

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

It's February, so that means we are at the halfway point of this school year! Hooray! That also means, in about 18 weeks, we'll be enjoying summer break. While we're awaiting those warmer days, we have planned a fun, indoor activity coming soon — post-snowstorm **Valentine Bingo**. Keep an eye out in Thursday folders for the rescheduled date. We'll have prizes, principals calling the numbers, and excitement all around. The cost is \$5 per person for the entire evening. We hope to see you there!

We're still looking for volunteers to help with the Fun Fair in April. If you're interested in helping out, leading a small committee, or working directly with **Joyce Maryanopolis**, email her at jmaryanopolis@verizon.net. If the Fun Fair isn't the perfect volunteer spot for you, we have plenty of other volunteer opportunities and would love to hear from you. Contact the PTA Volunteer Coordinator, **Denise Krug**, at denisekrug@aol.com and she'll help you find that perfect volunteer job!

We want to thank **Robyn Chew Enderle** and all the wonderful

volunteers for hosting our Sangster teachers and staff to an incredible Valentine's Day Treat Extravaganza on Monday, Feb. 17. It was the perfect time to spoil our great teachers with some sweet treats, and we appreciate the work and time our volunteers spend making this annual event happen. Thank you!

**Join us for
Valentine's Bingo
on Tuesday, Feb.
25 from 7-8 in the
cafeteria. Win
prizes, have fun
and support your
school. See you
there!**

Valentine's Day can be celebrated all month and is a great time to give an extra hug, surprise your student with a special treat, and spread love all around our school community. A few

small acts of kindness and love really can make a difference.

Stay warm and safe on these cold winter days!

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? Last year, we earned more than \$2,700 through Box Tops.

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.



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

- Feb. 10-21**
Military Spouses Group Blood Drive at Fort Belvoir
www.militarydonor.com, Code FTBelvoir
- Wednesday, Feb. 19**
Fifth-Grade field trip to GMU to see "Seussical the Musical"
- Thursday, Feb. 20**
Fourth-Grade field trip to see the National Symphony Orchestra
- Sixth-Grade Students in Irving Boundaries Go to Washington Irving Middle School
- Lake Braddock Middle School Comes to Talk to Sixth-Grade Students in LBSS Boundaries
- Friday, Feb. 21**
Jump Rope for Fun, 3:45-5 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 27**
Box Tops Due
- Monday, March 3**
Celebrate Calm Workshop at Irving Middle School, Barker Hall, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 4**
Celebrate Calm Workshop at Sydenstricker Methodist, Hottle Hall, 9:30-a.m.
- Thursday, March 6**
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.



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

sangsterpta.org

What happened to January?! As we started to get the new year underway and wrap up the first half of the school year, winter certainly made its presence known! With several snow days under our belts and the memories of February's past (who was around here for the Presidents' Day blizzard of 1979?), who knows what future adjustments to the FCPS school calendar will take place. What we do know for the present is that two previously planned student holidays — Monday, Feb. 17 and Monday, April 7 — are no longer student holidays but regular school days. At this point, we have not heard whether April 7 will be on a Monday schedule or a full-day schedule.

Because Feb. 17 was a full day and because of the days that were lost to snow and ice, we decided that we would operate a Tuesday schedule for PE, music, band and strings, and FLES. Our art teachers, who see most of their classes every two weeks, worked out their schedules with their individual

teachers, some of whom have only had art once since Thanksgiving.

Additional snow days will mean an extension of the school year. Our snow day on Thursday moved the last day of school to June 23. We are hoping that, rather than having more snow days, we will be able to get back into the teaching rhythm and consistency of instruction!

As the second semester begins, we welcome **Ruth Sands** to our Sangster staff as our new Spanish FLES teacher. Sra. Sands was a FLES teacher back in 2005-06 at Graham Road Elementary School. Originally from Mexico, where she took coursework in elementary education, she decided to go back to college in 2006 and complete her degree while taking a position as an Instructional Assistant at Graham Road. Sra. Sands comes to us with glowing endorsements from all of her previous administrators, supervisors, and peers. We are very happy that she is now part of our Sangster family.

One of the casualties of the snow days was the Celebrate Calm

workshop. We are pleased to let you know that the workshop has been rescheduled for Monday, March 3 at 7 p.m. in Washington Irving Middle School's Barker Hall. We are also very pleased to have had a second workshop added on the morning of March 4 at 9:30 a.m. in Sydenstricker Methodist Church's Hottle Hall. The topic is "Stop Defiance and Disrespect: Eliminate Power Struggles and Sibling Fights." We do hope that you will be able to take part in this excellent and highly praised workshop on how to deal with the stresses that impact the home life of you and your children.

When this school year began, our teachers began working with the administrative team to develop a functional school improvement plan for Sangster. While Sangster is overall a strong academic school, our goal has been to continue to move all our students forward in academic growth using a plan that allows us to gather good data to help us make sure that we are seeing measurable academic

Continued on page 4



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!
- **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.

Sangster Students Win at the County Level of Reflections Program

The Reflections Committee is pleased to announce winners from Sangster Elementary at the county level of the 2013-2014 Reflections program, "Believe, Dream, Inspire." The Fairfax County Council of PTA's winners of Outstanding Interpretation Awards (first place) and moving on to the regional level of competition are:

Student	Category	Division	Title
Deklin Caban	Literature	Middle School	"Jeff and the Trumpet"
Charles Nguyen	Literature	Special Artist	"A Golfer's Dream"
Ryan Murray	Music	Intermediate	"Inspiration Sensation"
Charles Nguyen	Music	Special Artist	"Taking Flight"
Catherine Nguyen	Photography	Intermediate	"Graceful Flight"
Charles Nguyen	Photography	Special Artist	"Sparkles"
Catherine Nguyen	Visual Arts	Intermediate	"Rainbow Droplets"
Charles Nguyen	Visual Arts	Special Artist	"Hole-in-One"

Winners of Awards of Excellence (second place) are:

Student	Category	Division	Title
Jasmine Sindhi	Dance	Primary	"Dream Big and Anything is Possible"
Lauren Green	Music	Primary	"Believe Dream Get Inspired Song"
Jasmine Sindhi	Photography	Primary	"Explore and Discover"
Abigail Johnson	Visual Arts	Middle	"The Night of the Pumpkins"

Winner of an Award of Merit (third place) is:

Student	Category	Division	Title
Susan Flatt	Literature	Primary	"Dreams and Ideas"

We're also pleased to announce that a 2015-2016 Theme Entry by Serena Sindhi — "Imagine a World Full of _____" was chosen as one of five entries to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia at the National PTA level.

The PTA Reflections program is an opportunity for students from preschool through grade 12 to create works of art for fun and recognition in six areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. Each year, there is a new theme for the works. The deadline for submission is in the fall. Please email Reflections@SangsterPTA.org if you want to find out how your child may participate next year.

Congratulations, winners!

Continued from page 2

growth across the grade levels for all of our students. If you are interested in reviewing our school plan, you can access it by going to our website and clicking on the link provided there to view the 90+ page document.

Because we are at the halfway point of the school year, our grade-level teams have been reviewing the collected data to see where we are in attaining our goals. The data gathered now helps our teachers plan and develop strategies as well as determine what concepts need re-teaching and reinforcement as instruction moves into the second semester. You'll notice that the data collected is from eCART testing. These tests are the closest equivalent to SOL testing and are used by all FCPS schools to assess students. The three levels of data represent:

- 1. Goals for our high-achieving students in grades 3-6
- 2. Goals for our special education students in grades 3-6
- 3. Goals for all of our students in grades 3-6

Each of our grade levels has goals set for these three groups of students. If you would like to see the goals set for our K-2 grades, please view them in the school improvement plan posted on the website.

Schoolwide SIP Goals and Current Progress Info
Reading End of the Year Goals:

- 1. By June 2014, the average percentage of students receiving a score of "Pass Advanced" in grades 3-6 for the Reading SOL will increase from 45% to 50%.

Current progress: On the Window 1 eCART assessment, an average 51.9% of students in grades 3-6 scored an 85% or higher (pass advanced).

- 2. By June 2014, 77.1% of

“Additional snow days will mean an extension of the school year. ... We are hoping that, rather than having more snow days, we will be able to get back into the teaching rhythm and consistency of instruction!”

students receiving special education services in grades 3-6 will pass the Reading SOL. (last year 66.25% passed)

Current progress: 64.9% of students in grades 3-6 receiving special education services received a score of 70% or higher on the Window 1 eCART Assessments (passed).

- 3. By June 2014, 93% of students in grades 3-6 will pass the Reading SOL. (last year 90% passed)

Current progress: 86.3% of all

students in grades 3-6 received a score of 70% or higher on the Window 1 eCART Assessment (passed).

Math End of the Year Goals:

- 1. By June 2014, the percentage of grade 3-6 students scoring in the Pass Advanced range on the grades 3-7 Math SOLs will increase from 36.6% to 43%.

Current progress: 39.1% of students in grades 3-6 score 85% or higher on the Window 1 math eCART (pass advanced).

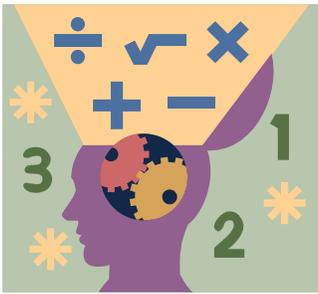
- 2. By June 2014, 70% of students receiving special education services in grades 3-6 will pass the grades 3-7 Math SOLs. (last year 64.4% passed)

Current progress: 61% of special education students scored at least 70% on the Window 1 math eCART. (passed)

- 3. By June 2014, 93.7% of grade 3-6 students will pass the grades 3-7 math SOL's. (last year 91.7% passed)

Current progress: 77.5% of all students in grades 3-6 and 6th advanced math passed the Window 1 eCART with a score of 70% or higher.

Congratulations to Sangster MathCounts Participants



The Sangster chapter of MathCounts participated in the MathCounts chapter competition at Lake Braddock recently and finished as the top team in the George Washington chapter. Sangster competed against nine other schools in our area, including South County Middle School, Washington Irving, Mark Twain, and Immanuel Christian. We were one of 17 elementary schools (out of 55 total schools) competing on Saturday in a program that includes students from grades 6-8.

The kids who participated in MathCounts club this year are:

- Mason Jones
- Max Lantz
- Jenny Li
- Jerry Li
- Joon Mun
- Victor Nguyenkhoa
- Kayla Rothstein
- Gordon Shi
- David Sun

Kudos go to Jerry, Jenny, and David for winning individual honors in the competition. They, along with Joon, have been invited to represent Sangster in the state competition, which will be held in Richmond in mid-March.

Look for a flyer to come home soon in your student's Thursday folder inviting fifth-grade students (and parents) to a meeting to learn more about Sangster's MathCounts club.

James Sun

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 with sponsor code FTBelvoir. If you have questions, email the Donor Center liaison at donna.onwona.civ@health.mil.

Sangster Musical Theater

presents

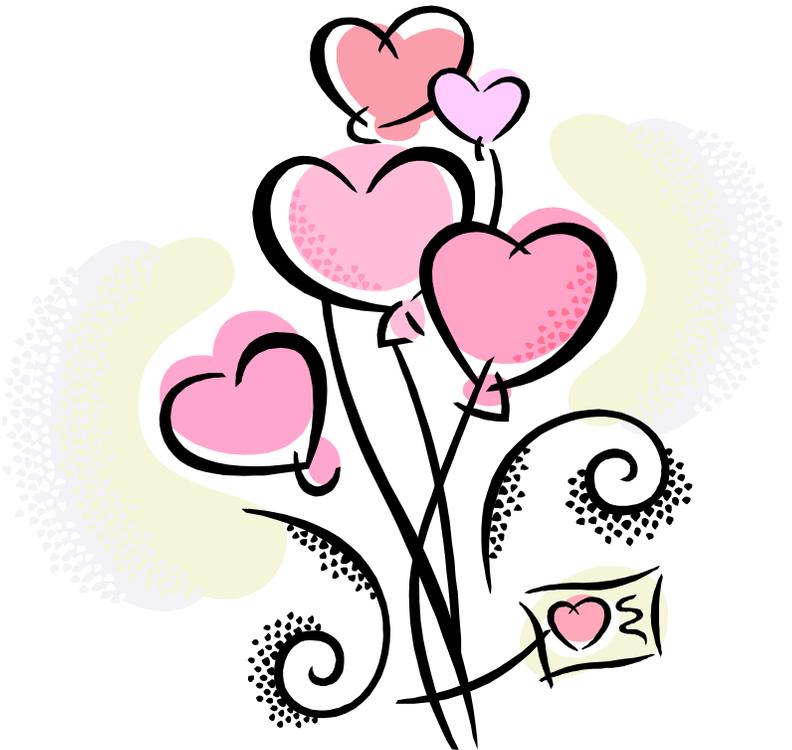


Performances

March 18—21

7:00 p.m.

Sangster Cafeteria



Be Aware of Children's Dental Health



The two major oral health diseases are tooth decay (dental caries) and gum (periodontal) disease. Both are influenced by nutrition and diet. Dental caries result from the interaction between the tooth, oral bacteria, and dietary carbohydrates (sugar and starch).

Plaque is a sticky film of bacteria that forms on our teeth and turns the sugars and starches in our food into acids, which act on the tooth enamel and cause decay. If high-acid producing or sugar foods (raisins, cookies, potato chips) are consumed, they should be eaten with meals, not as snacks. Cheeses, popcorn, raw fruits and vegetables are low-acid producing food and make healthy snacks.

To prevent dental disease, remember to:

- Brush teeth after every meal with fluoridated toothpaste.
- Floss teeth daily.
- Visit the dentist and dental hygienist regularly.
- Eat a nutritionally balanced diet.
- Avoid foods that stay in the mouth a long time and stick to teeth (e.g., raisins, hard candies, caramels).

Join Sangster for Jump Rope for Fun

Don't forget that Sangster's annual "Jump Rope for Fun" is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 21 from 3:45-5 p.m.

Please contact **Mrs. Tuebner** at jtuebner@fcps.edu with any questions.

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