

# The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

JANUARY ISSUE  
Jan. 16, 2014

## PTA NOTES AND NEWS

It's January, and IT'S COLD! We've used up our snow days and have many more cold days ahead, so bundle up and start counting the weeks until summer vacation (approximately 22 more weeks, but who says I'm counting?).

Last January, we brought the Dome Theater to Sangster for some winter excitement, and because it was a huge success, we are bringing it back again this year. Later this month, each classroom will visit the Dome and experience a surround-theater show. Some students will feel as if they are walking and flying through space; others may take a journey through the ocean; others might take a trip through the body. The goal is to have each student experience something special in a manner that helps them better understand that topic from their curriculum. Whatever the show is, the hope is that the students

feel as if they're actually there and a part of nature or space or whatever they encounter. Having this "real" experience is exciting and makes learning that much more fun! If your student was here for it last year, ask them about it and let them know it's coming again soon!

We are already making plans for a Bingo fundraiser night in February. We are calling it "Valentine's Bingo" because it's scheduled for the day before Valentine's Day, Feb. 13, from 7-8 p.m. In the next few weeks, you'll see more information coming home about this fun event, but make plans now to attend. It'll be a fun evening for the kids to hang out with their friends, play some Bingo and raise some money for their school!

**We have wonderful committees that need help and creative, new ideas. There are tons of ways to participate, so come aboard and have some fun!**



**Sangster Elementary School**  
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Springfield, VA 22153  
Phone: (703) 644-8200  
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Attendance: (703) 644-8282  
[fcps.edu/SangsterES](http://fcps.edu/SangsterES)

### Dates to Remember

Monday, Jan. 20  
Student Holiday

Tuesday, Jan. 21  
Level IV AAP Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23  
"Celebrate Calm" Workshop With Kirk Martin, 7-9 p.m., Irving Middle School

Monday, Jan. 27  
Standards-Based Grading Parent Information Night, 6-7 p.m., Sangster Cafeteria

Wednesday, Jan. 29  
Second Grading Period Ends

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

Monday, Feb. 3  
Level IV Referrals Due at 4:30 p.m.

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](http://sangsterpta.org)

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## You Can Help Save Lives!



Sangster's Military Spouses Group is sponsoring a Blood Drive at the Fort Belvoir Blood Donor Center Feb. 10-21. All Sangster parents, military and civilian, can donate.

Make an appointment at [www.militarydonor.com](http://www.militarydonor.com) with sponsor code FTBelvoir. If you have questions, email the Donor Center liaison at [donna.onwona.civ@health.mil](mailto:donna.onwona.civ@health.mil)

As we move into January, I find that there are a lot of activities available for our parents this month.

A couple of special opportunities have come about that we are hosting or co-sponsoring. Each of these, I believe, can be very helpful to our school community.

The first event, which we are hosting on Monday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m., is an opportunity for our parents to come and hear about how to interpret the county's new standards-based progress report. We know that there are a lot of misunderstandings about how to read your students' progress reports and know what they reflect regarding your students' quarterly

achievements and how the marks were determined.

That evening, we will have **Suzanne Whaley** from the county's Instructional Services Department sharing how to best utilize the information on the progress report and use it to support your students in their educational experience. During our January staff meeting, all our teachers will meet with Suzanne to have their questions addressed as well to make sure that teachers are implementing the new progress reports properly and with a clear understanding of how they should be using data to assign marks. Our goal is to do our best to give everyone the same information.

We want to all get on the same page so that teachers are giving parents accurate information on each student's performance in all subject areas and that parents are interpreting this information accurately. The early start time that evening is because of the presenter's schedule. The length of the presentation — with time for questions and answers — should be around an hour.

We have a second recently added evening event that we are co-sponsoring with the West Springfield pyramid schools. On Thursday, Jan. 23 from 7-9 p.m., **Kirk Martin** will present his program, "Stop Defiance and Disre-

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### **Level IV Advanced Academic Program Screening Information Meeting**

An informational meeting for the Level IV Advanced Academic Program (AAP) will be held Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Sangster Cafeteria. This meeting will cover important dates, work samples, additional paperwork and center expectations. The Level IV AAP is a highly challenging instructional program in the four core subject areas.

Students qualify for this program through a county-wide screening process that considers the Gifted Behaviors Rating Scale With Commentary, ability test scores, achievement test scores, report cards, work samples, and parent input on the referral and questionnaire. All second-grade students are considered each year based on assessments given in first and second grade. All students in grades 2-6 can also be considered if a parent submits the Level IV AAP Referral Form (available in all schools and online). All referrals are due to Sangster Elementary before 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 3.

For more information and to view forms, please visit: [www.fcps.edu/IS/aap](http://www.fcps.edu/IS/aap) or e-mail **Jennifer Lambert**, Sangster's Advanced Academic Resource Teacher, at [jalambert@fcps.edu](mailto:jalambert@fcps.edu).

All parents interested in learning more about the Level IV referral and screening process should attend this meeting.

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spect: Eliminating Power Struggles and Sibling Fights” at Washington Irving Middle School in Barker Hall. Several people with whom I have spoken have shared how helpful and enjoyable Mr. Martin’s programs have been for them. We are excited to be able to co-sponsor this event and encourage you all to come to Washington Irving for this dynamic program. Invite your friends to come as well.

**Dr. Karen Garza** recently shared the 2015 FCPS budget proposal with the media. As you have read about the proposal, I am sure that you are very aware that it calls for cutbacks in ways that greatly affect your students. I would encourage you to review the budget, recognize that what Dr. Garza has presented (which includes a reduction of 731 positions across the county) is contingent on the Board of Supervisors giving

the school division a 5.71% increase. Without that increase, the cuts will be much more severe. Now is the time to begin letting your supervisor know if you support the proposed budget.

The Board of Supervisors will be releasing their budget plan on Feb. 25. Your input now could help the school system avoid further impacts on class sizes, programs offered to our students and reductions in teaching positions. Please let your voices be heard!

I am saddened to share that our crossing guard, **Mrs. Rodriguez**, had a family tragedy on Dec. 18. That morning, her 21-year-old daughter, Ali, had an as-of-yet undetermined episode that resulted in her untimely death. Ali was working toward a degree in Meteorology and had visions of working in television broadcasting. She had been diagnosed with Rheumatoid

Arthritis when in high school and was to receive an infusion at Fort Belvoir that morning. The Rodriguez family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in the name of Ali to the Arthritis Foundation-Greater Southwest Chapter.

Lastly, we are saying goodbye to **Senora Ingrid Butler**, who has worked in our Spanish FLES program for the past six years. She is retiring after spending more than 19 years working for Fairfax County Public Schools in several capacities. While we are sad to see her leave on Jan. 31, we are very happy for her that she can spend this additional time with her husband. We wish for them many wonderful years of retirement together. Best wishes, Ingrid!

Stay warm this January, and let’s hope for an early winter thaw.



## 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](http://sangsterpta.org)) under “Useful School Links.” Raise money for Sangster just by buying items on Amazon!
- **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](mailto:ALJankovich@fcps.edu).

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The PTA is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator for the next school year. It sounds a bit early to be discussing next year, but one of the main activities the Volunteer Coordinator works on is the spring Sangster Fun Fair. It would be very helpful for next year's Volunteer Coordinator to watch and learn that job from our current coordinator, **Denise Krug**, as she plans for the Fun Fair. If you are interested in that role, please contact a

PTA Board Member or Denise directly at [denisekrug@aol.com](mailto:denisekrug@aol.com).

In fact, we are looking for any new volunteers that would like to get more involved with Sangster and the Sangster PTA. We have wonderful committees that need help and creative, new ideas. There are tons of ways to participate, so come aboard and have some fun!

For everyone still needing a few extra days off from school, we have a four-day break com-

ing at the end of the month. Enjoy your time off, and stay warm!

Happy 2014 and welcome back!

### **Box Tops Due Feb. 27**

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 next submission deadline for Box Tops for Education is **Thursday, Feb. 27!** If you have any questions, feel free to contact [ALJankovich@fcps.edu](mailto:ALJankovich@fcps.edu).

### **Join Sangster for Jump Rope for Fun**



Sangster's annual "Jump Rope for Fun" is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 21 from 3:45-5 p.m. More information will be coming home soon.

### **Give Me Five! Colors That Jive!**

Eating at least five servings of different colored fruits and vegetables each day is important for better health. No one color provides all the needed nutrients. Select and eat fruits and vegetables from the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple and white.

Research shows families with children younger than 12 eat fewer than five servings of fruits and vegetables per day. Fruits and vegetables are easy to prepare and taste good. They are low in fat and calories; high in minerals, vitamins and fiber; and cholesterol free.

Each month, the Energy Zone menu highlights fruits and vegetables from the **Give me 5! Rainbow!**

### **It's Never Too Late to Volunteer**

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to find a rewarding volunteer opportunity, we can help! We are eagerly seeking a volunteer who will shadow **Joyce Maryanopolis** as she plans the Fun Fair and learn the ropes for future years. Without you, our Fun Fair may not happen! Contact Joyce at [jmaryanopolis@verizon.net](mailto:jmaryanopolis@verizon.net) to learn more.

### **Be Ready for Winter — and for P.E.!**



Winter is here, and you know what that means — your children are wearing boots to school. Remember to send your children's tennis shoes in bags so they can participate in physical education.

### **PTA Officers**

**President: Linda Whitestone**  
[President@SangsterPTA.org](mailto:President@SangsterPTA.org)

**Vice President: Regina Schmitt**  
[VP@SangsterPTA.org](mailto:VP@SangsterPTA.org)

**Secretary: Julia Byrd**  
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