

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

Wednesday, October 01, 2014

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

September proved to be a busy month as we welcomed our new and returning students, kicked off many of our clubs, and ran our membership drive. We also held our first PTA-sponsored cultural arts assembly: the “Magical Math Tour” by Brian Curry. It was a pleasure to hear the gymnasium roar with laughter as Brian walked children through some interesting tricks, all the while asking them mathematical questions (which they answered enthusiastically).

As we move into October, there are many exciting things on the horizon for Sangster! Sunday, Oct. 5 is the date for the Third-Annual Sangster Family Fun Run. This has proven to be a

wonderful annual event for families to come out and have some fun with their Sangster friends. I hope to see you on Sunday either running or cheering.

“As we move into October, there are many exciting things on the horizon for Sangster!”

We welcome author Kate Messner, author of *Capture the Flag* and *Eye of the Storm*, who will visit students on Wednesday, Oct. 15. She will speak to students during the day about her books and answer questions about being a good author, and she will be available to sign books in the evening. Please see the story below for more information on her visit to Sangster.

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Author Kate Messner Is Coming to Sangster!



The Sangster PTA and Library are sponsoring an author visit by Kate Messner. Ms. Messner, author of this year’s Virginia Readers’ Choice nominee *Capture the Flag*, will visit the library on Wednesday, Oct. 15. She will meet with the students to discuss her books and answer questions during the school day. Ms. Messner will also be in the library that evening at 7 p.m. to meet students and parents and to sign books (evening session only). Learn more about her by visiting www.katemessner.com/.



Sangster Elementary School

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Dates to Remember

- Thursday, Oct. 2
Interims Go Home
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 3
Picture Day
- Sunday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.
Sangster Family Fun Run
- Monday, Oct. 13
No School
- Wednesday, Oct. 15
Reflections Entries Due
Kate Messner Author Visit, Library,
7 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 24
Secret Agent and Spy Training
Camp
- Thursday, Oct. 30
Box Tops Due
- Friday, Oct. 31
End of First Quarter, Early Release
- Monday, Nov. 3-Tuesday, Nov. 4
No School
- Thursday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
PTA Meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 11
Flag-Raising Ceremony for Veterans
Day
- Monday, Nov. 17-Friday, Nov. 21
Library Book Fair

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

SangsterPTA.org

Dear Sangster Community,

Thank you for your help in getting the year off to a great start! The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time. Sangster students returned to school ready to learn and are immersed in active learning in their classrooms during the day.

It was a pleasure seeing you at our Back-to-School Nights earlier in September. Thank you for completing the survey. We are analyzing the feedback we received from parents and staff members and are using it to help design next year's Back-to-School night. More information will be forthcoming about next year's BTSN date and time.

In elementary school, we spend a large amount of time focusing on language arts. Reading is a critical skill for adults and students. Elementary school is a place to

gain reading comprehension skills that last a lifetime. A new school year brings exciting challenges. We find as children grow older, they do less "learning to read" and more "reading to learn." Many of your child's homework assignments will include reading for information. Studies have also shown that nonfiction reading and writing will enhance student achievement.

To assist your child at home with reading comprehension, you may consider asking the following questions:

1. **What is this about?** Before your child reads his/her homework assignment, ask this question to prompt forward thinking. This will allow your child to relate to the topic to what he/she already knows and get his/her mind ready to learn new information.
2. **What are the most important ideas?** Encourage your child to look at the pictures, graphs and subtitles to also help capture the main idea of the

chapter.

3. **What is most interesting?** Talk about what he/she has read will help children remember the information.
4. **What surprised you?** New information can sometimes change the way a child thinks. This question will help him/her identify facts that are different from previously formed ideas and opinions.
5. **What did you find out that you didn't know before?** Applaud your child's new knowledge.

One of the best ways to encourage reading is for your children to see adults reading and talking about what they have read. So, pick up a good book and read, read, read! Thanks for all you are doing to support student learning. As always, I welcome your comments and feedback. Please call (703) 644-8200 or email me anytime.

Your partner in education.

Active Learning

Learners retain:

- 10% of what they hear
- 15% of what they see
- 20% of what they see and hear
- 40% of what they discuss
- 80% of what they experience directly
- 90% of what they attempt to teach others

--Educational Kinesiology Foundation

Sangster Honors Our Veterans



On Tuesday, Nov. 11, the Military Spouses Group and Sangster will host its fourth-annual flag-raising ceremony in honor of Veteran's Day. A uniformed member from each of the five branches of service will conduct an official flag raising and will give a brief history of the American flag and its proper treatment. The band, bells, strings, and chorus will be performing patriotic music throughout the ceremony. More details to follow.

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



Just a reminder that artwork for Reflections is due in the front office on Oct. 15. Rules and entry forms are available at www.SangsterPTA.org. Additional entry forms are also located in the magazine rack outside the front office. Please contact Reflections@SangsterPTA.org with any questions.

Library Book Fair: “Picture Yourself Reading”

The library will host its annual fall book fair the week of Thanksgiving lunches again! This year, the library would like students and families to “Picture Yourself Reading” a great book.

Come to the family cookie social on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria (the book fair will be open 5-8 p.m. that evening). Look through the book fair’s hundreds of books and enjoy cookies, lemonade and the company of Sangster family. We will even have a small photo area with fun props to capture a picture of you reading, so bring along your cameras! We need lots of wonderful volunteers to help us out. To volunteer, please visit our signup: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040D45ADAB2EA31-20142.

The hours for this year’s fair are as follows:

- Monday, Nov. 17—Student preview day (no sales)
- Tuesday, Nov. 18—9 a.m.-4 p.m.; 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 19—9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 20—9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 21—9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



Sangster Spirit Wear 2014-15

New Looks! New Styles! New Ways to Order!

Coming in November, spirit wear will be available to order online. This will include new clothing options, such as updated t-shirts, baseball tees, and hoodies.

The website will be distributed to all Sangster families, allowing for a two-week window to order.

If you don’t want to wait, these items are available now:

- Blue Tie-Dye T-Shirt (Youth S-L, Adult S-XL—\$18)
- Gray T-Shirt (Youth S-L, Adult S-XL—\$12)
- BUNDLE SALE Save \$5! Buy one of each T-Shirt—\$25
- Aluminum Water Bottle—\$10
- Car Magnet—\$5

Order forms will be sent home in this week’s Thursday folders. If you have questions or comments, email Spiritwear@SangsterPTA.org. Find more information (and the form) on the [Spirit Wear](#) page of the [PTA website](#).



Box Tops Deadline Oct. 30

Keep saving those box tops and sending them in with your child. Every box top means money for Sangster!

If you have any questions about the program, email ALJankovich@fcps.edu.

Join the PTA

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



Welcome to the Sangster Secret Agent and Spy Training Camp

It ALREADY sounds like a lot of fun, right? We want YOU to join us for the BIG-but-SECRET event Friday, Oct. 24 from 6:30-8 p.m. on the Sangster campus. Our Sangster students are on a mission to become the best super sleuths possible while solving a challenging mystery—finding something special to Sangster. The mystery elements will be revealed to them during the Sangster morning news and in hallway posters during the next few weeks. In addition, by attending the Training Camp, they'll have fun while learning some super-cool spy skills!

The Sangster PTA is on a mission too—to raise money and create a really fun evening for families at our school! The Sangster PTA helps fund new programs enjoyed and used by Sangster students and teachers each year. These include activities such as the Sangster Garden, reading and math programs, and our very own Sangster Computer Lab! To make those programs available, the PTA needs to raise funds in many different ways. One of our techniques this year is a fun, super-secret, spy kind of way.

There are two ways to participate, and we'd love for you to enjoy both!

- First, we must solve two puzzles to learn important clues in our ongoing mystery. For every \$100 donated, we will unveil one piece of the puzzle. These puzzles are located in the Sangster front lobby display cases. Parents and students can examine them every day to help piece together the solution to our mystery. Send in donations quickly to get student secret agents working on their clues.
- Second, you can purchase tickets to our Sangster Secret Agent and Spy Training Camp on Oct. 24. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$30 per family. Return the form below with cash or a check, and we will send home the tickets before the event.

100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100

It's going to be a great night of spy-like maneuvers, tactical operations, tests of skill, and great training every secret agent needs. We will also sell tickets at the event for two spy-related raffles. Parents and students are encouraged to participate and arrive wearing their best spy costume. We expect to see lots of dark glasses, fine fedoras, trench coats, ninja costumes, and more! Please join us in having a fun time while raising money for the Sangster PTA. It won't be successful without your help!

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Swicord (swicordjan@cox.net) or Linda Whitestone (lbwhitestone@gmail.com).

Use the form below to send in your donation to help reveal puzzle clues and to purchase tickets to attend our training camp! Cut on the dotted line and return it to the office.

\$ _____ Donation amount to purchase _____ tickets for the training camp on Friday, Oct. 24 from 6:30-8 p.m. **One ticket is needed per person.** Tickets cost \$10 per person or \$30 per family.

\$ _____ Donation amount to help reveal puzzle clues that will help solve the mystery.

\$ _____ Total donation

Please make out all checks to **Sangster PTA.**

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Breaking News: Sangster Falcon Is Hiding

The Sangster Falcon is hiding (or soon will be)!

We will have clues to his whereabouts but need a crack team of students, parents, and teachers to decipher them, find the falcon, and get him back to Sangster.

Your generosity with funds and time will make this happen. The Sangster PTA will operate a Spy & Special Agent Training Camp on Friday, Oct. 24 from 6:30-8 p.m. Look for details on how you can help and join in this fundraiser on page 4 of this

newsletter and in upcoming Thursday folders. All proceeds will support Sangster teachers and students!

We will need some teens and adults as volunteer support to run stations at the camp. No spy experience is required! Appropriate spy trainer clothing is encouraged but not required. No weapons or tobacco products. Additional details can be found on our signup link here: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D44A9AA2B0-blue/.

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.

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

MICHELLE NOCERITO

Continued from the cover

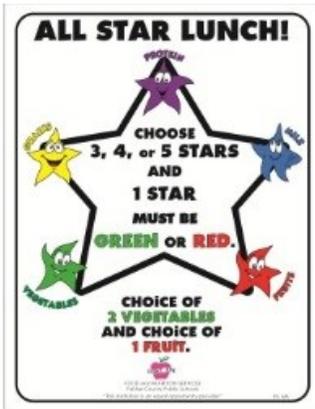
Of course, we are super-excited about the Secret Agent and Spy Training Camp on Friday, Oct. 24. October is the time to follow the clues to support our school. With your donations and participation in this fundraising campaign, we can continue to purchase new technology for our school, maintain the technology we already

have, and provide funds for the ongoing programs our children need and love. Keep your eyes open for clues and details as the Spy Training Camp approaches, and see page 4 and the box above for more information about this event.

A few other reminders! "The world would be a better place if...." Reflections submissions

are due Wednesday, Oct. 15. And don't forget to send in all those box tops you've been saving over the summer. Our first box top collection deadline is Oct. 30.

Looking forward to another great month.



Turn Your Child Into an All-Star With Smart Food Choices

An All-Star Lunch includes:

- Purple Star—Protein
- Yellow Star—Grains
- Green Star—Vegetables
- Red Star—Fruits
- Blue Star—Milk

Students may select 3–4–5 stars, but one MUST be a green or red star.

Parents are critical partners and are asked to take time to review the daily menu with their children. They may also limit their children’s selections to lunch only or lunch and a la carte.

A printed summary of child(ren)’s account is available by contacting the food service manager or by signing on with MyLunchMoney.com. They do not need to use the online account for this service.

Remember that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It “breaks” the night’s “fast” by replacing the energy reserves used overnight. School-aged children are the biggest breakfast skippers. Research reveals students who miss breakfast are less attentive in class, and their ability to work and concentrate is limited.

[Source: Fairfax County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services](#)

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