

Sequoyah Signal

THE PTA NEWSLETTER OF THE SEQUOYAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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



April 2006

CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Sequoyah Spirit Week | Apr 3-7 |
| April PTA Mtg. | Apr 4 |
| Spring Break! | Apr 10 - 17 |
| Report Cards Distributed | Apr 19 |
| Market Day Pick-up 7:00 - 8:00PM | Apr 20 |
| Spring Book Fair | Apr 26 & 27 |
| Individual Pictures | Apr 26 |
| May PTA Mtg. | May 2 |

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
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
David Baker
SequoyahSignal@aol.com

May Signal Deadline:
4/24/2006

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

Thanks to all the teachers, parents, staff, and students who worked together so successfully during the MSA testing period. Thanks for preparing our kids to do their best each day.

On April 4th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center, there will be a meeting with parents of current second graders about GT testing, which will be immediately followed by a speaker from Sylvan Learning at 7:30 p.m. to start the PTA meeting. The topic is "Lighting the Motivational Fire" (to help your child/ren finish the year strong). At 8:00 p.m., the business part of the PTA meeting will begin. The Nominating Committee will introduce the new officer candidates for the 2006-07 PTA Board, we will vote to approve the updated bylaws that were distributed at the March meeting, and get committee updates.

Everyone's been raving about The SOCK HOP. Kudos to Jackie Koehn and Lori Rowe for organizing this wonderful family dance-party event. The gym was rocking and the crowd went crazy when student dancers led their favorite line dances under the tutelage of (party animal) Andi Dumas. Along with the prizes, fun, and festivities, serious money was made at the Silent Auction and Raffle--expertly run by Linda Kuserk. Revenue from the Sock Hop will help to fund our PTA programs through year-end. Thank you to each parent, student, staff member, and friend for donating their time and talents and participating in this wonderful community-building event...and to Bar-T for sponsoring the Popcorn and Cotton Candy stations. Teachers and Bar-T staff also enjoyed the dinner organized by Sue Martin, Susan Bernstein, Sarah Hochuli and Pat Chapin. Special thanks to Marshall and our wonderful Building Services crew for all their attention to detail before, during, and after the Sock Hop.

Stock up on summer reading material at the upcoming Book Fair at Sequoyah on April 26 and 27. Details are coming in your child's backpack. Choose from an amazing selection of books for children and adults. Our children are making great progress with their reading skills. We also appreciate all the parents who are assisting teachers with the Accelerated Reader program.

Mark your calendars now for May 11 and 12 -- the dates for our musical, "School House Rock". The rehearsals are underway now, and you won't want to miss this great show! Stay tuned for more details. Pat will be helping Ms. Murphy with logistics and contacting parents who had volunteered to help with the costumes, food, and decorations. Also, if you know how to run a sound system, please call to offer your help today!

Kindergarten Round-up is coming up on May 18th and 19th. If you hear of a new neighbor with kindergarten-age children, please encourage him or her to call for an appointment. If you know of neighbors with students who'll be entering 1st through 5th grade next Fall, please encourage them to call the office to register now for the Fall. .

As the weather warms up, we will need more parent volunteers on the playground to assist at recess. If you can help, even one day per week, our kids will be able to maximize their outdoor recess time. In the Spring our thoughts also turn to...weeds? We would love to see some Scouts and/or other volunteers organize to weed the gardens. The beautiful new plant material that Laurie Sweeney arranged for us last year is just starting to sprout. It should be a beautiful Spring!

See you on April 4th!

Sincerely,

Pat Chapin
PTA President

Dr. Bobbi Jasper
Principal

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The Programs Page -- Information and Updates

Andrea Troutner, 1st V.P./Programs

ALL ABOARD ON EVITE!

The results are in and the following open committee chair positions need to be filled by June 2006:

- *Copy Club Chair OPEN
- *School Tool Box Chair OPEN
- *Family Night Chair & Co-Chair OPEN

Pending Sequoyah PTA Meeting vote to eliminate the following committee programs from the Sequoyah PTA programs:

- *Before and After Care Liaison
- *Homework Club
- *Haircut Day

SPECIAL COMMITTEE-NOMINATING UPDATE

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. Please come show your support and cast your vote at the April 4th PTA meeting for the Nomination Committee's submission of the following candidates for the OPEN board positions this incoming 2006-2007 school year as follows:

President, OPEN with a nomination of Andrea Troutner
 1st VP Programs, OPEN with a nomination of Sue Martin
 2nd VP Fundraising, OPEN with a nomination of Michelle Hicks
 Treasurer, OPEN with a nomination of Jeff Freedman
 Recording Secretary, OPEN with a nomination of Lindy Guerra
 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 within the school year 2006-2007 have remained unchanged since last months newsletter are as follows:

Volunteer Coordinator, OPEN
 Delegate, PENDING

Andrea Troutner, 1st V.P./Programs
 (301) 466-0611

PLEASE ATTEND THE MIDDLE SCHOOL FORUM(S)

Parents, students and staff are invited to attend the next public forum on MCPS middle schools. Feedback and suggestions on ways to strengthen middle schools will help guide the school system's Middle School Reform initiative.

Monday, April 3, 2006, 7-9 p.m. at Key MS (Free childcare will be available.)

Interpreters for Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, French, and Amharic will be available.

You can also provide your comments on line by visiting the Middle School Reform web site at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/info/msreform>

Donna J Sonnemann, Administrative Services Manager (Donna.J.Sonnemann@mcpsmd.org)
 Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Community Superintendent
 Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder & Watkins Mill Clusters
 Office of School Performance, CESC, Room 100
 (301) 315-7370 - direct (301) 315-7381 - fax

PTA Contacts

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 (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

April Staff Birthdays:

4/4 Ms. Megan Mills
 4/6 Ms. Nancy Ruffner
 4/6 Ms. Alice Moore
 4/10 Mrs. Geeta Mishra
 4/10 Ms. Latoya Cephas



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THANK YOU RAFFLE AND AUCTION SUPPORTERS!

Thanks to all the families, teachers, staff and businesses that supported our Silent Auction and Raffle. The generosity of those donating, as well as those participating, helped to raise needed funds for PTA programs, benefiting all students. I would like to acknowledge the businesses listed below and encourage parents to support these businesses that support Sequoyah Elementary School.

Six Flags
DC United
Shadowland
Coldstone Creamery
Olney 9 Cinemas
Kings Dominion
Washington Redskins
Washington nationals
Watermark Cruises
Bethesda Park Clarion
Occasions Catering

Olney Grille
Mamma Lucia
BD's Mongolian Barbeque
Strathmore
Olney Theatre Center
Baltimore Symphony
Roundhouse Theater
Paula's Boutique
Redland Service Center
Pannera
Good Earth

Holiday Inn
Inn at Little Washington
Sunflower Bodyworks
AMF Bowling
Bowl America
Ski Liberty
Whitetail
Blue Mash
California Tortilla

Spring Spirit Wear Items to be Sold in School following Spring Break

Stop by school the week after spring break and check out our NEW mesh shorts for boys, and Softe athletic shorts for girls. You'll also find Sequoyah polo shirts, beach towels and more for sale before school and during lunchtimes. No more guessing which size to order and waiting for delivery... now you can shop and purchase what you need right on the spot! Be sure to come early to get the best selection.

Spirit Wear co-chairs, Cindy Batz Arnold and Lori Rowe

Spirit Week Begins April 3rd!

Be sure to support the Student Council-sponsored
Sequoyah Spirit Week!

Monday, April 3rd - Wacky Hair Day
Tuesday, April 4th - Mismatched Outfit Day
Wednesday, April 5th - Hat Day
Thursday, April 6th - Pajama Day
Friday, April 7th - Sport Jersey Day



Health & Safety Update -- National Nutrition Month® Buzz

A PTA Health & Safety Committee “Thank you” goes to Sequoyah’s very own P.E. Teacher, **Mr. Martin**, in assisting us with Sequoyah’s sixth annual National Nutrition Month®, and this year’s theme of “**Step Up To Nutrition and Health**” during students 1st thru 5th grade “P.E.” Special. Thank you to all the students who turned in their “Fit For A King Activity” logs signed by their parents. The class winner of the “Fit For A King Activity” logs goes to Mr. Manon’s 5th grade class! Congratulations class, you have just earned an extra P.E. day at Sequoyah!

Health & Safety Committee, Andrea Troutner and Lauren Robbins

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.

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A Message from the Health Room

Food Allergies: A Growing Concern

By Nancy Ruffner, R.N., SCHN

In an effort towards health education, I wanted to bring to your attention the growing concern over students and food allergies. In the past few years, food allergies, especially allergies to peanuts and nuts, have been on the increase. Peanut allergies in children have doubled between 1997 and 2002 alone. Heading the list are peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, almonds, pecans), milk, eggs, wheat, and soy. Many of the foods we commonly eat today contain at least one, if not more, of these ingredients. For children who are allergic to one or more of these foods, it can become a life and death situation if the food is ingested. In some cases, children are so allergic that they cannot even be at the same table as someone eating one of these foods.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction can range from itching to hives all the way to the most serious form of an allergic reaction, known as anaphylaxis. During anaphylaxis, the child begins to have tightness in the chest and throat and the throat begins to swell, cutting off the supply of air. For children with this most serious type of reaction, immediate action is necessary. For this reason, schools encourage parents to provide a life-saving treatment called an EpiPen which is an injection given when someone has consumed a known food allergen. Anaphylaxis can also occur with people who are allergic to bees which can cause the same type of reaction and requires the same treatment.

So what are schools doing to try and help children who have known severe allergies? Schools require parents or guardians to provide emergency contact information on the yellow emergency cards. On the reverse side of the card you are asked to provide information should your child be allergic to a particular food, bees, etc., and what medications are being prescribed. School nurses provide training to staff on anaphylaxis and the use of EpiPens in the event that there is a field trip or in case health staff are not available. At some schools, students with allergies are being offered the option of sitting at a peanut-free table to help reduce the possibility of exposure. Individual Health Care Plans are written for children who have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. This plan details the steps which should be taken in the event of ingestion or exposure. Health staff are strongly recommending extreme caution be used when food is served for parties such as Halloween, Valentine's Day or birthdays when homemade goodies are being brought in by parents who do not know about your child's food allergy.

What can you as parents do to help your child who has a known severe food allergy? One of the most important things a parent can do is to make school, teachers and health staff aware of your child's allergy. If an EpiPen or Benadryl is recommended by the child's doctor, then it is imperative that parents provide the medication and the appropriate anaphylaxis or medication form to the health room. The best thing you as a parent or guardian can do is to start to educate your child as early as possible about their food allergy and what foods they should avoid. Begin to look at labels with your child. The child will quickly become aware of which foods or ingredients to be on the lookout for. Something as seemingly harmless as candy can be deadly for a child with anaphylaxis. Many candy wrappers contain a notice that the candy "May contain traces of peanuts". This can be the result of cross-contamination through processing. Parents and guardians should always tell club leaders, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, coaches, parents hosting sleepovers and day care providers about their child's food allergies and what to do in the event of an accidental ingestion or contact with a particular allergen.

I would encourage you to share this and other health information about your child which can help us provide appropriate care for your child in the event of an emergency.

Checking in with...

Kindergarten

This month we will begin our study of living things. We will learn about seeds and plants, animals that hatch from eggs, and farm and zoo animals. In math, we will be estimating, adding, and working with fractions. Small group work will continue and we are excited to see what great readers our students are becoming! Kindergarten Orientation will be held on May 18 and 19. If you have a child who will turn 5 by September 1, 2006, please call the school for an appointment. There will be no school on May 18 and 19 for current kindergarteners.

Third Grade

Third grade was busy the month of March studying figurative language and interpreting poetry. We also had some fun using the different types of figurative language to create our own poetry. We have displayed some of our work on the bulletin board in the upstairs hall. Also since March was women's month, we worked on biography book reports of famous women. Some of those will also be displayed throughout the school. In April we will continue to work on our most comprehensive math unit. We have spent time with fractions and we will be moving on to multiplication, division, decimal fractions, money, and Hands-on-Equations. We will begin historical fiction in reading and our final science unit following the life cycle of a Brassica plant. We look forward to warmer weather and spring break. April begins the final grading period in third grade. Let's make this one the best yet! Fourth grade is just around the corner!

Global Screening for Gifted and Talented

Each spring, all students in Grade 2 participate in the Gifted and Talented Global Screening Process. The intent of the global screening process is to:

- Recognize those students whose performance, motivation, or potential ability indicate the need for accelerated and enriched instruction, and,
- Match student strengths with instruction and programs that will support and extend those strengths.

The process gathers information from a variety of sources, including classroom performance, observation instruments, and tests. The information gathered consists of:

- Teacher Survey of Student Strengths
- Parent Survey of Child's Strengths
- Staff Advocacy Form
- Standard Progressive Matrices (Raven)
- InView Cognitive Assessment
- Other performance data

The InView test will be administered by classroom teachers on
Friday, April 21st.

The Raven will be administered by a member of the GT testing unit on
Wednesday, April 26th.

The information gathered from this screening process will be carefully reviewed by the school Gifted and Talented Committee to identify students.

Please join us on **Tuesday, April 4th from 6:30-7:30 pm** in the media center for an in-depth look at the Global Screening process. We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs. Sarah Sirgo
 Assistant Principal
 GT Liaison

Mrs. Beth Deigan
 Reading Specialist
 GT Liaison

Partners in Parenting

The PTA's Partners in Parenting Committee (Special Needs and Parent Support) is pleased to sponsor the following programs:

Tuesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. Talk by Melissa Dunning of the Gaithersburg Sylvan Learning Center on "Lighting the Motivational Fire" - helping motivate our children to success in school

Her talk will be fairly brief with a short time for questions before the PTA meeting continues with its business meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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

Sequoyah is proud to sponsor a 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 is one remaining session this year (Spring). A registration form is attached below. The center may be contacted for questions by e-mail at programs@chesscenter.net. For information on Summer Chess Camps, see the website at www.chesscenter.net.
Linda Kuserk, PTA Chess Club Chair 301-330-3926.

**Classes will meet Mondays, 8:05 to 9:05 AM,
in the
Sequoyah Media Center**

FOR: Anyone

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

Tuition: 9 week session: \$90.00

Students on installment plan: \$95

**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.**

✂

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:** _____

Sequoyah Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes March 7, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Cindy Batz-Arnold, Pat Chapin, Celia Choi, Andrea Dumas, Janet Freeman, Michelle Hicks, Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Linda Kuserk, Sue Martin, Kathleen McInnis, Tam Miller, Ellen Motley, Sherrell Nicholson, Nellie Ross, Lori Rowe, Isabel Seyed-Ali, Ivette Sherman, Sarah Sirgo, Jean Sommerville, Magda Tranamil

Pat Chapin, president, opened the meeting and mentioned the next PTA meeting on April 4 will feature an information session at 6:30 (before the main meeting) to overview the new Global Gifted and Talented Screening process.

Pat began introductions and extended thanks to David Baker, Signal newsletter editor and Marina Connor, Spanish language translator for the newsletter.

In May, new PTA officers will be voted in, thanks to the tireless efforts of Andrea Troutner, nominating committee chair and her committee. PTA by-laws were distributed for comment for routine review. Comments on the Sequoyah PTA by-laws will be taken and we will vote to implement them with the recommended updates at the April 4 meeting. The PTA board considered adding an additional board member, president-elect, to more smoothly transition to president the following year. The board decided against adding this position, as the PTA president has often already spent time serving in several capacities within the leadership and can assume the responsibilities using the support of past officers, staff, and experience.

A motion passed to approve the February 2006 meeting minutes with changes to clarify Andrea Troutner's titles as first VP of programs and nominating committee chair.

Pat Chapin offered the treasurer's report in Jeff Freedman's, treasurer, absence saying the PTA checking account is \$9,410.72. In addition, two checks are expected: \$401 for the Sequoyah family night at Chicken Out and about \$200 from our partnership with Target. The Chicken Out contribution represents one of Sequoyah's best restaurant fundraising events. Also, according to Jeff, Sequoyah PTA is up to date with its tax filings and dues payments to MCCPTA.

The budget approved in January with almost \$10,000 cut in expenses, is now in effect through yearend. A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR ALL SEQUOYAH STAFF AND FAMILIES TO SUPPORT THE PTA AND UPCOMING EVENTS WAS MADE.

Sue Martin, reporting for Andrea Troutner, first VP of programming, thanked everyone for his or her continued support. Sue relayed Andrea's plea to PTA membership to consider accepting leadership positions in the PTA. Officer and committee recruiting is in full swing with many opportunities to offer.

Michelle Hicks, second VP of fundraising, invited PTA and interested families to participate in a fundraising strategy follow-up session. Michelle reported that no one attended the meeting and that she will draft a strategy document to align funding priorities with the community using her experience and observations as well as feedback received throughout the past two years. Her goal is to maximize support and enthusiasm among Sequoyah families by programming relevant events in a calendar that is most convenient to participants.

Dr. Jasper, Sequoyah principal, addressed the new gifted and talented screening process and goals for second graders. MCPS has considered ways to accommodate the school system's diversity and to maximize each group's potential and opportunities to challenge themselves. Of particular focus are African American, Hispanic, ESOL and FARM groups where there are the largest achievement gaps. The process is designed to enhance all students' access to opportunity, provide equity in expectations, and offer more quality programs. Each child's performance and potential will be evaluated through tests, teacher and parent observations, a parent/teacher survey, an updated staff advocacy form, and an

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enhanced online database. The parents of current second graders will be invited to the April 4 meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the media center.

Janet Freeman, Sequoyah media center, reviewed the current plan to modernize technology in Sequoyah. New computers are expected this summer supplying a printer for each class and new Dell equipment throughout the school. Installation is expected to happen on August 15 and 16. In addition, two new LCD projectors, a color laser jet printer and additional printers for confidential documents are planned. The total number of computers within the school will be reduced based on the expected reduction in enrollment in 2006-07. Ten more laser jet printers (at a cost of \$176. each) for non-classroom teachers are requested but not currently scheduled. A standard formula was used throughout MCPS to determine what equipment is to be sent to each school.

Kathleen McInnis, second grade teacher, said the Tera-Nova II test for second graders was successful and encouraged families to support third, fourth, and fifth graders' testing during the MSA tests later this month.

Sue Martin, on behalf of Andrea Troutner, health and safety chair, presented a school-wide program to increase healthy eating and increase exercise. All grade levels reviewed a special movie and were given activity logs to track their exercise. The class with the best participation will receive an extra PE session.

Ivette Sherman, Market Day chair, said February was a tremendous month, largely due to the cookie dough competition. Sequoyah's average monthly income from Market Day foods is \$400; February brought \$1,450. Ms. Odans' fourth grade class won, selling over 60 containers of frozen cookie dough.

Tam Miller, book fair co-chair, said the spring book fair is planned for April 25-27. **VOLUNTEERS ARE ENCOURAGED** at this last major PTA fundraiser of the year! Plan to attend the family reading night in the courtyard with hot chocolate and cookies for sale! (*ed. Note: As we had not yet cleared that teachers would be available to do this, we may need to do it with parents only.*)

Cindy Batz-Arnold, spirit wear chair, will preorder some items to encourage impulse purchases of Sequoyah branded polos, sweats, and other popular items. Motion passed to fund the advance purchase of \$1,000 in spirit wear items using budget line items that will soon be reimbursed through clothing sales. (\$650. from New Student T-Shirt funds, and \$350. from Staff-Needy Student Fund.)

Linda Kuserk, for Martha Schaerr, MCCPTA liaison, said local legislation is pending to screen MCPS contractors who work on school grounds when students are present. In addition, the MCCPTA has endorsed a new policy to offer partial credit to students who attempt homework assignments without fully completing them.

The spring musical is scheduled for May 11 and 12.

More playground equipment for recess is expected soon: jump ropes, balls, and more will be available next month.

Sarah Sirgo, assistant principal, said a new para-educator is on staff as an in-class and recess/lunch aid. Recess and in-school volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted, Nellie Ross, recording secretary.

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Carta de la Presidenta/Directora Abril 2006

¡Saludos!

Gracias a todos los maestros, padres, personal y estudiantes que trabajaron juntos tan exitosamente durante el período de evaluaciones de MSA. Gracias por preparar a nuestros niños a que hagan lo mejor cada día.

El 4 de Abril a las 6:30 p.m. en el Media Center, habrá una reunión con los padres de los estudiantes que corrientemente asisten a segundo grado acerca de las evaluaciones de GT y será inmediatamente seguido por una charla de un representante de Sylvan Learning a las 7:30 p.m. para empezar la reunión de la PTA. El tópico es “Encender el Fuego Motivador” (para ayudar a sus niños a que terminen un año con fuerza) A las 8:00 p.m., la parte empresaria de la PTA comenzará. La Comisión Nominadora presentará a los nuevos candidatos de autoridades para la Junta directiva de la PTA del 2006-2007, votaremos para aprobar las leyes actualizadas que fueron distribuidas en la reunión de Marzo y obtener actualizaciones de las comisiones.

Todo el mundo está hablando del Sock Hop. Felicitaciones a Jackie Koehn y a Lori Rowe por organizar este evento familiar de baile y fiesta. El gimnasio retumbó y la multitud se volvió loca cuando los estudiantes bailarines dirigieron sus danzas en línea preferidas bajo la guía de Andi Dumas. Junto con los premios, la diversión y las festividades, una seria cantidad de dinero se hizo en la subasta silenciosa y rifa, manejada expertamente por Linda Kurserk. Las ganancias del Sock Hop ayudarán a costear programas de la PTA hasta el fin de año. Gracias a cada padre, estudiante, miembro del personal y amigos por donar su tiempo y talentos y participar en este evento maravilloso de la comunidad... y a Bar-T por patrocinar las estaciones de palomitas de maíz y algodón de azúcar. Los maestros y personal de Bar-T también disfrutaron de la cena organizada por Sue Martin, Susan Bernstein, Sarah Hochuli y Pat Chapin. Agradecimientos especiales a Marshall y a nuestro maravilloso grupo de Servicios de Edificio por toda su atención a los detalles antes, durante y después del Sock Hop.

Acumule material de lectura en la feria del libro por venir a Sequoyah el 26 y 27 de Abril. Detalles serán mandados en la mochila de sus niños. Elija de una increíble selección de libros para niños y adultos. Nuestros niños están progresando en sus destrezas de lectura. También apreciamos a todos los padres que están asistiendo a los maestros con el Programa de Lectores Acelerado (Accelerated Readers Program).

Marquen sus calendarios ahora para el 11 y 12 de Mayo que son las fechas de nuestro musical “School House Rock”. Los ensayos se están realizando ahora, y ¡no quisiera perderse este gran show! Manténgase atento por más detalles. Pat ayudará a la Sra. Murphy con logística y contactando a los padres que han ofrecido ayudar con disfraces, comida y decoraciones. También si alguien sabe manejar un sistema de sonido, por favor ¡llame para ofrecer su ayuda hoy!

El Rodeo de Jardín de Infantes (Kindergarten) está viniendo el 18 y 19 de Mayo. Si UD. Sabe de un vecino nuevo con niños de edad de jardín, por favor aconséjale a que llame para una cita. Si UD. Sabe de algún vecino con estudiantes de 1° a 5° grado para el otoño que viene, por favor aconséjale a que llame a la secretaria para inscribirlos ahora para el próximo otoño.

A medida que el clima mejore, necesitaremos más padres voluntarios en el parque para asistir con el recreo. Si usted puede ayudar, aunque sea un día a la semana, nuestros niños pueden usar su tiempo de recreo afuera al máximo. En la primavera también empezamos a pensar en mala hierba... Nos encantaría ver a los Scouts u otros voluntarios a organizar la limpieza de nuestros jardines. Las hermosas plantas que Laurie Sweeney arreglo el año pasado está empezando a brotar. ¡Va a ser una bella primavera! ¡Nos vemos el 4 de Abril!

Sinceramente,

Pat Chapin
Presidenta de la PTA

Dra. Bobbie Jasper
Directora

Sequoyah Signal

Actas de la reunión de la PTA de Sequoyah 7 de Marzo de 2006 7:30 - 8:50 p.m.

Asistencia: Cindy Batz-Arnold, Pat Chapin, Celia Choi, Andrea Dumas, Janet Freeman, Michelle Hicks, Dra. Bobbie Jasper, Linda Kuserk, Sue Martin, Kathleen McInnis, Tam Miller, Ellen Motley, Sherrell Nicholson, Nellie Ross, Lori Rowe, Isabel Seyed-Ali, Ivette Sherman, Sarah Sirgo, Jean Sommerville, Magda Tranamil.

Pat Chapin, presidenta, abrió la sesión y mencionó que la próxima reunión será el 4 de Abril y que habrá una sesión de información a las 6:30 (antes de la reunión) para revisar el nuevo proceso de evaluación para Dotados y Talentosos globales.

Pat comenzó las presentaciones y agradeció a David Baker editor del boletín informativo Signal y a Marina Connor, traductora al español por el mismo.

En Mayo, nuevas autoridades de la PTA serán votadas, gracias a los esfuerzos incansables de Andrea Troutner, presidenta de la comisión de nominaciones y su comisión. Las reglas de la PTA fueron distribuida para ser comentadas y para reviso rutinario. Los comentarios de estas reglas serán tomados y se votará para implementarlas con las actualizaciones recomendadas en la reunión del 4 de Abril. La junta directiva de la PTA consideró agregar un miembro adicional, elegido por la presidenta, para suavizar la transición para el/la Presidente/a el año entrante. La junta decidió en contra de agregar esta posición debido a que el/la presidente/a ha trabajado sirviendo en varias capacidades dentro del liderazgo y puede asumir las responsabilidades usando el apoyo de las autoridades anteriores, del personal y su experiencia.

Una moción para aprobar las actas de Febrero de 2006 con cambios para clarificar los títulos de de Andrea Troutner como primera vicepresidenta de programas y presidenta de la comisión de nominaciones.

Pat Chapin ofreció el reporte del Tesorero en ausencia de Jeff Freedman diciendo que en la cuenta corriente de la PTA hay \$9,410.72. Además, se esperan dos cheques: \$401 por la noche de Sequoyah en Chicken Out y acerca de \$200 por nuestra sociedad con Target. La contribución de Chicken Out representa una de los mejores eventos de recaudo de fondos en restaurante. También de acuerdo con Jeff Sequoyah está a la fecha con los impuestos y los pagos a MCCPTA.

El presupuesto aprobado en Enero con casi \$10,000 en cortes de gasto, está en efecto ahora a través del año. UN PEDIDO ESPECIAL PARA TODO EL PERSONAL Y LAS FAMILIAS DE SEQUOYAH FUE HECHO PARA QUE APOYEN A LA PTA Y SU EVENTOS POR VENIR.

Sue Martin, reportó por Andrea Troutner, primera V. P. de programas, agradeció a todos por su apoyo continuo. Sue relató el pedido de Andrea de que los miembros de la PTA consideren aceptar posiciones de liderazgo en ella. El reclutamiento de autoridades y de comisiones está en pleno movimiento con muchas oportunidades para ofrecer.

Michelle Hicks, segunda VP de recaudo de Fondos, invitó a la PTA y a familias interesadas a participar en una sesión extra de estrategia de recaudo de fondos. Michelle notificó que nadie asistió a la reunión y que ella va a escribir un documento preliminar para alinear las prioridades para fondos con la comunidad usando su experiencia y observaciones también como opiniones recibidas a través de los dos años pasados. Su meta es utilizar al máximo el apoyo y el entusiasmo de las familias de Sequoyah programando eventos relevantes en un calendario que es más conveniente para los participantes.

Dra. Jasper, Directora de Sequoyah, habló del nuevo proceso de evaluaciones de Dotados y Talentosos y metas para los niños de segundo grado. La MCPS ha considerado formas de acomodar la diversidad del sistema de escuelas y utilizar al máximo el potencial y oportunidades de cada grupo para que se desafíen a sí mismos. Los de foco particular son los grupos: africanos americanos, hispanos, ESOL y FARM, donde existen las mayores brechas de logro. El proceso está diseñado para enriquecer las oportunidades de acceso a todos los estudiantes, proveer equidad en las expectativas y

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ofrecer más programas de calidad. El desempeño de cada niño y potencial será evaluado a través de exámenes, observaciones de los padres y maestros, una encuesta de padres/maestros, un formulario actualizado de ayuda del personal, y una mejorada base de datos de Internet. Los padres de los niños de segundo grado corrientes serán invitados a la reunión del 4 de Abril a las 6:30 p.m. en el media center.

Janet Freeman, media center de Sequoyah, revisó el plan corriente para modernizar la tecnología en Sequoyah. Esperamos computadoras nuevas este verano con una impresora para cada clase y equipo de Dell para toda la escuela. La instalación está programada para el 15 y 16 de Agosto. Además se ha planeado adquirir dos proyectores LCD nuevos, una impresora color láser e impresoras adicionales para documentos confidenciales. El número total de computadoras dentro de la escuela será reducido basado en la reducción de inscripción en 2006-07. Se han pedido diez impresoras láser jet más (a un costo de \$176 c/u) para los maestros sin clases pero que corrientemente no tiene horario. Una fórmula estándar fue utilizada por toda la MCPS para determinar que equipo sería mandado a cada escuela.

Kathleen McInnis, maestra de segundo grado, dijo que las evaluaciones de Terra-Nova II para lo niños de segundo grado fue exitoso y les pidió a las familias que apoyen a los niños de tercero, cuarto y quinto grados durante las evaluaciones de MSA mas adelante en este mes.

Sue Martin, de parte de Andrea Troutner, presidenta de salud y seguridad, presentó un programa para toda la escuela para aumentar la nutrición saludable y el ejercicio. Todos los grados miraron una película y se les dio un diario de actividades para que anoten cuanto ejercitan. La clase con la mejor participación recibirá una clase extra de educación física.

Ivette Sherman, presidenta de Market day, dijo que Febrero fue un mes tremendo, debido grandemente a la competencia de venta de masa de galletas. El promedio de entradas mensuales de Market Day es de \$400; febrero trajo \$1,450. La clase de cuarto grado de la Sra. Odan ganó vendiendo más de 60 contenedores de masa de galletas congelado.

Tam Miller, co-presidenta de la feria del libro, dijo que la feria del libro de la primavera está planeada para el 25-27 de Abril. ¡SE NECESITAN VOLUNTARIOS en este mayor evento último de recaudación de fondos de la PTA del año! ¡Planee asistir a la noche de lectura en el patio interno con chocolate caliente y galletas a la venta! (Nota: todavía no es claro que las maestras puedan ayudar, sino sería con padres solamente)

Cindy Batz-Arnold, presidenta de ropa Spirit Wear, va a hacer un pedido de antemano de artículos para incentivar la compra impulsiva de las camisetas polo de Sequoyah, buzos y otros artículos populares. Se aprobó la moción para la compra de \$1000 en artículos de Spirit Wear usando líneas de presupuesto que pronto serán reembolsados a través de la venta de ropa. (\$650 de los fondos de estudiantes nuevos y \$350 del fondo personal y estudiante necesitado).

Linda Kurserk, de parte de Martha Schaerr, enlace de MCCPTA, dijo que legislación local está pendiente para evaluar a los contratistas de MCPS que trabajan en las escuelas cuando los estudiantes están presentes. En adición la MCCPTA ha endosado una nueva política de ofrecer medio crédito a estudiantes que intentan hacer sus tareas sin completarlas.

El musical de la primavera se realizará el 11 y 12 de Mayo.

Más equipo de juego para el recreo llegará pronto: sogas para saltar, pelotas y más estarán disponibles el próximo mes.

Sarah Sirgo, asistente de la Directora, dijo que se ha empleado a un nuevo para-educador y un ayudante de clase y de almuerzo/recreo. Siempre serán bienvenidos voluntarios para la escuela y recreo.

Sometido respetuosamente, Nellie Ross, secretaria de registro.