



Sequoyah Signal

THE PTA NEWSLETTER OF THE SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

www.mcps.k12.md/us/schools/sequoyahes

Happy New Year!

This month's message from our Principal and our PTA President

January 2005

CALENDAR

PTA Meeting	Jan 4, 2005 7:30PM
Playground Options meeting— 1 p.m. in Parent Volunteer Room	Jan 7
PTA Fundraiser at the Outta The Way Cafe	Jan 11
Market Day Pickup	Jan 19
Ennis' Gift	Jan 20
2nd marking period ends	Jan 21
International Night	Jan 28
February PTA Meeting	Feb 1

SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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February Signal Deadline:
1/19/2005

Happy New Year!

As we begin a fresh new year, we can all be very proud of our 2004 accomplishments (hmmm...was 2004 the quantity or the year?... probably both!). From late August through December, our wonderful staff and PTA volunteers did so many things that made a positive difference for our children and our school. You organized an ESOL open house and three general open houses, a picnic, a breakfast, three teacher luncheons, restaurant nights, a haircut weekend, and successful Gift Wrap, Market Day and Book Fair fundraisers.

You implemented a new Conquista Tus Suenos program, a Copy Club to save teachers time previously spent at the copier, or you generously donated and organized the coats, hat, gloves and other winter clothing. You helped to improve communication by participating in the Yahoo groups listserv, translating important information so that other parents could understand, contributed to Sequoyah's successful web site, developed the Sequoyah calendar or directory. You organized a fabulously successful Dinner Show/ Family Night or helped with a toy or food drive. Scores of parent volunteers also helped in the classrooms, chaired committees, mentored children after school, and organized Halloween parties.

All of this was only possible because of your caring dedication, your generous donations of time and talent, and the partnership of dedicated volunteers and committed staff working and learning together to give our children the best we can. Thank you so much for everything you do!

Special thanks go to Yati Moeller for organizing a beautiful and scrumptious Potluck Holiday Luncheon for the teachers and staff. The teachers appreciated the variety of foods and the talented and caring work that went into pre-

paring and serving the lovely luncheon. The desserts were terrific and the Yule log, made by Susan Bernstein, was truly a (delicious!) masterpiece.

Also, thanks to Kerlyn Colindres, teachers can now leave their copy and other work requests in the box next to the copier and, with the help of elfin magic (The Copy Club!), find their finished projects in their mailboxes. If you would like to help with this effort, please call Gina Quinn who facilitates this effort.

Certificates were awarded to those parents participating in the Conquista Tus Suenos program. If you participated, but were not at the December meeting to receive your certificate, please see Gina Quinn, ESOL teacher. She has made attempts to distribute them to participants, but may not have gotten them out to everyone yet, and prefers not to send the glass frames out in children's backpacks.

The first PTA meeting of the new year is on Tuesday, January 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center. We will be discussing the **International Night, planned for January 28**, as well as other business. Other important and fun events coming up this year are: the **Spring Dance** on March 18, the **Book Fair** on April 20/21 and the **Talent Show** on April 22. The Chairs will need lots of volunteers to help to make these events successful. Also, Ms. McInnis will be looking for students to participate in the Newspaper Club.

Thanks for a great year! 2005 is shaping up to be just as busy and exciting! See you on the 4th!

Sincerely,

Pat Chapin Dr. Bobbi Jasper
PTA President Principal

Feliz Año Nuevo Un Mensaje de la Directora y de la Presidenta del PTA

Feliz Año Nuevo , Ahora que estamos empezando un nuevo año quiero decirles de lo orgullosos que debemos de estar por todos los logros realizados en este año. Desde agosto hasta diciembre nuestro personal y el PTA hicieron tantas cosas maravillosas para nuestros estudiantes y la escuela.

Se organizo una visita de ESOL de puertas abiertas a la escuela y tres más, se organizaron muchas actividades como: un pic nic, comidas en restaurantes , el fin de semana de corte de pelo, un desayuno y tres almuerzos para los profesores. La venta de papel de regalo, el día del mercado y la feria del libro fueron actividades para recaudar fondos para la escuela.

Gracias por asistir al nuevo programa Conquista tus sueños que fue establecido para ayudar a las familias hispanas. Tambien un gracias a los padres voluntarios que ayudaron a los maestros con fotocopiar trabajos para los niños.. y a los que donaron abrigos , guantes, y sombreros y los que por medio de yahoo en el internet establecieron comunicación y asi mantenernos en contacto.

Tambien gracias a las personas que tradujeron este documento para que asi las familias hispanas pudieran entenderlo.y las personas que hicieron el calendario, directorio y el sitio Web de Sequoyah para los estudiantes.

Gracias por organizar la maravillosa cena/ talento show que fue un éxito, las fiestas de halloween y todo su tiempo que han dedicado a ser voluntarios en la clase de sus hijos una vez más todo esto fue posible por su dedicacion y cariño y ya sabemos que trabajando juntos comunidad y escuela hacemos lo mejor para ayudar a nuestros niños gracias.

Gracias especialmente a Yati Moeller por el almuerzo que preparo par la maestras y el staff de la escuela todo salii exquisito especialmente los postres el Yule log hecho por Susan Bernstain estuvo delicioso.

Gracias a Katie Coliendres y al club de fotocopias, por ayudar a fotocopiar los proyectos de las profesoras si quiere ayudar por favor comuniquese con Gina Quinn.

Para los padres que participaron en el programa Conquista tus sueños hay certificados de participacion si usted no fue a la reunión durante el mes de diciembre y no recibio su certificado por favor comuniquese con la profesora de ESOL Gina Quinn, ella no quiere enviarselos con sus hijos ya que el cuadro es de vidrio.

La primera reunion del PTA del nuevo año sera el 4 de enero a las 7:30 en la biblioteca de la escuela.. En dicha reunión hablaremos la Noche internacional programada para el 28 de enero del 2005, asi como otros asuntos. Otros eventos importantes que vienen serán la Fiesta de primavera para el 18 de marzo , la Feria del libro el 20 y 21 de abril y el show de talentos el 22 de abril.. Las personas encargadas necesitan muchos voluntarios que ayuden a que estos eventos sean un éxito, tambien la señora McInnis estara buscando estudiantes voluntarios para queparticipen en el club del periodico de la escuela

Gracias por este año! Y preparemonos para que el 2005 sea igual de ocupado y emocionante!

Nos vemos el 4 de enero del 2005.

Pat Chapin Dra. Bobbi Jasper
Presidenta Asociación Directora
Padres y Maestros

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Pam Kostecka
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Staff Birthdays in January

1/8 Mrs. Noel Bettinger
1/9 Mrs. Gina Quinn
1/10 Mrs. Eileen Schectman
1/10 Ms. Jill Scott
1/14 Dr. Bobbi Jasper
1/18 Mrs. Karen Cox
(on maternity leave)
1/24 Mrs. Sherry Proctor
1/25 Mrs. Sandy Sedam
1/26 Mrs. Nancy Dabbs
1/27 Mrs. Esther Brown

News from Bar-T: On-Site Pre-K Program!

Bar-T, Inc. is pleased to announce that it will be adding a Pre-K Program to its already existing Kids Club Before and After School Childcare Program at Sequoyah Elementary School beginning in August 2005.

- The Bar-T Pre-K Program is designed to provide a high quality, creative, hands-on, child-centered learning environment for children who will be 4 years old by December 31, 2005.
- Extended care is also available offering many innovative and exciting choices (between the hours of 7-9 am and 3:30-6:30 pm) for your child to enjoy. Kids Club has a structured yet flexible variety of fun-filled experiences during the hours before and after school.

For more information or to register, please contact the Bar-T Main Office at 301-948-3172 or by email at: lsaputo@bar-t.com.



Grading Policy Info

If you want more information about the new grading policy in Montgomery County Public Schools, the website is www.mcps.k12.md.us/info/grading or call 301-279-3381.



Artists of the Month

December

Lauren Winters (Mrs. Carrasco)
Florence Stevenson (Mrs. Jaworski)
Jennifer Gruber (Mrs. Cooke)
Emily Lighter (Mrs. Drayton)
Lauren Guttman (Mrs. Proctor)

The following 4th grade students had their puppets selected to be center-pieces at the Executive Ball for the Arts, a fundraiser to show people how important learning in the arts can be:

Zachary Galis
Ashley Lowe
Kevin Mafar
Rebecca Reyes
Bianka Juarez
Ian Cho
Savannah Sweeney
Rachael Taylor
Alejandra Sarmiento
David Bailey
Erica Tengan
Michaela Dove
Ying Ngo
Sarah Lighter
Anna Reiff
Domenica Carrese
Cesar Amaya
Bernice Simon
Jurjhen Ovando
Jordan Martinko

Special Education Workshops

For families of children with special needs, co-sponsored by The Parents' Place of Maryland, The Jewish Social Service Agency, and The ARC of Montgomery County:

Resolving Conflicts in Special Education - Understanding Procedural Safeguards

Wed., January 12, 2005, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

This workshop reviews when to file a complaint, introductory information on using mediation to resolve conflicts between parents and school systems and on the process involved in due process hearings.

Putting the Positive in Your Child's IEP - Functional Behavior Assessments & Positive Behavioral Support

Wed., February 16, 2005, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

This workshop covers the IDEA process available to parents when a child's behavior may interfere with learning. It includes information on positive behavioral supports, FBA and discipline requirements under IDEA. It helps parents understand the processes and discusses when and why a child may benefit from behavioral supports in the classroom.

All workshops are held at The Jewish Social Service Agency, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20853. For more information about registration please contact Jamell White at 301-990-6880, ext 321.

Ways to Support Sequoyah in the New Year

Outta the Way Café

Outta the Way Café will donate 10% of the bill from everyone who attends the Sequoyah fundraiser from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, at the restaurant. Outta the Way Café is located in the same shopping center as the U.S. Post Office near the corner of Muncaster Mill and Muncaster Roads. Please try to stop by for a bite to eat on the 11th, and make sure to mention that you are there for the Sequoyah fundraiser.

Market Day

The November Market Day sale earned over \$1,100, all of which went to Sequoyah's Family Resource Fund. Mrs. Hamrick's class sold the most Market Day pies in November, and earned the privilege of turning Dr. Jasper into a whipped cream pie immediately following Sequoyah's Holiday Sing-Along. In January all customers who order two Campbell's foods items will be entered to win FREE GROCERIES FOR A YEAR. All Market Day orders (both internet at www.MarketDay.com and paper) are due Thursday, January 13th. The pick up date is Wednesday, January 19th, from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

- *Ivette Sherman, Market Day Chair*

Box Tops

The class that turned in the most Box Tops for the month of November was Mr. Manon's class. They enjoyed a popcorn and soda party right before Winter Break. Thanks to everyone who sent in box tops. We collected a record 769 box tops in just one month. Look for more Box Top news next month.

- *Kathy Welch, Box Tops Chair*

The Sequoyah Sock Hop

The Sequoyah Sock Hop is back! Mark the date on your calendar:

**Friday, March 18, 2005
6:30 - 9:30 PM.**

D.J. Doug And The Road Show will entertain Sequoyah families with fun, games, and great music! The Sock Hop—a 1950s-themed dance with poodle skirts, bobbi socks, saddle shoes, “pedal-pushers” (capri pants), and rolled-up T-shirt sleeves as its trademark attire—will also feature a Silent Auction and Raffle, organized by Sarah Hochuli.

Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter to donate something to this event. To help with organizing, decorating, serving food, or selling tickets, please call the event organizers, Elisa McGuire on 301-977-0827 or Jackie Koehn on 301-924-4990. See you at the Sock Hop! It's always been one of the best attended events of the year!

- *Chairs Elisa McGuire & Jackie Koehn*

PTA Transitions

For your reference, a few PTA committees changes and openings are as follows:

Changes:

Book Fair Chair, Lisa Sieg
Book Fair Co-chair, Tam Miller
School Store Committee Dissolve Pending PTA Vote

Openings

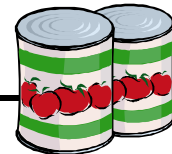
Spring 2005:

Art Fever Co-Chair Spring 2005
Book Fair--Co-chair
Calendar Chair Spring/Summer 2005
Directory Chair Spring 2005
Hands on Science Co-Chair Spring 2005

Fall 2005:

New Parent Breakfast Fall 2005 Chair

- *Andrea Troutner, 1st V.P./Programs and Safety Co-Chair.*



Food Drive Brought in 1,197 Items!

Many thanks to all who donated food during the food drive from November 29 through December 10. Junior Girl Scout troop 1459 worked very hard from start to finish to make this effort a success. The troop members are: Lindsay Luhn, Alexandra May, Rebecca Wahrhaftig, Hayley Rosenfeld, Ellie Ross, Chelsea Randall, Erin O'Keefe, Erin Coursey, Anastasia Woodfield, and Natalia Chamandy. The girls planned the drive, decorated the boxes, and collected, counted and delivered the food to The Lord's Table, a Gaithersburg soup kitchen run by St. Martin's Catholic Church.

Ms. Sedam's kindergarten class collected the most cans per student, 5 each, and received a pizza party on December 17. The Girl Scout troop sponsored the party using money from Girl Scout cookie sales.

The top five classes were:

- 1: Ms. Sedam's kindergarten class
- 2: Mrs. Beard's fifth grade class
- 3: Mr. Manon's fifth grade class
- 4: Mrs. Ragan's third grade class
- 5: Mrs. Hamrick's third grade class

Thanks to all Sequoyah students, staff and families for this extraordinary effort!

- *Nellie Ross*

Especially for You

Sarah Sirgo
Special Education Coordinator

Executive Functioning Disorder

Executive functions are the higher-order processes that enable us to plan, sequence, initiate, and sustain our behavior towards some goal, incorporating feedback and making adjustments along the way. There are many disorders that are associated with Executive Dysfunction, but it attention deficit disorder is most often a co-existing condition.

The foundations for learning are attention, memory, and executive function. While most parents would immediately have some sense of what "attention" and "memory" mean, they may never have heard of executive functions. And yet without these functions, so many aspects of our functioning would be impossible or significantly impaired.

Executive functions (EF) are central processes that are most intimately involved in giving organization and order to our actions and behavior. But what are these processes? The topic is controversial, but there seems to be a consensus that executive functions involve (at the very least):

- Planning for the future
- The ability to inhibit or delay responding
- Initiating behavior, and
- Shifting between activities flexibly

These skills influence our ability to set goals, plan, sequence, prioritize, organize, complete task, and have emotional control.

If students have deficits in ability to plan, initiate, sequence, sustain, and pace work, what is likely to happen to them in school?

Think of an academic activity such as writing a big report. The student who has Executive Dysfunction will have difficulty picking a topic, planning the project, sequencing the material for the paper, breaking the project down into manageable units with intermediate deadlines, getting started, and completing the activity.

One area, which is often significantly impaired, relates to homework. Students may experience challenges because they forget to record all their assignments or pack up necessary materials. At

home, their parents may report that the child experiences significantly difficulty getting started, or sustaining their attention so that they complete their task. And on the rare occasion that they do complete the task, they may fail to pack it up and/or turn it in to receive credit.

If a child has difficulties with executive functions, parents or teachers often take over the task of general organization without ever teaching the child how to organize himself or herself. The best solution is to figure out a way to teach the child how to organize and meet his or her own responsibilities.

We let the child recognize and appreciate where their problems are and ask how we can be of help to them, assuming the best -- that they want to be responsible and organized. Often, the ideas or strategies that they come up with may be better than anything we could come up with and since they are now vested in the strategy, they are more likely to comply with it.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND PARENTING SUPPORT INFORMATION

The Ivymount PTA Speaker Series
proudly presents:

Transforming Difficult Children

Gary Clark, LCPC

Wednesday, January 19, 2005, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Gary Clark is a family therapist who has had success using the behavioral approach based on the book *Transforming the Difficult Child: The Nurtured Heart Approach* by Howard Glasser, MA and Jennifer Easley, MA. The *Nurtured Heart Approach* gives parents and teachers an absolutely clear understanding of how a challenging child really responds to normal ways of parenting and why traditional methods actually make the situation worse. It also provides a powerful set of strategies designed specifically to turn the challenging child around to a new pattern of success. Using this approach, it is easy to shift the difficult child to being a cooperative child who uses his or her intensity in entirely positive and creative ways. With the right tools, you get to experience the joy of having a therapeutic effect and the joy of watching your child succeed. You get to enjoy the compliments instead of the complaints that so often accompany a difficult child in every area of life.

Where: Ivymount School,
11614 Seven Locks Rd,
Rockville, MD

When: Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2005,
7:30-9:00 pm

Cost: Free!

RSVP: Ivymount School, 301-469-0223

**Parent Information Meeting on IEP
and Annual Review**

The Department of Special Education invites all parents of students receiving special education services in Montgomery County Public Schools to a parent information meeting on the IEP and Annual Review Process on Monday, January 24, 2005, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center (CESC), 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. For more information call the Department of Special Education office at 301-279-3135.

ENNIS' GIFT**A Film About Learning Differences**

Thursday, January 20, 2005, 7:30-8:30 p.m

A special presentation for the Sequoyah community, sponsored

This excellent and powerful film will be shown in the All-Purpose Room. Teachers, parents and students are all welcome to attend. Please join us!

Ennis' Gift, introduced by Ed Bradley of 60 Minutes, is inspired by the legacy of Ennis William Cosby, a young man who became a passionate educator dedicated to helping all children find their gifts and learn. Ennis knew how it felt to have difficulties learning to read and write. He understood the hurt, frustration and confusion that come from being misunderstood by teachers and not "fitting in" with peers. It was his dream to help children find the self-esteem, support and learning techniques that would open the doors of accomplishment and joy to them. His life was a gift to us; our understanding of learning differences is our gift to his memory, and to all those who struggle to learn.

In this 52-minute film viewers meet actors, scientists, business leaders, a polar explorer, a teacher and others, both children and adults, who have one thing in common: they all have learning differences. These individuals refused to be limited by their difficulties or defined by the labels that were assigned to them. They, like Ennis William Cosby, found their gifts in their differences. The film features special appearances by James Earl Jones, Henry Winkler, Charles Schwab, Danny Glover, Lindsay Wagner, Robert Rauschenberg, Bruce Jenner, Jack Horner and other guests.

Ennis' Gift, A Film About Learning Differences, inspired by the legacy of Ennis William Cosby aired repeatedly on HBO Family from November 2001 through December 2002. The film has received the 2002 Literacy in Media Award from the Literacy Network of Greater Los Angeles and the PIXI Award from Seattle-based Action for Media Education. To order the video, call 1-800-343-5540. Read about it and the Hello Friend/Ennis Cosby Foundation at www.hellofriend.org.

Sequoyah's Partners in Parenting (Special Needs/Parent Support) Committee extends its grateful thanks to the Learning Disability Association of Montgomery County for their generosity in loaning the film for this showing.

January PTA Meeting

Tuesday, January 4, 2004

7:30 p.m.

Sequoyah Media Center

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

President's Report

Secretary's Report –
Approval of minutes

Treasurer's Report

1st Vice President's Report
(programs)2nd Vice President's Report
(fundraising)Principal's Report
*Behavior issues/bullying, staff
response*Staff Comments
*Newspaper Club—update?*Committees:
*Market Day—(Ivette Sherman)**International Night—Pam
Kostecka**Volunteers—Pam Kostecka/
Andrea Dumas*Unfinished Business
*Playground options—Meeting
Jan. 7*

New Business

*Childcare and translation will be
available. Please join us!***PTA Meeting Minutes, December 7, 2004 7:30 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE: Nellie Ross, Pat Chapin, Andrea Troutner, Bobbi Jasper, Sarah Hochuli, Marissa Bailey, Jean Sommerville, Louise Lighter, Alex N. Colindres, Kerlyn J. Colindres, Juana V. Ramirez, Magda Tranamil, Altagracia Gonzalez, Isabel Seyed-Ali, Lorena Sarmiento, Laurie Sweeney, David Dennison, Laurie Wrigley, Tam Miller, Veronica Wahrhaftig, Linda Kuserk, Joanne Waters

Pat Chapin opened the meeting, welcoming everyone. Dr. Jasper continued with news that Ms. Tobin will be leaving Sequoyah after the winter break to join her fiancé and get married! (Congratulations to the happy couple.)

Dr. Jasper answered the important question: "Why are we always testing?" Dr. Jasper showed the year's testing calendar and explained that teachers are teaching material on the tests because the test is so closely aligned with the curriculum per county, state, and federal guidelines. She also distributed a sample page from the MCPS GT website showing that procedures to identify GT kids are changing. Going forward, children who test into the 90th percentile on the test for GT taken in second grade will be considered GT using the Raven criterion. Today, 27 percent of county third graders who tested last year were identified as GT. At Sequoyah, more than 30 percent of third, fourth and fifth graders met GT criteria. The change is expected to align those who test at GT levels with those who can benefit from continued work at the GT level. Dr. Jasper added that parents can request GT evaluation based on their children's performance. The CTBS test will be replaced by "In View" designed by McGraw Hill. This is a timed test,

evaluating skills in sequencing, analogy, verbal reasoning, and more. All schools in the district will test at the same time in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5. We also recently completed some ESOL testing.

Dr. Jasper also mentioned recent changes in lunch and recess: slight changes in lunch scheduling, no more than two grade levels at recess simultaneously, alternative recess for some children. She deferred further comment about behavioral issues to Steve Plaisance for later in the meeting.

Pat Chapin thanked several people for their volunteer efforts: Jane Martinko and the directory committee for successful completion of the directory; Ms. Murphy, Martha Schaerr and the many involved people for a great production of "Bugz"; Conquisti tus Suenos members for their participation, as well as initiating the Copy Club and organizing the clothing donations in the Volunteer Room; Kathryn Welch and Martha Schaerr for their efforts that brought in 209 PTA memberships. In addition, she stated that the team effort by staff and translators at the Parent conferences at the Upper County Community Center contributed to the 90 percent attendance rate. She acknowledged each person involved in the Conquista Tus Suenos program and mentioned that she would distribute a framed certificate to each participant after the meeting. Pat also reminded the group that the key PTA positions open for 2005-06 are: First VP/ Fundraising, Treasurer, Book Fair, Directory.

November PTA minutes were approved as written in the November Signal.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

School Counselor, Steve Plaisance, on "Raising Responsibility", distributed packets explaining the discipline policy, tips for parents, a list of articles on related topics on

www.marvinmarshall.com/promotingresponsibilitynews/index.htm.

Mr. Plaisance said Sequoyah is working toward a proactive system to teach kids to behave well because it is the right thing to do, not because of rewards or punishments from teachers, parents or others. Using "Discipline without Stress®" (part of "Raising Responsibility"), Sequoyah is looking to reduce office visits and other disciplinary actions. The system reinforces good behavior, gives direction and mediation using positive phrasing, includes giving children a choice of activities, encourages reflection on positive points of their experiences.

The group discussed recess behavior issues related to the new discipline policy. Concerns were expressed by several parents as to the procedures implemented when bullying or inappropriate behavior occurs on the playground. Parents mentioned particular situations in which their kids were involved and expressed the desire to know more detail about how decisions are made to separate to kids who routinely cause problems for others at recess and who act without considering consequences. Parents also are very concerned about how the playground is managed, staffing (paid and volunteer) levels during recess, and what is being done to enhance the overall flow of recess and provide constructive activities for kids to pursue.

Kathleen McInnis initiated the newspaper club with much student interest. Students will publish the paper three times a year and will include articles and activities of interest to all grade levels.

Students will produce all aspects of the paper: writing, layout, interviews. PTA approved an expenditure of \$100.00 to fund the paper's production costs, using the receipts of \$100.00 from the Haircut Weekend fundraiser.

Treasurer's report: Currently, we have \$12,990.88 in our checking account. We received \$100 from our haircut weekend – thanks to all who participated! November Market Day receipts of \$1,189.47 will be used for "family resource" expenses. Membership wrapped up the year with 209 memberships sold and a profit for the PTA of \$627.

Andrea Troutner, VP Programs, is now recruiting for some of the key PTA positions for 2005-06 including: VP Fundraising, Treasurer, book fair co-chairs, and directory. Please carefully consider your possible ability to help in these areas.

Sarah Hochuli said Sequoyah has earned \$450 in Giant Food Bonus Bucks and \$160 in Safeway sponsorship dollars. There is still time to designate Sequoyah for your Giant and Safeway purchases. And, of course, there is no cost to you.

Cindy Batz reported 50 clothing orders – a nine percent response rate and \$2,000 in total orders. Orders are due the week before the Winter Break. Contact Cindy for future orders.

Andrea Troutner, as Health and Safety chair, sponsored an "allergy" article in the November newsletter. In addition, Andrea attended the Child Obesity forum held for the Magruder Cluster. Her recommendation to Sequoyah to help families make healthy choices is to translate the lunch menu into Spanish and to review meal nutritional information on the school web site. The forum also suggested that schools offer physically active choices during indoor recess and augment the sports choices in after-

school activities. Andrea's committee will work with parents on health and safety issues. Andrea is working with staff to maintain hand washing supplies in all restrooms.

Conquistus Suenos, Isabel Seyed-Ali said the copy club is up and running and can handle more copy work. When copying work is completed, committee members work with kindergarten classes. Next meeting: 12/21.

International Night is January 28. Call Pam Kostecka to contribute information and supplies regarding cultures and customs.

Laurie Sweeney, Building and Grounds, working with Dr. Jasper and PTA on possible new sprinkler system for Sequoyah campus. Work estimates and budget are under review.

January 7, 1PM in PTA Parent Volunteer Room at Sequoyah – meeting to discuss playground replacement options.

Martha Schaerr as MCCPTA liaison to Sequoyah addressed the new Family Life curriculum (sex ed.) taught in high school. While many agree the topics need attention, there is concern about the way the topics are addressed. Some subjects have religious and moral value that should be more carefully considered. Linda Kuserk, as liaison to the PTA's within the Magruder cluster, said she will discuss the issue at the next cluster meeting. While some parents expressed surprise at the way some topics were currently being addressed in the high schools, David Dennison reminded the group that the decisions were made by our elected School Board officials. Family Life and related policies can be reviewed at: www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/health. Discussion to be continued.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m. Approximately 22 people attended.

Sequoyah Signal



Mark your calendars for March 18, 2005, for the Sequoyah Sock Hop!

This year, in addition to the Sock Hop, we will also hold a **Raffle** and a **Silent Auction!** All proceeds will go to our school via the PTA.

Here's how you can help:

- **Donate** items and services that would appeal to adults as well as children. Many wonderful donations by families and staff members contributed to the success of last year's Raffle/Auction. (Your donation may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for details.) Here are some examples of the types of items that people enjoy bidding on:
 - ☞ Use of a vacation home or time share
 - ☞ Filled gift baskets
 - ☞ Crafts
 - ☞ Gift certificates
 - ☞ Tickets to concerts or sporting events
 - ☞ Business services (landscaping, interior design, etc.)
 - ☞ Baked goods or candy
 - ☞ Anything else you would like to contribute to our raffle or silent auction!
- Help with preparing the items for the raffle, copying the booklet of Raffle/Auction listings, and setting up the tables
- Send **back** this flier, describing your item/s for donation, or **email** the information to Sarah Hochuli on sarahhochuli@yahoo.com, as soon as possible. The deadline for donations is March 4, 2005.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SEQUOYAH!

Your name _____

Telephone # _____

Description of donation: