

## A Thank-You to the Sequoyah Community

Hi All—It’s amazing to believe that Thomas is now heading to Redland...and his sister Julie—a Sequoyah alumna—is about to be a sophomore at Magruder! It’s time for me to say thanks for all you’ve done for us!

For Julie, thanks go to Mrs. Vielhaber, for the kind, loving, and organized way she helped prepare Julie for the years ahead....to Mrs. Mishra and Mrs. Snoots who encouraged her to express herself by writing a book and proudly reading it at the Author’s Tea, to Ms.McInnis, who made Math fun by throwing giant dice around the classroom and challenging the kids to quickly determine the sum or the product of the equation, to Mrs. Jaworski, for encouraging her tenacity and good work ethic, and to Ms. Bettinger, who fascinated her with quick and easy methods for understanding pre-algebra and helping her to design and make mathematical models....and for just being the caring, warm Beeeautiful person that she is.

For Thomas, thanks go to Mrs. Proctor, who encouraged neat penmanship, kind interaction, and good work ethic...to Ms. Maguire, who’s personal library fascinated and enthralled him with reading choices, and who’s sense of humor gave him a positive upbeat outlook on life, to Mrs. Jaworski, who kept him on task and drilled him in times tables and cursive writing, to Ms. Adler, who’s chemistry and science background further encouraged his interest in all things science, to Ms. Madarang, who’s caring and encouragement kept him on the right track, to Ms Moore, who opened his eyes to creative writing and the possibility of publishing his poems and stories, to Mr. Martin, for challenging him to improve his physical capacities and self-discipline, and to Ms. Murphy and Ms. Kim for encouraging his artistic expression and hamly (is that even a word?!) qualities in a structured environment. A hearty thank you to all his wonderful and supportive teachers, for the daily encouragement, and the occasional figurative (!) kick-in-the-pants to keep him working up to his potential!

To Dr. Jasper, many thanks for your vision and leadership, and for capably and creatively leading Sequoyah through times of major transition, sweeping curriculum changes, and budgetary constraints. Thanks

also for your help and caring concern.

To all the wonderful staff members (including those who’ve moved or retired), parents, and children I’ve had the privilege to work with over these 10 years at Sequoyah, thanks to each and every one of you who helped out on a field trip that I couldn’t be on, who organized a class party or event, served in a PTA leadership position, put together a dance, made a fabulously artistic bulletin board, or who worked with me on costumes, a project, or a PTA event. It’s been great! When I read about what’s going on around the country and around the world, I realize that it’s a great life here in Montgomery County...and particularly at Sequoyah Elementary.

To the new parents of Sequoyah, or those who are, thus far, not too involved in your child(ren)’s education, you should know that there exists at Sequoyah a wonderful community of caring and involved individuals with the common goal of making Sequoyah the best it can be. Please don’t be too shy or too busy to share some of your gifts and talents! Each of us gives our children the gift of education every day. Teach them that it’s important to give back, and that you value their efforts at school. Nothing makes a child more proud than to see his or her parent on a field trip or helping out in the classroom. (Of course, that changes drastically in middle school, so do it now while they are still happy to see you involved!)

Also, get to know the parents of your child(ren)’s friends. When you get involved, help with occasional projects and field trips, or work with the PTA, you’ll be building lasting friendships with other like-minded parents that can continue to be strong through the teen years and beyond. Those parents you meet in kindergarten and throughout elementary school will be the same ones you’ll share advice and information with in future years...and your sources when there’s a party or event your child’s invited to, etc. It takes all of us working together to give our kids the best education and encouragement to do their best each day. Enjoy the ride!

Hugs – and thanks to you all!  
Pat Chapin



### You’re Invited

Your faithful, hard-working PTA and Sequoyah Staff are already planning back-to-school activities for the 2008-2009 school year. First on the list is the [Principal’s Back-to-School Coffee](#) for ALL Sequoyah parents.

Please join Dr. Bobbi Jasper in the Sequoyah Media Center after dropping your child off for the first day of school. Light refreshment will be served.

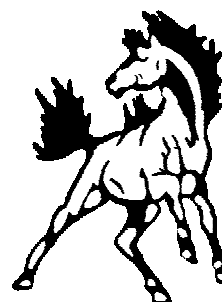
When: 9:10am Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Where: Media Center

# Sequoyah Signal

The Sequoyah Elementary School PTA Newsletter

June 4, 2008  
Volume 1, Issue 9



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:

Can you believe it!? There are only two weeks left in the 2007-2008 school year. This has been a fantastic year filled with field trips, cultural arts assemblies, book fairs, and of course, learning. We want our students to continue their learning throughout the summer. The local libraries have summer programs to keep your students reading all summer. There are camps that will keep students active and moving. You can also find online programs that will give your student extra practice with math facts. Learning doesn’t stop in the summer, but it definitely can be fun.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped Sequoyah this year. If it were not for our dedicated parents and teachers, we would not have been able to have dances, silent auctions, book fairs, even field trips. Thank you for giving so much of your time, your energy, and your knowledge.

This year, Sequoyah will be saying “good-bye” to five of our teachers. They are retiring this month to spend more time with family and friends: Mrs. Sherry Proctor, Mrs. Patty Ragan, Mrs. Kathy Jaworski, Mrs. Noel Bettinger, and Mrs. Ellen Wiesenberger. We understand the need to relax and appreciate the world outside the school. Yet, they will be

Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Principal  
Ms. Christine Woodcock, Asst Principal  
Mr. David Dennison, PTA President  
Ms. Amy Stevens, Signal Editor

missed by all. If you know your child’s teacher is retiring this year, please drop them a note to let them know how much they impacted the school, students, and staff.

On June 1st, the PTA held its first annual School Carnival. We enjoyed the dunk tank, the food, and the games. Of course, we always need volunteers for next year’s Carnival and other marvelous PTA sponsored events.

In August, we will be welcoming new parents and students in kindergarten and above. They will be joining our Sequoyah family as we enter the 2008-2009 school year with goals to move all our students forward and “Gallop Towards Excellence.”

From the entire staff and PTA, we wish you an exceptionally fun summer.

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 positive change, collaboration, communication and acceptance.*

## Parents’ Checklist

◆ Order from Market Day - only one more delivery this school year!

## Take Note: School Schedule

Thursday, June 12: Half Day and Last Day of School for Students

Thursday, June 19: Report Cards Mailed

## Kindergarten Orientation Wrap-Up

We would like to give our sincere thanks to the following people for helping out at the Kindergarten Orientation: Marion Baker, David Dennison, Sue Martin, Tam Miller, Ellen Rahr, Danielle Rice, Ivette Sherman, Mrs. Michelle Stevens, Jennifer Trickey, and Andrea Troutner.

Thank you also to the following ladies for providing baked goodies: Mickey Croom, Shelli Fergis, Emily Matusek, Ellen Motley, Ellen Rahr, Ivette Sherman, and Andrea Troutner.

Sincerely,  
Rita Starost and Jackie Koehn

## Final Market Day of the Year

**Market Day:** Register and place an order online at [www.MarketDay.com](http://www.MarketDay.com), or submit a paper order form prior to the due dates. Contact Ivette Sherman at (301) 330-5151 or [IdShopper@comcast.net](mailto:IdShopper@comcast.net) for information.

- Internet orders due noon **Thursday 5/15**
- Pickup Wednesday **5/21**, 7pm-8pm, APR

- Order forms due **Wednesday 5/14**

## Editor's Notes

This has been a challenging and fun school year. As Signal Editor I have enjoyed working with all of you to deliver what I hope has been an informative and useful newsletter throughout the year. I can't deny the thought of a 3-month break is a bit of a relief, but the Signal and I will return in September, rejuvenated and ready to be the first place you look for information about the school and PTA.

Look for some changes in the new school year; some improvements to the newsletter, greater use of online tools, a facelift for the PTA website, and some new ways to enjoy your time as part of the Sequoyah community. Next year's PTA will continue to work hard to provide programs that benefit Sequoyah's students and enhance their education.

Look also for some new opportunities to help Sequoyah PTA in its fundraising efforts. If you use *Avon* products, are planning a *Disney* vacation, shop at *Target*, intend to purchase *Verizon* products, each *Tyson's* chicken products, or are interested in building a *Family website*, the PTA could receive a small rebate from every purchase you make. Please let me know if you would like to take advantage of any of these opportunities over the summer!

For now, though, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the members of the Sequoyah community who helped make this an awesome year for everyone. For all those volunteers who contributed time, donated goodies, attended PTA meetings, or brought their children to a school or PTA activity, THANK YOU!

Each one of you is to be congratulated for the wonderful things you do.

I would especially like to thank the PTA committee chairs, behind-the-scenes contributors, and other active PTA members for making the time to participate and to be there for the children. There are many positive role models for our children among the Sequoyah staff and families.

We need to say goodbye not only to those teachers who are retiring after many years of dedicated service, but also to a wonderful kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Gepford. Many people are sad to see her leave. Her smile and good nature have comforted many kindergarteners – and their parents – in the years she has been with Sequoyah.

Finally, I would like to make a plea to all parents, teachers, and administrative staff to make time during the 2008-2009 school year to be involved in PTA activities. Each of us is a recipient of the PTA's efforts, whether it's through an after school club for our children, opportunities to spend an evening with our family and friends at a school dance or family night, or the joy in our children's faces as they yell "Bingo" at a PTA-sponsored Bingo Night – your participation in the PTA will be one of the best ways you can spend your time.

I look forward to working with all of you next year!

Amy Stevens  
Signal Editor



ATTENTION

SEQUOYAH COMMUNITY, WE DON'T NEED ANYONE,  
WE NEED YOU...

TO SERVE THE FOLLOWING OPEN POSITIONS FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR!

President-Elect (1 year term: 2008-2009, in preparation for  
President 2009-2010)

Delegate MCCPTA  
Building & Grounds – Fall event  
Directory/Handbook  
Market Day Co-chair  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Yearbook Editor

Respectively submitted by your Nominating Committee. If you are interested in any of the above PTA positions please call Sue Martin at (301) 926-6509 anytime!

## Closing Remarks

The 2007 – 2008 school year is coming to an end and I am glad to report that we have had our most successful PTA year in the history at Sequoyah. Record funds were raised to support our school, but more importantly the PTA was able to contribute to our school a tremendous amount of resources. All of this could not have happened without many countless individuals who donate their time in order to make the PTA a success. So in lieu of trying to thank all, individually, I would like to point out a few individuals who have gone above the norm.

Our PTA Treasurer Mr. Jim Crichton. Thank you Jim for your easy manor of making sense of all the monies handled by the PTA. Anybody who has dealt with Jim over the past year has clearly found that all issues are easily solved. Thanks Jim.

Mrs. Wanda Drake our esteemed VP of Fundraising. Wanda's drive and dedication to making this and the previous years a success in our fundraising should not go unnoticed. There is a reason why the past 2 school years have been financially successful and Wanda clearly is that reason. Thanks Wanda.

Mrs. Sue Martin the jack of all trades. As most of you involved in PTA have found, Sue is always there and just does not have it in her being to say no. This organization has clearly been run by the dedication and time that Sue puts into the PTA. There is no one person like her. In fact

this year Mrs. Martin has been presented with the annual PTA Volunteer Award for her tremendous efforts for our PTA, School, Staff and most importantly to all, the students. Sue your spirit is spectacular and everybody appreciates you. THANKS!!!

It has been a pleasure this year being the PTA President and working with all of the dedicated individuals that have guided me and taught me along the way. Andrea Troutner, Pat Chapin, and Linda Kuserk have given me council as past presidents. Dr. Bobbi Jasper and her most dedicated Staff, your humor and knowledge have made our organization run smoothly. But probably the most important people I want to thank are my 3 girls, Casey Reece and Taylor. For 10 year olds they truly have made life very easy for me. They have kept me on track with my schedule and always reminded me what really is important. Without their love and support I could not have done the job of president. Thanks CRT, you are the bomb and I love you.

Best wishes to Tina Webb and all of the new officers for next year.

Thanks again.

David Dennison  
PTA President