

The Sangster Source

A newsletter from the Sangster PTA

Tuesday, February 03, 2015

PTA NOTES AND NEWS

Dear Sangster Parents,

I want to start by thanking you for your support of the PTA. Your membership dues, donation checks, and support of our fundraising events are enabling the PTA to fund resources for our teachers and students, and the impact is real. The roll-out of Dreambox, which the PTA co-funded with Sangster, has been a huge success! This interactive math program can be accessed 24/7 by students and has gotten rave reviews from both students and teachers. In addition to being available through the school year, the program will be available through the summer.

We are always happy to hear from our teachers and are pleased to have received notes from teachers thanking the PTA for instructional support items we have

funded this year, including zigi document readers for classroom instruction, updated leveled reader books for students to take home, new laptops for classroom use, and Dreambox. All these expenditures are enhancing the learning experience of students. This month, we have some exciting things happening as the PTA continues to work hard to put fundraising dollars to work in meaningful ways.

Technology Funding for Classrooms

At the Feb. 5 PTA meeting, the membership will vote on funding the purchase of 10 laptops, 10 iPads, and one color printer for each of the student pods.

Funding the 10 laptops will bring the total number of up-to-date laptops

Continued on page 3

“We are always happy to hear from our teachers and are pleased to have received notes from teachers thanking the PTA for instructional support items we have funded this year ...”



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

Monday, Feb. 2-Friday, Feb. 6
National Counseling Week

Tuesday, Feb. 3-Friday, Feb. 13
CoGat and NNAT Makeups

Thursday, Feb. 5
PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
Lake Braddock Middle School
Curriculum Night, 6:30 p.m.
(Cafeteria/Little Theatre/Gym)

Friday, Feb. 6
4th-Grade FLE Lesson
Positive Behavior Interventions and
Supports Schoolwide Celebration
(30 Minutes of Board-Games)

Monday, Feb. 9
Snow Date for Lake Braddock
Middle School Curriculum Night

Wednesday, Feb. 11
6th-Grade Tour of Irving,
9:30-11:15 a.m.
Irving Curriculum Night,
7-8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12
Report Cards Go Home With 9-
Week Plans

Friday, Feb. 13
6th-Grade Band Field Trip to Lake
Braddock, 9:30 a.m.-1 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



Valentine Treats Needed for Staff Celebration

Please help us show the teachers and staff at Sangster Elementary some love! [Sign up](#) to bring a special Valentine's treat to them on Friday, Feb. 13.

We will be providing treats in the

teachers lounge from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Please drop your treat off in the teacher's lounge, and pick up your dish at the end of the school day.

Please contact [Amy Morgan](#) if you have any questions.

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

SangsterPTA.org

We are well into the middle of our school year. The winter months are prime learning months. As long as we do not have too many more weather interruptions, you should see great growth in your children between now and spring break.

Homework is a typical topic of discussion in most homes. Homework should be a time to practice skills learned at school. It should not make your home a battleground. Parents can set the tone. Here are some ideas to help with homework:

- Start early, even in kindergarten. Doing homework should be as inevitable as sunrise. Children who have the

homework habit will adapt as assignments become more difficult in the upper grades.

- Try using a chart or calendar that lets each child block in a regularly scheduled homework time so they can learn to balance homework, play, and chores. Students in grades 1-3 should budget 30 minutes each day. Upper-grade students should allow for one hour per night.
- If you have several children, experiment to determine if the children do best studying together or separate. Remember to let your child do the homework. They may have questions and want some guidance; however, homework belongs to them, not you.

- Review completed homework together and always praise your child for a diligent session.
- Encourage your child to have a “homework buddy” from their classroom whom they can call to clarify homework questions regarding assignments.
- Keep in touch with the teacher. If your child consistently does not understand assignments or is consistently working longer than the recommended times, please let the teacher know.

Homework should be an opportunity for your student to review skills taught in class as well as build study skills for the future.

Thanks for all you do!



Keep Saving Box Tops!

Keep saving those box tops and sending them in with your child. Every box top means money for Sangster! Contact [Allison Jankovich](#) if you have any questions.



Join Sangster for Jump Rope for Fun

Sangster’s annual “Jump Rope for Fun” is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20 from 4-5 p.m.

Please be sure your child brings a bottle of water to school that day if he/she is participating.



Don't Forget to Repay Borrowed Lunch Funds!

Has your student come home with a sticker saying that they have used PTA lunch funds to purchase a lunch? Have you received a letter indicating borrowed PTA lunch funds are owed? Please remember to repay these funds so that we can continue to offer this service. Currently, we have more than \$300 owed to the fund.

If you owe money, please send in an envelope to the attention of **Kim Cox**, and make the check payable to **Sangster Elementary**. Please note that adding funds to your child’s account **does not** repay this fund. Please contact Kim if you have any questions or want to check your balance.

Continued from the cover

available for student use to 30 (enough for one class to check out at once). Funding iPads will bring the total number of iPads available for student use to 40. The addition of these iPads is very timely, as Dreambox has an application that can be downloaded on the iPad for student use in group settings.

Thursday Folders Are Now Electronic

February is the first month that Sangster will not send paper fliers home in Thursday folders. You can access all fliers by clicking on the [Thursday Folders](#) link, available on the home page of the [Sangster Elementary website](#).

This link will house current as well as old Thursday folder fliers so that you may view new and old.

Volunteer Positions Filled

Thank you to **Brian McCurdy**, who has agreed to become our newsletter editor and to **Nick Oxford**, who has signed on as next year's directory proofreader. The PTA cannot run without the volunteers who step forward to take on these important roles.

Remember, it is never too late to join or make a donation to the PTA. If you would like to become a member, click [here](#) and send your form to the office. If you would like to make a donation, simply write a check to Sangster PTA and send it to the office.

I hope you are enjoying our recent winter weather and that you continue to do so over the next several months.

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](#).



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.

PTA Officers

President: Michelle Nocerito
President@SangsterPTA.org

Vice President: Kristin Zael
VP@SangsterPTA.org

Secretary: Lorna Chang
Secretary@SangsterPTA.org

Treasurer: Gina Duffy
Treasurer@SangsterPTA.org