



# Sequoyah Sequoyah

## Dates to Remember

### Events

Report Cards Distributed  
Tuesday, Feb. 2nd

Bingo Night  
Friday, Feb. 5th 7PM

Restaurant Night  
Wednesday, Feb. 10th

Valentine's Parties  
Friday, Feb 12th

Holidays  
President's Day  
Monday, Feb. 15th

PTA meeting  
Monday, Feb 2nd 7PM

Grade 2 GT Parent Night  
Thursday, Feb. 4th 6:30 PM

Third Grade Parent Night  
Monday, Feb. 8th 7PM

Market Day Pick-ups  
Thursday, Feb 17th

Early Release Day  
Friday, Feb. 26th

**Market Day Contact:**  
Brenda Young  
Phone: (301) 947-2688  
Email:  
BrendaYoung722@comcast.net

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

## Sequoyah Elementary

### PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

Jim Fay, Founder of Love and Logic Institute, Inc., shares a sad but important story about his life.

He wasn't much of a student when he was growing up. This was a great concern to his mother. Being a loving mother, she became very involved in helping him improve. This meant spending a lot of time with him after school drilling him on his reading and math.

His dad got in on the act by making sure that he read every night and that he was never caught reading comic books. Dad said comic books made children like him lazy and silly instead of serious and studious.

As he looks back on it, he understands the things his parents did were right for their times. They were done out of their love for him. His mother and father made many sacrifices, especially with their time. Unfortunately, he read much of what did in the wrong way. Like most kids, he was insecure and always looking for proof that his parents loved and accepted him. He especially looked for things like smiles, eye contact, and touching. Unfortunately, these things had to wait because his parents were so determined to help him succeed.

As a result, he developed the view that people are loved only when they do a good job. He has experienced many unhappy times as a result of this irrational belief.

### Insights for Jim

Jim was involved in an interview with some high school students who had been working their way out of drug problems. One of the questions to these youngsters was, "Is there anything the adults in your life could have done to help you avoid this problem?" The answer hit home for him. All the students said that youngsters are recognized and made to feel loved when they are straight "A" students but they did not feel that the adults recognized and loved them for who they were.

They all said that as a result of their not being top students, they began to feel left out. They felt it would have been easier for them if there had been at least one person who showed love and acceptance regardless of their abilities and achievements.

### Solutions

Jim thinks that his parents could have made their love clearer to him while helping him improve his schoolwork.

February 2010



**Sequoyah Elementary School**  
17301 Bowie Mill Rd.  
Derwood MD 20855  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)

If might have been better if they told Jim they were helping him so they could feel good about their own responsibilities and so he would feel good about himself.

He could have heard a strong message about their love if they had told him it would still be there even when he was having trouble in school. Additional help might have resulted if they had relaxed more about his schoolwork and made more time for smiles and hugs. Jim now knows that the children who have the most difficulty in school are the ones who most need parents to say, "Let's forget about school now that you are home. We can love and enjoy you regardless of your school problems."

This helps children "recharge" their batteries so they can feel stronger and more willing to go back and try it again.

Dr. Bobbi Jasper,  
Principal

## Study Island: [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)

Study Island is an all online product designed to help your child master the standards specific to his or her grade. Study Island's focus on the standards enables students to improve their performance in all skill areas tested, which leads to improved test scores.

Did you know you can access Study Island from any computer with an Internet connection and a standard web browser?

My username is: \_\_\_\_\_

My password is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Key of College Readiness:  
Key 2: Score “advanced” in reading on the Maryland School  
Assessments Grade 3-8**

**Seven Keys to  
College Readiness**



Key 1: Read at advanced levels in Grades K-2



Key 2: Score “advanced” in reading on the Maryland School Assessment in Grades 3-8



Key 3: Complete advanced math in Grade 5



Key 4: Complete Algebra 1 by Grade 8 with a “C” or higher



Key 5: Complete Algebra 2 by Grade 11 with a “C” or higher



Key 6: Score 3 on an AP exam or 4 on an IB exam



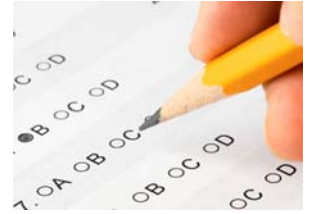
Key 7: Score 1650 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT

**General MSA Information:**

- ✓ The test includes multiple-choice questions and questions requiring written responses.
- ✓ It measures basic as well as higher level skills.
- ✓ Students take the tests for approximately 90 minutes each day. There are four days of testing—two

days for reading and two days for math.

- ✓ The MSA scores show how well students learned the reading and mathematics skills in the Maryland State



**MSA Testing dates:**

**Reading:**

- ✓ March 8 and 9: 3rd and 4th grade
- ✓ March 10 and 11: 5th grade

**Math:**

- ✓ March 12 and 15: 3rd and 4th grade
- ✓ March 16 and 17

**Tips for students**

- ✓ Get a good night sleep
- ✓ Eat a healthy breakfast
- ✓ Get to school on time
- ✓ Try every problem
- ✓ Don't spend too much time on any one problem
- ✓ Go back and check your work

**Third Grade Parent  
Night:**

Monday, Feb. 8, 2010  
7-8 PM  
Sequoyah ES  
All Purpose Room

Find out more about the  
MSA and BCRs!

\*MSA:  
Maryland State Assessments

BCR:  
Brief Constructed Response

**Websites related to the Second Key:**

Key 2: MCPS website

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/keys/key2.shtm>

Sample MSA Home Reports

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/newsroom/publications/pubsother/>

MSA Fact Sheet:

[http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/407FF8E5-C710-4A64-881C-CA1641821E78/6368/MSA\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/407FF8E5-C710-4A64-881C-CA1641821E78/6368/MSA_FactSheet.pdf)

Sample Test Items

[http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k\\_8/index\\_c.html](http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k_8/index_c.html)



# McEducator's Night™

Save the Date:

Join Sequoyah friends and family and enjoy a cook free evening at our next Restaurant Night!



McDonald's® Restaurant

7200 Muncaster Mill Rd  
Derwood, Maryland  
(Redmill Shopping Center)  
Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>  
5:30-7:30



Come see your teachers "working" at McDonalds!

The Sequoyah PTA receives a percentage of all sales between 5:30 and 7:30 so invite friends and family. Upcoming Wednesday folders will have a flyer with the details.

## Third Grade Parent Night

**Save the Date:**

Attention all third grade parents/guardians. On Monday, February 8, 2010, the third grade teachers will hold a parent informational meeting on Brief Constructed Responses for both math and reading. Parents will walk out with strategies to help their child succeed with home and school work.

Who: Parent/Guardian(s) of third graders

PLACE: Sequoyah Elementary School All Purpose Room

DATE: Monday, February 8, 2010

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Translators will be available.

## Grade Two Parent Meeting

TOPIC: MCPS Global Screening

PLACE: Sequoyah Elementary School Media Center

DATE: Thursday, February 4, 2010

TIME: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Agenda

Overview of Gifted and Talented Screening  
Testing  
Next Steps  
Questions and Answers

Translators will be available.

Childcare will be provided.



## 2009-2010 Reflections Finalist

“Wow! Sequoyah students, you’ve got talent!” It is delightful to see so many great work entered. The level of artwork submitted in Visual Art is simply amazing. This seems to be the dominating category with over sixty entries. We have introduced a new category, Photography, in which we’ve had two submissions. And it was quiet in the Literature category, as we have four submissions. Overall we beat last year’s numbers with both the number of entries submitted and total student participation.

We had a total of 67 students who participated and 77 entries. Here's the breakdown of finalist:

### Visual Arts:

Primary division (k-12): Julia Cho, Serena Choy, Lauren Martin, and Thomas Cameron  
Intermediate division (3-5): Noah Cho, Connie Shen, Paul Mai, and Delali Azamati

Photography: Thokozani Tembo

Literature: Bella Koeung-Zambrana, Gia Koeung-Zambrana, and Lakin Mathis.

Congratulations finalist!

We have forwarded your entries to county

level on January 6, 2010. We will have the judging result sometime in February.

We’d like to mention and commend Ms. Sarah Stronsky for her support in giving us such a strong turn-out for Visual Arts. This program is completely new to her and she was openly and willingly to help without any hesitation or question. And she has volunteered to judge artwork from another school, Candlewood E.S. Thank you so much for your time and effort!

All participants’ artwork have been hung on the wall across from the art room. If you want to see why “Wow” is being used, please see all the artwork and you’ll be impressed with student’s range of creativity and mastery of their medium. It’s wonderful to hear student’s reaction and comment as they see their artwork displayed.

Up coming...Ms. Mathis will be photographing the students who submitted an entry. And we will have a gathering for all the finalist, date has not been determined. We have high hope for our finalist and we’ll be eager to have the county result in several weeks.

Chair Contact Information:  
Allison Mathis, 240-632-1041  
[koeung@yahoo.com](mailto:koeung@yahoo.com)  
[www.ptareflections.org](http://www.ptareflections.org)



## Classroom Notes

### KINDERGARTEN



February is a very busy month in kindergarten. We are wrapping up assessments and modifying groupings based upon individual student needs. Your child will bring home their report card in the green daily folder on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please review your child's progress, sign the envelope on the line provided, and return the emptied envelope in the green folder. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

There are several exciting events this month that we are connecting to our already rigorous curriculum. February is "Dental Health Month" and we are anxiously awaiting a visit from a local dentist. We will learn about Groundhog Day and Presidents' Day. We are also looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day and our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school.

### FIRST GRADE



I gave a hundred valentines,  
A hundred did I say?  
I gave a thousand valentines  
One cold and wintry day.

This is the beginning of a Valentine's Day poem the first graders will be reading and discussing. It turns out the valentines are seeds for February birds! We are looking forward to sharing Valentine's Day with our families and friends.

On February 5, we will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We will be counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s and even by 25s, to get practice counting quarters for our money unit.

We will be reading different versions of folktales from around the world. We will read Little Red Riding Hood, Lon Po Po, and Gunnwolf. We will compare and contrast the folktales, and identify the elements of the stories.

### SECOND GRADE

This new year has brought a lot of enthusiastic learning to second grade! We are all enjoying learning and exploring properties of liquids with the current science unit. It's messy but fun learning! In reading/language arts, students are becoming more comfortable with editing and improving their written expression. The Q.A.R (Question-Answer Relationship) strategy is being taught as students learn what an "in the book" vs. "in my head" answer is for questions about what they've read. Q.A.R. helps teach the difficult, but important strategy of inferencing which great readers use to better understand a text. Currently in math, all groups are working on computation and number relationships, whether it's with addition and subtraction or multiplication and division. No matter what specific skill your child is working on, it's important to PRACTICE those math facts!



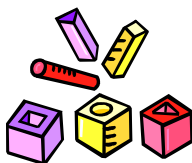
### THIRD GRADE

In reading we are continuing to explore folktales. We are learning to identify characteristics of folktales and to summarize the text. We will begin to study how authors use figurative language in fiction texts. Test taking strategies will

be a big focus over the next few months as we gear up for the MSA in March. Writing BCRs will also be a priority. It is very important that your child learns to respond appropriately to BCRs. They have learned that in order to earn a good score (a 2 or a 3) they need to make sure they have answered the question, and then give details from the text to support their answer. This cannot happen in one sentence! Please encourage your child to write more than one sentence to express their thoughts.



In math, we will be exploring geometry. We will identify and describe 2- and 3-dimensional shapes and identify and compare angles and describe symmetry and congruence. In addition, we will describe and represent slides, flips and turns using objects. Please be on the lookout for data notebooks the first week of each month so you can keep up to date with your child's progress. Most importantly, please be sure your child is on time for school. We have noticed that we have several students who are often absent or who often arrive late for school. This is causing them to miss important lessons and information and as a result they are behind in their work. Please make getting your child to school on time a priority, especially over the next couple months as we prepare for MSA.



### FOURTH GRADE

This month, fourth grade will be hard at work learning about fractions and decimals. We will be practicing how to name, identify, and model both fractions and decimals as well as how to add and subtract them. Students will also be exploring the concept of probability and how it relates to real-world situations. For Science, we are soon beginning our "Changes of State" unit. Students will be experimenting and learning about how substances can change form (i.e. solids, liquids, and gases).



In Reading the fourth graders are busy reading their novels and analyzing the mood and theme of various chapters. We are finishing our St. Mary's research assignments. The students have also invented their own amazing inventions and have written about them. We will be working on homophones and prepositions in our spelling/grammar focus' next week. We will continue to read realistic fiction and historical fiction novels and read alouds (whole group).



### FIFTH GRADE

Reading / Social Studies

Trekking across the land with all of their belonging in a covered wagon was the method used by many pioneers as they traveled and settled across the United States. Tall tales paralleled the development of the railroad, the Wilderness Passage, and the settling of the west. Through the social studies text and tall tales, students will realize the amazing feats of the pioneers and the literary characters created during the exciting period of time.



## Classroom Notes cont.

### Math 5

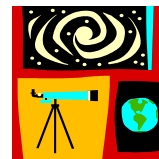
What is a better deal – buying something that is half off or something on sale at 50%? In February, Math 5 students will be busy concluding their study of decimals, fractions and percents. Students will sharpen their computation skills with whole numbers, as well as with decimals and fractions. Ultimately, students will explore how decimals, fractions and percents are related, that they are all parts of a whole, and that they can be used interchangeably. Math 5 students will also start a new unit with a focus on creating and interpreting various types of graphs and charts. This is an unbeatable life skill!



measurement of missing angles. Through exploring triangles, trapezoids and parallelograms, and using their knowledge of measurement, students will make, test, and use formulas for finding area and perimeter. Math 6 students will also continue to develop dexterity in working with decimals, fractions, percents and ratios.

### Science 5

In February, all eyes will be to the sky! The science unit for this quarter is Astronomy. To start, we will focus on the characteristics of our wonderful planet earth that allow earth to sustain life. We will compare earth to other planets and make predictions about whether life, as we know it, is sustainable elsewhere in our solar system. We will make systematic observations about the earth and its relationship to the sun. One science process we will focus on is learning through observation. We will use a variety of ways to take notes on what we observe. After all, good scientists always record their work.



### Math 6

Get out the protractors and compasses! In February, Math 6 students will begin their study of geometry. In this unit, students will further refine their understanding of the properties of various angles, polygons and circles. Students will learn how to identify congruent angles and how to solve for the




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## A Message from Governor O'Malley

Dear Friends,

Education Week Magazine certified Maryland public schools as number one in the nation for the second year in a row. Together, even in tough economic times, we've chosen to invest in our children's future. Because of the hard work and dedication of our educators, parents and students, our State has once again proven that we can provide a world class education. Even during these difficult economic times, we've continued to fully fund efforts to build new, state-of-the-art classrooms, integrate curriculum across all grade levels, and hire and retain the nation's best educators. Now, for yet another year, Education Week Magazine has affirmed the importance of protecting these shared priorities. Together, we must build on the progress we've made for our schools in the past two years by continuing to make critical investments that give our children the tools they need to build a better tomorrow.

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

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## Readers' Corner with Mrs. Deigan

We had a wonderful turn out for our first Sequoyah Family Reading Night. Almost 200 people came out to enjoy reading! There were many activities for participants of all ages to enjoy. Each grade level featured an author they studied in their curriculum. There were reading puzzles in the hallway to entertain all ages as well as information sessions in the computer lab. The Stallion Bookstore was open for business as each student received a voucher for a book

buck that evening. All participants had the opportunity to give feedback on the evening. A common comment was that they wished the evening could have lasted longer because there were so many interesting things to see and do. Sequoyah's reading committee worked hard to make the First Annual Family reading night a great success. Many thanks to all who participated!

Thank you,

