
- Books for America (Fairfax warehouse)
- ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others)

Watch your Thursday folders for a letter of explanation covering PTA goals and donations and "Make a Difference Information & Donation kits" out by Sept. 26!

... at Sangster & in our community!



PTA NOTES AND NEWS

Continued from the cover

each year. Last spring, Ms. Lambert gave the PTA a wonderful presentation on how teachers can incorporate iPads into their lessons and curriculum and how the students can use them effectively. It was an exciting and inspiring presentation, and the PTA voted on getting as many iPads into our classrooms as possible within its budget. We'll continue to raise money for this effort, as well as continue maintenance on our current technology and the many other programs we assist. It takes a lot of money to continue these things, and we appreciate your support!

Sangster spirit wear is now on sale and available to order **online only**. You can look at the merchandise and make your order on **OrderSchoolStuff.com**, then click **Sangster Elementary** (password is 13falcons — the password is case-sensitive). All orders must be placed by Sunday, Sept. 22. When the orders come in, we'll send them home with your student. There's new and fun merchandise for kids and adults too!

Sangster is a strong and special place because of the incredible teachers, students and families who support this school. We have

an exciting year ahead, and let's get it started! To our new families — we're glad you are here and look forward to meeting you. To returning Sangster families — welcome back!

PTA Officers

President: Linda Whitestone
President@SangsterPTA.org

Vice President: Regina Schmitt
VP@SangsterPTA.org

Secretary: Julia Byrd
Secretary@SangsterPTA.org

Treasurer: Gina Duffy
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