

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

It's April, so that means some welcome warm weather, getting back into the groove after spring break and only nine more weeks of school (or is that 10 weeks with the snow days?). We'll think about that next month!

For now, it's time to get ready for the Fun Fair, which is May 9. Come join the fun with games, moon bouncing, food, karaoke, and more. Part of the fun is helping the

kids play the games, so please volunteer for a slot and help continue this fun tradition at Sangster. Without volunteers, the fun has to end, so we encourage everyone to fill a volunteer slot for a short time and enjoy it from both sides of the event!

Congratulations to Sangster's Musical Theater Department on another fantastic show! *Seussical, Jr.* completed its run with record-breaking attendance and enormous amounts of fun, incredible performances, and never-ending talent. We thank Ms. Lambert for directing the show and the musical theater program

once again for Sangster. Without her direction and vision, we wouldn't have the productions that we do—and if you've seen them, you know the quality of work Sangster does. It's simply amazing. Thank you to everyone involved, from the actors, the tech crew, the parents, and the teachers alike. It's a wonderful team effort!

Ledo's Pizza Nights were a success this spring, and we appreciate everyone coming out. We raised more than \$760! It's a great way to support a local business and spend a fun night out with school friends.

We are planning for the 2014-2015 school year and need volunteers to help with the PTA committees. If you're interested in chairing a committee or being a volunteer on a committee, contact **Linda Whitestone** or **Regina Schmitt**.

Welcome back from spring break!

"... [I]t's time to get ready for the Fun Fair, which is May 9. Come join the fun ..."

Change to Early Release Pickup Policy

The end of the school day is often hectic for our office staff. Trying to get students called down for early pickup after 3:30 p.m. creates problems and safety concerns for our office staff as they try to monitor which adult is picking up which student. As a result, office staff will not call students down for early release after 3:30 p.m. We will also not call students for early dismissal if the parent is not in the building. While we know this is an inconvenience, we trust that you understand the need to follow this procedure.



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Dates to Remember

- Monday, April 28
Kindergarten Orientation, 2-3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 1
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Friday, May 9
Fun Fair
- Monday, May 26
Memorial Day Holiday
- Thursday, June 5
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

Important Safety Update

Please recognize that the area across the street from the school is a **no parking/no stopping area**. We appreciate your help in not using that area as a loading/unloading area for your students.



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

sangsterpta.org

Though we've had a crazy schedule since January, we all enjoyed a warmer (planned) vacation in spring break.

The school board made its decision on Wednesday, April 9 for the rest of the school year, and it looks like this:

- Monday, June 23—a regular Monday schedule
- Tuesday, June 24—a regular school day
- Wednesday, June 25—last day for students, with an early dismissal

At the latest All-County Principals' Meeting on April 1, Dr. Garza readdressed her concerns about the budget for the upcoming school year. With the Board of Supervisors still promising no more than a 2% transfer for FCPS, the next best hope to avoid more extreme cuts to services for our students is the proposed \$0.02 tax increase in property values per \$100 assessed value of our homes. This would generate an additional \$44 million in county revenue, which would greatly help in meeting the 5.7% increase that Dr. Garza proposed for FCPS back in the late fall. There is

discussion that the Board of Supervisors might consider reducing the proposed tax increase by only \$0.01. I encourage you to contact our board members and encourage them to move forward with the full \$0.02 tax increase. In my 38-year association with FCPS, this year's proposed budget contains by far the most extreme budget reductions that I have witnessed. That includes my first year, when I personally received a Reduction in Force letter telling me that I did not have a job for the following year because of budget shortcomings. In the late summer, money miraculously appeared and I was able to continue.

But next year, we will all be seeing fewer resources and supports for our teachers as they work with your students. Fewer staff development opportunities, less instructional supply money, and increased class sizes will affect your students and their instruction. Please consider making your voices heard before the Board of Supervisors makes final decisions.

Finally, Ms. Zaffaroni, one of our Spanish teachers, is out for family

medical leave after the birth of her baby. We have Maria Reiff stepping into the long-term substitute teacher role for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Reiff knows Sangster very well, having a student in the school. She has been a long-term Spanish substitute teacher in FCPS and has also worked in the FLEX program at several elementary schools in the county. We welcome Mrs. Reiff and feel confident that your students will enjoy having her fill in for Ms. Zaffaroni for the rest of the school year.

Energy Zone Kids Fitness Challenge

Research shows that children copy the behavior of adults in their life. If parents are physically active, the children will be, too. Fit adults and children should exercise 60 minutes per day.

KEEP MOVING TO STAY IN SHAPE TIPS

- Plan daily family walks.
- Limit television or computer time to 1 to 2 hours per day.
- Make exercise fun.
- Encourage play outside with other children.
- Assign chores that involve activity such as cleaning or walking the dog.
- Help your children find physical activities they enjoy.

Remember, making a healthy change takes time and don't expect perfection.



Can You Guess This Park?

- You can play in the fully accessible water park with sprinklers, misting sunflowers, and a lighthouse.
- You can have fun in the fully accessible family recreation area that includes a treehouse and playground for children aged 5-12.
- You can lift weights, play basketball and swim indoors.

If you know the answer, tell your Physical Education teacher!



Come Compete in Track and Field Meet

The 2014 Hershey Track and Field meet, sponsored by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, will be held in May at Falls Church High School. All participants aged 9 and 10 will compete on Friday, May 9 from 5-9 p.m. All participants aged 11-14 will compete on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Events include the 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, 800-meter run, 1600-meter run, 4 x 100 meter relay, standing long jump, and softball throw. Participants will compete for the opportunity to advance to the North American Final in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The registration deadline is Friday, April 25. Please download the Hershey Registration form at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/athletics/pdf/hershreg.pdf.

Reflections Winners

The Reflections Committee is pleased to announce our NOVA District and Virginia PTA winners for this year.

NOVA PTA

- Outstanding Interpretation Literature (Special Artist)—Charles Nguyen
- Outstanding Interpretation Music Composition (Special Artist)—Charles Nguyen
- Award of Excellence Photography (Special Artist)—Charles Nguyen
- Award of Merit Photography (Intermediate)—Catherine Nguyen
- Award of Merit Music Composition (Intermediate)—Ryan Murray

Virginia PTA

- Outstanding Interpretation Literature (Special Artist)—Charles Nguyen
- Outstanding Interpretation Music Composition (Special Artist)—Charles Nguyen

Congratulations, artists! Charles Nguyen's entries for Literature and Music Composition are now competing in the National PTA Reflections competition.

Reminder: Use of Sangster PTA Directory

Please be respectful of the information found in the Sangster Directory and follow the guidelines established on the opening page/Table of Contents that states:

This directory is for the exclusive use of Sangster Elementary PTA members. It may not be used by anyone, or by any organization for political, fundraising, solicitations, survey, recruitment or commercial appeals. The Sangster PTA reserves the right to restrict the use of this list and must approve any release of the list, or any portion of this list, or distribution of this directory or its contents.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Keep Cutting Those Box Tops!

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