

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

OCTOBER ISSUE
Oct. 10, 2013

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

I can't believe it's October already! The first month of school has flown by, and we are now in the full swing of things. This month is a very exciting and busy one for Sangster! We had the Second Annual Sangster Family Fun Run just days ago, and it was a huge success! More than 400 people participated in what appears to be a wonderful, annual event for our school. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make this event happen, and thank you to everyone who came out to have some fun with their Sangster friends.

October also meant some dinners out at Ledo's Pizza in Springfield! That was another great event for our school and a fun time to meet up with friends and have dinner while supporting a local business and raising money for Sangster. That's a win-win for everyone!

Virginia Reader's Choice author Claudia Mills came today to talk to the students about her books and answer any questions they have about being a good author. Please ask your children about meeting her and anything interesting they

learned about her. Please come to her visit tonight (Oct. 10) at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria to hear more.

Of course we are super-excited about the Sangster Make a Difference Fundraiser that is now underway! This month is the time to Make a Difference at Sangster and throughout the community. With your donations, we can

“With your donations, we can continue to purchase new technology for our school ... and provide funds for the ongoing programs our children need and love.”

continue to purchase new technology for our school, maintain the technology we already have, and provide funds for the ongoing programs our children need and love. It's as easy as writing a check and turning in the envelope that was sent home.

To celebrate the end of the fundraiser, a finale of sorts, we will have a Music Masquerade at Sangster on Oct. 25 dedicated to music, fun and laughter! When you come to the Music Masquerade, remember to wear your masquerade mask to receive extra raffle tickets for the six fabulous gift baskets being raffled off that night!

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Sangster Elementary School

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

Dates to Remember

Thursday, Oct. 10
Claudia Mills Author Visit
Cafeteria, 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 18
Deadline for Directory Advertising
Deadline for Directory Artwork

Monday, Oct. 21
Deadline for Fall Fundraiser

Friday, Oct. 25
Make a Difference
Music Masquerade, 6:30-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 30
Box Tops Due

Friday, Nov. 1
First Grading Period Ends

Monday, Nov. 4-Tuesday, Nov. 5
Student Holidays

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

Monday, Nov. 11
Flag-Raising Ceremony



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

sangsterpta.org

Claudia Mills Author Visit

Author Claudia Mills is visiting Sangster today, Thursday, Oct. 10, and spoke at two sessions for students. An evening program will be held for family, friends and neighbors at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. She is the author of this year's Virginia Readers' Choice nominee "Fractions = Trouble." She will also autograph her books for all interested students. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Brewer at (703) 644-8228.

I want to thank parents, students and staff members of Sangster for the warm welcome that I have received this past week. It is very apparent that this is a close-knit community, and everyone benefits from this type of environment ... especially our children!

I have been spending the past several days becoming re-acquainted with the school. I have been going into classrooms to see students hard at work with their teachers, who are providing great

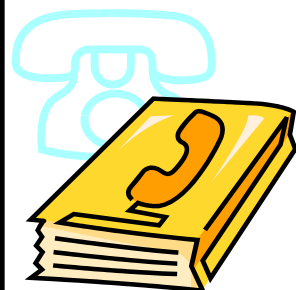
instructional opportunities for them. I have visited the teachers' collaborative learning team (CLT) meetings to view how they are working together in their planning for the present and the future for your students. I have watched and visited with students in the cafeteria and playground to see how they interact with one another when they have less structured activities.

All of my visits, observations and

conversations have led me to this conclusion: Sangster Elementary is a strong community composed of a dedicated staff, supportive families and parents, and students who are respectful of each other and their school and eager to learn. Who could ask for more!

I look forward to my new Sangster experience, and I look forward to many more great experiences.

Advertise Your Business in the Sangster Directory



We will again provide space in the back of the directory for you to advertise your business and at the same rates as last year. The directory goes to more than 400 families in the community. Feel free to share this opportunity with your favorite tutor, music lesson instructor, etc.

We offer prime ad space on the back cover and in FULL COLOR! It is limited space for only ONE full page four-color ad for \$320, OR TWO half page ads for \$160 each. This is a first come, first serve basis; however, if we have an overwhelming response, we will have a lottery drawing for the ad space.

Please e-mail your interest to advertising@sangsterpta.org.

Your copy-ready artwork and check made out to Sangster PTA must accompany the below information and be returned to the Sangster Office no later than noon on Friday, Oct. 18. Please e-mail electronic files to advertising@sangsterpta.org.

DON'T FORGET... by signing up for the Sangster PTA, you will receive a FREE copy of the school directory!

I would like to place an ad in the Sangster PTA Directory.

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

| | |
|---|--|
| 1/8 page: 3.875" x 2.375" (\$15) | 1/2 page: 7.9375" x 5.0625" (\$50) |
| 1/4 page 3.875" x 5" (\$25) | Full page: 7.9375" x 10.3125 (\$100) |
| 1/2 page color : 7.9375" x 5.0625" (\$160) | Full page color : 7.9375" x 10.3125 (\$320) |

Include your check payable to Sangster PTA, this form and your copy ready ad, and send it to: Sangster Elementary School, Attn: Lora Mote/PTA Directory, 7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield, VA 22153

We've collected more than \$1,500 so far! Thank you to those who returned their envelopes early. For everyone else, please don't forget to return your donations by Oct. 21. Send cash or checks (made out to Sangster PTA) to the school in an envelope marked with your child's name and teacher. Donations are tracked only to determine which classrooms receive incentive popsicle and ice cream parties.

I acknowledge that with the government shutdown, this isn't the best time for a fundraiser. However, collecting money is critical to keep Sangster functioning at the same level as in previous years. At the October PTA meeting, we allocated funds to revive our flower beds and vegetable gardens. Sangster's "Green Team" is working with teachers to integrate plants, animals and bugs into the curriculum and bring knowledge alive for our children. We also allocated funds for document readers and modern electronic projectors. All classrooms, even those

resulting from an increased school population, will be at the same standard and have equipment with which our new teachers are familiar. These, like many other fabulous programs and activities routinely supported by PTA monies, are not inexpensive.

Consider events such as our Claudia Mills author visit, special auditorium programs and teacher grants. All are funded by this fall fundraiser.

We also want to give our school the ability to purchase a classroom package of iPads, bringing the total number at Sangster from 30 to 60. Sangster iPads are **not** used for fun and games. They **are** used for fun and education! We'd love to have one set of iPads for grades K-3 and one for 4-6.

From today forward, our children are being drawn deeper into 21st century learning with qualified educators and quality equipment. Return your donations, and be part of the team supporting quali-

ty programs and this process. We understand that not everyone can or will give. We ask those who can, to do so generously. If you need additional envelopes, please contact me. All information is on the PTA Web site (sangsterpta.org).

We'll celebrate as a Sangster family and extend our support to our community with a 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. Eat first, as we'll serve only water and popcorn. But we'll have lots of great music in parts of the school, some spotlights on Sangster musical performers, and six gift baskets to send home with lucky winners. If you have questions or would like to help please contact me at swicordjan@cox.net or (571) 282-3974. Sign up to volunteer that night at SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D44A9AA2B0-make.



Tangible Donation



The local organizations for which we are collecting at the masquerade are:

- 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)

Box Tops Due Oct. 30

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.



Sangster Honors Our Veterans

On Monday, Nov 11, the Military Spouses' Group and Sangster will host its third-annual flag-raising ceremony in honor of Veteran's Day. A uniformed member from each of the five branches of service will conduct an official flag raising at the school flagpole and will give a brief history of the American flag and its proper treatment. The band, bells and chorus will be performing patriotic music throughout the ceremony. As an added bonus, Musician First Class Shana Sullivan (our own Mr. Sullivan's wife!) of the U.S. Navy will complete the ceremony with her rendition of "God Bless America".

Due to the large population at Sangster, only sixth-grade students will join them outside. The remainder of the school will watch via Sangster's closed circuit television.

Sangster Gift Tree

From time to time, the Sangster PTA coordinates the collection of items used by offices and organizations working with Sangster teachers and students.

To open up opportunities for support to a wider audience, we've established a SignUp Genius clearing house "Gift Tree." It will be updated as needed and will list what is currently needed. Each listing will provide enough information for givers to be able to respond easily. Right now we need small plastic bags and some gardening equipment. Sign up to supply specific items here: signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A9AA2B0-sangsters. Or from the **SangsterPTA.org** home page, click on "Sangster Gift Tree" under "Useful School Links" to see what items are needed for donation.



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 (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.
- **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.

We're Still 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 (sangsterpta.org) to access the Sangster Volunteer Sign-Up Form. We're ready for your help! And it's never too late to sign up!

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More importantly, that night is a chance to make a difference in the community by having your student bring in items needed by six local charities. The lists came home in your fundraising packet, but if you need more information, please check out the PTA Web site at **SangsterPTA.org**. This is a

way for the students to help out and show their support for a charity. We hope to make a difference at Sangster and in our community.

We've also welcomed a new face to our school. **Keith Hall** is our new Interim Principal, and we appreciate him coming to Sang-

ster! He's excited to be here and to meet the Sangster family.

As you can see, it's a busy, busy month but hopefully an incredibly fun way to begin the year. We can always use extra help along the way, so if you'd like to volunteer for something, please let us know!

Calling All Artists!

Your drawing could be the cover of the Sangster PTA Directory!

DO:

- Draw your picture in color (colored pencils work best)
- Make your picture vertical
- Draw your picture on a plain white 8.5x11 piece of paper
- Tape the information sheet to the back of your picture (DO NOT STAPLE)
- Turn your drawing into the Sangster Office by Friday, Oct. 18

DO NOT:

- DO NOT staple anything to your drawing
- DO NOT use lined paper
- DO NOT forget to fill out the information sheet with your name, grade, teacher, favorite things to do, what you want to be when you grow up, and why you love Sangster.

Did you get your fundraiser "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" kit?

Envelope kits were sent home to every student in Thursday folders. Return your donations (cash or checks) by Oct. 21. If each child collected and returned \$33, we'd meet our goal. However, not everyone can, or will, donate, so we ask those who do donate to give generously. Regardless, everyone celebrates at the "Make A Difference" Music Masquerade on Oct. 25 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Sangster. Write a name and phone number on each of your raffle tickets. Gift basket jars will open at 3 p.m. Bring at least one bag of donations, and receive five additional tickets. Wear a costume or mask, and receive one additional ticket. We'll serve popcorn and water and have fabulous musical entertainment while making a difference in our community.



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.

PTA Officers

President: Linda Whitestone
President@SangsterPTA.org

Vice President: Regina Schmitt
VP@SangsterPTA.org

Secretary: Julia Byrd
Secretary@SangsterPTA.org

Treasurer: Gina Duffy
Treasurer@SangsterPTA.org