Sequoyah Signal

The Sequoyah Elementary School PTA Newsletter

April 2, 2008
Volume 1, Issue 7

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Sequoyah Elementary School

"Home of the Stallions"

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Monthly Message

From our Principal, Assistant Principal, and PTA President

Dear Sequoyah Parents and Guardians:

Spring is in full bloom. The tulips are in bloom and the grass is fresh and green. April also brings with it testing season. Third, fourth, and fifth graders will be taking the Maryland State Assessment (MSA) from April 1st to April 11th. The last week of April is the Terra Nova 2 (TN2) for second grade students. Please make sure your student is well rested and eats a nutritious breakfast before coming to school. Even though state testing will be completed by the beginning of May, we still have plenty of learning opportunities left for the year. Stay tuned for grade level updates in the next few weeks.

The silent auction and spring dance was a huge success! We surpassed our expected goals. Thank you for your continued support of the school and PTA in after school events and PTA functions. Mark your calendars for our first ever Carnival Day on June 1st. There will even be a dunk tank! Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for May 21st and 22nd. If you have an incoming kindergartener or know someone who does, please contact the school for information on how to register. September 1, 2003 is the cut-off birthday for entry. More information on Kindergarten Orientation will be sent home in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you to the many members of the PTA and everything they have done. We hope that you have liked what you have seen this year: the continuation of the Wednesday Folders; special guest speakers at 6:30pm before our PTA meetings; babysitting for each meeting; the effort to start and end meetings on time; and well planned events that make special memories for all our students and their families.

Please remember to put the PTA meetings on your calendar. The final two meetings of the school year are on May 6th and June 3rd. This is always a good time to catch up on what's happening at Sequoyah and what's coming up. Planning has already begun for the 2008-2009 school year!

Feedback, compliments, and suggestions are always welcome. Please use the suggestion box on the counter in the office or contact a PTA board member. We're always looking for your input. The on-line survey will be developed this month. Stay tuned for the website link later this month. For those of you who still like to use paper and pen, there is always the suggestion box.

Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Principal
Christine Woodcock, Assistant Principal
David Dennison, PTA President

Sequoyah is a community of learners who are dedicated to the support and development of productive citizens. We will foster lifelong learners in a respectful environment that is conducive to prohibitive change, collaboration, communication and acceptance.

Parents' Checklist

Return extra KidStuff Coupon Books or send in $25 for each book purchased.

Join the Upromise Schools Program for free at www.upromise.com/schools.

Come out and join the fun in the upcoming events! See inside for details.

Order from Market Day.

Volunteer for Kindergarten Orientation.

Take Note: School Schedule

School Holidays – No school

Monday, Apr 7 (Professional Day)

Other Dates

Friday, Apr 4: Marking Period Ends

Tuesday, Apr 15: Report Cards Distributed

Save the Date

Restaurant Night: Restaurant Night at Outta the Way Café will be held on April 22nd or 23rd. Date and time will be announced once details are finalized.

Sequoyah Spring Clean-Up: Our annual SES clean-up day will take place on Saturday, May 3 (Rain Date: Sunday, May 4), 9am – noon. Even if you can't stay the whole time, we'd love to see you there! Remember this is a great opportunity for service learning hours and scout troop community-focused activities. Bring gloves, rakes, shovels, hoes, wheelbarrows or garden carts, and your entire family!

Contact Karen at (301) 987-4552 for information or if you are interested in participating.

PTA Meeting: On Tuesday, May 6 the PTA will elect next year's officers. Please come out and help us build another solid PTA for the 2008-2009 school year!

As always, babysitting is provided free of charge so that you can attend the PTA meeting.

Kindergarten Orientation: May 21st 8:30-11:30am and 1:30-3:30pm, and May 22nd 8:30-11:30am. If you know a family with incoming kindergarteners, please make sure they know about Orientation!

First Annual Carnival: Sequoyah's first annual Carnival will take place on June 1st and features food, inflatables, dunk tank, midway games, and much more! Details coming soon!

Call for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Kindergarten Orientation, May 21st 8:30am-11:30am and 1:30-3:30pm, and May 22nd 8:30am-11:30am. Please contact Rita Starost (301-208-8843, rita4joshua@gmail.com) or Jackie Koehn (301-924-4990, jackiedaviskoehn@yahoo.com) if you are able to help with one or more of these important activities:

____	Greet new parents **May 21st, 8:30-11:30am**
____	Greet new parents **May 21st, 1:30-3:30pm**
____	Greet new parents **May 22nd, 8:30-11:30am**
____	Contribute baked goods
____	Translate for Spanish-speaking parents

Market Day

April's Market Day has lots to offer! If you have never placed an order, find out what all the fuss is about! Contact Ivette Sherman at (301) 330-5151 or IdShopper@comcast.net for more information. Register and place an order online at www.MarketDay.com, or submit a paper order form prior to the dates shown here:

Order forms due Wednesday 4/16
Internet orders due noon Thursday 4/17
Pickup Wednesday 4/23, 7pm – 8pm, All Purpose Room

Here's a sampling of what's available from Market Day this month.

New Items:

Rosemary Chicken
Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Triple Berry Chipotle Passion (sauce/marinade)

Clearance Items:

Apple Cranberry Deep Dish Pie
Apple Cranberry Ring
Beef Teriyaki Kit
Buffalo Chicken Pizza
Florentine Stuffed Chicken
Lemon Meringue Layer Pie
No Sugar Added NY Style Cheesecake
Pesto Bruschetta
Pumpkin Pie
Spiced Pumpkin Bisque
Sugar Cookie Dough
Mickey Mouse Goal Chart
John Wayne Playing Cards Set
Hungry Cat Dish
Fannie May Mint Meltaways
Santa Fe Cream & Sugar Set

This month Sequoyah PTA will earn 30% profit on the purchase of any Market Day Gourmet item. "Turn your ordinary recipes into extraordinary master-pieces" with these and other Gourmet items: Lime Cilantro Salsa Mix, Give 'Em Garlic® seasoning, Artichoke Spinach Dip, Oriental Marinade with Honey, and Bistro Quick Bread.

Pacer Test Results

National Nutrition Month 2008 Pacer Winners from the 4th & 5th Grade Physical Education Classes.

5th grade winners

1st Place: Fernando Bermudez (Madarang) with 85 laps
2nd Place: Cheyenne Taylor (Beard) with 80 laps
3rd Place: Damian Harkum (Madarang) with 76 laps

4th grade winners

1st Place: Sasha Wooden (Witten) with 86 laps
2nd Place: Nico Wolfe (Witten) with 85 laps
3rd Place: Victor Suris-Rodriguez (Tidball) with 76 laps

Thanks Mr. Martin for leading the Pacer contest!

Andrea Troutner, RD, LDN
PTA Health & Safety Co-Chair

Spring Book Fair

Reading Roadtrip

Spring is here and so is the Book Fair!

Come join us for a Reading Roadtrip at your PTA's Spring Book Fair. We will have the latest books and products to entertain and enlighten everyone.

BOOK FAIR CHECKLIST:

____	Enter in the Reading Road trip essay contest (essays due April 4th)
____	Mark your calendar with book fair dates (April 15th thru 17th)
____	Ask your teacher if they have signed up for a classroom preview
____	Save your coins for our "One for Books" event
____	Mark your calendar to come play BOOK FAIR BINGO at our family night event-Wednesday, April 16th 6:30pm until 7:30pm (book fair will be open from 5pm until 8pm)
____	Contact Ellen Motley (eokmot@comcast.net or 301-987-0892) to join in the fun by volunteering at our book fair.

Restaurant Night

February:

Thanks to all who came out for Restaurant Night at Ledo's Pizza in support of our PTA! We raised $100.00 which puts us beyond our goal for the year! Thank you also to Ledo's for sponsoring this fundraising event.

April:

Restaurant Night at Outta the Way Café will be held on April 22nd or 23rd. Date and time will be announced once details are finalized.

Nominating Committee Update

The 2008 Sequoyah Nominating Committee members for this school year were voted and approved at our February 2008 PTA meeting. The Committee members are: Andrea Cameron, Noelle Donati, Wanda Drake, Marla Ker, Jackie Koehn, Sue Martin, Ellen Rahr, Danielle Rice, and Rita Starost.

This special committee will nominate an eligible person for each PTA officer position to be filled for the 2008-2009 school year and report its nominees to the general membership through the classroom/PTA weekly folder, website and/or listserv at least 10 days prior to the May 2008 PTA meeting, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor. Only those individuals who are current members of the Sequoyah PTA and who have signified their consent to serve if elected shall be nominated for, or elected to, such office.

2008-2009 PTA Officer Positions that are OPEN for nominee recruitment for a July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 term are listed below:

President: ***Tina Webb – Nominee & current Pres-Elect***
President-Elect***: OPEN***
1st VP, Programs: ***OPEN***
2nd VP, Fundraising: ***Amy Stevens – Nominee***
Treasurer: ***Jim Crichton – Nominee & current Treasurer***
Recording Secretary/Corresponding Secretary – ***Sherri Van Snik – Nominee & current Recording Secretary***

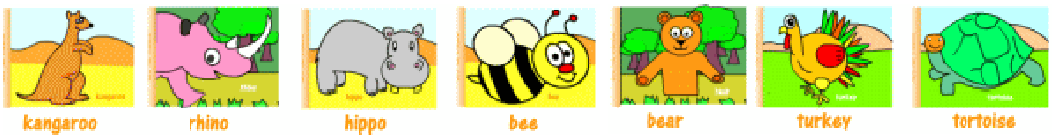
Contact anyone on the 2008 Nominating Committee directly if interested.

ESOL Update

Sequoyah ES to date has 107 students enrolled in its ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program. Depending on the level of their English language proficiency, these students are working at the beginning, intermediate or advanced level of ESOL. Twelve different languages are represented as the first language of our ESOL population. The majority are Spanish speakers. The breakdown for ESOL students at each level is as follows: 23 in kindergarten, 28 in 1st grade, 20 in 2nd grade, 18 in 3rd grade, 11 in 4th grade, and 7 in 5th grade. Our staffing allocation for the current school year is 2 full time ESOL teachers as well as an additional .6 position.

The ESOL teachers will be involved in all of the upcoming testing, helping to provide the accommodations the students may be entitled to as 2nd language learners. And April 21st begins the annual state ESOL student assessment, the LAS Links, at which time every ESOL student will receive an individual test for listening, speaking, reading and writing respectively in order to determine progress made in these areas throughout the year. The window for completing the LAS Links for all of the students ends on May 16th.

Ellen Wiesenberger
ESOL Teacher, Sequoyah ES



SES Sports Zone a Success

This year's Spring Dance and Silent Auction were both a tremendous success. Over $5000 was raised, but more importantly we had a great turnout! There were happy faces and satisfied stomachs at Sequoyah all evening. Below are some expressions of gratitude and recognition for a job well done.

A great big thanks to all of the volunteers that came out and helped set up, staff tables, help count, and the thousand and one other chores that were needed to ensure that the evening was a success! Another great big round of applause goes to all of our school families, friends, and teachers that donated items and/or their time to make this year the best!! We simply could not have done it without you:

Karen Al-Faleh, Judy Basile, Cindy Batz, Aury Burriss, Andrea Cameron, Marina Conner, Jim Crichton, Crocker Family, Susan Darrow, David Dennison, Greene Family, Jay and Sue Martin, Matusek Family, Elisa McGuire, Rice Family, Sherman Family, Troutner Family, Noelle Donati, the whole Sequoyah Staff, and anyone we may have missed. We appreciated all the help.

Jacques and Mickey Croom
Silent Auction Chairs

We would like to say a very big and sincere "Thank You" to everyone that participated in the SES Sports Zone Spring Dance this year!! Without dedicated parents, students and staff members, we would never be able to make our biggest fundraiser happen. For just buying a ticket to come and have a night of fun, you helped contribute funds to so many activities that our children wouldn't be able to do otherwise.

We are proud to say that it was another successful and fun event because of all the help provided from our volunteers!!

Thanks so much!

Dawn Greene & Emily Matusek
Spring Dance Committee Chairs

The SES Fundraiser Team would like to thank the Spring Dance chairpersons and committee members for their continuous support. The dance was exciting and fun-filled! The team appreciates and thanks Dawn Greene, Emily Matusek, Jackie Koehn, Sue Martin, and Mickey & Jacques Croom for putting on a great dance for the children, parents, and staff at Sequoyah Elementary School.

Wanda Drake
Sequoyah PTA Vice President of Fundraising