

Sequoyah Signal

THE PTA NEWSLETTER OF THE SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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



March 2006

CALENDAR

Terra Nova 2 (2nd Grade)	Mar 1-3
PTA Meeting, 7:30PM at Sequoyah	Mar 7
MSA Testing (Grades 3-5)	Mar 13 - 22
Market Day Pick-up 7:00 - 8:00PM	Mar 15
Spring SpiritWear Sale	Mar 21-30
Sock Hop, 6:30 PM	Mar 24
Professional Day - No School	Mar 31
April PTA Mtg.	Apr 4

SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

PRINCIPAL
Dr. Bobbi Jasper

PTA PRESIDENT
Pat Chapin
(301) 924-2606
wpchapins@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
David Baker
SequoyahSignal@aol.com

April Signal Deadline:
3/24/2006

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

Greetings! March is a very significant month for our children and our school. Our children will participate in the MSA (Maryland Student Assessment) and Terra Nova 2 (TN2) test. (TN2 has been added, and "CTBS" will no longer be used.) The results of these assessments will impact what resources our school will receive for our children going forward. Please schedule any vacations, doctor and dentist appointments, or other planned absences for AFTER the testing has been completed. The window for make-up tests is very small, so if a child misses a test, the child, as well as our school, will receive a score of "zero" towards our accumulated school test score. As on any other day, please make sure your children are at school on time, are well rested, and have had breakfast, so they can do their best work. The testing schedule is as follows:

TEST NAME	GRADE/S	DATES	TIME/S
Terra Nova 2	2	Mar. 1, 2, 3	9:30 - 11:00
MSA Math	3 & 4	Mar. 13, 14	9:30 - 12:30
MSA Math	5	Mar. 15, 16	9:30 - 12:30
MSA Reading	3 & 4	Mar. 17, 20	9:30 - 12:30
MSA Reading	5	Mar. 21, 22	9:30 - 12:30

On the testing dates, Parent Volunteers are needed to provide coverage in the cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please call Andi Dumas, Volunteer Coordinator, at 301-330-9633 if you are able to help.

Our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:30 PM at Sequoyah. The meeting will be held at Sequoyah instead of at Redland Middle School as previously announced.

The spring dance party, "SOCK HOP", is coming up on FRIDAY, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. Bring your family, friends, and relatives, for a wonderful night of food, music, dancing, prizes, and fun! You'll also want to be there to take a chance on the exceptional array of raffle and auction items contributed by Sequoyah's staff and families. The DJ will play a great selection of dance party songs -- and wait until you see who'll be leading the festivities! Wear your 50s attire -- bobbi socks, poodle skirt or flood pants, and white socks (or not) -- and get ready for a night of fun! There is still time to donate items to the Raffle/Auction. Please call Linda Kuserk at 301-330-3926.

There is still a large collection of clothing and coats available to anyone who can use them in the Parent Volunteer Room. Please call Mr. Plaisance or stop by the office to inquire. Also, while the weather is still cold, please send your children to school with coats, hats, and gloves, labeled with his or her name. If you are missing any items, please check the Lost and Found in the hall by the All-Purpose Room.

Kindergarten Orientation is coming up in about 9 weeks. If you hear of a new neighbor with school age children, please encourage him or her to register at the office now for the Fall.

Thanks to all of you for your questions and suggestions. We are making great progress together here for the benefit of our children. The new parking lot configuration seems to be working out well for all concerned. We appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions and share candid feedback. Thanks also to Andi Dumas and the volunteers who have recently helped out in the office, on the playground, and in the classrooms. We appreciate your efforts! Let's all work together to motivate our children so they finish the school year strong. Nightly reading and math fact practice reinforces the skills they are learning at school each day.

Sincerely,
Pat Chapin
PTA President

Dr. Bobbi Jasper
Principal

Sequoyah Signal

The Programs Page -- Information and Updates

Andrea Troutner, 1st V.P./Programs

ALL ABOARD ON EVITE!

Thank you for your reply this month on Sequoyah's Annual Evite Recruitment Survey. The results will be tallied this month, and recruitment is in full force to fill open committee chair positions by June 2006.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE-NOMINATING UPDATE

The following Sequoyah PTA volunteers-Cindy Batz-Arnold, Andrea Dumas, Sue Martin, and Linda Kuserk, have volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. This special committee will again be spearheaded by your 1st VP Programs, Andrea Troutner, to match the time and talent of others to an OPEN PTA Executive Board Officer position, and/or PTA Executive Board Standing Committee Chair/Co-Chair position for the school year 2006-2007.

All PTA Executive Board Officer elected positions are a minimum of a one year term, with an option for an elected second term, but not to exceed two elected years in the same position. The OPEN positions for nomination within the school year 2006-2007 are as follows:

President, OPEN
 1st VP Programs, OPEN
 2nd VP Fundraising, OPEN with a Nomination of Michelle Hicks
 Treasurer, OPEN with a Nomination of Jeff Freedman
 Recording Secretary, OPEN
 Corresponding Secretary, OPEN with a Nomination of Jean Sommerville

The following two PTA Executive Board Officer non-elected positions have no term limits. The status of these two positions for the 2006-2007 school year are as follows:

Volunteer Coordinator, OPEN
 Delegate, PENDING

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

Silent Auction & Raffle Donations

The Sequoyah PTA will be having a silent auction and raffle during our annual Sock Hop on March 24th. If you are interested in donating a item or service to the silent auction or raffle, please contact Linda Kuserk @ 301-330-3926, or fill out the form below and return to school.

Name _____
 Item Donated _____
 Phone Number _____

Happy (Belated) February Staff Birthdays:

2/8 Ms. Bina Langhnoja
 2/9 Mrs. Marianne Hamerski
 2/9 Mr. Tracy Martin
 2/14 Ms. Yolanda Williams
 2/15 Ms. Limor Dekel
 2/21 Ms. Lisa Ann Carrasco
 2/25 Ms. Anne Brunk
 2/29 Ms. Bobbi Beard

March Staff Birthdays:

3/01 Mr. Steve Plaisance
 3/11 Ms. Pauline Newcomb
 3/13 Ms. Janet Freeman
 3/23 Ms. Nancy Rascona



Sequoyah Signal

Dust off your duds.



Shine off your shoes.

Put some rock in your roll 'cause the

15th Annual Family Sock Hop

is coming Friday, March 24

6:30 – 9:30 PM

FOOD * FUN * PRIZES

Come dance the night away as the DJ spins a magical mix of all the favorite tunes!

Stuff yourself silly with yummy food! Take a chance at the Silent Auction!

This is Sequoyah's biggest fundraiser and we need your help!

To help out, simply fill out the form below and return to:

SEQUOYAH PTA - SOCK HOP COMMITTEE

or call:

Jackie Koehn (301) 924-4990 jackiedaviskoehn@yahoo.com

Lori Rowe (301) 924-3537 lmaclaren@aol.com

I will help:

- _____ Sell tickets 9am-9:20am at school the week of the dance
- _____ Day(s) available _____
- _____ Decorate and set up the day of the dance
- _____ Sell tickets at the gate – sign up for a 1 hour slot
- _____ Sell refreshments - sign up for a 1 hour slot
- _____ Sell raffle tickets – sign up for a 1 hour slot
- _____ Donate raffle goods, services, or gift certificates
- _____ Donate baked goods, packaged treats, or snacks
- _____ Donate canned soda, juice boxes, or water bottles
- _____ Clean up

NAME _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Your membership in the Sequoyah PTA (Parent Teachers Association), and your support of its fundraising efforts, makes many valuable programs and events like this possible for our Sequoyah community. Thanks for your participation!

Health & Safety Update

National Nutrition Month® Buzz

March 2006 is Sequoyah's 6th annual National Nutrition Month®. The theme, "Step Up to Nutrition & Health", is an annual ADA sponsored nutrition education and information campaign that focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. Mr. Martin, in the 1st through 5th grade P.E. classes, will be assessing your student to see if they're getting at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. This will be evaluated as a weekly homework assignment during the month of March. As a result, the students will be asked to complete a student "Fit For A King" activity log for a week, signed by the student's parent or guardian, and the class with the most activity hours wins the extra P.E. for the month! A MyPyramid Kids Poster will be displayed outside of the gym entrance, and the theme poster – Step Up to Nutrition & Health – will be displayed in the cafeteria as well as on the PTA bulletin board for the Sequoyah community to view. Additionally, each classroom will have a MyPyramid Kids handout for display with Tips for Families on how to eat right and exercise.

Andrea Troutner, RD, RDN
Health & Safety co-chair

Immunization Requirements

To Parents or Guardians of students who will be in preschool programs OR who will be in 5th through 9th grade in the upcoming school year (2006-2007):

Maryland school immunization requirements for children enrolled in preschool programs and kindergarten through 9th grade have changed!

Beginning in September 2006, students enrolled in preschool programs (Head Start, pre-kindergarten, and special education) are required to show proof of **Pneumococcal Conjugate** vaccination.

Students enrolled in preschool programs and kindergarten through 9th grade are required to show proof of immunization against **Hepatitis B**. This is a new requirement for 5th through 9th grade students.

Students enrolled in preschool programs and kindergarten through 9th grade are required to show proof of vaccination against **Varicella (chickenpox)** or a doctor's or local health department official's documentation that the student has had the disease. This is a new requirement for 5th through 9th grade students.

Your child's school nurse will send you a notice soon if your child lacks documentation of the required immunizations for the coming school year. Please see your child's health provider as soon as you are notified of missing immunizations/documentation. If your child is scheduled for a physical for next year's school sports participation, ask his/her provider to assure your child has the required immunizations and provide the necessary documentation.

Please call your school nurse if you have any questions.

Maryland Summer Centers Offer Exciting Programs for Students

The Maryland State Department of Education recently announced the schedule of upcoming Maryland Summer Centers for students entering Grades 4 through 12. Summer Center programs offer unique instructional experiences for gifted and talented students and give them the opportunity to work in settings and with resources not available during the regular school year.

Centers are located throughout the state and offer one- to three-week residential and non-residential programs with a focus on the arts, sciences, mathematics, technology, writing, law and government, and history. Activities are designed to encourage critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving while challenging students academically. Tuitions range from \$100 to \$675. Full and partial scholarships are available for those who need financial assistance.

The **2006 Maryland Summer Centers** brochures and application forms are available from local gifted and talented education coordinators. Brochures, application forms, and a video featuring the Summer Centers may also be found on the website of the Maryland State Department of Education at www.marylandpublicschools.org/summercenters. Applications must be postmarked by Saturday, April 15, except for Fine Arts Centers, which have earlier deadlines and may require an audition. Materials are available in Korean and Spanish upon request. For more information, call Stephanie Zenker at (410) 767-0821.

Sequoyah Signal

Market Day Update

We had an AMAZING Market Day sale in February! Our profit was over \$1450!!! This is TRIPLE our typical sales! There was a phenomenal response to the cookie dough fundraiser with the contest for a party with Mr. Martin. Congratulations to Ms. Odan's 4th grade class for selling almost 60 tubs of cookie dough! Their party will be on Friday, March 3rd. GREAT JOB! A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped out on pickup night and also to Sue Martin for her great fundraising idea!

Market Day has a terrific promotion for the month of March: purchase any 2 items from the front page of the flier and receive a FREE 12" CHEESE PIZZA!!! Check out the many interesting items that are available only from Market Day such as ChicNSteakes (these are boneless, skinless chicken breasts that are individually sealed and thaw in minutes for a speedy and healthy meal anytime), Tomato Basil Soup Singles (microwaveable and low-fat), and Kraft Mac and Cheese Singles (they are quick-frozen and individually packaged for a quick kids meal...and taste just like they came from the blue box!).

All order sheets are due back at school by Thursday, March 9th. Online orders must be placed by noon on the SAME DAY. Go to www.marketday.com for more info. Pickup is on Wednesday, March 15th, 7-8 PM.

Any Questions? Want to volunteer once a month? Call Ivette Sherman at (301)-330-5151

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR PTA!!!!



SEQUOYAH PTA FAMILY SOCK HOP AND SILENT AUCTION

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24
6:30PM-9:30PM**

Lori Rowe (301) 924-3537

Jackie Koehn (301) 924-4990

RAFFLES PRIZES FOOD FUN DANCING MUSIC SILENT AUCTION

Advance Tickets are \$3.00

\$4.00 at the Door

Return this form with your money to purchase tickets before school
during the week of March 20 - 24.

Make check payable to Sequoyah PTA.

Unchaperoned students will not be admitted.

Preschoolers are free.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

Admission Tickets @ \$3. each _____ Total Amount \$ _____

Student Name _____

Your membership in the Sequoyah PTA (Parent Teachers Association), and your support of its fundraising efforts, makes many valuable programs and events like this possible for our Sequoyah community. Thanks for your participation!

Sequoyah Signal

To all parents of Sequoyah 5th graders (Soon to be Redland 6th graders):

The Redland PTA is currently seeking parents interested in filling PTA Board Positions and Committee Chairs for the 2006/2007 school year. Our current PTA Co-Presidents & Vice President have fulfilled their middle school years with their children now moving on to High School.

Our children's middle school years are shorter than their elementary years, but just as important. Middle School Parent Involvement is key to the success of our children. There are many important issues that Redland will be facing over the next few years. One being the counties overhaul of the Middle School Math Curriculum, and another being the continued delays in the modernization of the Redland Middle School facility.

I ask that all parents consider volunteering for the Redland PTA Board and Committee positions. Those interested may contact me either by phone at (301) 330-3926 or email at kuserkpta@comcast.net

Linda Kuserk
Redland PTA Nominating Committee

Help Wanted: Playground Supervisors

Did you know that during recess, there are about 140 students on the playground at once? Our school budget allocates 10 hours per day of paid playground aide positions. For the maximum safety of our children, parent volunteers have always covered the balance of our playground supervision needs—ideally, 2 parents per grade out there helping to supervise the children during each recess period.

We would really appreciate your help. (In addition, there is one paid slot open with the County for a long term temporary position at approx. \$12.00 per hour.) Please contact Andi Dumas, Volunteer Coordinator, at 301-330-9633, or ajdumas@comcast.net if you would like to help on the playground. It's a great way to meet your child/ren's friends.

The playground supervisors:

- Make sure that the playground equipment is available for the children to use. Provide minimal first aid, or refer child/ren to School Nurse, as may be necessary
- Help children to mediate any problems that may occur in relating to each other
- Provide friendly suggestions and direction for group games (e. g. jump rope, basketball, soccer, etc.)
- Watch for potential negative situations and help children to avert problems before they escalate
- Make sure children stay within boundaries of the play area
- Are dependable and reliable. Once you have committed to a particular time slot, the staff and children are depending on you to be there.
- Are flexible, and dress for the weather (We normally have indoor recess when the temperature drops below 32 degrees or the play area is covered with snow.)

Its great fun, the children love seeing parents out there at recess, and, with adequate supervision, it helps all our children enjoy their recess time more. Thanks to all our current volunteers. Please consider volunteering for this very important position. The staff and kids will appreciate it.

Sequoyah Signal

Checking in with...

Kindergarten

Happy March! We will be busy this month reading and writing about Spring, kites, and St. Patrick's Day. Our math lessons will include time, measurement, weight, and 2 & 3 dimensional shapes. We will continue to read in our small groups and to work in our literacy centers. Kindergarten Orientation will take place on May 18 and 19. Current kindergarteners will not attend school on those days. If you have a child who will turn 5 before September 1, 2006, please call the school office to schedule an appointment. Also, please alert any neighbors with kindergarten age children about our Orientation dates.

First Grade

In March, the first graders will continue to read for literary experiences (folktales, fairy tales, poems, and short stories). This month we will also start on a new author study - Ezra Jack Keats (author of The Snowy Day, Whistle for Willie and many more). In writing, we are continuing with "writing to persuade", and we will be starting letter writing using all parts of a friendly letter - date, greeting, body, closing, and signature. In math we have started on identifying and describing attributes of three dimensional solid figures - spheres, cube, cylinder, and cone. On March 27, we will have a "bread making" activity in the all-purpose room. It is related to our social studies curriculum. Details about this activity will go home soon.

Third Grade

Third grade is busily preparing for our MSA testing that begins on March 13. We have the math test first on March 13 and March 14. All testing will be done in the morning. On March 17 and March 20 we will have the reading portion of the test. Students will be tested in their homeroom classes. During March we will also be doing book reports about famous women. Information about the reports will be coming home in the first two weeks of March.

Fourth Grade

In March, fourth grade students will be exploring biographies and autobiographies. Students will continue to read examples and identify the elements of these genres. We will also explore persuasive writing. Students will evaluate different forms of persuasive text. Students will write several persuasive paragraphs as well. In math, students will be focusing on elapsed time, two-digit multiplication and division. This month, students will be taking the Maryland State Assessment (MSA). The fourth grade will be administered the math portion of the assessment on Monday, March 13 and Tuesday March 14. The reading portion will be administered on Friday, March 17 and Monday, March 20. It is very important that students come to school prepared, rested and ready to take the assessment. Please make every attempt to schedule doctor appointments and other items around these dates. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders are currently presenting timelines of the lives of minority Americans during their reading classes. Students are working on persuasive writing skills and using good transition words. Also, they are focusing on placing commas correctly and using quotation marks in their writing. During social studies we're looking at how the country evolved after the ratification of the Constitution. We'll study geography and economics to understand how conflicts are resolved and how cultures are modified over time. We just finished the 3rd math unit and are now starting the 4th unit, which covers statistics, data collection, and analysis. The whole fifth grade was treated to a presentation by a local dentist who offered to come and talk about the importance of good oral hygiene and how it affects your health. Also, the counselors from Redland came to talk to the students about the programs available to them next year.

Sequoyah PTA Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Time/Place: 7:30 p.m. at Sequoyah Media Center

Welcome and introductions

President's Report -- Pat Chapin

Secretary's Report -- Nellie Ross -- Approval of the February '06 Minutes

Treasurer's Report -- Jeff Freeman

1st Vice President's Report (programs) -- Sue Martin for Andrea Troutner?

2nd Vice President's Report (fundraising) -- Michelle Hicks

Principal's/Vice Principal's Report -- Dr. Bobbi Jasper and/or Mrs. Sarah Sirgo

- Global GT Screening for Second Graders
- Honor Roll Recognition

Staff Comments -- Ms. McInnis, (staff/grade represented?)

Committee Updates:

- Sock Hop/Raffle/Auction -- Linda Kuserk/Jackie Koehn/Lori Rowe
- Health and Safety -- Sue Martin (for Andrea Troutner...and possibly show 9-minute Nutrition video that kids saw in class?)
- Market Day -- Ivette Sherman
- Nominating Committee Update -- Sue Martin (for Andrea Troutner)
- Book Fair -- Tam Miller?
- Unfinished Business
- Delegate Update -- Martha Schaerr
- Bylaws -- Pat Chapin

New Business

- Spring Musical
- Playground equipment -- Sue Martin

Important Dates:

- March 15 Market Day Pickup 7-8 p.m.
- March 20-31 Spring SpiritWear Clothing Sale
- March 24 (Friday) SOCK HOP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- March 30 3rd Marking Period Ends
- March 31 No School/Professional Day
- April 4 PTA Meeting

Sequoyah Signal

Sequoyah Elementary School PTA Meeting February 7, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Emory Grove Community Center

ATTENDANTS: Marissa Bailey, Linda Burrell-McCanty, Lisa Ann Carrasco, Pat Chapin, Alex Colindres, Michelle Croom, Wanda Drake, Andrea Dumas, Jeff Freedman, Michelle Hicks, Bobbi Jasper, Jackie Koehn, Linda Kuserk, Sue Martin, Kathleen McInnis, Tam Miller, Ellen Motley, Nellie Ross, Isabel Seyed-Ali, Sarah Sirgo, Jean Sommerville, Magola Tranamil, Juanan Ramirez, Andrea Troutner, Brad Skinker, Hiep Tran, Karen Al-Faleh, Mary Kapur, Cristina Braneo, Altagracia Gonzalez, Cirl Chico

Pat Chapin, president, welcomed everyone and introduced Ivette Sherman, Market Day chair, who gave a brief update about the classroom Cookie Dough competition. Introductions followed. Pat said that as the result of much member feedback, in lieu of members showing their voting cards at each vote, members can now just initial their pre-printed name on the membership roster and non-members can add their names to the list. This list will replace the separate sign-in sheet previously used by the Recording Secretary.

Pat said there is an urgent need for playground/recess aids: volunteer and paid. Contact Andrea Dumas (301-330-9633) for questions about the volunteer positions.

Teachers now have new email addresses; the new program transfers emails from the old to the new addresses and a new addresses list will be distributed soon.

The much-anticipated **Sequoyah Sock Hop is planned for 3/24** – many opportunities exist for volunteers, silent auction donations, and raffle items. Pat encouraged all to participate and attend.

When asked, parents indicated they would like to have the March PTA meeting at Redland so the fifth grade parents could meet with the other PTA parents. Also in March, the nominating committee will be working to develop candidates for the 2006-07 Board, including President and Recording Secretary, whose terms will end in June. Pat also encouraged parents to attend the testimony that our Cluster was presenting to the Board of Education on Feb 8, as it concerns items related to school construction and improvements that are important to our Cluster.

December PTA meeting minutes were approved without changes.

Jeff Freedman, treasurer, said in response to the year's budget shortfall of \$10,000, PTA officers and fundraising committee members gathered several times to propose and discuss budget items that could be postponed, reduced, or eliminated. Using Jeff's summary "Budget Amendment", distributed at the PTA meeting, attendants moved to approve the recommendations to reallocate funds from those committee budgets that were not expected to spend their full allotment.

In addition, Jeff reminded committee members to send original receipts in for reimbursement. This enables more accurate budgeting in the future and it keeps the PTA within standard accounting practices. Any invoices for work/materials ordered on behalf of the PTA should be billed directly to the PTA whenever possible.

Andrea Troutner, nominating committee chair, said committee and board members would receive an email invitation to continue serving in their current capacity or in new positions.

Michelle Hicks, second VP of fundraising, plans to meet with fundraising chairs to discuss new strategies to pursue projects more evenly throughout the year. Many projects are currently executed in the first half of the year. The PTA may be more successful overall if fundraising is more spread out over the entire year.

Dr. Jasper, Principal, said the Terra-Nova II test is coming at the beginning of March for the younger grades. Students in grades three through five will take the MSA.

The American Red Cross sent a thank you to the PTA, students, staff and families for donating to areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Dr. Jasper thanked Ms. McInnis for spearheading this effort.

Sequoyah Signal

Dr. Jasper said she is considering several ways of showcasing honor roll students and will report back in March.

Sarah Sirgo, assistant principal, discussed the discipline packet sent home with all students. Students attended an assembly on the new policies. Sarah said her research shows that most discipline events occur during the students' unstructured time: at recess, in the hallways, and on the bus.

Brad Skinker, representing the fourth grade, is working to prepare students for the MSA, its content and structure. In class, students are reading biographies, learning decimals, exploring circuits, and researching Native Americans. Lisa Carrasco, fourth grade teacher, said students would study eco-systems in the coming weeks.

Sarah Sirgo said there are changes in the screening process for gifted and talented students in second grade. Contact Sarah or Beth Diegan for more information.

Andrea Troutner, health and safety chair, launched a new program called "Fit for a King" encouraging children to develop and maintain healthy habits.

Andrea also requested that everyone can enhance the goals and results of the PTA. She encouraged all members to consider seriously taking leadership roles for the benefit of our students and community. Many opportunities are available for any level of commitment or time.

Jackie Koehn, Sock Hop organizer, said this year's event could be the best yet! Dust off your poodle skirts and leather jackets, slick back your hair and get ready to rock. Scheduled for March 24, attendants can enjoy great tunes spun by a professional DJ, great food, silent auction, raffles, and fun. Many volunteers are needed in all areas: decorations, set-up, clean-up, ticket sales, food sales, and more. Contact Jackie for information. Contact Linda Kuserk for Silent Auction donations.

Many thanks to Linda Kuserk, cultural arts chair, for a rousing a capella performance by "Almost Recess", five men who perform extensively in schools in several states. The kids loved it!

Linda, chess club chair, can assist in organizing a chess camp for Sequoyah students this summer. Contact Linda if your child would be interested.

Pat said the long-awaited renovations at Redland MS have been postponed per county council budget changes. Contact the county council members to encourage them to keep the project on schedule.

Tam Miller, membership chair, said PTA membership is up to 140.

Tam, book fair co-chair, said the spring book fair will move to two nights and will offer fewer daytime hours to shop. Evening shopping may be more convenient for Sequoyah families. Volunteers are needed to man the sale. More information is on its way.

Sue Martin, speaking on behalf of playground volunteers, said many more volunteers are needed. In addition, playground equipment is needed. Please check with the school to learn which items are most requested.

Sue, handbook chair, will revise the handbook to accommodate new teacher email addresses and to highlight the school calendar.

Hiep Tran initiated a discussion about the increasing importance of reading and writing skills for children as they move up into the higher grades. He encouraged all parents to remove distractions and keep their children on task with their schoolwork so they will have a better chance of success in school and in life.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nellie Ross, recording secretary.

Sequoyah Signal

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

¡Saludos! Marzo es un mes muy importante para nuestros niños y nuestra escuela. Los niños participarán en las evaluaciones MSA (Evaluación de Estudiantes de Maryland en inglés: Maryland Student Assessment) y Terra Nova (TN2). (TN2 ha sido agregado y el "CTBS" no se usará más. Los resultados de estas evaluaciones impactarán en los recursos que nuestra escuela recibirá. Por favor haga citas para doctores, dentistas, vacaciones u otras ausencias planeadas para DESPUÉS de las evaluaciones. El plazo para retomar estas evaluaciones es muy pequeño, si un niño no las toma, el niño/a tanto como la escuela recibirán un "cero" para el cómputo total acumulado. Así como en los otros días por favor haga que su niño/a llegue a tiempo, descansado/a, desayunado/a, para que puedan hacer su mejor trabajo. El horario de las evaluaciones es el siguiente:

NOMBRE	GRADO	FECHAS	HORAS
Terra Nova 2	2	1, 2,3 Marzo	9:30-11:00 a.m.
MSA Matemáticas	3 y 4	13, 14 Marzo	9:30-12:30
MSA Matemáticas	5	15, 16 Marzo	" "
MSA Lectura	3 y 4	17, 20 Marzo	" "
MSA Lectura	5	21, 22 Marzo	" "

En los días de las evaluaciones se necesitan padres voluntarios para proveer ayuda en la cafetería de 11:30 a.m. hasta la 1:00 p.m. Por favor llame a Andi Dumas, Coordinadora de Voluntarios al 301-330-9633 si puede ayudar.

Nuestra próxima reunión de la PTA es el martes 7 de Marzo a las 7:30 p.m. en la escuela Sequoyah.

El baile de la primavera "Sock Hop" se realizará el VIERNES, 24 de Marzo a las 6:30 p.m. ¡Traiga a su familia, amigos y parientes a esta maravillosa noche de comida, baile, música, premios y diversión! También le gustaría probar su suerte en la variada rifa y subasta con productos donados por el personal y las familias de Sequoyah. El DJ pasará una buena colección de música de fiesta ¡y espere a ver quien encabeza las festividades! Vístase con ropa de los '50 ¡y prepárese para una noche fenomenal! Todavía hay tiempo para donar ítems para la Rifa/Subasta. Por favor llame a Linda Kuserk al 301-330-3926.

Hay una gran colección de vestimenta y abrigos disponible para aquellos que necesiten en el Cuarto de Padres Voluntarios. Por favor llame al Sr. Plaisance o pase por la secretaría para preguntar. También mientras el tiempo se mantenga frío, por favor mande a sus niños con ropa adecuada: abrigos, gorros y guantes marcados con su nombre. Si le faltan algunos artículos, por favor fíjense en el área de Lost and Found en el pasillo al lado del All Purpose Room.

La orientación para Jardín (Kindergarten) se realizará en alrededor de 9 semanas. Si usted sabe de algún vecino con niños de edad escolar, por favor dígales que los registren ahora para el otoño que viene.

Gracias a todos ustedes por sus preguntas y sugerencias. Estamos progresando bastante para el beneficio de nuestros niños. La forma nueva del estacionamiento parece estar funcionando bien. Apreciamos la oportunidad de responder a preguntas y de recibir comentarios. Gracias a Andi Dumas y a los voluntarios que recientemente trabajaron en la secretaría, en el parque y en las aulas. ¡Apreciamos sus esfuerzos!

Trabajemos todos juntos para que nuestros niños terminen la escuela con mucha fuerza. Lectura por la noche y practica de los factores de matemáticas refuerzan lo que aprenden diariamente en la escuela. ¡Nos vemos en Sequoyah el 7 de Marzo!

Sinceramente,

Pat Chapin
Presidenta de la PTA

Dra. Bobbie Jasper
Directora

Se Necesita Ayuda: Supervisores del Parque

¿Sabían que en el recreo hay acerca de 140 estudiantes en el parque a la vez? Nuestro presupuesto de la escuela nos permite tener hasta 10 horas pagas para posiciones para ayudantes del parque. Para la seguridad máxima de nuestros niños, padres voluntarios han cubierto siempre el balance de nuestras necesidades de supervisión del parque. Idealmente 2 padres por grados se necesitan para supervisar los niños en cada periodo de recreo.

Nosotros apreciaríamos muchísimo su ayuda. (Además hay una posición abierta del Condado para un largo término de alrededor \$12 la hora) Por favor contacte a Andi Dumas, Coordinadora de Voluntarios al 301-330-9633 o al ajdumas@comcast.net si quiere ayudar. Es una muy buena forma de conocer a los amigos de sus niños/as.

Los Supervisores del Parque:

- Aseguran que el material del parque esté disponible para que los niños jueguen. Proveer mínimo primeros auxilios o referir al estudiante a la enfermera de la escuela si es necesario.
- Ayudar a los niños en los problemas que pueden ocurrir entre ellos.
- Proveer amable sugerencias y direcciones para los juegos en grupo (saltar la soga, básquetbol, fútbol, etc.)
- Prestar atención a potenciales situaciones negativas y ayudar a los niños a evitar problemas antes que escalen.
- Asegurarse que los niños estén dentro de los límites del área de juegos.
- Que se pueda depender y contar con usted. Una vez que se ha comprometido con un horario, el personal y los niños necesitan que usted esté allí.
- Que sea flexible y se vista para el clima (Normalmente tenemos recreo adentro cuando la temperatura está por debajo de los 32 grados o si el área de recreo está cubierta de nieve)

Es muy divertido, a los niños les encanta ver a sus padres en el recreo y con adecuada supervisión ayuda a nuestros niños a disfrutar su recreo más aún. Gracias a todos lo voluntarios actuales. Por favor considere ayudar para esta tan importante posición. El personal y los niños lo apreciarán.

Sequoyah Signal

Desenpolve su traje.



Lustre sus zapatos.

Ponga algo de rock en su roll porque el

15° Baile de la Primavera Familiar Anual Sock Hop

Será el viernes, 24 de Marzo

6:30 – 9:30 PM

COMIDA * DIVERSIÓN * PREMIOS

¡Venga y baile toda la noche mientras el DJ le pone una mezcla mágica de sus canciones favoritas!

¡Llénese hasta que no de más de comida deliciosa! ¡Pruebe su suerte en la subasta silenciosa!

¡Este es el recaudo de fondos más grande de Sequoyah y necesitamos su ayuda!

Para ayudar simplemente llene el formulario debajo y devuélvalo a:

SEQUOYAH PTA - SOCK HOP COMMITTEE

O llame a:

Jackie Koehn (301) 924-4990 jackiedaviskoehn@yahoo.com

Lori Rowe (301) 924-3537 lmaclaren@aol.com

Yo ayudaré:

- _____ Venta de entradas 9am-9:20am en la escuela en la semana del baile
- _____ Día/s disponible _____
- _____ Decorar y preparar el día del baile
- _____ Venta de entradas en la puerta – anótese para un puesto de una hora
- _____ Venta de refrescos - anótese para un puesto de una hora
- _____ Venta de boletos de rifa – anótese para un puesto de una hora
- _____ Done artículos para rifar, servicios, o certificados de regalos.
- _____ Done bizcochos, postres, productos en paquetes o bocaditos
- _____ Done soda en lata, cajitas de jugos, o agua embotellada
- _____ Limpieza

NOMBRE _____ TELÉFONO _____

DIRECCIÓN DE CORREO ELECTRONICO _____

El ser socio en la PTA de Sequoyah (Parent Teachers Association), y su apoyo en los esfuerzos de recaudo de fondos, hacen que muchos programas y eventos valiosos como éste sean posibles para nuestra comunidad de Sequoyah. ¡Gracias por su participación!

Sequoyah Signal


SEQUOYAH PTA BAILE FAMILIAR DE LA PRIMAVERA Y SUBASTA SILENCIOSA

VIERNES, 24 DE MARZO 6:30PM-9:30PM

Lori Rowe (301) 924-3537

Jackie Koehn (301) 924-4990

RIFAS PREMIOS COMIDAS DIVERSIÓN BAILE MÚSICA SUBASTA SILENCIOSA

Entradas por Adelantado \$3.00

\$4.00 en la puerta

Devuelva este formulario con el dinero para comprar las entradas antes de la escuela durante la semana del 20 - 24 de Marzo.

Haga el cheque a cargo de Sequoyah PTA.

No se permitirá la entrada de estudiantes sin chaperones.

Niños de edad preescolar entran gratis.

Entradas \$3. c/u _____ Monto Total \$ _____

Nombre del Estudiante _____

El ser socio/a de la PTA de Sequoyah (Parent Teachers Association), y su apoyo en sus esfuerzos de recaudación de fondos, hacen que muchos eventos y programas valiosos como éste sean posibles para nuestra comunidad de Sequoyah. ¡Gracias por su respaldo!

Sequoyah Signal

PTA de la Escuela Primaria Sequoyah Actas de la reunión del 7 de Febrero de 2006 7:30 p.m. Emory Grove Community Center

ASISTENCIA: Marissa Bailey, Linda Burrell-McCanty, Lisa Ann Carrasco, Pat Chapin, Alex Colindres, Michelle Croom, Wanda Drake, Andrea Dumas, Jeff Freedman, Michelle Hicks, Bobbi Jasper, Jackie Koehn, Linda Kurserk, Sue Martin, Kathleen McInnis, Tam Miller, Ellen Motley, Nellie Ross, Isabel Seyed-Ali, Sarah Sirgo, Jean Sommerville, Magola Tranamil, Juana Ramirez, Andrea Troutner, Brad Skinker, Hiep Tran, Karen Al-Faleh, Mary Kapur, Cristina Braneo, Altagracia Gonzalez, Cirl Chico.

Pat Chapin, Presidenta, Dio la bienvenida y presentó a Ivette Sherman, de la comisión de Market Day, quien dio una breve actualización acerca de la competencia en las clases de las Masas de Galletas (en inglés Cookie Dough). Siguieron otras presentaciones. Pat dijo que de acuerdo a las opiniones de los miembros en vez de mostrar la tarjeta de miembro cada vez que se vota, los miembros pueden poner sus iniciales al lado de sus nombres en la lista de miembros, y los que no son miembros pueden agregar sus nombres a la lista. Esta lista reemplazará la lista de asistencia empleada anteriormente por la Secretaria de Registro.

Pat dijo que hay una necesidad urgente de ayudantes de recreo/parque: voluntarios y pagados. Contacte a Andrea Dumas 301-330-6933 con preguntas acerca de las posiciones voluntarias.

Los maestros ahora tienen direcciones de e-mail nueva; el nuevo programa transferirá e-mails del e-mail viejo al nuevo y una lista nueva de direcciones se distribuirá pronto.

El tan anticipado **Baile de la Primavera Sock Hop de Sequoyah está planeado para el 24/3-** existen muchas oportunidades para voluntarios, donaciones para la subasta silenciosa y artículos para la rifa. Pat alentó a todos a participar y a asistir.

Cuando se preguntó, los padres indicaron que les gustaría tener la próxima reunión de Marzo en Redland para que los padres de 5° grado puedan conocer a otros padres de la PTA. En Marzo también, la comisión de nominaciones trabajará para desarrollar los candidatos para la Junta Directiva del 2006-07, incluyendo Presidente/a y Secretario/a de Registro que sus términos finalizan en Junio. Pat también incitó a los padres a asistir al testimonio que nuestro racimo de escuelas presentara el 8 de Febrero, porque concierne a asuntos relacionados con la construcción de escuelas y renovaciones que son muy importantes en nuestro Racimo.

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

Jeff Freedman, Tesorero, dijo en respuesta al estar cortos \$10,000 del presupuesto, oficiales de la PTA y miembros de las comisiones de recaudo de fondos se reunieron varias veces para proponer y discutir ciertos puntos del presupuesto que pueden ser pospuestos, reducidos o eliminados. Usando el resumen de Jeff "Adenda del Presupuesto" que fue distribuido en la reunión de la PTA, los miembros aprobaron las recomendaciones para re-localizar los fondos de los presupuestos de esas comisiones que no se esperaban que usaran todo su fondo.

A su vez, Jeff les recordó a los miembros de comisiones que mandaran recibos originales para ser reembolsados. Esto permite una estimación más correcta en el futuro y mantiene a la PTA con práctica habitual de contabilidad. Todas las facturas, para trabajo/material pedido de parte de la PTA tienen que ser facturadas directamente a la PTA cuando sea posible.

Andrea Troutner, presidenta de la comisión de nominaciones, dijo que los miembros de las comisiones y de la junta directiva recibirán una invitación por e-mail para continuar sirviendo en su corriente capacidad o en nuevas posiciones.

Michelle Hicks, segunda VP de recaudo de fondos, planea reunirse con las presidentas de las comisiones de recaudo de fondos para discutir nuevas estrategias y seguir adelante con proyectos más parejamente a través del año. Muchos proyectos son solamente ejecutados en la primera mitad del año. La PTA sería más exitosa si los recaudo de fondos estuvieran distribuidos a través de todo el año.

Dra. Jasper, Directora, dijo que las evaluaciones de Terra Nova II serán al principio de Marzo para los grados menores. Los estudiantes de 3° a 5° tomarán el MSA.

Sequoyah Signal

La Cruz Roja Americana mando una nota de agradecimiento a la PTA, estudiantes, personal y familias por donar a las áreas afectadas por lo huracanes Katrina y Rita. La Dra. Jasper agradeció a la Srta. McInnis por encabezar este esfuerzo.

La Dra. Jasper dijo que está considerando varias formas de premiar a los estudiantes honorarios y que reportará de nuevo en Marzo.

Sarah Sirgo, Asistente de la Directora, discutió el libreto de disciplina que fue mandado con los estudiantes. Los estudiantes asistieron a una asamblea acerca de las nuevas normas. Sarah dijo que la mayoría de los incidentes de disciplina suceden durante el tiempo sin estructura: en el recreo, los pasillos y en los buses.

Brad Skinker, representando los 4° grados, está trabajando para preparar a los estudiantes para el MSA, su contenido y estructura. En clase, los estudiantes están leyendo biografías, aprendiendo decimales, explorando circuitos e investigando Indígenas Americanos. Lisa Carrasco, maestra de 4° grado, dijo que los estudiantes estudiarán ecosistemas en las semanas por venir.

Sarah Sirgo dijo que hay algunos cambios en las evaluaciones para los estudiantes dotados y talentosos en 2° grado. Contacte a Sarah o Beth Diegan para más información.

Andrea Troutner, comisión de salud y seguridad, presentó un nuevo programa llamado “En forma para un Rey”, alentando a los niños a desarrollar y mantener hábitos saludables.

También dijo que todos pueden mejorar las metas y resultados de la PTA. Alentó a todos los miembros que seriamente consideren tomar roles de liderazgo para el beneficio de los estudiantes y la comunidad. Hay muchas oportunidades para todos los niveles de compromiso y tiempo.

Jackie Koehn, organizadora del baile Sock Hop, dijo que ¡este año puede ser el mejor de todos! Desempolven la ropa de los 50', ate su cabello bien tirante y se prepare para rock. Se realizará el 24 de Marzo, los concurrentes gozarán de buena música pasada por un DJ, buena comida, subasta silenciosa, rifas y diversión. Se necesitan muchos voluntarios para todas las áreas: decoraciones, preparaciones, limpieza, ventas de entradas, ventas de comidas y mucho más. Contacte a Jackie para más información. Contacte a Linda Kurserk para donaciones para la subasta silenciosa.

Muchísimas gracias para Linda Kurserk, comisión de artes por traer una actuación a capella de “Almost Recess”, cinco hombres que actúan extensivamente en escuelas de varios estados. ¡A los niños les encantó!

Linda, comisión del club de ajedrez, puede asistir en organizar un campamento de ajedrez para los estudiantes de Sequoyah este verano. Contacte a Linda Kurserk si su hijo/a está interesado/a.

Pat dijo que las renovaciones tan esperadas para Redland han sido pospuestas por los cambios de presupuesto en el consejo del condado. Contacte a los miembros del consejo para que mantengan el proyecto a horario.

Tam Miller, comisión de miembros, dijo que la PTA tiene 140.

Tam, comisión de feria del libro, dijo que la feria de la primavera se ofrecerá en dos noches y con menos horas durante el día. La compra de libros durante la noche puede ser más conveniente para las familias de Sequoyah. Se necesitan voluntarios para la venta. Más información está en camino.

Sue Martin, hablando de parte de los voluntarios del parque, dijo que se necesitan más voluntarios. También se necesita más equipo de parque. Por favor fíjese con la escuela para ver que artículos son los más requeridos.

Sue, comisión de manual, revisará el manual para acomodar las nuevas direcciones de e-mail de los maestros y para destacar el calendario escolar.

Hiep Tran inició una discusión acerca de la importancia de las destrezas de lectura y escritura para los niños a medida que van avanzando dentro de los grados altos. Él sugirió a los padres a que remuevan distracciones y mantengan a los niños enfocados con su trabajo escolar para que tengan una mejor oportunidad de triunfo en la escuela y en la vida.

Se levanta la sesión a las 8:50 p.m. Sometida respetuosamente por Nellie Ross, secretaria de registro.