

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

DECEMBER ISSUE
Dec. 19, 2013

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

The calendar says December, but how can that be? The year seems to be flying by, and the excitement continues as the holidays are now upon us. Winter break is right around the corner, but before then, Sangster will be a busy school! This month, there will be a Sangster Chorus concert, a handbell concert, and all kinds of wonderful and exciting class parties.

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

We would like to send a HUGE "thank you" to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make the Thanksgiving lunches run so smoothly. **Joyce Maryanopolis** and **Marian Hoelscher** again coordinated everything for us, and we are so appreciative of their time and efforts. Parents, grandparents, friends and relatives were able to enjoy a special lunchtime with the Sangster students before the Thanksgiving break. It takes many hands to handle that three-day event, and we thank everyone for their time. Another "thank you" to

all the volunteers who cooked and baked and donated items for the annual teachers' Thanksgiving lunch! **Robyn Chew** planned a wonderful feast for the teachers and staff, and the food was enjoyed by many. During all of those days, we also had the Sangster Book Fair going on, and without

"Thank you volunteers for all of your special touches at our school."

all the extra volunteer helping hands, students might still be lined up to check out! Thank you volunteers for all of your special touches at our school.

Amazon Shopping Helps Sangster!

If you are still doing some shopping, remember to shop on Amazon via our Sangster link, because we get a portion of all sales. That is easy money for our school, so please check out the link on the PTA Web page (www.sangsterpta.org) and do your shopping knowing that Sangster will benefit from your purchases!

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Sangster Elementary School

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Attendance: (703) 644-8282
fcps.edu/SangsterES

Dates to Remember

Monday, Dec. 23-Friday, Jan. 3
Winter Break

Wednesday, Jan. 8
Internet Awareness Night at WSHS,
Time to Be Announced

Thursday, Jan. 9
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20
Student Holiday

Wednesday, Jan. 29
Second Grading Period Ends

Thursday, an. 30-Friday, Jan. 31
Student Holidays

Thursday, Feb. 6
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.



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

sangsterpta.org

Sangster Directory Addendum

An addendum to the Sangster Directory will be coming out soon. If you have any changes/corrections to your contact information, please e-mail **Denise Rosensteel** by Tuesday, Dec. 24. We have some extra directories (first come, first serve) for any families who want to sign up for the PTA and get their free copy. You can access the PTA membership form at SangsterPTA.org/files/2013/09/2013-2014-PTA-membership-form.pdf. Membership costs are \$10 for a single membership or \$15 for a family; make checks payable to "Sangster PTA." Directories for non-PTA members are also available for purchase for \$10. Contact Denise at dvrosensteel@cox.net or (571) 214-1020 with any questions.

I hope that everyone had a terrific Thanksgiving break and that those who celebrated Hanukkah had a wonderful time with family and friends.

November Thanks and Congratulations!

November was a great month with lots of activity. We hope that you found the parent/teacher conferences to be insightful for you as you and your students' teachers had the chance to discuss the first quarter progress reports together. Along with the conference days, we also had our third annual Veterans Day flag ceremony. I was very impressed with the large number of attendees for this occasion! The music, ceremony, color guard and beautiful morning made this a very special event. Thank you to our Military Spouses Group for all of their work in putting this program together.

Another thank you to all who came and joined us for Thanksgiving lunches! It was wonderful to see so many moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters coming in to enjoy this special lunch with our students. A very special thank you to **Marian Hoelscher**, one of our office assistants, for all her hard work to make our Thanksgiving luncheons a huge success! Also, thank you to **Joyce Maryanopolis** and **Robyn Chew** for

spearheading the organization of the bagged lunches to be served to our students on the days when their classes weren't eating in the cafeteria. They, along with the several parents who came in and put the lunch bags together, helped make the days run very smoothly.

In early November, one of our strings teachers, **Mary Wagner**, was inducted into the Virginia Music Educators' Hall of Fame. This was a well-deserved honor, and we are so proud to have had Ms. Wagner on our staff for many years. When you see her in the halls, please congratulate her on this honor that she received from her peers!

Donation Thank You's

We received a letter from the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) thanking the Sangster community for the more than 200 pounds of food we donated during our school fundraising celebration in October. The letter includes a story of a recent night when a young boy was so excited to see that the food that his mother was receiving from the Center included broccoli, his favorite! He jumped up and down saying, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" Our school community's generosity impacts little lives like that of this young boy and makes a difference in less fortunate

peoples' lives. Thank you for all that you do and for setting a good example of community service for our Sangster students to follow.

New Classroom Interruption Policy

To let you know, our office staff is working to not interrupt classroom instruction with phone calls. The greatest reasons for calling into a classroom are to let students know that musical instruments or lunches have been delivered to the office or to notify students of last-minute changes in afternoon transportation/parent pickups. In the future, we are going to have musical instruments placed along the glass wall of the office across from the library when they are brought in late. The band and strings teachers have told their students to check in that area if a parent has brought an instrument after school has started. If a lunch is brought to the office, office staff will e-mail the teacher informing the need for that student to come to the office on his/her way to the cafeteria to pick up the lunch. We have reminded our teachers to check their e-mails before lunch to see if there is a lunch waiting for one of their students. Because the office can be an area of great activity at the end of the day, we are going to continue the established policy of not calling for

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students to be dismissed early after 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 p.m. on Mondays.

Be Aware in Bus Loops

I have noticed on several occasions cars driving through the bus loop in the mornings and afternoons as the buses are unloading or loading students. Please be aware that driving behind buses when their red lights are flashing is a crime. In

the future, we will be recording the violators' car tags and reporting them to the Fairfax County Police Department. If you are in the bus loop either before or after school as buses are unloading or unloading students, you will need to wait until the buses have turned off their red lights before driving through the bus loop.

Secondary School Activity

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, West Springfield High School

will host a special presentation (for parents ONLY) on Internet safety. Please do not bring your children. This will be a most interesting and eye-opening look at what our students have access to via the internet. A flyer will be sent home as a reminder, but Jan. 8 is the Wednesday of the first week back after winter break.

We wish you all a safe and happy winter break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

LINDA WHITESTONE

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Spirit Wear Reorder

We've heard from several people who said they missed

the Sangster spirit wear sale at the beginning of the school year, so it will soon be on sale again. These items

will not be ready for delivery before Winter Break, but they should be delivered in January. Flyers came home recently in Thursday folders — place your order!

Sangster Fundraiser Recap

And the real winners of the PTA Fundraiser are ... Sangster students and teachers! Thank you again for a great fall fundraiser. At the final count, you sent in cash and checks equaling just more than \$18,000. The PTA and school administration will allocate all that money to support special programs and activities this school year and increase the number of iPads for educational activities. Thank you for your generosity! The classes with the greatest classroom participation (number of returned donations) were: **Ms. Rendulich** (4th), **Ms. Clendenin** (4th) and **Ms. Janker** (2nd). These classes will receive a Popsicle party. The classes with the highest total donation dollar amount were: **Ms. Piernick** (K), **Ms. Long** (2nd) and **Ms. Lawson** (6th). These classes will receive an ice-cream party.

Thank you again for making the Make a Difference Music Masquerade such fun! It was also a huge boon to the community. I've gotten many "thank you's" from the organizations to whom we provided tangible donations. Sometimes it takes only a few dollars or a few cans to make a huge difference in another family's life. Thank you for your participation and support in making this night, and the fall fundraiser, such a success.

Winter Break begins Dec. 23, so whether you are staying home or enjoying some winter travel, be safe, happy and healthy. We wish each of you a Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

PTA Officers

President: Linda Whitestone
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Vice President: Regina Schmitt
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Secretary: Julia Byrd
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Treasurer: Gina Duffy
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