

# The Sangster Source

A Newsletter from the Sangster PTA

## PTA Notes and News

There are several important events in the month of November:

On Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am the Military Spouses Group in conjunction with Sangster will host its' fifth-annual flag-raising ceremony in honor of Veteran's Day. A uniformed member from 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 and choir will perform patriotic music throughout the ceremony, and music teacher, Ms. Joie Verheul, will perform "God Bless America". The fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classes will watch the ceremony outside. All other grades will watch it on TV. Everyone is invited to join us for this special event. As the event gets closer, you will see flags coming home with your student(s) that will be hung in the lobby of school. Thank you Military Spouses Group for bringing this event to our school.

Also this month we will hold the first PTA sponsored Cultural Arts assembly. Back by popular demand, Jay Mattioli will perform his "Finding the Magic in your Life" magic show. He will perform two shows on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:45pm for grades K-3 and at 2:45pm for grades 4-6 in the gymnasium. Parents are invited to come and watch the show. Thank you Connie Coffee for coordinating this event for our students.

We are thankful to Amy Morgan our Hospitality chair who is coordinating a Thanksgiving Potluck for our teachers this month so that teachers may enjoy a special treat as we attend Thanksgiving lunches with our students. Thanksgiving is a special time to share our thanks for our many blessings. Be sure to let your children know how thankful you are for them and just how great they are. Happy Thanksgiving!

Best Regards,  
Michelle Nocerito

**There will be no school on November 26-27. Happy Thanksgiving!**



**Sangster Elementary**

**PTA®**

*everychild.onevoice.*

### Sangster Elementary School

7420 Reservation Drive

Springfield, VA 22153

Phone: (703) 644-8200

Fax: (703) 644-8297

Attendance: (703) 644-8282

[fcps.edu/SangsterES](http://fcps.edu/SangsterES)

### **Dates to Remember**

Tuesday, November 11

Flag Raising Ceremony

9:40

Thursday, November 12

Cultural Arts Assembly

1:45 Grades K-3

2:45 Grades 4-6

November 16-20

Library Book Fair

Wednesday, November 25

Early Dismissal

2:05

November 26-29

Thanksgiving Holidays

Dear Sangster Families,

We are approaching the holiday season and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I love this holiday when family and friends get together just for the sake of being together. It does not require the purchase of gifts, just giving thanks. It is also a wonderful time of year to create family and generational connections that are so important to our children. During this Thanksgiving season, I hope that you and your family will be able to spend quality time together. I wish for all of you a Thanksgiving where you can focus on your blessings and take joy in your family.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Reddel  
Principal

### **Early Dismissal on Wednesday, November 25**

Students will be dismissed at 2:05 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, which is the day before the Thanksgiving holiday. Please be sure that your child knows about any special arrangements you may have to make to accommodate this change in your schedule. Schools are closed on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

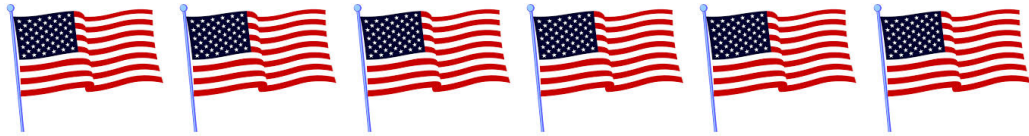
### **Are You Keeping in Touch With Sangster?**

If you are not receiving Sangster's brief but informative "Keep in Touch" weekly emails, please go to <http://www.fcps.edu/kit> to sign up or update your subscription.

## Other News



**Mark your Calendars!  
The 4th Annual Sangster  
Family Fun Run  
will take place on  
Sunday, May 1**



## **Sangster Honors Our Veterans**

On Tuesday, November 11, at 9:45 a.m., the Military Spouses Group and Sangster will host it's fifth-annual flag-raising ceremony in honor of Veteran's Day.

A uniformed member from 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 and choir will perform patriotic music throughout the ceremony, and music teacher, Ms. Joie Verheul, will perform "On Veteran's Day". The fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classes will watch the ceremony outside; the other grades will watch it on TV. Everyone is invited to join us for this special event.

All newsletters are available on the PTA web site under the newsletters header.

<http://sangster.digitalpto.com/>

## Budget News

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUDGET FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Sangster,

You have probably seen or heard about the budget crisis in FCPS. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) anticipates a significant budget shortfall for school year 2016-17 (FY 2017). To balance the budget, FCPS may have to cut, reduce, or redesign current programs. ***This is real and will impact Sangster.*** I strongly encourage you to look on the FCPS website <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml> to read about the specific proposals on how to balance the budget.

As part of the budget process, ideas on what to cut, reduce or redesign as well as how to increase revenue through fees have been developed by the Budget Task Force with input from the community. Proposals submitted via the **Budget Proposal Tool** will be shared with the Dr. Garza, Superintendent. On January 7, 2016, Dr. Garza will present the proposed budget to the School Board. Below is some information copied from the FCPS website so that you are informed.

Thank you for your continued support at Sangster and our Fairfax County community.

Your partner in education,

Lisa M. Reddel  
Principal

## Budget News

### **Why is there an operating budget shortfall?**

The overall cost of educating our growing and increasingly diverse student enrollment is rising faster than the funding available to FCPS. While Fairfax County has made annual increases in school funding, these increases have not covered the cost of four major expenses: enrollment growth, employee salary increases, required retirement system increases and the rising cost of health care.

Adjusted for inflation, FCPS is spending less per pupil than in school year 2008-09 (FY 2009). It has the lowest ratio of leadership team and management positions to total position as compared to surrounding districts that participate in the [Washington Area Boards of Education \(WABE\) Guide](#). A state [school efficiency review](#) conducted by an independent firm in September 2013 found that FCPS is one of the most efficient school divisions in the Washington metropolitan region.

### **What happens if there is a shortfall?**

FCPS is required to balance the budget. Without additional funding,

more cuts will be made and all options are being considered including eliminating or reducing many programs in FCPS. Since fiscal year 2008, FCPS has cut nearly a half a billion dollars and cut more than 2,000 positions as our enrollment continues to grow. We are certainly seeing this trend at Sangster. The salaries of teachers in nearby school districts have increased, while FCPS teacher salaries have fallen behind. A career FCPS teacher is now near the bottom of teacher pay in the Washington region area.

Without additional funding, FCPS will need to have some difficult and emotional conversations with the community to determine which programs to eliminate. Limiting elective choices, reducing career and technical programs, reducing advanced programs, and raising class sizes at all levels are all possibilities.

### **How can I help? - Your support is critical.**

- Tell your friends, business leaders, or anyone who resides in Fairfax County about the challenges the school system is facing. If FCPS is no longer able to provide a best-in-class education, not

## Budget News

only will FCPS families be impacted—the entire Fairfax community will feel the effect.

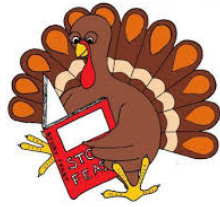
- Contact the **Board of Supervisors**. Let them know that they must find a way to increase revenues necessary to support all county services - including schools - if they wish to maintain the quality of living that residents demand.
- Contact your **Virginia General Assembly legislator** and let him or her know

that Richmond needs to make increased investments in K-12 education, especially in Fairfax County, if it expects to maintain excellence in the Fairfax school system and to continue to bring business investment to Fairfax and to Virginia.

- Contact your **federal representative**. Ask him or her to support Fairfax County Public Schools and to seek additional revenues for the investment in our children.

## Library News

### 2015 SANGSTER LIBRARY BOOK FAIR



#### DATES and TIMES:

- **Monday, 11/16**—preview day #1 for students—no sales
- **Tuesday, 11/17**—9am-4pm (preview day #2 for students-no sales); 5pm-8pm Family Night
- **Wednesday, 11/18**—9:30am-4pm
- **Thursday, 11/19**—9:30am-4pm
- **Friday, 11/20**—9:30am-1:30pm

Come by during Thanksgiving Lunches!

We are looking for Volunteers to help with the Book Fair. Please use the following link to sign up for a time slot.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d45adab2ea31-20151>

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Cox, Library Assistant, at [KACox2@fcps.edu](mailto:KACox2@fcps.edu)



### Sangster Library and the Student Council Association are hosting a Food Drive during our annual Book Fair!

We will be collecting non-perishable items to be donated to ECHO.

<http://echo-inc.org/>

ECHO is an all-volunteer charity which gives food and financial help to people with short-term emergencies, and provides clothes and household items to people with low incomes in our local area.

Remember donating one can of food can make a difference!

Also please remember to stop by the Sangster Lost and Found while you are visiting! We will be donating any unclaimed items to ECHO during winter break.

