

# The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

Saturday, May 10, 2014

## PTA NOTES AND NEWS

We are officially in the home stretch! SOLs are starting, the Fun Fair has ended, teacher appreciation has come and gone—all of which signals the end of school is just around the corner. As we look back on this year, we have so much to be thankful for and so many people to whom we need to show our sincere appreciation.

For the Fun Fair, we thank **Joyce Maryanopolis** and her committee chairpeople for their hard work, time, and commitment to making the Fun Fair so much

FUN! We hope you all enjoyed the festivities and your students had a great night at their school. It takes so many people to make events like the Fun Fair happen, and we thank each volunteer for that help! We can't do it without you.

**Robyn Enderle** and the incredible Hospitality Committee once again kicked off Teacher Appreciation Week with a fabulous luncheon for the teachers and staff. Thank you, Robyn, and everyone who helped make that annual tradition so special!

We continue to plan for the 2014-2015 school year and need several volunteers to lead committees. If you're interested in something in particular or have a special

talent in one area, please let us know. Contact either **Linda Whitestone** or **Regina Schmitt** with your availability. We need help with spirit wear, the directory, and several other committees.

The PTA is also making plans for different programs next year, and we'd love to hear your feedback on one program in particular: The Dome Theater. This is the theater that has the students walk into an igloo-type theater (in the gym) and watch a

panoramic movie about a topic they have covered or will cover in their class. For the space program, for example, the students simulate being on the moon. The students have enjoyed having The Dome for the past two years, and we are deciding if we should bring it back for a third, so their input is important. Please ask your students if they would like to have The Dome return next year, and let us know their response by emailing [President@SangsterPTA.org](mailto:President@SangsterPTA.org).

There's approximately 28 days of school left (depending on when you get your newsletter), and then it's time for summer break! Enjoy this last month!

**"... we have so much to be thankful for and so many people to whom we need to show our sincere appreciation."**



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### Dates to Remember

Monday, May 26  
Memorial Day Holiday

Thursday, June 5  
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 12  
Field Day for 4th-6th Grade

Friday, June 13  
Field Day for 1st-3rd Grade

Wednesday, June 25  
Last Day of School

### 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](http://sangsterpta.org)

### Be Ready for Field Day June 12-13

Field Day for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades will be Thursday, June 12 from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Field day for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades will be Friday, June 13 from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Please send a water bottle with your child on his/her field day.

Sangster has received a major recognition from the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Education: the 2014 Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) Board of Education Excellence Award. Only 52 schools in Fairfax County received recognitions, and only 22 received the award for excellence. This speaks to what our teachers, staff and our school community do to make Sangster the outstanding school that it is! Thank you for all that you do for us.

If April showers bring May flowers, then we should be having one of the most spectacular Mays of all time! After all our deluges of snow and now rain, I'm sure that we are all very much ready for a nice run of beautiful, warm spring days!

With the warmer weather comes the desire for our students to start dressing in summer clothes. The important thing that we want our students to remember is that they are coming to school, not the pool. Please help us by watching what your students are wearing when they leave for school. Regarding footwear, sandals with closed backs are acceptable footwear, but flip-flops and slip on sandals are not acceptable. For boys, we want them to be wearing at least T-shirts, not tank tops. For girls, we want them to be wearing dresses, skirts, or shorts that meet the longest finger test:

They should be able to stand in a relaxed stance and have their dresses, skirts, or shorts come down to at least the longest fingers on their hands. If their fingers are below the hemline, the hemline is too short. Also for girls, we ask that they not wear spaghetti-strapped tops. Thank you for supporting us in this.

By the time this is printed and distributed, the panel for the selection of the new principal will have been held, meaning that we are only a few weeks from an announcement of who that person will be.

With the end of my tenure coming on June 30, it is time for me to start saying "thank you" to the many people who have been such a strong support to me since the end of September. I have been so impressed with everyone associated with Sangster. The teachers and staff at this school really love your children and care about them—not only from the academic side, but also from the side of seeing them as young people who need to be nurtured and guided on their path to adulthood. It's wonderful to hear the adults in the building talking about your children with love and concern. Be encouraged by that! The entire staff has been great to work with, and I believe that we have accomplished a lot in these seven months together. I am confident that good instruction is taking place here and that it is

only going to get stronger in the years to come. Thank you, Sangster staff, for making this job much more pleasant than I ever could have expected.

I have been equally super impressed with the support that our staff receives from you, the parents. It's fantastic to work in a place where the parents want to roll up their sleeves and get involved in what is happening at the school! The PTA board has gone the extra mile in doing whatever they can do to support the school's programs. You have done a great job in your selections of the officers who lead our PTA. They are diligent and dedicated to performing their jobs and making Sangster a better place. The Military Spouses Group has been outstanding in bringing a sense of patriotism and honor for our troops and their families, our veterans, and our wounded warriors. Again, I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to see the dedication and service of those involved.

There are other recognitions that I will discuss in my final article in June. Until then, make sure that your kids get good sleep as they get ready to take those SOLs and other end-of-the-year assessments, keep the sunscreen ready for the approaching hot days of late May and June, and let's all work hard to end the school year on a high note!

## **PBIS Update: Filling Our Falcon and Reinforcing Respect**

Our school has had a wonderful year as a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school! Teachers regularly give out feathers to our students for positive behavior, and students from kindergarten to sixth grade have been working hard to fill up our falcon, currently displayed in the cafeteria.

The effort has clearly made an impact on our school. We have filled our falcon up with feathers several times this school year, and our most recent reward was an outdoor "Read-out" with ice pops, which was a great success. Students were able to appreciate the time to relax and read books together as a school, enjoying time in the afternoon outdoors. This has built a stronger community within the school, and kids are continuing to encourage one another for positive behavior.

In an effort to reinforce positive behavior as a school, Sangster's sixth-grade students worked diligently to put together a refresher lesson for our students. Mrs. Drummond's sixth-grade class went in pairs and visited each grade-level classroom. The sixth graders encouraged the younger grades and their peers about the red, yellow, and green zones at our school, and they did an excellent job encouraging positive behavior. After the refresher lesson, teachers had a chance to review what it means to respect one another, and many teachers had follow up activities, such as asking students what our school motto means to them.

There have been positive outcomes this year as a school, and we are continuing to work on filling our falcon for our next school reward. We are excited as a school to continue to build a more positive environment through our PBIS program.

## **Let's Have a Picnic: Food Safety Tips**

Safety while preparing, serving, and eating food is important whether we are at home or on a picnic. We must constantly practice safe food handling to avoid illness. Follow these tips to keep safe.

### **1. Keep cold foods cold**

- Chill all cold foods to below 41° F before packing for the picnic, and then put cold foods in a well-insulated, lidded cooler with ice around it.
- Put the cooler in the passenger area of your car rather than in the hot trunk.

### **2. Don't spread bacteria, which may infect the food and ultimately you.**

- Wash your hands before working with food and again after working with raw meat or poultry.
3. Cook meat thoroughly to an internal temperature of 165° F and serve immediately.
- Put leftovers in the refrigerator immediately when you get home, if you have not been gone more than four hours.

If you practice these safety tips, your food should be safe to keep and eat the next day.

Pack your picnic basket and cooler and enjoy a safe picnic!

## **Fitness Ambassadors to Join Field Day**

The Sangster Military Spouses Group (MSG) is working on hosting the Fitness Ambassadors again this year for the June 12 Field Day. In an effort to promote perseverance, individuality, and strength of character, the MSG has invited active-duty military who have overcome injuries to participate in Field Day with our 4th- to 6th-grade students. It's always an honor to highlight our community's support to those who serve in the military. Not only are they warriors on the battlefield, but they are important participants in the growth of our children. We hope you ask your child what he or she took away from the visit. It's sure to be a memorable Field Day!

## **PTA Officers**

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