

# The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

Tuesday, September 02, 2014

## PTA NOTES AND NEWS

Welcome back to school, Sangster families! Summer has flown by, and now that school has started, the PTA is busy working on this year's events and programs. It's going to be an exciting year!

Please send in your [PTA membership form](#) with your student. This form was included in your student's take-home folder from open house last week. If you don't have a form, they are available on the PTA website ([SangsterPTA.org](http://SangsterPTA.org)—click on the **PTA Membership Form** in the **Useful School**

**Links** box). Forms are due to the office by Friday, Sept. 19. We can't have a successful PTA without the help of our fabulous members and volunteers. PTA meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Sangster. The first meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Sangster Library.

We will continue using the "oldest or only" format for forms, which means your oldest or your only child at Sangster will have most forms sent home in his or her Thursday

folders. In an effort to reduce the amount of paper usage this year, we will be sending an electronic copy of *The Sangster Source* to our PTA members in lieu of printed copies. We will continue to send club and event flyers home in Thursday folders. Please note that *The Sangster Source*, forms, and flyers will be posted on the [PTA website](#). You can also access this site by clicking the **PTA** link on the [Sangster Elementary School website's](#) home page.

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We're all looking forward to Back to School Night on Tuesday, Sept. 9 (K-3) and Tuesday, Sept. 16 (4-6). Realizing it can be difficult to find child care on these busy nights, Girl Scout troops #6117 and #912 have volunteered to babysit children in the Sangster Library during the event. The troops will play a movie and provide coloring pages, puzzles and games for the kids during this time. A donation in the amount of \$5 per child or \$10 per family has been requested for this service.

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## Secret Agent and Spy Training Camp Oct. 24

Here at Sangster, we like to keep the FUN in fundraising. We have a few FUN things planned for raising money for our school—starting with the Sangster Secret Agent and Spy Training Camp on Oct. 24. In a few weeks, you'll start to get information about this event, such as how sending in dollars will help solve some fun clues before the event and how to attend this special training camp. It's these dollars that help fund our technology, discovery garden, special math and reading programs and so much more! So get ready to have some fun, perfect your spy game, solve some puzzles and raise money for Sangster!



### Sangster Elementary School

7420 Reservation Drive  
Springfield, VA 22153  
Phone: (703) 644-8200  
Fax: (703) 644-8297  
Attendance: (703) 644-8282  
[fcp.edu/SangsterES](http://fcp.edu/SangsterES)

### Dates to Remember

- Thursday, Sept. 4, 7 p.m.  
PTA Meeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 9, 5:30-7:45 p.m.  
Back to School Night: K-3
- Tuesday, Sept. 16, 5:30-7:45 p.m.  
Back to School Night: 4-6
- Thursday, Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m.  
Military Spouses' Get-Together
- Friday, Sept. 19  
PTA Membership Forms Due
- Tuesday, Sept. 23  
Magical Math Tour School  
Assembly
- Friday, Sept. 26  
"Calling All Artists" Entries Due
- Monday, Sept. 29  
No School
- Thursday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.  
PTA Meeting
- Sunday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.  
Sangster Family Fun Run
- Monday, Oct. 13  
No School
- Wednesday, Oct. 15  
Reflections Entries Due
- Friday, Oct. 24  
Secret Agent and Spy Training  
Camp
- Friday, Oct. 31  
End of First Quarter, Early Release

All [newsletters](#) are available on the [PTA Web site](#), under the Newsletters header.

[SangsterPTA.org](http://SangsterPTA.org)

Dear Sangster Community,

The Sangster Elementary staff welcomes each of you to the new school year! The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time.

I hope that you had a restful and rejuvenating summer. We are pleased to welcome new and returning families to our community. If this is your first time to our school, I encourage you to let us know how we can help you become an integral part of our school community.

The tradition of excellence enjoyed by Sangster Elementary is directly linked to our vital home-school partnership. Children need their families involved to remain informed about what is happening in their child's classroom as well as throughout the school. I expect that you will know how well your child is progressing and feel comfortable to call your child's teacher or me if you have questions at any time.

I hope to see you at **Back-to-**

**School Night**, which is coming soon.

- Grade K-3: Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 5:30-7:45 p.m.
- Grade 4-6: Tuesday, Sept. 16 from 5:30-7:45 p.m.

The schedule for Back-to-School Night is:

- 5:30-5:40 p.m.: Welcome from principal and PTA president
- 5:40-6:30 p.m.: Session I
- 6:30-6:40 p.m.: Switch sessions
- 6:40-6:50 p.m.: Welcome from principal and PTA president
- 6:50-7:40 p.m.: Session II (repeat of Session I)

*(Every teacher will be giving the same presentation during Session II for parents who have multiple children or cannot attend the first session.)*

Please remember that parking is always difficult, so leave plenty of time to park or walk. At Back to School Night, you will find out what your child will learn this year, what the teacher expects

from your child, how the teacher will support your child, and how you can contact your child's teacher. The parent/school partnership we have at Sangster is key to the success of our students and has been a critical element of our school culture. We are committed to working with you to help your child have a good year. Please contact Ms. Jankovich and/or Ms. Smith (our assistant principals), your child's teacher, or me a call if you have any questions or concerns. Together, we will continue to establish a firm educational foundation, provide unlimited growth opportunities, and motivate our children to reach new levels of academic excellence.

On the first day of school, you received a Sangster information envelope. Inside the envelope were many important forms, including the emergency care card and the health form. **Please return these forms to school ASAP if you have not done so already.**

Page 3 lists some tips about preparing your child for a great school year as well as questions that may generate conversation with your child after school about their day.

I look forward to working with you and your children this year!

Your Partner in Education,

## Sangster Library Needs YOU!



School is in full swing, and the library has a full schedule of students coming in. We have an urgent need for both **temporary** volunteers (as we finalize the library schedule) and **permanent** volunteers to take on weekly or bi-weekly shifts. If you have two hours every week—or even every other week—we have a spot for you! If you're looking for a way to get involved at Sangster, come join the Library Volunteer team. It's a quiet, fun, friendly place to work. If you'd like to sign up or want to learn more, e-mail [sangsterlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:sangsterlibrary@gmail.com).



### Get Your Child Ready for a Great Year

Most children get a little nervous about starting school, and many simply do not want the summer to end. Following some of these guidelines will help your child get back into the swing of school:

- **Ask questions**—If your child seems uneasy about school, talk about it. What are his/her concerns? How can you help?
- **Meet with teachers**—Introduce yourself and attend school events. Show your child that education is a family priority.
- **Make way for schoolwork**—Ensure that your child has a quiet place to study. Decide on a regular study time. Start following a bedtime routine.
- **Review the school rules**—

Go over the Student Rights and Responsibilities booklet with your child. Let your child know you are interested in the school's expectations for him/her.

- **Prepare for mornings**—At night, your child can pick an outfit for the next day, set the alarm clock, pack lunch, and put the backpack by the front door. Then mornings will not be so stressful.



### What Did You Do at School Today?

Every day, parents ask their child what they did at school. If your child answers, "Oh, nothing," try asking these specific questions.

- What was something nice you said to a friend today?
- What did you do in math?
- What good book did your teacher read to you today?

- Who did you play with today?
- What did you write about today?
- What was your favorite part of the day?
- How are you going to make tomorrow even better?
- Who did you sit beside at lunch?
- What did you learn in science?

### Bring Tennis Shoes for P.E. Class



Don't forget to send your children to school wearing their tennis shoes on P.E. day. If you prefer, send your children's tennis shoes in bags so they can participate in physical education.

### Lunch at School



The cost of lunch at Sangster is \$2.90 (students) and \$3.90 (adults). You can purchase a second entrée with a complete lunch for \$2. All menus are [online](#).

### Join the PTA

Please consider joining the PTA this year. Membership forms are in the main office and are also available [online](#).



### Thursday Folders Contain Important Information

This year, we will continue to send home important information on Thursday in our specially designed Thursday folder yellow envelope. Please plan to read these materials carefully and sign and date the empty envelope and return it to school the next day. Some school information is sent home through family distribution. This means we send one copy home of schoolwide information with your oldest or only child. This was established to decrease the volume of paper brought home in the Thursday folder. Please note that *The Sangster Source*, forms, and flyers will be posted on the [PTA website \(SangsterPTA.org\)](http://SangsterPTA.org).

## 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:** Raise money for Sangster just by buying items on Amazon using our special link!
- **Collect Box Tops:** Cut out box tops from selected products, and turn them in to your child's teacher.
- **My Coke Rewards:** Purchase Coke products and enter codes online.
- **Giant/Safeway:** Go to the store's website, 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).

## PTA NOTES AND NEWS

MICHELLE NOCERITO

*Continued from the cover*

Please join me in thanking **Renee Dondes** who, over the summer, scheduled the first PTA-sponsored cultural arts event for the school year. By popular demand, she is bringing back Brian Curry, who presented Pop Science Quiz to our students last year. This year, Brian

will present his Magical Math Tour to all students on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

The fall means the start of school—and of our fundraising initiatives. **Jan Swicord** and **Linda Whitestone** have been working hard to put together a schedule of events. Some of their plans include bringing back Ledo

Pizza Night and the Sangster Secret Agent and Spy Training Camp for our fall fundraiser. Mark your calendars now for Friday, Oct. 24 to attend the Spy Camp.

As we plan for the upcoming school year, the PTA continues to use its funds to help Sangster and its students. We're very proud and fortunate to have new technology for our students to use. We'll continue to raise money to support this effort as well as to continue to maintain our current technology and the many other programs we support.

The PTA extends a warm welcome to **Lisa Reddel**, our new principal, and we look forward to partnering with her and the Sangster team throughout the year. We have an exciting year ahead and are looking forward to getting started and working with you all.

Sincerely,  
**Michelle Nocerito**  
PTA President



### Collect Box Tops— First Deadline Oct. 30!

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! Cutting Box Tops off your favorite household items will earn our school 10 cents per Box Top.

There are several great ways you can support instruction and learning at Sangster with the Box Tops for Education program. The Box Tops Marketplace and Reading Room offer you the opportunity to earn money for Sangster—by doing nothing more than simply signing up and shopping on your favorite websites, such as Target, Expedia, and Best Buy.

Please go to [btfe.com](http://btfe.com) to sign up! And of course, cutting Box Tops off your favorite household items will earn our school 10 cents per Box Top.

If you have any questions, contact [ALJankovich@fcps.edu](mailto:ALJankovich@fcps.edu).

## “The World Would Be a Better Place if...”—Reflections 2014-15



The National PTA wants to know what you think would make the world a better place. Choreograph a dance, produce a film, write a poem or story, compose a song, take a picture or create a piece, of visual art, and show us your interpretation of the theme: “The world would be a better place if...”

Entries are due Oct. 15 and will be judged by a panel of experts. Winners at the school level will move on to compete at

higher levels with the possibility of competing nationally. Entry forms will be coming home in Thursday folders. Please also visit [SangsterPTA.org](http://SangsterPTA.org) for the entry form, rules, and the 2016-2017 Reflections Theme Search entry form. Students may enter Reflections multiple times in the same or different categories. Feel free to contact **Alisa Goetz** at [Reflections@SangsterPTA.org](mailto:Reflections@SangsterPTA.org) with any questions.

Good luck and get ready to unleash your inner artist!

--Alisa Goetz, Reflections Chairperson

## You're Invited to Join the Military Spouses' Group

Are you part of a military family? Whether active or retired, new to Sangster or returning this year, we invite you to join Sangster's Military Spouses Group (MSG). MSG is a great way to meet other military families and offers an instant support network in our vast military community.

Please contact our group president, [Brenda Stuart](mailto:BrendaStuart), at [msgsangster@gmail.com](mailto:msgsangster@gmail.com) if you are interested. Please also be sure to stop by our table at Back to School Night for more information. Our first get-together will be Thursday, Sept. 18 at 9:30am.

## Calling All Artists!



Hey, Sangster Artists! Your artwork could be featured on the cover of the 2014-2015 Sangster Directory. How, you ask? All you need to do is:

1. Draw your picture on a piece of 8.5" x 11" paper.
2. Draw it in color (colored pencils work best)
3. Make it vertical.
4. Tape the [information sheet](#) to the back of the picture.
5. Return your picture to the office by Friday, Sept. 26.

We look forward to receiving your amazing entries!

## Family Fun Run

Join us for the third-annual Sangster Family Fun Run on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 11 a.m. This 1.5-mile run/walk course begins and ends at Sangster. Watch for more information in Thursday folders.

## PTA Officers

**President: Michelle Nocerito**  
[President@SangsterPTA.org](mailto:President@SangsterPTA.org)

**Vice President: Kristin Zavel**  
[VP@SangsterPTA.org](mailto:VP@SangsterPTA.org)

**Secretary: Lorna Chang**  
[Secretary@SangsterPTA.org](mailto:Secretary@SangsterPTA.org)

**Treasurer: Gina Duffy**  
[Treasurer@SangsterPTA.org](mailto:Treasurer@SangsterPTA.org)