



Sequoyah Sequoyah

Dates to Remember

Events



Professional Day—

No School

Tuesday, April 6th

LAS Links (ESOL) Testing

Wednesday, April 7
through Monday, April 26

PTA meetings

Tuesday, April 6, 7PM

Tuesday, May 4 6:30PM

Tuesday, June 1 7PM



Spring Clean Up

Saturday, April 10

SPIRIT FRIDAYS

April 9, April 16

April 23, April 30

Spring Dance

Friday, April 23

Grade 5 Protrait

Tuesday, April 27

Spring Book Fair

Friday, April 30
through Friday, May 7

Market Day Pick-up

Wednesday, April 21

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

April 2010

Principally Speaking

Special Thoughts on Raising Kids
Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Principal



Sequoyah Elementary School
17301 Bowie Mill Rd.
Derwood MD 20855
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

Friends

"Why do they play with 'those kids?'" Often, like adults, kids choose friends of their own maturity level.

"I've been worried about the Wilcox children." said Debbie's mom. *"Then Debbie came to me one day and said that Mrs. Wilcox told her kids, 'Debbie spells trouble!' I had been thinking the same thing about them!"*

Protect Your Relationship

The relationship between a child and parent(s) is primary and affects all other relationships. Parents who try to change their children's relationships often find it damages their own parent/child relationship. Assuming that you and your child get along well, it is better to use yourself as a model and give information, such as, *"Sure glad my friends don't treat me that way!"* It also works the other way around, *"I think if I treated my friends that way, I wouldn't have any."* It seldom works to continually tell others what to do with their lives. *"Jimmy, if those kids treat you like that, don't play with them."*

Because young people copy their parents, it is helpful to give advice by using yourself as an example. *"Would you like to hear what I would do?"* Or, *"Well, if Marge (a friend of the parent) took my things and wouldn't give them back, I'd probably make sure I didn't hang around her a lot."*

When your child tells you of unhappy situations with friends, it is safest and usually best to say things like, *"So how do you feel about that?"* or *"Do you think it will be different next time?"* or *"Do you think it will have any long-term effect on your friendship?"*

Parents should gather information with such questions rather than interrogate. Parents who ask questions such as, *"Well, then what did you do?"* are actually criticizing rather than asking a question.

Get to Know Your Child's Friends

Sometimes parents are pleasantly surprised when they get to know their children's friends. At any rate, getting to know the friends cannot do any harm and sets a good example. This also helps us understand why our children are attracted to certain friends.

Prohibitions

Prohibiting a child from playing with a friend often tells the youngster that we are afraid that the other child's attitudes, beliefs, or habits will rub off. It also says that our child cannot do his/her own thinking. As a result, that friend usually becomes much more exciting and desirable. It is far more powerful to say, *"With friends like that, all I can say is that I hope some of you rubs off on them. And I'm sure it will!"*

Restrict Friendships Only When:

- Children can hurt each other.
- Your child will not sneak out and see the friend behind your back.
- Your child cannot provide his/her own protection.



In my friend, I find a second self.

Isabel Norton

Fourth Key of College Readiness: "Looking ahead"

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

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

Algebra is a gateway to later achievement: Students who successfully complete it by the end of Grade 8 are more likely to have future academic success, particularly in math and sciences and on the SAT and ACT college entrance exams. Students who earn a "C" or higher have a solid understanding of the fundamentals and will be able to solve more complex problems when they take Algebra 2.

Questions parents should ask: When your child is in elementary and middle school, ask if he or she is on the path for taking Algebra 1 or higher in 8th grade. If the answer is no, ask what problems he or she is experiencing and what you can do at home to help. If he or she is struggling in the class, ask what resources are available for extra help in and/or outside the classroom.

Important Upcoming Test Dates

Fifth Grade Science MSA:

April 21-30 Makeups: May 3-7
More info to come!

Second Grade Terra Nova 2 test:

April 26-30
More info to come!



Tips for Testing weeks:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Get a good night sleep
- ✓ Turn off tv and video games

Websites related to the Fourth Key:

Key 4 Information:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/keys/key4.shtm>

MCPS Elementary Mathematics

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/elmath.htm>

Homework Resources

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/homework.aspx>

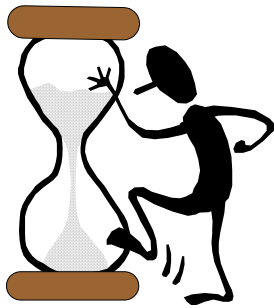
April's Shower of Activities



SEQUOYAH SPRING CLEAN UP

When: Saturday, April 10
Time: 8:00 AM until Noon
Where: Front of Sequoyah
Bring: Garden Gloves and lots of enthusiasm!
Contact: Emily Matussek 301-987-5412 or markemilymatussek@erols.com

Help brighten up the school!



Brother, can you spare some time?



Spring Book Fair...

Coming to a Media Center Near You !!

Friday, April 30 through Friday, May 7

WAZOZ-70
WAZOZ-70
WAZOZ-70
WAZOZ-70
WAZOZ-70



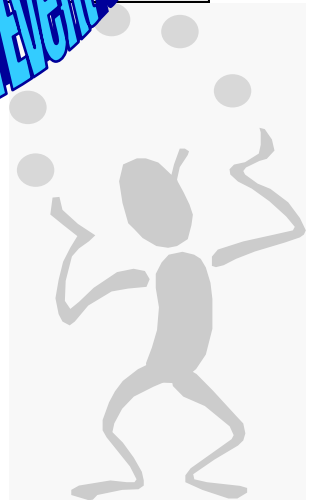
APRIL 23
7 P.M.

&

SILENT AUCTION

We Hope to See You at Each Event!

Mark your calendars!



PTA Wisdom

The Greatest Gift

When we think of the greatest gift, we close our eyes, nod our head back, and begin to relive memories – perhaps it was a doll, maybe a GI Joe action figure, a set of custom golf clubs, a one-carat diamond engagement ring, a 2010 Dodge Challenger...

To quote a famous actor - It comes without ribbons. It comes without tags. It comes without packages, boxes, or bags. When we really think about it, the greatest gift of all didn't cost a cent, wasn't wrapped in the nicest paper, and didn't come from a store – it was the gift that came from the heart...

The greatest gift is that of our love for one another – the opening of a door when the person's hands were full, the note left for your favorite person to give them a smile, the card sent to a buddy to tell them just how much you appreciate them, telling a total stranger just how great they look just to make their day, a flower left bedside, a surprise party for your loved one...

While we cherish the material things in life, we come to realize that the pleasure they bring us is short-lived – no matter how strong the desire was – and yet a simple gift evokes a positive reaction that creates memories for years to come. Whether you are on the receiving or giving end, the feeling inside is unsurpassed. The recipient knows that it came from your heart and the feeling is sincere.

All of our folks here know this to be true – we see it everyday. There is love for our staff, love for our children, and love for each other – it's what makes SES so special. When we stop and think, we can remember an uncountable number of times when someone made our day, and we made theirs! So from the both of us- thanks for your "Greatest Gift" – and please enjoy ours.

Jacques Croom and Dr. Bobbi Jasper

Inspired by Dave Dennison



Good News



Maryland State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick has granted a five-day waiver to Montgomery County Public Schools, meaning the district will not have to make up the snow days that resulted from back-to-back blizzards in February.

If there are no more emergency school cancellations this school year, the calendar will not be adjusted and classes will end, as scheduled, on June 16, 2010.



Classroom Notes

KINDERGARTEN

We hope your families have a relaxing Spring Break! We cannot wait to see your children back at school on Wednesday, April 7th.

The final quarter of school will begin when your child returns to school. The integrated kindergarten curriculum for this quarter is challenging, and your children need to come back ready to work! The unifying questions for the remainder of the school year will be: *How do your experiences affect your thinking?*, *How does expressing an idea multiple ways help everyone understand the idea?*, *What are the best ways for you to communicate your thinking?*, and *How can you change or adjust your thinking to create a new idea?*.

The literacy focus will be on comprehension of literary text, elements of poetry, comprehension of informational text, and elements of drama (plays). Your children will be writing for personal expression with a focus on poetry, they will be writing to inform using biographies, and they will be writing to persuade.

Our final mathematics unit will focus on number sense & operations, and coins & values. The concepts of part-whole (fractions), estimation, joining & separating sets (addition & subtraction), and determining the value of coins/sets of coins will be addressed and accelerated.

The observation of plants and animals in their environments will be our main Science objective. Social Studies will consist of discussions about wants and needs, as well as customs and family heritage. We are looking forward to a happy, healthy, and productive spring!

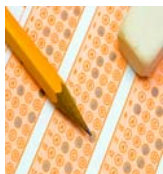
FIRST GRADE

We hope everyone has a wonderful Spring Break and comes back refreshed and ready for fourth quarter. We have a lot planned! In reading, the first graders will begin a unit on Reading To Be Informed. This will include reading posters, flyers, restaurant menus and news stories. These are all real-life applications. In writing, we will write for personal expression. Writing our own stories will be exciting. Money will be our focus in math. We will be identifying coins and also determine the value of sets of coins through \$1.00. Therefore, over Spring Break, remember to practice counting money and remember to read, read, read!!!!!!



SECOND GRADE

In April, the 2nd graders will be doing a lot of practice getting ready for the Terra Nova 2. The TN2 is given the last week of April to all MCPS 2nd graders. Students are assessed in both reading/language arts and math concepts and computation. If you see some practice materials brought home, take a moment to look them over with your child. Also, we will be starting a unit on folktales. Do you know the elements of a folktale? Your student will know very soon. It's important you practice telling time (the REAL time, not digital) and counting coins with your child. These concepts tend to be very difficult for some students to learn.



Also, sometime in mid-April our caterpillars will be arriving! The life cycle of the butterfly is our last science unit, and it's great fun!



THIRD GRADE

In April, third grade will be studying the fantasy genre. Students will learn the characteristics of the fantasy genre and how it compares to genres previously studied. In addition, students will continue reading to be informed through a variety of science and social studies texts. In writing, students will write to persuade. They will learn how to use sound arguments, supported by details and facts and opinions, in order to convince their reader to see their point of view. In math, students will continue to learn about fractions. Students will have to identify common fractions, mixed numbers, and name equivalent fractions. In addition, students will identify money amounts and make change. Please continue to practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts with your child. In science, we will begin our plant growth and development unit. Students will learn the parts of a plant and how a plant grows. We will grow our own plants and observe them daily. This is always a fun science unit that students enjoy.



FOURTH GRADE

Our fourth grade testing is OVER! We administered the reading MSA on Monday, March 8th and 9th and the math MSA's were administered on Friday, March 12th and Monday, March 15th. Thank you for sending your children well rested and ready! We are very proud of the student's efforts on the MSA's, we know it was not an easy task.

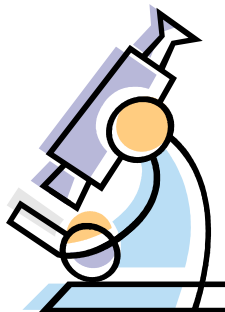
In reading, we have been exploring biographies and poetry. We will also be starting our persuasive unit soon and learn to discuss and debate our position on our topic. The students have continued to work very hard writing BCR's to various reading comprehension questions. In math, the students will be studying concepts of time and two digit multiplication and division. In social studies, we will be discussing government and economic issues. In science, we will begin our study of matter. Students will explore the three states of matter and will conduct experiments that demonstrate the states of matter.



FIFTH GRADE

Reading - Students will continue to read tall tales applicable to the time of westward expansion. The accomplishments of specific characters will be discussed. Students will also analyze accounts from different points of view.

Students are concluding the astronomy unit. After spring break, they'll begin the Cells and Heredity unit. Microscopes will be used to distinguish the difference between plant and animal cells. Hereditary traits will also be discussed.



Classroom Notes cont.

Math 5

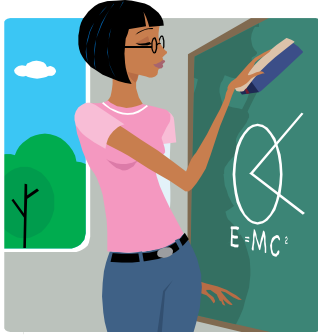
After Spring Break students will review multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. They will go on to working with percents, decimals, and finding the percentage of a number. Their work will involve answering the following essential questions:

How can estimation skills and algorithms reinforce one another? How do operations with decimals compare to operations with whole numbers? How do operations with fractions compare to operations with whole numbers and decimals? What determines an appropriate representation of a number?

Math 6

Students will complete a review of ratios and proportions after Spring Break. Then they begin geometry and their work in this unit will answer the following essential questions: How are comparisons used in proportional reasoning? How is proportional reasoning of geometric figures used to solve problems? What kinds of questions can be answered using proportional reasoning? How are angle relationships used? How do line Relationships affect angle relationships? How are areas of rectangles, parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, and circles related? How can formulas be developed using models? How does the movement of a geometric figure affect its attributes? How are two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures related? How are

geometric properties used in constructions? How do line Relationships affect angle relationships? How do the dimensions of a geometric figure affect area, surface area, and volume? Why graph geometric figures and transformations on a coordinate plane?



SAFETY ALERT

Parents, **PLEASE** do not allow your students to exit or enter vehicles on the street side. We have managed to avoid near accidents but this is **DANGEROUS**.

Students must **EXIT and ENTER CURBSIDE** when leaving your vehicle.

Thank You,
Dr. Jasper and Mrs. Holloman

Art News



Mark your calendars! April 22 - 25 is the White Flint Art Fair at White Flint Mall. Bring your child after school or on the weekend to enjoy visual artwork and hear musical performances by students throughout our county. Stop by the Sequoyah art display and sign our guest book to let us know that you visited and what you enjoyed most by our wonderful young artists. I just wish they gave us enough space to hang up every student's art! Can't wait to see you there!



FUTURE FITNESS FUN

We will begin April with a bowling unit and finish with volleyball. The bowling unit will focus on aiming and hitting stationary targets. We will also learn how to score a game with an official bowling score card (math).

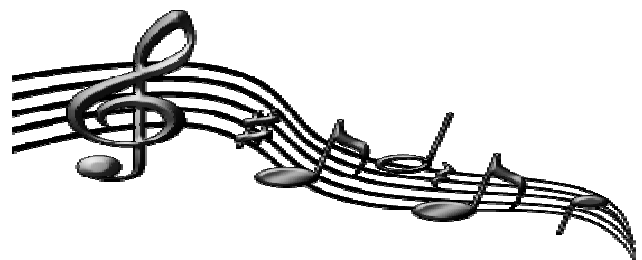


Volleyball will consist of various passes (bump, set, etc) I also break down the importance of body positioning and how it relates to accuracy with the passes. Also the roles that force production and force absorption play in volleyball.



Let the MUSIC Play ...

All students have been busy showing off their music skills the last 2 weeks on our county music assessments during class. Annie rehearsals are in full swing. Performances will occur on Wednesday, May 19 and Friday, May 21. Students who signed up to participate in stage crew should expect a letter to come home before spring break. All 5th grade students will be taking a field trip to the Music Center at Strathmore on April 9th to hear a special concert. Please make sure your 5th grade student has returned his/her permission slip. Mark your calendars now for our Spring Concert featuring 4th and 5th grade band, strings, and chorus at Sequoyah on June 3rd!



Our School Guidance Program continues to focus on lessons which promote- Self Advocacy". The lessons (K-5) also focus on our school expectations of: Respect, Responsibility, and being Safe.



In Grades K-1, our focus continues to be on skills which promote listening, cooperation, kindness, and expressing feelings appropriately.

In Grades 2-3, our focus continues to be on skills to "Make and Keep Friends". Topics such as: describe your perfect friend, tips for joining a group, how to handle friendship problems, and giving and accepting compliments are discussed.

In Grades 4-5, our focus continues to be on skills to handle teasing and bully ("Stand up Against Bullies Program"). In addition, we are working on skills to make better choices, and skills to problem solve conflicts.

In all of our classroom lessons, through the medium of, movement, role plays, art work, discussions, group/partner activities, stories, and contests, we strive to work on life skills that we can use today, tomorrow, and the rest of our lives.

Steven Plaisance
School Counselor

"Schools Need Caring Parents"

Charles Saylor is the first male president of the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), a group with 5 million members.

What is it like to be the first male president of the PTA?

It's cool. People look at me in amazement, but this should have happened years ago. Many men think they don't have time, but I ask them to dig deeper. If I can get them to volunteer for three hours, they're hooked.

How does the PTA help children?

Study after study shows that kids are more successful when their parents get involved. In 2008, PTA members from two schools in Georgia banded together to improve the food in the cafeterias. In San Diego last year, funding for school buses was eliminated. The PTA got local news outlets involved, held rallies, and organized the community until funding was restored.



What does the National PTA do?

The PTA has started lobbying for the first time in its history. We've worked with Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D., N.Y.) on a soon-to-be-introduced bill that provides incentives for schools to partner with parents to increase student achievement and drive school reform. We're also pressing for some states to adopt common school standards that will ensure all students are prepared to attend college.

"Schools Need Caring Parents." Charles Saylor, Parade, Washington Post Magazine, March 7, 2010, page 8.



REMINDER

Kindergarten Orientation

If you have an incoming kindergarten student please contact us so that we may send you the registration materials. More details are coming to you in a separate notice.



Save The Dates !!!!!!!

Thursday, May 6 and Friday, May 7, 2010