

Sequoyah Signal

The Sequoyah Elementary School PTA Newsletter

May 6, 2009

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www.sespta.org/Signal.aspx

Editor: Amy Stevens



Monthly Message

From our Principal, Assistant Principal, & PTA President

Dear Sequoyah Parents and Guardians:

Developing class lists is always a challenge at Sequoyah because of our shifting enrollment and uncertainty about how many teachers we will need in the fall. This is especially true during these uncertain economic times. Summer is a busy time for enrollment at Sequoyah; we have many new students move into our service area each year, and many times we have to rearrange classes and form new ones to accommodate our population.

Beginning late May, the staff and I discuss tentative class groupings. These groups are subject to reorganization during the summer and even after the teachers return in August because of unexpected changes in the number of students.

We take a great deal of time and care in setting up our class groupings. The teachers currently working with the students sit down with me and we discuss each student. Our goals are to create classes in which a child's learning style is compatible with that of the teacher's teaching style; classes that are balanced in terms of race and sex; classes that have dependent workers and independent workers, leaders and followers. We also look carefully at children who work well together and who motivate each other; we try to separate children who do not work well together or who have a negative effect on each other. The aim is to create

heterogeneous homeroom classes in which children and teachers can be happy and productive.

While the vast majority of parents do not submit requests, sometimes I get a request for placement of a child with a specific teacher. It is impossible to state for certain which teachers will be teaching which grades until the enrollment becomes somewhat final in August, and how the master schedule evolves. As a result, requests for a specific teacher will not be accepted because we cannot state for certain which teachers may change grade levels. First and always, our priority is to place students in appropriate class groupings according to the criteria stated above, so I do not accept requests for specific teachers.

Our Silent Auction and Candyland Dance were a remarkable success. Thank you to all of the parents, staff and students who gave of their time and resources to help our school raise money. As many of you know, the PTA funds Sequoyah's Cultural Arts Events, Field Trips, Authors' Visits, and much more. By volunteering and contributing to the PTA, you are contributing to the success of our students. Thank you.

Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled

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Sequoyah Elementary School

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(301) 840-5335

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/sequoyahes/

Principal: Dr. Bobbi Jasper
Asst. Principal: Ms. Christine Woodcock
PTA President: Ms. Tina Webb

Parents' Checklist

- Attend the last Restaurant Night of the school year, May 19 - a two-for-one at California Tortilla and Cold Stone Creamery (details inside). *** REMEMBER, THERE IS NO HOMEWORK ON RESTAURANT NIGHT! **
- Visit the Sequoyah PTA website for information on the H1N1 virus, including precautions and advice from MCPS.
- Don't miss the 2nd Annual Sequoyah Spring Carnival! There will be something for everyone!
- Come to the last PTA meeting of the school year on June 2. Babysitting is provided free of charge!

School Schedule

School Holidays & Days Off

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day

Save the Date

PTA Meeting: Tues. May 5, 7-8:30pm, Media Center.

Restaurant Night: Tues. May 19 at California Tortilla & Cold Stone Creamery, Village Center Drive, Olney. See article.

The Adventures of Lewis and Clark: Thursday, May 7 and Friday, May 8. This musical play will be presented by the 4th & 5th grade choruses.

Field Day for Grades K-2: Thursday, May 14.

Field Day for Grades 3-5: Thursday, May 21. **Parents needed to help run the stations for the kids.** Contact Sue Martin at (240) 731-7435 to sign up!

Monthly Purchase Programs



Market Day

Place an order online at MarketDay.com, or submit a paper order form prior to the due date.

- Order forms due Wednesday, May 13
- Internet orders due by **11 p.m.** Thursday, May 14
- Pickup Wednesday, May 20, 7pm-8pm, APR

Contact: Ivette Sherman (301) 330-5151
IdShopper@comcast.net

Final PTA Meeting

On June 2 we will be holding the final PTA meeting of the 2008-2009 school year! During this meeting we will elect next year's officers and approve the 2009-2010 budget. Please come out to support your PTA and celebrate all of the incredible events, programs, and fundraisers made possible by all of you!

Spring Carnival

The 2nd Annual Sequoyah PTA Spring Carnival is fast approaching. This year's carnival will be held on Sunday, May 31st.

Volunteers Needed!



The Spring Carnival committee is looking for help with planning, phone calls, organizing prizes, baking cakes, shopping for food, setup and breakdown on carnival

Other Dates

Tuesday, May 19 - No Homework (Restaurant Night)

Tuesday, June 16 - Last Day of School

Tuesday, June 23 - Report cards mailed

Kindergarten Orientation: Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21. **Please come out to greet our incoming Kindergarten parents!**

Volunteer "Thank You" Breakfast: Friday, May 29, 8:15am.

Spring Carnival: Sunday, May 31. See article.

PTA Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 7 - 8:30pm, Sequoyah Media Center.

Instrumental Concert: Tuesday, June 9, 7:00pm in the Gym. 3rd Grade recorders and 4th & 5th grade Band/Strings.

5th Grade Farewell: Monday, June 15.



GL Scrip: Recharge existing gift cards or place a gift card order online at ShopWithScrip.com. You may also submit a paper order form prior to the due date.

- Orders due Thursday, May 14
- Pickup Wednesday, May 20, 7pm-8pm, APR

Contact: Danielle Rice (240) 447-6019
Danielle.M.Rice@comcast.net

Young Savers Program

Don't forget that EVERY Friday, Sandy Spring Bank along with your 4th grade bank tellers, will be available from 8:55am until 9:10am for you to make your deposit. If you are not yet a Sequoyah Young Saver, stop by the "bank" to pick up a form. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Dawn Greene, Program Chair
mom2goose@comcast.net

day, and working at the various booths.

If you haven't yet participated in a PTA activity or event and would like to ease your way into the PTA family, this is a fun way to get involved!

Please contact Danielle Rice at (240) 447-6019 or Danielle.M.Rice@comcast.net to volunteer!

Picture Gallery



Frederick Keys Game
3rd and 4th Grade Chorus



Sequoyah Spring Cleanup
Miller's Lawn Service & Volunteers



National Nutrition Month Buzz® Update

In honor of National Nutrition Month a total of 6 girls and 6 boys, listed below, were chosen by Mr. Martin for the best individual student PACER shuttle run assessments.

4th Grade Girls

- 1st place - Tytianna Taylor (Stopak) 77 laps
- 2nd place - Lauren Chamandy (Stopak) 70 laps
- 3rd place - Fiona Stevenson (Jeran) 60 laps

4th Grade Boys

- 1st place - Justin Koehn (Beard) 66 laps
- 2nd place - Andrew Nguyen (Stopak) 61 laps
- 3rd place - Sasha Lobas (Jeran) 60 laps

5th Grade Girls

- 1st place - Sydney Delucia (Pritchett) 76 laps
- 2nd place - Karina Lopez (Madarang) 75 laps
- 3rd place - Kayln Cohen (Schams) 66 laps

5th Grade Boys

- 1st place - Nico Wolff (Pritchett) 92 laps
- 2nd place - Isaaq Chouili (Pritchett) 90 laps
- 3rd place - Victor Suris-Rodriguez (Schams) 88 laps

Tracy Jerome Martin
Physical Education Teacher

Target "Take Charge of Education" Program

For the six month period ending in March 2009, Sequoyah Elementary earned \$190.33 from Target's "Take Charge of Education" Program. And, that's with only 17 families participating! Since Sequoyah joined the program, we have received nearly \$3,000 from Target. Thank you to all of you that have selected Sequoyah as your school for your Target® Credit Card or Target® Visa Credit Card.

To participate in the "Take Charge of Education" Program, visit target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate Sequoyah as your school. Sequoyah will receive a percentage of each purchase in the form of a

cash donation from Target (Target donates 1% of all Target Visa Credit Card and Target Credit Card purchases made at a Target store or at Target.com and 1% of all Target Check Card purchases made at a Target Store. Target donates 1/2% of all Target Visa Credit Card purchases made outside of Target.)

Grandparents, neighbors and friends can take part, too.

Thanks for your support!

Ellen Rahr
(301) 208-0805
rahr@comcast.net

Fifth Grade Farewell Update

Thank you to those who came out to support our "Farewell Bingo" this past May 1. As this year draws to a close, we look forward to sending off our Sequoyah class of 2009 "fifth graders" with a memorable farewell ceremony/reception on Monday, June 15. Students will receive their certificates in the gym at 10:00am with a reception to follow in the courtyard/media center. It is a tradition at Sequoyah that parents of fourth graders help the parents of graduating fifth graders by providing and serving light refreshments at the fifth grade farewell. We want the parents of our fifth grade students to be able to fully enjoy their special moment with their children during this send-off event. A flyer is forthcoming with more details!

Additional surprise activities are being planned by your student's 5th grade team teachers and 5th grade farewell committee now to make your child's last day at Sequoyah a fun one! Up-to-date communications continue to be provided through the Sequoyah email group (listserv), Sequoyah@yahoogroups.com. If you are

not a listserv member, you may join at www.sespta.org.

5th Grade Farewell Committee

Farewell Coordinator – Andrea Troutner
Farewell Invitation & Program Chair – Andrea Dumas
Farewell Fundraising Chair – Andrea Dumas
Farewell Corporate Sponsorship Chair – Tam Miller
Farewell 4th Grade Refreshment Chair – Sue Martin
Farewell 5th Grade Refreshment Chair – Ginny Crichton
Farewell Slide Show Chair – Leslie Hopkin
Farewell Memory Board Chairs – Tam Miller & Mickey Croom
Farewell Decorations Chair – Alice Clark
Farewell Banner Chair – Catherine Stephens
Farewell Gifts Chair – David Dennison

There is still time if you are interested in helping with this year's fifth grade farewell and/or help on a farewell committee. Please email Andrea Troutner at andreatroutner@comcast.net to learn how you can contribute your time and talent.

Monthly Message (Cont'd)

Continued from page 1.

for May 20th and 21st. If you have an incoming kindergartener or know someone who does, please contact the school for information on how to register. September 1, 2004 is the cut-off birthday for entry. More

information on Kindergarten Orientation will be sent home in early spring.

Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Principal
Christine Woodcock, Assistant Principal
Tina Webb, PTA President

Farewell Memory Board Deadline May 31st

Six years of photos wanted ASAP!

Now is the time to dig through all those old pictures and recreate the memories of the past six years your child attended Sequoyah. One of the 5th grade traditions is to create a collage of photos showing this class of 2009 from kindergarten through 5th grade in a Memory Board/Collage format in the front hallway between the gym and office. A nice touch are pictures of class parties, field trips, musicals and other memorable

Sequoyah snap shots you would like to share with us through memory lane. Get your student to assist you with this task and bring the photos to your student's teacher by May 31st. The collage begins construction on or about June 1! A finished Memory Board/Collage with 100% student participation by June 12th for the class of 2009 5th grade at Sequoyah or sooner is the ultimate goal! Don't hesitate to call Tam Miller at (301) 260-0804 or Mickey Croom at (301) 990-0626 if any questions arise.

Farewell Slide Show Deadline June 1st

We are still collecting photos of 5th graders from 2008-2009 school activities. A number of the photos will be shown during the Farewell ceremony. If you have photos to contribute, email them by June 1st to Leslie

Hopkin at alesiapbowie@gmail.com or deliver them in print form or on disk to 5th grade student Mary Hopkin, c/o Mrs. Pritchett's class.

Restaurant Night

This year's Restaurant Night Finale is a two-for-one! California Tortilla and Coldstone Creamery are located next door to one another on Village Center Drive in Olney. Join old friends and meet new ones on Tuesday, May 19th.

Michelle Clarke
Chair, Restaurant Night
(301) 642-1366 or MartinMichelleClarke@comcast.net



California Tortilla, 5-8pm
Say the words "SES READY" to your server.
Coldstone Creamery, 6-10pm

There is no homework on Restaurant Night

Greenblatt Award Ceremony

Last month Sequoyah held an event that, on more than one occasion, was compared to planning a wedding: the award ceremony for Sequoyah's own 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Jaclyn Klueger, winner of the Marian Greenblatt award for Excellence in First-Year Teaching. Attended by Dr. Marshal Greenblatt, County Superintendent Adrian Talley, and Ms. Klueger's family, mentors, friends, colleagues, and students, the award ceremony was a celebration of everything that teaching can be.

Dr. Greenblatt forwarded to the school a copy of the remarks he made during the award presentation. They include many of the written statements submitted in support of Ms. Klueger's nomination for the award. Two of these statements are included here.

From a teacher: I was shocked to learn that she is a first-year teacher. Every detailed lesson plan provides opportunity for her to review, practice, and challenge, which paves the road to success for every student in her class.

From Dr. Jasper: Ms. Klueger shows the initiative, stamina and intellect necessary to complete any number of educational endeavors. She can be entrusted with difficult, long-term assignments, [and I know] that they will be completed in a thorough and efficient manner, with minimal guidance or direction.

And now, if you turn the page, you can read for yourself Ms. Klueger's acceptance speech and thoughts about the career in which she has completely immersed herself.

Ms. Klueger's Gracious Acceptance

Dr. Greenblatt, Mr. Talley, esteemed colleagues, family, friends and most importantly my students, thank you for this tremendous honor. I am overwhelmed with excitement and emotion as I receive The Marian Greenblatt Award, an award for doing a job I wholeheartedly love.

My career has been short but it has been an incredibly rewarding eight months. I've learned that by coming to Sequoyah and being a member of the Montgomery County Public School System that I am not just a teacher but I am a peer to my staff and a friend and loved one to my students. I took on this responsibility unable to stop thinking about the classroom I would get to decorate and the voices that would soon fill the air. That first day back in August, I will admit I was scared to think that someone trusts me to be alone in a room with 20 third graders, none of which had ever seen or heard of me until now.

What those students also didn't know was the journey they would be embarking on the second they walked through my aquarium themed room. Third grade is a particularly challenging year for both students and teachers as the curriculum is designed to raise the bar in a way which demands extreme focus, high levels of thinking and hard work. Together my students and I detangled a rigorous three quarters; I have set extremely high expectations and my students have worked hard to achieve them. I, just like Marian Greenblatt, believe that teachers need to set high standards for their students and show each and every student that those standards can be met with hard work and with the understanding that success often takes many shapes, and endures many bumps along the road. If you ask my students the obstacles they have faced in order to achieve their goals many will speak of the weekend challenges which enforce and extend the current weeks' curriculum, the BCR re-writes, two out of three is not a three out of three and students write until they receive that big shiny 3 on their papers and most importantly they would speak of the faith I have in each of them every step of the way.

In addition to breaking down the curriculum, one of my missions as a first year teacher was to establish firm relationships with my students right from the start. When asked the best part of my job, it's simple: I laugh all day long. As a class, we have agreed on rules and procedures which have allowed us to cross the traditional teacher/student relationship and instead create an atmosphere where you are more likely to find me on the floor, cross-legged against the word wall and my students sitting in the so-called "teacher" chairs. I wanted my students to know and understand that I am on their side of this transitional academic year and that I am willing to do what it takes to make them laugh when

they need to smile and make them work harder than they ever have in order to achieve the success they are capable of.

The Marian Greenblatt Award means the world to me. I was shocked to be nominated and thought that was an honor in itself. But I have to admit that when I read the nomination materials, I thought, "Hey, I might actually have a shot at this." As a first year teacher, much of what you do is try to survive - be it learning the curriculum, understanding the system or figuring out when everything is supposed to take place. But as I read those letters from parents and colleagues, I felt as if I did something right; to hear that what I do in the classroom is spoken about at home means I've made a difference already and that is an incredible feeling to experience. I don't take my job lightly; I was never the person to put in half the effort but rather I move full speed ahead to ensure that what I do is not only good, but that it is great. The greatest part of receiving this award is that I'm being recognized for something I simply love and am truly passionate about.

To Dr. Greenblatt and Mr. Talley, thank you for this magnificent honor; it fuels my desire to want to not only continue what I'm doing but do it even better. To my colleagues and the PTA, Lakasha, thank you for letting me ask a thousand questions, it's the only way I learn. To Dr. Jasper and Ms. Woodcock, thank you for giving me this job as it has filled a void I didn't realize I had. To Mrs. Hochuli and the parents of my students, thank you for trusting a first year teacher with your child, I hope I have met and exceeded your expectations and please know that I am appreciative for all that you have done to make this a memorable year. Mrs. Dabbs, thank you for making this day unforgettable; your efforts have not gone unnoticed. To my fiancé, friends and family, thanks for putting up with the long hours. To my mom and dad, thank you for providing me with the opportunities that have allowed me to obtain the life one could only dream of; I'd be nowhere without your continuous love and support.

Lastly, a message to my students: you are looking at a woman who has worked hard for what she has achieved. I was never the best artist, I couldn't sing a tune in music class and I definitely didn't get A's on everything I did but one thing I always did was try my best and know that whatever I put my mind to I could achieve. Therefore you are looking at living proof of what great effort can lead to so when you are in those moments thinking, "oh another homework assignment from Ms. Klueger, I'll do it tomorrow" you should start to think, Ms. Klueger truly loves me and is giving me this work to help me become the smartest and most successful version of myself that I can possibly be.

Thank you.