

Sequoyah Signal

The Sequoyah Elementary School PTA Newsletter

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"Home of the
Stallions"

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Monthly Message

From our Principal, Assistant Principal, and PTA President

Dear Sequoyah Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back from a long and restful break. Hopefully 2008 will bring some exciting and wonderful changes in our world. This year, we will see governmental changes after we elect a new president and vice president. Also, there are tax changes and deductions to benefit working parents.

Here at Sequoyah we will see changes to regularly-scheduled instructional days and times due to weather conditions and State testing schedules. Testing for the Maryland State Assessments opens on April 1st, the day after Spring Break. Please plan your travel accordingly so that your student is at school on all testing days. Testing is scheduled as follows:

- April 1st - April 16th: MSA testing for grades 3, 4, and 5
- April 28th - May 5th: Terra Nova (TN2) for grade 2
- April 21st - May 16th: LAS Links for all ESOL students in grades K-5
- May 7th - May 13th: MSA Science for grade 5

These assessments are extremely important for your child and the school. Please make sure your child is well rested and has a good breakfast each morning.

Despite the warm weather that we have been experiencing, it is winter. Please have your child bring a warm coat, gloves, and a hat to school as we will have outdoor recess when the weather permits. Also, check MCPS channel 34, www.mcsp.k12.md.org, or 301-279-FORD(3673) for emergency school closings and early dismissals. Please do not contact the school as we need to keep the lines open in case of emergencies.

Don't forget to make your Market Day purchases. The money raised supports our students by providing cultural assemblies and extracurricular activities. Thank you for your continued support of our PTA and our school.

The winter chorus and instrumental music concert in December was a huge success. It was standing room only for the entire show. A special thanks to Miss Murphy and Mrs. Cameron for their hard work and dedicated teaching. It is through their instruction that the students were able to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to play and sing so beautifully. Also, we want to thank all of the parents and the community for their support for Oscar Sanchez. During the concert, we were able to raise almost \$1500 for the Sanchez Angel Fund. This is just one display of the support and dedication Sequoyah families have for the entire Magruder cluster and community.

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

Parents' Checklist

Place Market Day orders by Jan 16 (Internet orders by noon Thurs. Jan 17). Pick-up is Wed. Jan 23, 7pm - 8pm

For information on emergency school closing and early dismissals, check the following sources:

- MCPS Channel 34
- www.mcsp.k12.md.org
- 301-279-FORD(3673)

Take Note: School Schedule

School Holidays – No school

Monday, Jan 21 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
 Tuesday, Jan 22 (Professional Day for Teachers)
 Tuesday, Feb 12 (Election Day)
 Monday, Feb 18 (Presidents' Day)

Marking Period Dates

2nd Marking Period ends Friday, Jan 18

Report Cards Sent Home Wednesday, Jan 30. Please review, sign, and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

3rd Marking Period begins Wednesday, Jan 23

Save the Date

Parents in Parenting Presents "Ennis' Gift : A Film About Learning Differences", Wednesday, Jan 16, 7:00-8:30pm in the Media Center.

"Ennis' Gift" is a profile of actors, scientists, business leaders, and dozens of other adults and children, who show how they have been able to meet and even exceed their life goals despite early struggles with learning disabilities.



"Pre-Souper Bowl" Lunch : Friday, Feb 1

Sponsored by the PTA, this lunch is one way in which we can show our gratitude to Sequoyah's teachers and staff. If you can volunteer to donate a pot of chili and/or desserts, please contact Alice Clark at (301) 670-1619.

Guest Speaker: Tuesday, Feb 5 at 6:30pm, Media Center, Featuring Elliot Totah, Executive VP of Oxbridge Development, the developer for Bowie Mill Estates behind Sequoyah.

www.oxbridgedev.com/projects/maryland/residential/BowieMillEstates.html

PTA Meeting: Tuesday, Feb 5 at 7pm, immediately following Guest Speaker Elliot Totah, Media Center

Valentines Day Classroom Parties: Thursday, Feb 14 beginning at 2:15pm. Contact your child's teacher or room parent to help with the fun!

Sequoyah Yearbook Orders: 2007-2008 yearbook orders will be taken beginning Tuesday, Feb 19. Look for more information in February's Signal.

Readers' Corner

Last month we had our first annual Barnes and Noble weekend at the store in Gaithersburg's Washingtonian Center. We were able to donate almost \$400 to the Sanchez Angel Fund from our gift wrapping table proceeds. Many Sequoyah parents, students, and staff stopped by to help, as well as a few from Magruder.

Many thanks to Dr. Jasper, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Kim, Ms. Moore, Ms. McInnis, Ms. Schectman, and our very talented students (and especially parents for bringing them!) for sharing their talents with the public during the spotlight portion of the weekend.

We are delighted with the extensive use of Barnes and

Noble vouchers by our school community. During that weekend we generated over \$8000 in book sales and have received a gift card from Barnes and Noble for over \$1700! Needless to say, we are beginning to plan for next year's event. Again, thank you for all your support.

Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

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SGA Sound Bytes

Our Student Council has been working very hard this year. We were successful with the canned food drive. We exceeded our goal by collecting 620 cans. The canned food was donated to a local food pantry to assist families in need. Thank you for all of your support!

Currently in progress is our "Acts of Kindness" (A-OK behavior) Bulletin Board. We plan to list the students who were recognized for displaying Level 3 behaviors (Delightful/Democratic) later in another Signal issue.

Currently, we are in the process of finalizing our plans for the following events and activities:

February

- Valentines sales

March

- St. Patrick's Day activity
- "Pennies for Patients" (fund raiser)
- Student Spirit Week.

More information will be coming soon.

Hope Randolph
 Student Council Secretary