

Sequoyah Signal

THE PTA NEWSLETTER OF THE SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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

This month's message from our Principal and our PTA President Happy Holidays to you and your family!



January 2006

CALENDAR

Back To School	Jan 3
Candid Pictures for Yearbook	Jan 4
Chicken Out Restaurant Night	Jan 13
Martin Luther King Day - No School	Jan 16
Market Day Pickup 7:00 - 8:00 PM	Jan 18
Professional Day - No School	Jan 23
Report Cards Distributed	Feb 2
Class/Group Photos	Feb 3
PTA Meeting, 7:30PM	Feb 7

The first few months of our school year have been very busy and productive for our children, staff, and parents. Our wonderful staff and PTA volunteers made a positive difference in so many areas. They: worked together on a Baldrige-based continuous school improvement plan and a discipline committee, organized numerous events, class parties, assemblies, fun(d!)raisers, language and science programs, and improved communications with parents and children. Special thanks go to Yati Moeller, Sue Bernstein, and all the volunteers who contributed foods to the scrumptious staff luncheons. The recent holiday luncheon was, once again, amazing!

Thanks also to all of the parents and staff who have shown their commitment to our school by joining the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), supporting the fundraising efforts that bring so many valuable programs to our children, and sharing their valuable time and talents. Our school is what we make it, and our children respond positively to our modeling of community involvement and commitment to their education. In the February Signal, we will recognize those individuals and vendors who support our ongoing efforts. Thanks for everything you do!

We would also like to recognize Isabel Seyed-Ali and Marina Connor for providing their excellent ideas, talent, translation support, and energy so that we may continue to communicate well with our Hispanic families. In response to the interest expressed by a number of families, Isabel has arranged for a speaker from the Montgomery County Police Department to present a program at the Upper County Community Center on January 18th at 7:00 on Gangs and other community issues. (The program will be in Spanish with English translation available.)

The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, 2006. (As of the time this Signal went to press, we had not yet confirmed if it will be held at an Upper County location as requested at the December PTA meeting.) Details about the February 7 meeting, along with the Minutes from December 2005, will appear in the February Signal distributed in early February.

Other important – and sure to be fun – events coming up in 2006 are: the Spring Dance/Raffle/Auction on March 24th, the Book Fair in April, the Spring Musical in May, and possibly another community-building event. Watch for details in your child's backpack and on the web site. The Chairs will be counting on your help to make these events successful.

Meanwhile, please keep reading with your children and working on math facts at home. It will give them a solid foundation for all the learning to come! (Let's see... hmmm... Three French Hens, times Two Turtle Doves equals...)

Thanks for a great year! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Pat Chapin
PTA President

Dr. Bobbi Jasper
Principal

SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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February Signal Deadline:
1/25/2006

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Artists of the Month

November:

Nick Gruber
Sasha Wooden
Acara Huon
Julian Crocker
Domenica Carrese

December:

Connor Cameron
Kaomi Alodjinou
Shawn Hicks
Karina Ball

*Congratulations on your wonderful work!
Limor Dekel and Kathie Droter
Art Teachers, Sequoyah Elementary*

Market Day

A huge thanks to all of the families that donated pies for the shelter:

JASPER, FREEMAN, BURRELL-MCCANTY, CURRIER, AL-FALEH, SCHAERR, MILLS, HANSON-HAYWOOD, MARTIN, MARTINEZ, MILLER, KUSERK, ORNSTEIN, KOSTECKA, PALMER, PEREZ, ROWE, RUBIN, SIEG, SHERMAN, YOCKELSON, SEYED-ALI, AND TROUTNER.

In all, over 50 pies were donated. (Apologies if your name was omitted from this list).

January specials include: Gatorade Kid-Size Variety Packs, NEW Italian Combo Subs, and Yummy French Toast Sticks. Check out the Clearance section on the back of your January order form... Pictures of these items may be viewed at the website: www.marketday.com.

Important Dates:

- All orders are due Thursday, January 12th
- Deadline for online orders is noon the same day.
- Market Day Pick-up is on Wednesday, January 18th, 7-8 pm.

Comments? Questions? Want to Volunteer?

Ivette Sherman
Market Day Chairperson
301-330-5151

PTA Contacts

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Andrea Troutner
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Corresponding Secretary
Jean Sommerville
(301) 924-0128

Delegate
Martha Schaerr
(301) 963-4122

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

January Staff Birthdays:

1/8 Mrs. Noel Bettinger
1/9 Mrs. Gina Quinn
1/10 Ms. Jill Reiffer
1/14 Dr. Bobbi Jasper
1/18 Mrs. Karen Cox (on maternity leave)
1/24 Mrs. Sherry Proctor
1/26 Mrs. Nancy Dabbs



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Community News

Special Education Advocate speaks about learning accommodations and strategies Monday, January 30, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Sandra A. Mercer, a longtime advocate for special education students in Maryland, will give a presentation on learning accommodations and strategies on January 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Special Needs Library (Davis), at 6400 Democracy Blvd., in Bethesda. The evening is co-sponsored by the Learning Disabilities Association of Montgomery County (www.ldamc.org) and the Special Needs Library.

Ms. Mercer, who runs an advocacy firm out of Olney, MD, will discuss strategies for parents and students and the importance of a supportive environment for those with special education needs. Her talk will include tips for students and parents alike, and include ways to communicate with teachers.

The program is free and open to all. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling LDAMC at (301) 993-1076.

Parent Encouragement Program - PEP Parenting Classes

Parents who attended last May's talk by Patti Cancellier on consequences, sponsored by the Partners in Parenting Committee (Special Needs & Parent Support), have asked for more information on the PEP program's classes and workshops. Their winter 2006 schedule is now available with terrific offerings for families. Call 301-929-8824, check their website www.ParentEncouragement.org or visit their offices at 10100 Connecticut Avenue, in Kensington, Maryland.

Classes that could help any parent are "Why Don't My Kids Listen to Me?," "Becoming a More Encouraging Parent," "Managing Anger: A User's Guide," "Helping Your Underachieving Child Be More Motivated & Self-Disciplined in School," and "Setting Limits to Promote Cooperation."

Sibshops at The Arc - February 5, March 5, April 2 and May 7

The Arc of Montgomery County, in conjunction with Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital and Abilities Network, will host Sibshops again this spring.

Sibshops is a program just for kids, ages 8-13, with a brother or sister who has special health or developmental needs. Sibshops is a lively mixture of games, discussion, and guest speakers.

- Meet other brothers and sisters of children with special needs;
- Some of the friendliest kids in the world and it's a safe place to be;
- You can talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sisters or brother with special needs;
- Celebrate the many contributions made by brothers and sisters;
- Outrageous fun, high-energy games and great snacks.

Registration has begun for the upcoming spring series. Sibshops sessions will be held on the following Sundays from 1-5 PM, at The Arc MC, 11600 Nebel Street, Rockville MD: February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, and May 7th.

Cost is \$30.00 for four sessions (highly recommended to attend all four). For more information, call Joy Stein 301.984.5792 ext 280. To register, please call 1-800.999.9442, extension 5169. The program usually fills quickly so register early!!!

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The Sequoyah Elementary School Chess Club Winter/Spring 2006 Schedule and Sign-Up

Sequoyah is proud to sponsor the chess club which will be conducted by the *C&O Family Chess Center* of Gaithersburg, MD. The chess club is open to students in grades K-6. There are two remaining sessions this year (Winter, Spring). A registration form is attached, below. The center may be contacted for questions by e-mail at programs@chesscenter.net. For further information see our website at www.chesscenter.net.

Classes will meet Mondays 8:05 to 9:05 AM

FOR: Anyone

Winter Session Dates: Jan 09, 30, Feb 06, 13, 27, Mar 06, 13, 20, 27.

Spring Session Dates: Apr 03, 24, May 01, 08, 15, 22, June 05.

**Detach form, below, and return with check made out to: C&O Family Chess Center,
217 West Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

Fax # 301-963-0734/mail payment.

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Sequoyah Chess Club- STUDENT REGISTRATION – PLEASE PRINT

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Teacher: _____

Address: _____ **Home**

Phone: _____

Parent's (Guardian's) Name: _____ **Work**

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Experience: ___ **New Player**

___ **Knows all the moves** ___ **Plays occasionally** ___ **Plays regularly**

___ **Former club member** **Other:** _____

Circle Sessions Wanted:

___ **Winter: 09 wks @ \$90.00** ___ **Spring: 07 wks @ \$70.00**

___ **2 SESSIONS: \$144.00**

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Checking in with...

Kindergarten

Happy New Year! We hope you had a fun and relaxing holiday with your family. January will be a busy time in Kindergarten. We will be discussing weather and the season of winter. In math, we will be working on numeral recognition, more and less, odd and even numbers and sets, ordinal numbers, and counting on from 10. We will also be beginning our science unit "Balls and Ramps." The teachers will be working individually with each child to complete reading and math assessments. We remind you that we will go outside for recess until conditions are extreme. Please be sure your child brings a coat, hat, and mittens to school. Label all items with your child's name. Thank you!

Second Grade

In January the 2nd graders are continuing to focus on non-fiction books. We will also be revisiting fictional books. Later in January we will begin doing plays and responding to the author's craft. In science, we will begin our new Unit on Liquids and states of matter. In math, we are wrapping up our Unit 2 on geometry. Our next Unit on computation will be starting soon and continuing into January.

Fourth Grade

In January, fourth grade will be working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions with and without common denominators. Students will have to identify fractions in simplest form. In reading, we will continue to explore the realistic fiction and historical fiction genres. Students will be reading selected novels from these genres and compare them to genres previously studied. In science, we will be exploring electricity. Students will conduct experiments creating circuits as well as identifying conductors and insulators. In social studies, we will be beginning our research projects. Students will research native American tribes of Maryland.

First Grade

In January, the first grade will be wrapping up the second quarter of the school year. In reading, we will continue to read to be informed, to read to perform a task, and finish our author study on Eric Carle (author of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Very Lonely Firefly and many more). In writing, we will be completing our non-fiction research projects on animals and continue to work on writing to inform and writing using descriptions. In math, we will continue to add and subtract bigger numbers and begin to solve problems using fact families. We will also be starting our graphing unit where students will organize and display data using tallies, bar graphs, and pictographs. At the end of the month, we will be taking a field trip to the National Building Museum as a culminating activity for our shelter/construction units for science and social studies.

Third Grade

In January we will continue to work on multiplication and division facts in math. We will begin our next science unit, Sound. Our research project is due on January 18. This is the state project that we talked about last month. We will be working on Fables in reading and informational writing. The last day for Accelerated Reader testing for the second marking period is January 20. Our ice cream and movie date will be some time in February.

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders did a fabulous job presenting biographies in a Wax Museum setting. We hope the third and fourth grade visitors enjoyed the presentations and learned many interesting facts. Fifth grade chorus is practicing hard to entertain at the Winter Sing-Along on December 23rd at 2:15. We are currently reading and writing poetry this quarter. The Math A students will be having their Unit 2 C/D test on December 22nd. Fractions, decimals and percents are being studied in the other classes. All fifth graders have an "Absent Folder" in their desk where class work and handouts are placed while they are out sick. Please remind your child to check this folder for work they missed during absences as they are responsible for making it up. All students need to be encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes each night.

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

Felices fiestas a todos!

Los primeros meses de este año escolar han sido muy ocupados y productivos para nuestros niños, personal docente y padres de familia. Nuestro magnífico personal docente y voluntarios de PTA han hecho una diferencia positiva en muchas áreas. Trabajando juntos en un plan de Baldrige para la mejora de la escuela un comité de disciplina organizaron varios eventos, fiesta de clase, asambleas, programas para recaudar fondos, programas de ciencias y mejoraron la comunicación entre padres y niños. En agradecimiento especial a Yati Moeller, Sue Bernstein y a todos los voluntarios que contribuyeron con comida para el almuerzo de nuestro personal docente. El almuerzo de las fiestas que tuvimos fue increíble.

Gracias a todos los padres y personal docente por demostrarnos su dedicación a nuestra escuela haciéndose parte de nuestro PTA. Soportando los programas de recaudar fondos que eso trae muchos programas valiosos a nuestros niños y por compartir tiempo valioso y talento. Nuestra escuela es lo que nosotros hacemos de ella y nuestros niños responden positivamente al ejemplo de nuestra comunidad envolviéndose y dedicándose a nuestra educación. El Signal de Febrero reconocemos a las personas que continuamente nos dan soporte. Gracias por su ayuda.

También queremos reconocer a Isabel Seyed-Ali y Marina Connor por sus excelentes ideas, talento, soporte de traducción y energía para continuar la comunicación con nuestras familias Latinas. En respuesta de interés expresada por muchas familias Isabel ha coordinado una charla con el departamento de policía de Montgomery County que se va a presentar en Upper County Community Center el 18 de Enero a las 7 de la noche. La charla se tratará de las gangas y otras preocupaciones de la comunidad. Este programa se presentará en español con traducción a inglés dispuesto para los interesados.

La próxima junta de PTA será el Martes 7 de Febrero. (Para cuando esta edición del Signal será distribuido no está confirmado si la junta tomara acabo en el local Upper County como fue sugerido en la junta de Diciembre.)

Otros eventos importantes, y por seguro divertidos, que tomarán acabo el año de 2006 son: el baile de Primavera/una Rifa/Subasta del Marzo 24, la feria de libros en Abril, el acto musical de Mayo y posiblemente otro evento de construcción de la comunidad. Por favor busquen más información en los bolsos de sus niños y en la página del internet. Esperamos su ayuda para poder ser estos eventos una realidad.

Por lo tanto por favor sigan la lectura con sus niños y trabajen en matemáticas en sus casa. Esto les dará una base estable para lo que aprenderán en el futuro.

Gracias por un buen año. Feliz Año Nuevo.

Sinceramente,

Pat Chapin
Presidenta del PTA

Dr. Bobbi Jasper
Principal

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Partidaria de la Educación Especial habla acerca del aprendizaje de acomodaciones y estrategias. Lunes, 30 de Enero de 2006 a las 7:30 p.m.

Sandra Mercer , una partidaria de largo tiempo de la educación especial de los estudiantes en Maryland, dará una presentación en el aprendizaje de acomodaciones y estrategias el 30 de enero de 2006 a las 7:30 p.m. en la Biblioteca de Necesidades Especiales (Davis) 6400 Democracy Blvd. en Bethesda. La noche será patrocinada por la Learning Disabilities Association del Condado de Montgomery y la Biblioteca de Necesidades Especiales.

La Srta. Mercer, que maneja una firma intercesora en Olney, MD discutirá estrategias para los padres y estudiantes, y la importancia de un ambiente que respalde a aquellos con necesidades de educación especial. Su charla incluirá consejos para estudiantes y padres y formas de comunicarse con los maestros.

El programa es gratis y abierto para todos. Se requiere que haga reservaciones llamando a LDAMC al 301-993-1076.

Programa de incentivo para los Padres (En inglés: Parent Encouragement Program) PEP Clases de Crianza

Los padres que asistieron a la charla dada por Patti Cancellier en el pasado mayo, acerca de consecuencias, patrocinada por el comité de Socios en Crianza (Necesidades Especiales y Respaldo a los Padres), han pedido más información en los programas, clases y talleres del PEP. Su horario de actividades del invierno 2006 ya está disponible con fabulosas ofertas para los padres. Llame al 301-929-8824 o fíjese en el sitio web www.parentencouragement.org o también puede visitar la oficina en al 10100 Connecticut Ave en Kensington, Maryland

Las clases que pueden ayudar a cualquier padre o madre son: “¿Por qué mis hijos no me escuchan?”, “Volverse un padre mas incentivador” “Controlar la ira: guía de usuario” “Ayudar a su hijo de bajos logros aque tenga más motivación y disciplina en la escuela” y “Establecer límites para promover cooperación”