

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

Wednesday, December 03, 2014

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

The year seems to be flying by, and December is now upon us. This month, we are looking forward to all kinds of wonderful and exciting class celebrations for our children to enjoy before heading off for Winter Break. But first, I'd like to look back on all the wonderful things that happened in November.

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

We would like to send a HUGE "thank you" to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make the Thanksgiving lunches, book fair, PTA cookie social, and Veteran's Day celebration run so smoothly.

Marian Hoelscher once again coordinated the Thanksgiving lunch event with the assistance of **Juliet Johnson**. Juliet enlisted the help of many of our wonderful parents to fill all the available slots during the lunches. We are so appreciative of everyone's time and effort, as it takes many hands to run this three-day event. Parents, grandparents, friends, and relatives enjoyed special lunches with their Sangster students.

During all of those days, we also had the Sangster Book Fair going on. Thank you to the volunteers who kept the checkout line running smoothly at the book fair. Also, thank you to **Julia Byrd** for coordinating the evening PTA Cookie Social in the cafeteria for students and parents to enjoy a treat before or after picking out their new books.

We also thank all the parents who made donations to the Athletic Shoe Drive for Haiti. It was

heartwarming to see the bins in the lobby fill up as parents came in to enjoy their lunches.

I'm pleased to say that our Veteran's Day celebration was once again an exciting and wonderful event. Thank you to the Military Spouses Group for coordinating this for us. This year, we were featured on the morning broadcast, which added to the excitement. It is always a pleasure to see hanging in the halls all the flags

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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

Thursday, Dec. 4
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 5
Fourth-Grade Colonial Day

Saturday, Dec. 6
Last Day of Online Book Fair

Friday, Dec. 19
Students Released Two Hours Early

Monday, Dec. 22-Friday, Jan. 2
Winter Break—No School

Thursday, Jan. 8
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 19
No School

Thursday, Jan. 29
Second Grading Period Ends, Two-Hour Early Release

Friday, Jan. 30-Monday, Feb. 2
No School

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

Monday, Feb. 16
No School

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

Monday, March 16
No School

Monday, March 30-Monday, April 6
Spring Break

Thursday, April 9
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.

"... as you are doing your holiday shopping, remember to shop on Amazon via our Sangster link"



Be Prepared to Play in Cold Weather

Please make certain that your children are properly clothed for the cold weather. We will continue to go outside for noontime recess throughout the winter months on every dry day on which the temperature is above 32 degrees.

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

SangsterPTA.org

Dear Sangster Families,

I'm sure you and your family are preparing for the holidays and the winter vacation.

At this time of year, we think a lot about gift giving—donating time and energy to a charity or worthy cause as well as finding the perfect gift for each person on your list. Teaching children to be gracious recipients of gifts is part

of the holiday season. For each gift provided, someone cared enough to select or make a present just for them, wrap it, and bring it to them.

Some of the best gifts parents can give their children this holiday season are the gifts of time and opportunities to enjoy reading. Experts tell us that the single most important way to encourage

a love of reading in children is to read aloud to them. It's recommended that no matter what the age of your child, set aside some time every day (try for at least 15 minutes) and read to your child.

I wish for all of you health, happiness, and time with family and friends this holiday season.



Help Stop Spread of Communicable Illnesses

To help keep our students healthy during the winter months, please let the school know if your child has a communicable illness. You can do this by:

- Calling Ms. Richardson, our clinician aide, at (703) 644-8210.
- Leaving the name of the illness (e.g., strep throat; hand, foot, and mouth) on the attendance line when you call in an absence.

Another thing you can do that will make a significant impact on stopping the spread of illness at Sangster is to keep your children at home until they are no longer contagious and are well enough to fully participate in all school activities.

Thanks for doing your part to keep Sangster healthy this winter.

Check Lost and Found Regularly

Please make sure to regularly check the lost and found to ensure none of your child's items have made their way there.

Items will be periodically cleared from the lost and found and donated to local charities.



Keep Saving Box Tops!

Our first submission date has come and gone, but keep saving those box tops and sending them in with your child. Every box top means money for Sangster!



Thank You, Volunteers

A huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who stepped up to help with Thanksgiving lunches and the book fair! We know many of you volunteered multiple times in one week. We truly appreciate all of your hard work and dedication. Sangster is an amazing school thanks to parents like you!

—Juliet Johnson, PTA Volunteer Coordinator



Inclement Weather Policy

When inclement weather or other emergencies cause Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to have a change in schedule (delay or closing), the information is communicated as soon as possible through the following media:

- Posted online at www.fcps.edu
- Posted to FCPS' Facebook and Twitter feeds
- Posted on TV Channel 21 (Cox Communications, Reston Comcast and Verizon Cable customers only)

- Sent via email to subscribers through the Keep in Touch (KIT) email notification system (please note that with high volume, emails may be delayed in getting to your inbox)
- Announced on area radio and television stations

DELAYED OPENING

- Two-hour late opening Monday-Friday: 11a.m.-3:50 p.m.

EARLY CLOSING

- Two-hour early closing Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-1:50 p.m.
- FCPS makes the decision by 4:30 AM

NOTE: When school closes early, all after-school and extracurricular activities are canceled.

Please refer to the [FCPS "Inclement Weather Plans"](#) web page for further information.

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.



Consider “Smart” Toys and Games This Holiday Season

We all know that learning is more fun when we play games, so why not consider giving toys and gifts this season that promote this idea! There are so many fun children’s and family games out there that promote critical and creative thinking, but I’ve noticed that many parents simply don’t know where to look for them. I’m hoping that the list I’ve created below of top toys and games—as well as the websites that promote these rich games for 21st century learners—will help you during this holiday season of giving.

Each year, the National Association of Gifted Children invites toy and game manufacturers to submit their newest products for review by students. After careful analysis of student feedback and other educational criteria, the following list was compiled of the top toys and games that not only promote learning, but are considered engaging and fun for children. By visiting each website, you will find more information about the games listed and will find many other toys that might be of interest to you and your child. Have fun shopping!

- www.thinkfun.com—Last Letter (8+)
- www.simplyfun.com—High Tail It (Ages 6-9), Get 4 & Score (aged 7+)
- www.playroomentertainment.com—Say What You Meme (10+), Geek Out! Pop Culture Party (10+)
- www.fatbraintoy.com—Speed Bump (6-9), Quadrillion (8+)

Here are some fun and educational games I am purchasing for youngsters in my family this holiday season and what they are great for:

- Spot it! (for visualization)
- Distraction (for memory retention)
- Robot Turtles (for problem solving and coding)
- Apples to Apples Jr. (analogies and connections)
- Zingo (variety of levels and subject areas)
- Goldie Blox (STEM-related toys for girls)

I wish you all a wonderful holiday full of lots of family fun!

—Jen Lambert

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that our students have decorated.

Many children were looking around to show their families where their flag hung during the Thanksgiving lunches, which added to the fun of the day.

Fundraising Update

Fundraising did fantastic in November! Thank you to **Jan Swicord** and **Linda Whitestone** for setting up the Innisbrook sale and two Ledo Pizza nights in November. Both events had a positive impact on our PTA funds as a direct result of their

leadership and the volunteers who advertised these events so well.

Thanks to all the parents who shopped the Innisbrook catalog and came out to enjoy a meal at Ledo Pizza. The two Ledo Pizza nights alone raised just more than \$750 for the PTA.

This month, we are working on putting our fundraising dollars to work in the school. The agenda for the Dec. 4 PTA meeting includes proposed technology and instructional support purchases that will support our teachers and students.

Amazon Shopping Helps Sangster!

As a reminder, as you are doing your holiday shopping, remember to [shop on Amazon via our Sangster link](#), because Sangster gets a portion of all sales. That is easy money for our school, so please check out the link on the PTA Web page (www.sangsterpta.org) and do your shopping knowing that Sangster will benefit from your purchases.

Have a wonderful December and winter break.



Healthy Eating for the Holidays

Plan for balance, variety, and moderation during the holiday season. Eat your favorite baked goods and other holiday specialties, but be reasonable about your portion sizes and number

of servings. Always choose a variety of foods following the MyPlate guidelines.

- Fill up on vegetables and fruits first.
- Fix vegetables by marinating or sautéing in broth instead of adding butter.
- Use reduced-fat or nonfat dressings or spreads instead of butter and cream-based sauces.
- Add spices, not fat, to add flavor to your meals. Try cinnamon, cardamom, allspice, and cloves.
- Avoid oversized portions. Use a smaller plate, bowl, or cup for meals and snack.
- Focus on family and friends instead of food. Include a family activity, such as a brisk walk around the neighborhood.



Be Ready for Winter—and for P.E.!

Winter is around the corner, and you know what that means—your children will be wearing boots to school. Please remember to send your children's tennis shoes in bags so they can participate in physical education.

PTA Officers

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