



Sequoyah Sequoyah

Dates to Remember

Events

May 27: Field Day K, 1, 2
 May 28: Field Day 3,4,5
 (rain date: June 3 (K-2),
 June 4 (3-5)
 May 31: Memorial Day, no school

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, June 1 @ 7:00
 Media Center
 June 3, Spring Concert (Gym) @ 7:00
 June 8: California Tortilla Night
 June 11: STEM Day
 June 15: Fifth Grade Farewell @ 9:45
 June 16: Awards Ceremony @ 9:45
 June 16 1/2 day and last day for students. School dismisses at 1:00
 June 23: Report Cards Mailed Home

Important Dates for 10-11

- ⇒ Watch for parent letters in late August
- ⇒ Aug. 26, Kindergarten parent night
- ⇒ Aug. 27 2:00-3:00 Open House
- ⇒ Aug. 30 1st day for students
- ⇒ Sept 1 Back to School Night 7:00 Grades 1&2
- ⇒ Sept 2 Back to School Night

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



Sequoyah Elementary

June 2010

Principally Speaking

Special Thoughts on Raising Kids

REASONING WITH CHILDREN

"I don't know what's wrong with those kids. They never listen to a thing I tell them. I might as well be talking to the wall for all they care!"

Does this sound familiar? How do we get kids to listen and benefit from our experience and knowledge? Maybe it's just asking too much. Or is it?

We could blame this problem on the belief that youngsters are just headstrong and determined to learn the hard way. It's also possible that many parents try to reason with their children at the wrong time. This greatly reduces their chances for success.

We've all watched parents give their children a "good talking to" with little or no positive results. This is unfortunate because the adult not only had good intentions but good advice to share. The only trouble was that the child was not in an emotional state that would allow listening and use the adult's wisdom.

The words we use with our kids during emotional times are wasted. They are either never heard or are turned against us. We all have difficulty listening during emotional times. It's natural, at times like these, to focus most of our thoughts upon the emotions rather than the words being spoken. As a result, we remember the

other person's anger better than we remember the words. A child at the dinner table who is not eating and complaining about the food provides a good example. Reminders in this case seem to do little good.

One parent might handle it by using angry-sounding words like, "what's wrong with you? Don't you come to the table with that attitude. You quit that complaining, or I'll really give you something to complain about!" My guess here is that the child is thinking a lot about the adult's anger and little about the wisdom of eating a good meal.

Use Soft Words with Actions

Another parent might replace these angry words with soft words and actions: "I'll be picking up the food and dishes in five minutes. I hope by then you will have eaten all you need to hold you until breakfast." Nothing is said if the youngster does not eat. The words are saved for a time when the child will be better able to listen.

It is obvious that the child will be hungry later and say, "I'm hungry, What can I have?" This wise parent knows that the youngster will learn more when few words are used: "I bet you are. That's what happens to me when I miss my dinner. I bet you're anxious for breakfast. Don't worry, we'll cook a good one."

This parent chose to save the words for a time when the child was in the **thinking state** rather than in the **emotional**



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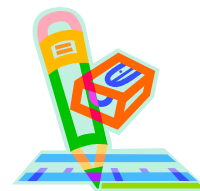
state. The best time for reason is when both the child and the adult are happy. This is the time when the best thinking and learning can take place.

SAVE THE WORDS FOR HAPPY TIMES



Supply Lists for 2010-2011

For those who like to get a head start on their Back to School shopping...



Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Large Backpack (non-rolling) Jumbo glue sticks Fine-line markers (preferably Crayola) <u>Parent Donations</u> <i>The following items are not required, but greatly appreciated:</i> \$15 fee for classroom projects, special occasions, and misc. curriculum based enhancements. (cash or check payable to classroom teacher. Hand soap Hand sanitizer Tissues Paper towels	School box Backpack Pencils Crayons Glue sticks <u>Parent Donations</u> Parent donations that enhance the classroom experience are welcomed. Hand sanitizer Pump soap Tissues Large and small zip lock bags Blunt scissors	School box Backpack Pencils with erasers Crayons Glue sticks <u>Parent Donations</u> Student scissors Hand sanitizer Liquid soap Tissues Large and small zip lock bags	2 Pencil pouches 36 (3 doz.) pencils with erasers 2 large erasers 2 marble notebooks Crayons (box of 24-48) Colored Pencils (12 count) <u>Class Donations</u> Liquid soap Hand sanitizer Tissues Large and small zip lock bags Paper towels Yellow #2 pencils Glue Sticks	2 pkgs. Notebook dividers 24 crayons 24 colored pencils Pencil box or pouch for supplies 3 glue sticks 24 pencils Pink eraser 2 pkgs. notebook paper (wide rule) 5 spiral notebooks (single subject) <u>Class Donations</u> 2 boxes of tissues Liquid soap Hand sanitizer	1 1/2 inch binder for reading 3 inch binder for other subjects Dividers 2 spiral notebooks Pencils Colored pencils Glue sticks <u>Class Donations</u> Scissors

Reader's Corner Science and Math Corner



What a great year! I'm sure that you are as impressed with the wonderful reading progress the kids made as I am. It is very important that your child keep

reading during the summer months. Too often we find that after a summer break, the students have lost some of the reading progress they made in the previous year.

Your child will be bringing home a reading packet from their 10-11 teacher. The books in the assignment are easily found at the public library. Your child's new teacher will be asking for the completed reading packets during the first week of school in August. They will receive a grade on the completion of this packet so it is very important to work on it during the summer. If your packet gets misplaced, we will have extra copies in the school office.

Public libraries also have a summer reading program if you are interested in participating. Our students who have participated always seem to enjoy it.

Thanks so much for your support!
 Beth Deigan—Reading Specialist

This year is coming to a close and we have all made great strides in math and science. On May 17th, Mrs. Madarang's math class had the opportunity to participate in the County Science Inquiry Conference at Montgomery College in Takoma Park. Her students constructed bridges out of various materials and presented them during the conference.

This year at Sequoyah we will have our first Science Inquiry Conference Day on June 11, 2010. All grade levels will participate in a day filled with science exploration and inquiry. During the day, students will have the opportunity to share their scientific findings with other students. Staff members from around the building will provide hands-on exploration with students. Some of the hands-on explorations will include aerodynamics in airplane construction, solids and liquids by making ice cream, dissolving M&Ms, movement of air, and lots more. It is sure to be a spectacular day.

I want to thank the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) committee, for all of their hard work and dedication in the areas of science and mathematics. I would also like to thank all of the parents and students for your enormous support for Science and Math education.

Hats off to a great year!
 Paula Odans — Staff Development Teacher

Classroom Notes

Kindergarten

This school year has gone by so quickly! We are pleased with the hard work your children have done, and the progress they have made. We are wrapping up our spring reading assessments and will begin our Quarter 4 mathematics assessments soon.

Our annual **Kindergarten Cookout** will be held on Monday, June 14th. Please return the bottom portion of the blue flyer (sent home in your child's green folder), if you have not done so already. This will help ensure that the event will be a success.



We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer.

FIRST GRADE

Our first graders have worked very hard and they are now ready for second grade! We are very proud of the success they have had this year. The children have demonstrated their PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) behavior and have practiced the expectations that have been established in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria, bathroom, and playground. Encourage your child to continue practicing addition and subtraction facts over the summer. Also, be sure to enjoy reading many books over the summer. Visit your local library and read books from a variety of different genres (folk tales, fairy tales, information books, biographies, poetry, etc.) Remember to complete your summer reading assignment to give to your 2nd grade teacher. The more we read the better we read! The more we read, the more we learn. Looking forward to seeing you in August!

SECOND GRADE



Our students are just about ready for 3rd grade; they've worked hard and we're SO proud of them. We had to say good-bye to our butterflies, but we continue to read and learn about insects. We're also having great fun exploring poetry in reading and writing. Our field trip to the Museum of Natural History was a huge success. We even got to go into the Butterfly Pavilion since they have free admission on Tuesdays. An extra sincere THANK YOU goes out to all the volunteers who helped us on the trip. It's wonderful that the rain held off for us, too. Coming on June 14 is 2nd grade's fabulous Read-a-Lotta Beach! Lots more details will be coming home about this wonderful celebration of reading. In math, your students are learning the concept of multiplication and working more with money. PLEASE remember that the best way to ensure success for your children in 3rd grade is to READ this summer!!! It's been such a great year, and we appreciate all your support.

THIRD GRADE

In June, the third grade will be gearing up for the end of school. In reading and writing we are finishing our poetry unit. Students will be learning about different forms of poetry as well as writing their own original poems. Students will be researching monuments and creating presentations for their

classmates. This project will combine social studies and reading indicators for third grade. In math, we will be finishing unit 6 which is a focus on elapsed time, temperature, volume, weight and capacity of an object. In science, students have been doing an excellent job caring for their plants. Students will continue to make and record observations of their plants. During the summer it is important for all students to practice their reading, writing and math skills so they can be prepared for the first day of fourth grade. Please have your child read each day. In math, have your child practice addition, subtraction, multiplication and division flash cards. It is very important that all students know their basic facts as they prepare for fourth grade math. In addition we encourage all students to complete the math and reading summer packets. We hope you have a fun and relaxing summer.



FOURTH GRADE

In reading, the **Fourth Graders** have been very busy this marking period. They have completed their unit on Mysteries. Their terrific "mystery boxes" were fantastic! The students all shared their clues with the class and we had an opportunity to guess the mystery objects. Nice job fourth graders. We have begun our Play Unit and how various plots and conflicts affect stories and plays and their outcomes/resolutions. The students in Ms. Stopak's classes are putting on a mini-play in June. (All invited to come and see the show). More to come later on time/date. In *math*, the students are working on liquid measurement and capacity. In *science*, we are exploring rocks and minerals of the Earth. MAP-R was administered in May. We are so proud of all the fourth graders they have worked so hard this year.

FIFTH GRADE

In reading and social studies, students will examine to complex events that led to the abandonment of the Articles of Confederation and the eventual adoption of our current Constitution. Students examine the economic forces that necessitated a new form of government and the resulting protection of individual right in the final compromise, the addition of the Bill of Rights.



Math 5- Students are learning about data and statistics.

They will understand that the representation of data depends on the characteristic of that data, and that statistical measures provide a numeric picture of the shape of the data. Some key questions that they will be able to answer include: What data display is appropriate for a given set of data? How can the mean, median, mode and range be used to describe the shape of the data? and How can mean, median, and mode be computed and compared?

Students will also be learning about measurement during the fourth quarter. They will understand that measurements are approximations. They will also understand that area and volume formulas are derived from linear measures. Some key questions that they will be able to answer include: Why are all measurements approximations? How can problems involving two and three dimensional measures be solved? How can the area of closed figures

Classroom Notes cont.

be estimated? Why are formulas used in measurement? and What is the relationship between linear measures and area and volume?

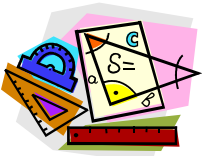
Math A- Students have begun their unit on Geometry: Shape and Movement. They understand how relationships exist among angles, sides, lengths, perimeters, and areas of two-dimensional figures. They recognize that geometric figures can change position and maintain the same attributes on a coordinate plane. In this unit, they will be able to answer three essential questions that include: How are angle relationships used? How does the movement of a geometric figure affect its attributes? How do line relationships affect angle relationships?



During the fourth quarter, Math A students will also be learning about Algebra, patterns, and functions. They will be able to understand that patterns and relationships can be represented graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally. They will also be able to understand that Algebraic representations can be used to solve real world problems. The following are some essential questions they will be able to answer by the end of the unit: How can a pattern be identified? What can be learned from studying patterns? How are a graph, a description, and an expression/equation that represent a real world situation related?

Science- The final unit in Science is Cells and Heredity. Students will learn that cells are the basic unit of life and can differ in structure and in function. They will also understand that traits from animals or plants of one generation are transferred to the next generation, as well as the fact that some likenesses between parents and children are inherited and some are learned. One final understanding that they will acquire is that light is a form of energy that behaves in predictable ways. In the Cells and Heredity unit, students will be able to answer the following essential questions:

What are cells? Why does the offspring of any organism resemble its parents? Are all likenesses between generations inherited? and How does light help us observe our surroundings?



Let the MUSIC Play ...

May has been an exciting month here in the music department. Congratulations to all of the cast and crew of Annie Jr. The musical was a fabulous success! Thank you to all who contributed their time and talent!! We are also busy preparing for our Spring Concert on June 3rd at 7pm. The advanced band, advanced strings, beginning band, beginning strings, as well as the 4th and 5th grade choruses will be performing. Our “blackout” date for the concert is June 8th. Stay tuned for more details coming home about our 3rd grade recorder concert.

Art News



The school year might be ending soon, but that hasn't slowed down our student artists! 5th graders have been making brightly colored clay statues of fantastical creatures based on the Alebrijes of Oaxaca, Mexico. 4th graders have been hard at work carefully drawing contour line portraits. They then add bright, unrealistic colors to these portraits in the style of the Fauve artists. 3rd graders have been building on their coin recognition skills in art class; they are dipping coins in paint and stamping them to make symmetrical designs. Next, they add up the “total value” of their artwork. 2nd graders have continued to make seascape paintings but have expanded their skills by using resist techniques. They have cut tape into boats, drawn waves with wax crayons, and sprinkled salt into wet watercolor in order to explore the various ways these materials resist the watercolors. 1st graders have taken an imaginary trip to the jungle. Using the artwork of Henri Rousseau as inspiration, students have been working on multilayered jungle pictures. They are learning how to vary size and placement of objects in order to create a sense of depth in their artwork. And lastly, kindergarteners are putting the finishing touches on their Art Books that will be coming home soon full of artwork they have made throughout the school year. Please encourage your children to keep making artwork over the summer; we never know who the next Picasso, O'Keeffe, or Basquiat may be!

Physical Ed. News

Field Day is coming!!!!

Kindergarten is from 9:45-11:05 on 5/27 (Thurs).

1st -2nd is 5/27 (Thurs) from 9:30-11:30.

3rd -5th is 5/28 (Fri) from 9:45-12:07.

Please make sure your kids wear appropriate clothing and footwear. It may be sunny (hopefully) so have them bring a **water bottle** and if needed sunscreen. **Also if any parents would like to run a station for the 3rd-5th grade please feel free to come by and join in on the fun!!!**

Together we can!!!



- Together we can
- Build a school community
- Put on a play
- Create a new school program
- Put on a carnival
- Improve our children's behavior
- Put together a picnic
- Recognize outstanding staff members
- Host International night
- Encourage and strengthen reading
- Create life-long friendships
- Host field trips
- Put on a musical
- Put on two book fairs
- Host an Author's tea
- Recognize outstanding students
- Improve our school
- Raise money for our school
- Encourage and strengthen math skills
- Support our school
- Show appreciation for our SES staff
- Show appreciation for our SES volunteers

Three little words - TOGETHER WE CAN - combined, they form a pretty powerful statement - do we say them idly and just go about our business? - not at SES. We have achieved so much this year - things that never could be accomplished if we tried to do them individually. We can't even begin to thank everyone who made the positive difference that was sought - what we can say is that the reward was the smiling faces, the friendships formed, the beauty of seeing a goal met, the satisfaction of knowing that every expectation was met and exceeded.

Together we can.....

Together we have!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thanks to everyone who made a difference in 2009-2010 - we couldn't have done it without you!!

Mr. Jacques Croom and Dr. Bobbi Jasper



PBIS Year End Round-up



As we wind down for the year, students are still being reminded of their expectations for school. Be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe! When Spring Fever hits, it's difficult to remember the importance of maintaining our behavior. Each month, Sequoyah students have enjoyed a Monthly Celebration for exceptional PBIS behavior. Some of the special events have included: extra recess with bubbles or sidewalk chalk, making crafts, Olympic Fever, movie and popcorn, and bingo. Our last celebration will be on June 2.





Goodbye Sequoyah, we will miss you!

Sadly the year is coming to an end for us, as this will be my last year! Before leaving I wanted to express my gratitude towards the staff at Sequoyah and the many friends we have made since my older son attended this school in 3rd grade! I thank everyone for making my children's elementary school years a safe and fun learning environment. You have all made a difference; from the greeting of the staff every morning outside, the smiles in the hallway of visiting parents, the rewards and discipline of the teachers, the support of the volunteer parents to all the comfort Ms Brunk have given them over the years! I can go on and on...

The memories Michael and Andrew have created here have been nothing but positive. As a teacher you have influenced them in many ways. As I look back I truly am grateful for all the experiences they have had. Michael is doing well in Math thanks to Mrs. Odans. By the way he says to this day, she is still his favorite teacher. He greatly improved in English in Mrs. Madarang's class and still thinks of her when he listens to Michael Buble!

Andrew is doing well because he was able to work with many teachers, with very different styles. For this he has learned to adapt and meet the teacher's expectations. A big thank you to Ms Burk for teaching him how to be organized and to develop a liking for reading books!

We have enjoyed many field trips but my kids remember reading with Mrs. Deigan, at the Bedford Court Manor as the most meaningful one.

To all the kindergarten parents: you are so lucky! Please participate in their education, I promise you it will be very rewarding.

I will truly miss being part of Sequoyah. Mrs. Schams and Mr. Kellar: thank you for making our last year a fun one! As we move on to Redland and Magruder I'm sure some of our paths will cross again.

Best Wishes to everyone,
Pascale Nguyen

Exciting Correspondence from Washington DC !

Kaleb Diaz, a first grade student in Ms. Cohen's class did a report on Colin Powell last month and sent a copy of the report to Mr. Powell. How exciting that Mr. Powell responded to Kaleb! Colin Powell sent an autographed picture like the one at the bottom which said;

*"To Kaleb, Congrats on your report and the figure you made of me. Study Hard!
Colin Powell"*

We're all proud of your report and all the wonderful reports hanging in our hallways.



Fifth Grade Farewell

We are planning for a 5th grade farewell celebration on Tuesday, June 15. The Sequoyah staff organizes the ceremony but we need volunteers.

The ceremony will start at 10:00 am, followed by a reception in the courtyard.

5th grade parents- please send in your children's pictures for our memory board. Please place the photos in a self addressed, stamped envelope and send them to your child's teacher by May 28th.

Please put Attention : " Dawn Greene" on the outside. If you would like to contribute or help, please email me!

pascale.nguyen@comcast.net

Pascale Nguyen, Farewell coordinator



Student Government News

Student Government Association- Year End Summary.

Our student Council has been very busy this school year:

- Support and participation with International Night
- Canned food drive/ Food certificates drive for "Needy Families"
- Valentine's Sales event
- St. Patrick activities
- Support for the "Power Pennies" campaign for the Haiti relief fund
- SGA sponsored "Pennies for Patients" campaign---We hope to raise \$600.00

We will be electing new officers this spring for the coming school year.

Many thanks to our outstanding Officers: Julia Crocker- President, Jessica Alvarado-Alejo- Vice- President, Kenz Baryoun- Treasurer, Ellie Matussek- Historian, and Katie Martin- Secretary. Also, a special thank you to Ms. Reber for her continued support of the SGA.

Mr. Plaisance- Sponsor

Our very best wishes for a safe, happy and restful summer vacation! See you August 30 on the first day of school!

