

# Sequoyah Signal

THE PTA NEWSLETTER OF THE SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

[www.mcps.k12.md/us/schools/sequoyahes](http://www.mcps.k12.md/us/schools/sequoyahes)

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

### Greetings!

The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, December 6, 2005. Our Special Needs/Parenting Partners committee will show a movie in the Media Center about special needs issues at 6:55 p.m., which will be immediately followed by the PTA meeting at 8:10 p.m. The main focus of the December meeting will be to brief you on plans for the activities coming up in the remainder of the school year and to allocate our remaining budget dollars to fund these plans. Please plan to attend the movie and meeting, as our next scheduled PTA meeting will be on February 7, 2006. (While we have decided not to hold our January 3 meeting, the remaining PTA meeting dates for this school year, after February, are: 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, and 6/6...and we always strive to have babysitting and Spanish translation available.)

When you get a moment, we hope you'll take some time to reflect on how you might help your child and Sequoyah in the second half of the school year. You might decide to help with a committee or project, to read with your child more often, or to participate more in the fundraisers that pay for the programs at Sequoyah. If you'd like to get more involved at school, or would like to consider filling one of the elected PTA executive board positions coming up in the Spring, please contact Andi Dumas, Volunteer Coordinator, or Pat Chapin, PTA President, for ideas or information. If you are looking for ways to best help your child/ren excel, please talk with the classroom teacher/s.

Because of the proximity and overlapping logistics required for the Spring Musical and the Talent Show that had been planned for 1/27, the Chairs are reconfiguring the Talent Show, instead incorporating talent elements into the Sock Hop planned for March 24<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for details.

Special thanks to all the staff members, parents, and translators who participated in the Conference Night at the Upper County Community Center. It was wonderful for the staff to have such meaningful exchanges with so many parents about their children's efforts. Thanks to all of the bilingual parents who helped with this massive effort!

As 2005 draws to a close, we wish you and yours the very best of health, peace, prosperity, and happiness. Thanks for all you've done for our students and staff in 2005!

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Pat Chapin  
PTA President

Dr. Bobbi Jasper  
Principal

*Por favor note: para eliminar la necesidad de dar vuelta las hojas entre las secciones en inglés y español de la gacetilla Signal, los artículos que se han traducido al español aparecerán al final de la gacetilla siguiendo la sección en inglés.*



December 2005

### CALENDAR

PTA Meeting - 8:10PM (Following Special Needs Movie @ 6:55PM)	Dec 6
Market Day Pickup 7:00 - 8:00 PM	Dec 7
Chorus Concert (Please note new date!)	Dec 20
Holiday Sing-Along	Dec 23
Christmas Day & Hanukkah Begins	Dec 25
Winter Break - No School	Dec 26 - Jan 2
Back to School!	Jan 3

### SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

17301 Bowie Mill Road  
Derwood, MD 20855  
(301) 840-5335  
[www.mcps.k12.md/us/schools/sequoyahes](http://www.mcps.k12.md/us/schools/sequoyahes)

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Dr. Bobbi Jasper

PTA PRESIDENT  
Pat Chapin  
(301) 924-2606  
[wpchapins@comcast.net](mailto:wpchapins@comcast.net)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
David Baker  
[SequoyahSignal@aol.com](mailto:SequoyahSignal@aol.com)

January Signal Deadline:  
12/19/2005

## PTA Committee Openings

For your reference with the Sequoyah PTA Directory/Handbook committee openings are as follows:

### OPENINGS

Copy Club Chair OPEN

End of the Year Staff Luncheon Chair OPEN

Family Nights Co-Chair OPEN

Homework Club Program Chair OPEN

Andrea Troutner, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P./Programs

## Catch Art Fever!

Art Fever Volunteers are needed in the following teachers' classrooms:

Kindergarten	Ms. Mills
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Mrs. Snoots, Ms. Weaver
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Ms. McInnis, Ms. Klaffka, Ms. Kenst
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Ms. Beard

Art Fever is fun, takes about 30 minutes or less to do with the kids in the classroom, and the prints and all information are provided.

You can look like an art genius--with no experience necessary!

Please contact Susan Bernstein at 301-208-9348.

## Safe Schools Act of 2005

The Safe Schools Act of 2005 mandates that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) report to the legislature prescribed information about incidents of harassment and intimidation (bullying) that are brought to the attention of school staff by students, parents, or close adult relatives of students. To fulfill the requirements of the law, a reporting form has been developed by MSDE. Should you or your child wish to report an incident of harassment and/or intimidation (bullying), the form, Harassment and Intimidation (Bullying) Reporting Form (MCPS Form 230-35) is available at each school and through the school system website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/>.

### PTA Contacts

**President**  
Pat Chapin  
(301) 924-2606

**1st Vice President - Programs**  
Andrea Troutner  
(301) 466-0611 (Cell)

**2nd Vice President - Fundraising**  
Michelle Hicks  
(301) 774-5740

**Treasurer**  
Jeff Freedman  
(301) 527-8690

**Recording Secretary**  
Nellie Ross  
(301) 977-6490

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Jean Sommerville  
(301) 924-0128

**Delegate**  
Martha Schaerr  
(301) 963-4122

**PTA Parent Volunteer Coordinator**  
Andi Dumas  
(301) 330-9633

### December Staff Birthdays:

12/04 Mrs. Patty Ragan  
12/11 Ms. Carolyn Gepford  
12/13 Mrs. Esther Smith  
12/14 Ms. Paula Odans  
12/21 Ms. Jodi Moran



## Sequoyah Signal

### Annual Student Council Toy Drive/Canned Food Drive

It's Time for the Annual Student Council Toy Drive/Canned Food Drive

December 5-16, 2005



We are asking for new, unwrapped toys (no weapons, please). In addition, we are collecting canned foods and food certificates. Your donations will be distributed to families in our community in order to make their holiday brighter!

The Student Council would like to extend a big 'Thank You' for all of your support in the past. Our school community has been extremely generous and your support is greatly appreciated.

Together, we can make a positive difference in the lives of many of our community members.

We thank you.

Student Council and Mr. Plaisance

### *Art Explosion*

*December 10, 2005*

Montgomery College Continuing Education YOUTH PROGRAMS is offering a program for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students in Montgomery County called **ART EXPLOSION**. This program offers a special collection of exciting art workshops designed to allow students to explore topics outside the school curriculum.

**ART EXPLOSION** will be held on the Takoma Park campus on Saturday, December 10, 2005.

Please call Sharon Wolfgang at the Continuing Education Office if you have any questions. The numbers are (301) 251-7264 or (301) 251-7917.

## **New E-mail News Service from MCPS**

*MCPS QuickNotes* is a free, subscription e-mail service that provides parents with an important information connection to MCPS. You can choose the types of information you would like to receive via e-mail, including a monthly newsletter, emergency information about weather delays and closing, and periodic updates on topics of interest. Information is available in six languages: English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. To subscribe, go to the main MCPS Web page at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and click on the *QuickNotes* button on the left-hand side of the page. Fill in your e-mail address and choose your language preference, then click on "submit" to create your personal profile. If you have any questions, contact Eleni Kretikos in the MCPS Public Information Office via e-mail at [Eleni\\_Kretikos@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Eleni_Kretikos@mcpsmd.org) or at 301-279-3391.

### ***In a Related Story...***

#### **MCPS Web Site Now Delivered in Five More Languages**

Speakers of languages other than English can now find information about Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in one click from the MCPS Web site's home page.

Web sites have been created in Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese to enable non-English-speaking families to more easily find news, documents and information about services.

Links to the sites can be found just below the featured story on the MCPS home page. Each site also can be accessed at the following Web addresses:

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/chinese](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/chinese)  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/spanish](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/spanish)  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/french](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/french)  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/vietnamese](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/vietnamese)  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/korean](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/korean)

Each language site links to the Navigating the System guide for parents, Parent Connection newsletter and Aim High booklets. Each site also features links to streaming video of the Our Schools Today TV program and to the QuickNotes e-mail newsletter. Visitors also will find links to Web sites for English as a Second Language/Bilingual Programs, the Downcounty Consortium and the Middle School Magnet Consortium.

This is the first phase of a project to improve access to information in other languages on the MCPS Web site. Information and links on these sites will grow in future months. Suggestions and comments can be e-mailed to the Web Services Team at [webmaster@mcpsmd.org](mailto:webmaster@mcpsmd.org).

Viewers of these sites should be sure their Web browser is set to view Web pages in Unicode UTF-8, the international standard. In Internet Explorer, go to View in the dropdown menu, pull down to Encoding, and select Unicode UTF-8. Viewing of English Web pages is not impacted, so users can keep their browsers at this setting at all times.

## Sequoyah Signal

### Checking in with...

#### **Kindergarten**

In Kindergarten this month, we will be discussing families and holidays. We are looking forward to having some of our parents come into the classroom to share their family holiday traditions. We will enjoy listening to and comparing different versions of The Gingerbread Man. In math, we will be counting, making sets up to 31, and matching numerals to sets. We will also work on odd and even numbers and sets. Towards the end of the month we will have a Mad Science presentation about living things, thanks to our generous PTA. The kindergarten teachers would like to wish all families a safe and wonderful holiday season and a very happy New Year!

#### **First Grade**

First Grade is very busy this month. In reading, we are working on the strategies that we need for comprehension: Does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it make sense? We are also reading lots of books by Eric Carle for our author study. As part of our writing to be informed unit, each child is doing a research project about an animal of his or her choice. Mrs. Freeman will be helping us with our research in the Media Center. In math, we are learning about place value and ordinal numbers. We are adding and subtracting bigger and bigger numbers, too! At the end of the month, we will continue our tradition of making gingerbread houses. We look forward to this fun and yummy activity every year. Happy Holidays!

#### **Third Grade**

Third grade just finished our Crime Lab unit in science. We are wrapping up the measurement unit in math and will be beginning Unit 3, multiplication, soon. During December we will be talking about non-fiction material in reading. We will be working as a class on a research project on the state of Maryland. On December 19, we will be sending home a packet for an at-home state project that will be due on January 18. Each student will have chosen a state, be given materials and resources (a book), and will complete the packet as we did in class with the Maryland project. The Maryland project will be sent home as a guide to use as students work on the state they chose. We are also looking forward to Junior Achievement, a 5 lesson economic unit presented by a member of the business community. We hope everyone has a restful winter break..

#### **Fourth Grade**

***In December, the 4th grade will continue our realistic fiction and historical fiction genre studies. Students will be reading samples of these genres and comparing them to genres previously studied. We will also be focusing on writing to be informed. In math, we are ending Unit 2 and will be administering the unit assessments. We will begin our next science unit, electric circuits. In social studies, students will be researching Native American tribes.***

#### **Fifth Grade**

The fifth grade will be taking a field trip on December 8, 2005, to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre to see a musical paying tribute to the 300th birthday of Benjamin Franklin. The cost of this trip is \$14.00 to cover admission and the buses. Please make checks payable to Sequoyah Elementary School. Students received permission slips on November 16th. Magnets and Motors will be the next science unit explored. In social studies, students will be learning about the fundamentals of economics. They will research a business in their community and make a report. Students will develop their rough drafts during the writing block. In Math A students will be studying Ratios and Rates. The other math classes will be covering decimals and fractions.

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**Sequoyah Signal**

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There's Still Time to Support Your School  
Join Sequoyah's Parent Teacher Association Today!

Greetings, we hope that your school year is off to a great start. We're about to wrap up our PTA membership drive for this school year and our membership numbers have fallen. Your \$10 membership enables us to bring your children such programs as in-house science and foreign language programs, educational assemblies, and many fun and family oriented social events.

In addition, parents who volunteer their time and talents can network with other parents and teachers. It is through this network that we can help our kids excel and strengthen our community.

If you overlooked your membership payment, please take a minute to fill out this form and turn it in to the office. It's only \$10.00 and will really help us to be the best PTA that we can be! Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, Tam & Mark Miller  
Membership Chairs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Youngest Child & Teacher:

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed : \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per member)

## Sequoyah PTA Meeting Tuesday, December 6, 2005

**Time/Place: 8:10 p.m. in the Media Center, preceded by showing of the movie, "F. A. T. City: How Hard Can it Be?" at 6:55 p.m. by Special Needs/Parenting Partners Committee**

### AGENDA

**Welcome and Introductions**

**President's Report**

**Secretary's Report – Approval of the November 05 Minutes**

**Treasurer's Report—Jeff Freedman**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report (programs)—Andrea Troutner**

- **Open positions**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report (fundraising)—Michelle Hicks**

**Principal's/Assistant Principal's Report**

**Staff Comments—Ms. McInnis**

**(FYI, the Third Grade Team will be represented this month)**

- **Ms. Murphy—Spring Musical?**

**Committees**

- **Market Day—Ivette Sherman**
- **Membership—Tam Miller**
- **Talent/Sock Hop?—Andi Dumas/Lorie Rowe/Jackie Koehn**
- **Conquista tus Suenos--Isabel Seyed-Ali**

**Delegate Report—Martha Schaerr**

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**

**Important Dates:**

Dec. 7 Market Day Pick-up, 7-8 p.m.

Dec. 22 Chorus Concert

Dec. 23 Holiday Sing-along, 2:15 Gymnasium

Dec. 25 Christmas Day, Hannukkah Begins

Dec. 26 Through January 2 Winter Break—No School

Jan. 1 New Year's Day

**There is no PTA meeting Jan. 3...The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, 2006**

# Sequoyah Signal

## *Sequoyah Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes*

**Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 p.m.**

**Attendance:** Jean Sommerville, Bobbi Jasper, Pat Chapin, Andrea Troutner, Marina Connor, Kim Wood, Gina Quinn, Kathleen McInnis, Ellen Wiesenberger, Sarah Sirgo, Gretchen Rimkus, Lori Rowe, Tina Webb, Susan Bernstein, Mickey Croom, Andrea Dumas, Ellen Motley, Isabel Seyed-Ali, Magda Tranamil, Mindy Gillman, Linda Kuserk, Martha Schaerr, Marissa Bailey, Lin Burrell.

**Pat Chapin, President**, said she and Jean Sommerville, chair Partners in Parenting (Special Needs & Parent Support) had been discussing programs for upcoming PTA meetings or on separate dates. Attendees indicated interest in the film and in parenting topics. It was decided that the film "How Difficult Can It Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop" will be shown at the December 6<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting beginning at 7 p.m. She suggested that because the January 3 PTA meeting would be the first day after the holiday that we cancel that meeting and focus on the December and February meetings instead. A motion was held to support this. She thanked gift wrap chairs Mickey Croom and Tina Webb for a successful fundraisers and alerted parents that leftovers were in the parent volunteer room awaiting pickup. She also thanked Miss Murphy for a successful opera program, and all participating parents for the fun of the Halloween parties.

October PTA meeting minutes were approved without changes.

**In the absence of Jeff Freedman, Treasurer**, Pat reminded everyone that Jeff asks that requests for checks be made by Friday afternoons enabling him to have them ready for delivery on Mondays. He reported to her that the lower fundraising amount seems to reflect lower enrollment. Support for fundraising is coming in at a similar amount per child but there are fewer people so income is lower. We may need to move money around from such areas as the building fund since we do not plan to mulch this year. The tax form is being submitted, sent by certified mail on 11/3 and due on 11/15. Some expenses are higher such as Conquisti, for which Sequoyah made all 8000 copies of flyers, then distributed them to the schools with which we participate. In December, we'll review various ideas to promote free money to the school, including Target, box tops, and print cartridges. Ms. McInnis noted that some of these fundraising areas that have been large sources of funds in the past, appear to be under-promoted in the classrooms and around the school. It was also suggested that the schools participating in Conquisti be asked to assume some of the cost of printing the flyers.

**Andrea Troutner, First VP, Programs**, said there is now a third chair, Lindy Guerra, of Conquisti and though there are some openings, we may need to decide whether all 50 of those programs should continue. She reported that Lindy does plan to

promote the Copy Club more in Conquisti.

**Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Principal** said that a morning doughnuts with dads will take place on November 14 and there will be a muffins for moms in the spring. Report cards will be released on 11/10, the same day as the conferences. Evening conferences will be at the Upper County Community Center. She notified attendees that the Maryland State Department of Education has rescinded the change which had made a student absent for half a day if they were out of school for more than 1 hour 1 minute, making it difficult for parents to make medical and dental appointments. The rule is back to the original where if the child is at school for more than half a day they are present for the full day.

**Ellen Motley, Book Fair co-chair** reported that it raised \$8600, of which Sequoyah's share is roughly \$1900. In addition the library received about \$300 worth of books as well as vouchers that the media center may use for purchases from Scholastic. There will be a two-day fair in April. Some PTA memberships were purchased at the recent fair. Dr. Jasper noted that about 30 staff haven't joined yet and she will encourage them to join.

**Michelle Croom, co-chair of gift wrap** said there was \$11,500 in sales of which the school receives half. The extension of the sale helped. The top student sellers were Selena Schneider of Mrs. Odans' class and Kurt Willson of Ms. Cohen's class. Both will receive prizes from Innisbrook. A total of 118 children representing 95 families participated in the sale. The tie for top sales by class is between the two second grade classes of Ms. Burke and Ms. McInnis; they will receive a joint pizza party. The four mystery boxes were won by Jessie Gilman, Jordan Green, and Susannah Hochuli of Mrs. Hamrick's class, and Laura Robbins, of Mrs. Drayton's class.

**Lori Rowe, Co-chair, Spirit Wear Clothing Sales** said there had been a delay due to difficulties with the previous printer but she has now confirmed a new vendor and next week they'll receive the forms for the next clothing sale.

**Martha Schaerr**, delegate reported that there is lobbying for a new high school magnet school upcounty. Attendees supported a resolution to support the amendment of MCCPTA to support formation of a new magnet. She said that the school board is requesting community input on a discussion about early entrance to school to include preschool and has information available for anyone who is interested. They are also looking for representatives interested in renovations and building policies for the Magruder cluster. She expressed some frustration at not being able to always vote on amendments at the delegate meetings because

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*(Continued from page 8)*

she cannot share the changes with Sequoyah first. Attendees agreed to give her more freedom to vote as needed when there are time constraints on decisions, keeping Sequoyah's needs in mind. Delegates' meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

**Pat raised the issue of the Signal** and whether there should be two separate issues, one in English and one in Spanish. It was agreed that there should be one newsletter, but to make it easier to read, the English section should be towards the front and all together, and the Spanish translation should follow that. Also, it was requested by Sarah Sirgo that the editor could provide the staff with 24-hour notice of the copying of the newsletter so that staff can plan.

**Pat said that they want to improve the look and functionality of the website** and solicit input from the Sequoyah community as to what we think should be included. There will be a meeting soon between Pat, Sarah Sirgo, David Dennison, webmaster, and Janet Freeman, media specialist, concerning these improvements and how to receive information on a regular basis.

The issue of the spring musical was discussed, as originally raised by Miss Murphy, music teacher, at the October meeting. It was agreed that the PTA will fund a one-time amount of \$500 taking that amount from the classroom enrichment account.

Pat notified us that Nanette Mount, Sequoyah math resource teacher, was able to begin her math club with funds that Mrs. Sirgo found in her budget. The foundation of the group was based on data of students needing additional math help and was by invitation only.

**Pat asked for volunteers to review the bylaws**, which must be done every two years. She would like to get this going in December, complete it in January, and have the completed bylaws ready to send to the county by February.

**Susan Bernstein, Art Fever Chair**, said that she is still missing parent volunteers for several classes and that she will send home flyers specifically for those classes requesting participation.

**Martha Schaerr, Delegate**, said that meetings are happening concerning the upcoming development of 158 home sites between Sequoyah and Magruder. Issues to be discussed are buffers, parking, roads, and pathways. The development proposal has gone to the planning board but there is still opportunity for comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Jean Sommerville, Corresponding Secretary.

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**Sequoyah Signal**

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***Mensaje de nuestra Presidenta de la PTA y de la Directora.***

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***¡Saludos!***

La próxima reunión de la PTA será el martes 6 de diciembre de 2005. Nuestro comité de Necesidades Especiales/Socios en Crianza mostrará una película en el Media Center acerca de asuntos de necesidades especiales a las 6:55 p.m., la cual será inmediatamente seguida por la reunión de la PTA a las 8:10 p.m. El foco principal de la reunión de diciembre será informarles de los planes para las actividades por venir, en el resto del año escolar, y para adjudicar el resto del dinero del presupuesto para costear dichos planes. Por favor planee asistir a la película y reunión dado a que la próxima no será hasta el 7 de febrero de 2006. (Decidimos no tener la reunión el 3 de enero, las restantes fechas para este año escolar, después de febrero son: 3/7, 4/4, 5/2 y 6/6... y siempre tratamos de tener cuidado de niños y traducción al español disponible)

Cuando tenga un momento, esperamos que se tome el tiempo para reflexionar en como puede ayudar a su niño en Sequoyah en la segunda mitad del año escolar. Podría decidirse a ayudar con un comité o un proyecto, leer con su niño más seguido o participar en los recaudos de fondos que pagan por los programas de Sequoyah. Si usted desea involucrarse más en la escuela, o consideraría llenar uno de los puestos de la junta ejecutiva de la PTA por elección en la primavera, por favor contáctese con Andi Dumas, Coordinadora de Voluntarios, o con Pat Chapin Presidenta de la PTA, por ideas o información. Si usted está buscando formas de ayudar a su niño/a a sobresalir, por favor comuníquese con el/la maestro/a.

Debido a la proximidad y a la coincidencia de ciertos detalles que el Musical de la Primavera y el Show de Talento tienen y que ha sido planeado para el 27 de enero, las presidentas del comité están reconfigurando el Show de Talento, se van a incorporar elementos de talento en el Sock Hop (baile de primavera) planeado para el 24 de marzo. Manténgase atento para los detalles.

Agradecimientos especiales a todos los miembros de personal, padres y traductores que participaron en la noche de Conferencias en el Upper County Community Center. Fue maravilloso para el personal tener tantos intercambios con tantos padres acerca de los esfuerzos de sus niños. ¡Gracias a todos los padres voluntarios bilingües que ayudaron con este esfuerzo masivo!

***Siendo que 2005 está por terminar, les deseamos a usted y a los suyos lo mejor en salud, paz, prosperidad y felicidad. ¡Gracias por todo lo que han hecho por nuestros estudiantes y personal en 2005!***

***¡Felices Fiestas!***

Pat Chapin  
Presidenta de la PTA

Dra. Bobbi Jasper  
Directora

## Sequoyah Signal

### *Sequoyah Elementary School Actas de la reunión de la PTA*

Actas de la Reunión del 2 de noviembre 7:30 p.m.

**Asistencia:** Jean Sommerville, Bobbi Jasper, Pat Chapin, Andrea Troutner, Marina Connor, Kim Wood, Gina Quinn, Katheleen McInnis, Ellen Wiesenberger, Sarah Sirgo, Gretchen Rimkus, Lori Rowe, Tina Webb, Susan Bernstein, Mickey Croom, Andrea Dumas, Ellen Motley, Isabel Seyed-Ali, Magda Tranamil, Mindy Gilman, Linda Kurserk, Martha Schaerr, Marissa Bailey, Lin Burrell.

**Pat Chapin, Presidenta,** dijo que ha estado discutiendo programas para reuniones futuras o en fechas separadas, con Jean Sommerville, Presidenta del Comité de Socios en Crianza (Necesidades Especiales y Apoyo a los Padres). Los asistentes indicaron interés en la filmación y en tópicos de crianza. Se decidió que la filmación “¿Qué difícil puede ser? La F.A.T. City Workshop” será mostrado al comienzo de la reunión del 6 de diciembre a las 7 p.m. Ella sugirió que como la reunión de la PTA del 3 de enero será el primer día después de las fiestas, que se cancelaran esa reunión y que se enfocara más en las reuniones de diciembre y febrero. Para apoyar esto, se llevó a cabo una moción. Ella agradeció a las presidentas de recaudo de fondos de Papeles de Regalos por haber sido tan exitoso y alertó a los padres que todavía había varios pedidos en el Volunteer Room esperando ser recogidos. También le agradeció a la Srta. Murphy por el programa de ópera que tuvo tanto éxito, y a todos los padres que participaron en las fiestas de Halloween.

Las actas de la reunión de la PTA de octubre fueron aprobadas sin cambios.

**Por la ausencia de Jeff Freedman, Tesorero,** Pat les recordó a todos que la solicitud de cheques sea hecha para los viernes en la tarde, para que él pueda entregarlos los lunes. Él le reportó a Pat que los números de recaudos mas bajos parecen reflejar el bajo número de enrolamiento. El apoyo a los recaudos es a una misma cantidad por niño pero hay menos gente, así que las entradas son más bajas. Necesitaríamos mover dinero de áreas como fondos del edificio, si no estamos planeando poner mulch este año. El formulario de impuesto está siendo sometido, mandado por correo certificado el 3/11 el plazo vence el 5/11. Algunas de las expensas son más altas, como la de Conquista, para la cual Sequoyah hizo todas las 8000 copias del volante, y después las distribuyó a las escuelas que participaron. En diciembre revisaremos varias ideas para promover dinero gratis para la escuela por ej.: Target, box tops y cartuchos de impresoras. La Srta. McInnis dio a saber que algunas de estas áreas de recaudo, que han sido fuentes de grandes recursos en el pasado, parecen estar casi sin promoción en las clases alrededor de la escuela. También se sugirió que las escuelas que participaron en Conquista sean requeridas a asumir algo del costo de impresión de los volantes.

**Andrea Troutner, Primera VP, Programas,** dijo que hay una

tercera presidenta, Lindy Guerra de Conquista y que sin embargo hay vacancias, necesitamos decidir si todos los 50 programas deberían continuar. Ella informó que Lindy planea hacer más promoción del club de las copias en el grupo conquista.

**Dra. Bobbi Jasper, Directora** dijo que se llevará a cabo una mañana con doughnuts para los papás el 14 de noviembre y que habrá muffins para mamás en la primavera. Las libretas de calificaciones serán entregadas el 10/11, el mismo día de las conferencias. Las conferencias en la noche serán realizadas en el Upper Community Center. Notificó que el Departamento de Educación del Estado de Maryland rescindió el cambio que ha hecho de que un estudiante se lo considere con media falta (ausencia) si está fuera de la escuela por más de una hora y un minuto. Haciendo muy dificultoso para los padres asistir a citas con doctores o dentistas. La regla volvió a lo de antes que si el niño está presente por más de medio día se lo considera presente para todo el día.

**Ellen Motley, Co-Presidenta Feria del Libro,** informó que se recaudó \$8600, de los cuales la parte que le corresponde a Sequoyah es de alrededor de \$1900. Además la biblioteca recibió acerca de \$300 en libros y en vales que la biblioteca puede usar en compras de Scholastic. Habrá una feria de dos días en abril. Algunos se hicieron socios de la PTA en la reciente feria. La Dra. Jasper informó que acerca de 30 miembros del personal no se han hecho socios todavía y que los va a alentar a que se hagan.

**Michelle Croom, Co-Presidenta de Papeles de Regalos** dijo que hubo \$11,500 en ventas de las cuales la escuela recibe la mitad. Ayudó el hecho de que se extendió la venta. Los estudiantes que más vendieron son: Selena Schneider de la clase de la Sra. Odans y Kurt Wilson de la clase de la Srta. Cohen. Los dos recibirán premios de Innisbrook. Un total de 118 niños representando 95 familias participaron en la venta. El empate de las clases con mayor ventas las tienen los dos segundo grados de las clases de la Srta. Burke y la Srta. McInnis; recibirán una fiesta de pizza juntas. Las cuatro cajas misteriosas las ganaron Jessie Gilman, Jordan Green y Susannah Hochuli de la clase de la Sra. Hamrick y Laura Robbins de la clase de la Sra. Drayton.

**Martha Schaerr, Delegada** dijo que se está cabildeando por una escuela secundaria magneto en el condado norte. Los asistentes apoyaron una resolución para respaldar el esfuerzo de la MCCPTA de apoyar la formación de la nueva escuela magneto. Ella dijo que la junta de escuelas está solicitando la opinión de la comunidad en una discusión acerca de la entrada temprana a la escuela para incluir al preescolar y que hay información disponible para el que está interesado. Están buscando también representantes interesados en las políticas de renovaciones y construcciones para el racimo de Magruder. Expresó frustración en no poder votar todas las veces en enmiendas en las reuniones de delega-

## Sequoyah Signal

dos, debido a que no puede informar a Sequoyah primero. Los asistentes acordaron en darle más libertad para votar cuando hay constricciones de tiempo en las decisiones, teniendo en cuenta las necesidades de Sequoyah en primer lugar. Las reuniones de los delegados son en el cuarto martes del mes.

**Pat resaltó el problema del Signal** y si se necesita tener dos ediciones separadas, una en inglés y una en español. Se acordó que solo tiene que haber una gacetilla, pero para hacer que la lectura de la misma sea más fácil, la versión en inglés estaría al principio y toda junta, mientras que la en español le seguiría después. También fue solicitado por Sarah Sirgo que el editor pudiese avisar 24 hrs. antes, al personal, de la impresión de la gacetilla, así el personal puede planear mejor.

**Pat dijo que se quiere mejorar la apariencia y el funcionamiento del sitio web** y solicita opiniones de la comunidad de Sequoyah. Se realizará una reunión pronto entre Pat, Sarah Sirgo, David Dennison, web master y Janet Freeman, especialista en medios, concerniendo estos mejoramientos y como recibir información regularmente.

El asunto del musical de la primavera fue discutido, como lo presentó originalmente la Srta. Murphy, maestra de música, en la reunión de Octubre. Se acordó que la PTA costeará una sola vez el monto de \$500 tomando esta cantidad de la cuenta de enriquecimiento de aulas.

Pat notificó que Nanette Mount, Maestra de recursos de matemáticas de Sequoyah, fue capaz de comenzar el club de matemáticas con fondos que la Sra. Sirgo encontró en el presupuesto. La fundación del grupo se hizo en base a datos de estudiantes que necesitan ayuda adicional en matemáticas y fue con invitación solamente.

**Pat pidió voluntarios para revisar los reglamentos**, que debe ser hecho cada dos años. Le gustaría tener esto funcionando para diciembre, completo en enero y tenerlos listos para ser mandados al condado para febrero.

**Susan Bernstein, Presidenta de Fiebre del Arte**, dijo que todavía está necesitando padres voluntarios para ciertas clases y que mandará volantes específicamente para esas clases solicitando participación.

**Martha Schaerr, Delegada**, dijo que reuniones se están concretando concerniendo el futuro barrio de lotes de 158 hogares entre Sequoyah y Magruder. Los asuntos para discutir son: espaciamiento, estacionamiento, calles y veredas. El barrio propuesto se ha ido a la junta de planeamiento pero todavía hay oportunidad para comentarios.

Se levanta la sesión a las 8:45 p.m. Respetuosamente sometido por Jean Sommerville, Secretaria de Correspondencia.

### El sitio Web de MCPS ahora en cinco idiomas más.

Gente que habla otros idiomas que no sea inglés, puede ahora encontrar información acerca de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Montgomery (MCPS) con un clic en la página del sitio.

Sitios web se han creado en chino, francés, coreano, español y vietnamés para ayudar a las familias que no hablan inglés a informarse de noticias más fácilmente y encontrar documentos y servicios.

El enlace a estos sitios puede ser encontrado justo debajo del artículo principal en la página de MCPS. Cada sitio puede ser accedido también con las siguientes direcciones:

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/chinese](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/chinese)  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/spanish](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/spanish)  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/french](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/french)  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/vietnamese](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/vietnamese)  
[www.omntgomeryschoolsmd.org/korean](http://www.omntgomeryschoolsmd.org/korean)

Cada sitio en cada idioma enlaza a Navegando el Sistema guía para padres, gaceta Conexión de Padres y folletos Apunte Alto, video del programa de televisión Nuestra Escuela Hoy y a las Notas Rápidas gaceta vía e-mail. Visitantes también encontrarán enlaces para sitios de Inglés como Segundo Idioma/Programas Bilingües, Consorcios del Sur del Condado y Consorcio de las Escuelas Intermedias

Esta es la primera fase de un proyecto para mejorar el acceso a la información en otros idiomas en el sitio web de MCPS. La información y enlaces de estos sitios crecerán en los próximos meses

Sugerencias y comentarios pueden ser mandados por e-mail al Web Services Team a [webmaster@mcpsmd.org](mailto:webmaster@mcpsmd.org)

Los visitantes de este sitio tienen que asegurarse que su browser este puesto para ver páginas de web en Unicode, UTF-8, the internacional estándar. En Internet Explorer, vaya a View en el menú que baja, baje a Encoding y seleccione Unicote UTF-8. La vista de páginas de web en inglés no será afectada, usuarios pueden mantener sus browsers en esta forma todo el tiempo.