

Sequoyah Signal

The Sequoyah Elementary School PTA Newsletter

October 31, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 3

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Sequoyah
Elementary School

"Home of the
Stallions"

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Monthly Message

From our Principal, Assistant Principal, and PTA President

Dear Sequoyah Parents and Guardians:

It is hard to believe it is already the end of October. The leaves are changing and soon it will be time to turn our clocks back. Before you have a chance to rake up all of your leaves, we would like to let you know about all the wonderful events at Sequoyah.

The PTA Book Fair was a huge success. Scholastic supplied us with the latest books and activities for all grade levels, including the newest Tedd Arnold books and the latest in the Harry Potter series. We want to thank all of the parents who volunteered, and the teachers who read aloud in the courtyard. A special thank you to Sue Martin, Reena Maboob, and Tam Miller for supplying hot cocoa and Otis Spunkmeyer cookies. We could not have done this without all of our volunteers.

We especially want to thank everyone for supporting the school and PTA this month through our fundraisers. As in the past, we sold Innisbrook wrapping paper and Market Day foods. We added new fundraisers this year as well, such as cookie dough and Kidstuff Coupon Book sales. Also, if you have not registered your Giant and Safeway Cards to support Sequoyah, please do so. The money raised

enables the PTA to give teachers a stipend for class-room supplies and to promote programs to enhance the MCPS curriculum. The funds we raise benefit the most important people in our community, the students.

This year our PTA meetings are being preceded by a Guest Speaker Series. Our speakers are scheduled for 6:30 pm and will be followed by our normal PTA meeting at 7:00 pm. The next PTA meeting night is Tuesday, November 6. Our first guest speaker is Community Superintendent Mr. Adrian Talley, an important part of our school improvement process. Mr. Talley is taking the time to listen to what we, as parents, have to say.

At the December meeting, we will host County Councilman Phillip Andrews. At our February meeting, our guest will be Mr. Totah of Oxbridge Development, the developer building the new homes behind our school. Please find time to attend this Guest Speaker Series and ask questions of all our important guests. We, as a community, will strive to create the best possible environment for all of our students, parents, and staff through constructive conversations with these and

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Parents' Checklist

Schedule and attend a Parent Conference with your child's teacher

November 16, 4:00pm: Pick up Cookie Dough and Gift Wrap Orders

Register by November 1 for the Safeway eScrips Program (You must register every year)

Sign up for the Giant Bonus Bucks Program (You must register every year)

Join the Box Tops Booster Club for free at www.boxtops4education.com

Join the Upromise Schools Program for free at www.upromise.com/schools

Take Note: School Schedule

School Holidays - No school

Thursday 11/1 (Professional Day)
 Thursday 11/22 (Thanksgiving)
 Friday 11/23 (Thanksgiving)

Half Days - Students released after lunch

Friday 11/9 K-8 (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
 Monday 11/12 K-8 (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

1st Marking Period Dates

Marking Period ends 10/31

Save the Date

Guest Speaker Series, Presenting Mr. Adrian Talley:

Tuesday 11/6 at 6:30pm in the Media Center

November PTA Meeting: Tuesday 11/6 at 7pm in the Media Center

Arrangements have been made for babysitting during all PTA meetings so that you may attend.

Restaurant Night: Wednesday 11/14, 5 - 9pm. Please join your Sequoyah friends and families for dinner at Mamma Lucia's in Olney, MD. Mamma Lucia's will donate 8% of their sales for that evening to the Sequoyah PTA.

Kid's Bingo Night: Friday 11/16 at 7pm in the Gymnasium

Don't Forget!

Market Day: The simple way to keep your freezer and pantry stocked with yummy, easy-to-serve food and snacks! Become a frequent buyer for extra perks!

November

Order forms due Wednesday 10/31
 Internet orders due noon Thursday 11/1
 Pickup Wednesday 11/7, 7pm - 8pm, All Purpose Room

This month, each pie you order earns an extra \$1.75 for Sequoyah.

December

All orders due Thursday 12/6
 Pickup Wednesday 12/12, 7pm - 8pm, All Purpose Room

Market Day Info:

Ivette Sherman (301) 330-5151
Idshopper@comcast.net

Cookie Dough Pickup: Friday 11/16 at 4pm

Gift Wrap Pickup: Pick up your Innisbrook gift wrap orders Friday 11/16 at 4pm

Pick up your Gift Wrap and Cookie Dough orders at the same time, and join us later that evening for Bingo Night!

Cookie Dough/Gift Wrap Info:

Wanda Drake (301) 990-6694
SequoyahVPofFundraising@gmail.com

In the Spotlight - Volunteering

THANK YOU! Thank you for taking on one of the most rewarding responsibilities that our school system has to offer...volunteerism. Volunteers strengthen family-school relationships that are essential to improved academic success for students. Have you noticed how happy your child is to discuss their week at school when they know you have been volunteering in the classroom? Do your shared Sequoyah experiences brighten conversations with your child?

Parents are valued partners in their children's education, and we have a strong and active parent community at Sequoyah Elementary. Our volunteers reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of our local school community. If

you are not already involved, here are a few easy ways to become a Sequoyah Elementary School volunteer:

- ❖ Contact your child's teacher via the school's phone (301-840-5335) or by the teacher's email address. Consult the 2007-2008 Sequoyah School Directory and Handbook for addresses.
- ❖ Become an Art Fever volunteer in your child's classroom. Most materials are provided by the school for your use. Contact the teacher today.
- ❖ Offer to chaperone a field trip - on the road or in-school opportunities are available.

Make the call today!

Sue Martin, Volunteer Coordinator

Tax-Deductible Donations

Consider a Tax Deductible Donation to Sequoyah PTA

Sequoyah PTA is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code. One advantage of this classification is that contributions received by Sequoyah PTA are treated by donors as tax deductible charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Some parents have shared that they would like to financially support the PTA, yet are unable to participate in fundraising activities due to work and family time constraints. As the calendar year closes, you may wish to consider a tax deductible contribution directly to the Sequoyah PTA.

The Sequoyah PTA annual budget for 2007-2008 is \$40,650. The Sequoyah PTA welcomes contributions of any amount now through May 1, 2008. Please consider contributing an amount consistent with your budget and your family's giving plans.

100% of your tax deductible donation will help fund Sequoyah programs and events.

Please make a check payable to Sequoyah Elementary School PTA and only U.S. mail your contribution and this original form to 5620 Lake Christopher Drive Derwood, MD 20855 c/o Jim Crichton, Sequoyah 2007-2008 PTA Treasurer.

Contribution Date of check U.S. mailed: _____

\$_____ Check amount enclosed (payable to Sequoyah Elementary School PTA)

Staff, Parent or Guardian Name _____

For a receipt (instead of using your cancelled check only) of your monetary charitable contribution with our PTA this school year 2007-2008, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your contribution by May 1, 2008. The Sequoyah PTA has not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for this contribution.

Your membership in the Sequoyah PTA and your financial support make many valuable programs and events possible for our Sequoyah community. The Sequoyah PTA thanks you for your participation!

Fundraising Thank You

The SES Fundraiser Team would like to welcome **Ellen Rahr**, **Danielle Rice**, and **Jennifer Crocker** to our team. **Ellen Rahr** is the new chairperson for **Upromise**. **Danielle Rice** is the new chairperson for **Modell's Team Weeks** and **Gift Cards** fundraisers. **Jennifer Crocker** is the chairperson for our **SES Yearbook**. Thank you for stepping into these new roles and supporting our students.

Tam Miller continues to manage and support the **Membership** program for SES PTA. The Fundraising Team is grateful to have her as a member. She continues to grow our SES PTA Membership. Thank you!

Jacques and Michelle Croom are our husband/wife team. They have done an outstanding job again with the **Gift Wrap** fundraiser. Thank you for your dedication and support!

Spirit Wear Clothing Sale Coordinator, Cindy Arnold, continues to support this ongoing fundraiser for our school and keeping our children's spirit alive. Thank you very much!

Our **Corporate Fundraisers** continue to raise the bar. **Andrea Cameron** is our parent/teacher mom who continues to manage the **Box Tops** program and **Sarah Hochuli** is our **Giant/Safeway** representative who is committed to this fundraiser. Thanks for making these fundraisers successful.

SES is grateful for **Ivette Sherman's** continuous effort and dedication to the **Market Day** program and keeping that delicious food coming every month. Thank you!

Ellen Motley and **Tam Miller** are our **Book Fair** chairpersons who never stop promoting those books. Thank you for making our book fairs special for our children. A special thanks to **Tam, Ellen, and the committee members** that supported the **Book Fair Blizzard** October 12 – 18.

Tina Webb is our **Restaurant Nights** coordinator who brings the families together and we appreciate her hard work. Thank you!

Big Thanks to **Sue Martin** who wears many hats for the SES PTA. Thanks for continuing to support the **Handbook/Directory** program and all of the other activities and tasks that you perform for the SES Staff and students.

The SES Fundraiser Team would like to thank in advance other chairpersons whose fundraisers are coming up soon and have supported other chairpersons and committees with current activities: **Bingo Night – Andi Dumas and Laura Weiner; Spring Dance – Dawn Greene, Emily Matussek, Jackie Koehn and Michelle & Jacques Croom.**

The SES Team would like to send out a special thank you to **Amy Stevens** our **Newsletter designer and editor**. We appreciate your efforts and support.

Thank you!

Yours truly, Wanda Drake

Fundraising Help Wanted!

Please remember that Sequoyah PTA needs your help to make this a successful year. At the present time, the SES PTA fundraising committee needs a **chairperson** for the **Spring Talent Show**.

Please contact Wanda Drake, VP of Fundraising at (301) 990-6694 or mwdrake@comcast.net.

Readers' Corner

Sequoyah has a wonderful partnership with Barnes and Noble in the Washingtonian Center in Gaithersburg. They have both donated and provided a deep discount on books for the Stallion Bookstore. Later this month they will be sending a storybook reader with the "Pancake Pig" to visit our primary classrooms.

On December 14, 15, and 16, we invite our Sequoyah families to be with us at the Barnes and Noble store in Gaithersburg at the Rio. During the three days we will be manning the gift wrap table where any tips we receive by wrapping gifts will be ours. Come help and/or get your presents wrapped for you!

December 15 will be "Spotlight on Sequoyah." Ms. Murphy will present a chorus performance at Barnes and Noble at the

Community Support

Sequoyah ES and the PTA would like to thank the following businesses for their contributions to our Fall Harvest Dance: Safeway (King Farm), Giant (Flower Hill), Johnson's Florist (Olney), Deli Plus (Derwood), Elegant Pantry Catering (Derwood), and Yummy Donuts (Derwood). Thank you for your support and for helping make this a fun event for everyone!

Rio. We will be spotlighting some of our students' writing at this same event. Dr. Jasper will be a guest reader as well as some of your favorite teachers. Any purchase you make at Barnes and Noble that week will benefit Sequoyah with cash that we can use on more instructional books! Look for additional information as we get closer to the event, but be sure to save the date for a lot of fun!

Beth Deigan
Reading Specialist, Sequoyah ES
(301) 840-5335
Elizabeth_M_Deigan@mcpsmd.org

Monthly Message (continued)

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other guest speakers throughout the school year. October 31 is the last day of the first marking period. There will be no school for students on November 1 to give teachers time to complete report cards. Parent conferences will be held on November 8, 9, and 12. If you have not scheduled a conference with your child's teacher, please contact him/her for an appointment. *Remember that this year our night conference will be held at Sequoyah.*

Thank you for your continued support in the PTA and in our school. We welcome parental involvement and look forward to having more parent volunteers in the school. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the PTA or your child's teacher. Remember, if every family gave just a few hours a year, the benefits and growth for our students would be immeasurable.

Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Principal
Christine Woodcock, Assistant Principal
David Dennison, PTA President



Support our PTA and Sequoyah ES with eScrip!

Safeway is proud to partner with eScrip to support the education of youth.

Shop Safeway and earn valuable money for our PTA and Sequoyah.

Sign Up Today!

Your participation can mean hundreds of dollars for our group.

- Have your Safeway Club Card number available
- Visit www.escrip.com
- Click on "1- Sign Up"
- Present your Club Card every time you shop and our group earns!

It's Easy to Renew

If you participated last year, don't forget to renew to continue earning Safeway contributions.

- Have your Safeway Club Card number available
- Visit www.escrip.com
- Click on "YES RENEW!"

For uninterrupted contributions, renew annually by November 1.

SGA Soundbites

Welcome to our exciting new Student Government Association Soundbites. SGA, usually referred to as Student Council, is off to a great start this year. Our first goal is an "A-OK" (Acts Of Kindness) program where adults catch students in the act of being on Level 3 behavior (Delightful and Helpful). When students get "caught", Sequoyah staff will fill out special orange certificates for their A-OK behavior. Those kids will be recognized on the new A-OK

bulletin board at the front entrance, where their name and description of their A-OK behavior will be posted. We can't wait to fill up the bulletin board.

From your SGA

Volunteer Tips & Responsibilities

Follow these tips to maximize your volunteer experience.

- ❖ Sign in and out when visiting Sequoyah.
- ❖ Respect the responsibilities and schedules of school staff.
- ❖ Comply with Sequoyah and MCPS policies/regulations.
- ❖ Keep within eyeshot of MCPS staff at all times when working with children.
- ❖ Attend meetings and training sessions that apply to your role.
- ❖ Provide experiences that are essential to improved academic success for students and add to the total school program.
- ❖ Periodically submit the number of volunteer hours you have given to the school. (For example: Classroom assistance, Main office assistance, Field trip assistance, Chaperoning at school events, PTA fundraising events, family nights).

Fundraiser Facts

BOX TOPS and CAMPBELL'S Labels for Education

Congratulations to Mrs. Mishra's, Mrs. McGuire/Mr. Kellar's, Mrs. Odans and Ms. Mstowski's classes for bringing in the most Box Tops and Campbell's Labels!! Thanks to everyone who has participated so far this year. We are only \$80 away from meeting our goal of \$500. The final turn-in-date for this school year is 1/30/07 so please fill up as many sheets as possible before then! *Money earned through this program will financially support our International Night and our volunteer program.* Please also consider joining the Box Tops Booster Club for free at www.boxtops4education.com. The school earns bonuses for each person who joins.

The Campbell's program has changed this year. Instead of turning in the entire label, we only need to clip the UPC and the icon next to it. The two items must be together and intact. There are many wonderful products that the school can earn by redeeming the UPC clippings. Campbell's clippings (UPC and education icon) should still be turned in to your classroom teachers but will not count toward rewards.

Please remember:

- Do not turn in Betty Crocker points.
- Do not cut the expiration date off of Box Tops.
- Ask family & friends to save Box Tops and Campbell's labels.

Please visit www.labelsforeducation.com. This site features recipes, nutrition and wellness information and lists of qualifying products.

Thank you for your participation!
 Andrea Cameron, Box Tops & Campbell's Labels Chair



Upromise®
 Schools Program

Raise money for our school while you save for college!

We are pleased to announce that Sequoyah Elementary is now participating in the Upromise® Schools Program – an exciting new fundraising program from Upromise, the free service that helps parents save for college. Whether you're currently a Upromise member, or join through this program, you can raise money for our school by participating in select Upromise programs, such as dining out or shopping online. And as a Upromise member, you can also save for your child's college education. It's a win-win for our school – and for parents like you! Learn more about this exciting new program by visiting www.upromise.com/schools today!

Make a Difference! Join PTA

Hooray to Sequoyah ES community for giving the PTA membership drive a great head start! Almost 100% of teachers and staff have joined. Membership numbers for students' families are strong at 25% but we can be stronger. Your membership gets you a voice in your child's community at the local, state and national level. Your

membership also supports amazing events like October's Fall Harvest Dance and continuing programs like the Art Fever and Authors.

Choose to join the PTA by filling out the form below and sending it back to school with your child. *You can make a difference!*

Check One: **Single Membership (\$15)** **Family Membership (\$20)**

1st Member Name _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

2nd Member Name _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

Home Address _____

Child Name _____ Grade _____
 Child Name _____ Grade _____
 Child Name _____ Grade _____

Giant Bonus Card # _____
 Safeway Card # _____