



Sequoyah Sequoyah

Dates to Remember

Events



MSA Testing

March 8th—23rd

End - 3rd Marking Period

Friday, March 26th

PTA meetings

Tuesday, March 2nd 7PM

Tuesday, April 6, 7PM

Tuesday, May 4 6:30PM

Tuesday, June 1 7PM

SPIRIT FRIDAYS

March 5, March 12

March 19, March 26



Professional Day—No School

Tuesday, April 6th

Spring Brerak

Monday, March 29

through Monday, April 5

Spring Book Fair

Friday, April 30

through Friday, May 7

Market Day Pick-up

Wednesday, March 17th

Market Day Contact:

Brenda Young

Phone: (301) 947-2688

Email:

BrendaYoung722@comcast.net

Place an order online at **MarketDay.com**, or submit a paper order form prior to the due dates.



Sequoyah Elementary

March 2010

Principally Speaking

Special Thoughts on Raising Kids
Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Principal



Sequoyah Elementary School
17301 Bowie Mill Rd.
Derwood MD 20855
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

INFLATION

Kids suffer from inflation. The cost of learning how to live in our world goes up daily. The price a child pays today to learn about friendships, school, learning, decision-making, and responsibility is the cheapest it will ever be. Learning an important lesson today may be a bargain.

The older a child gets the bigger the decisions, become. Elementary school children make many decisions with affordable price tags. This means they can pick themselves up and try again if things don't work out. High school students are making life-and death decisions—about fast cars, riding in the back of pickup trucks, drugs, alcohol, and other issues—on a daily basis.

Some children are allowed to learn at an early age not to antagonize bigger children. The cost of this knowledge is a few minor bumps and bruises. Others, protected from this experience, have to learn the same lesson during their teenage years at the cost of serious physical injury, usually at the hands of a much stronger person. I'd rather my child learn at an age when the price is much more affordable.

I met a parent who likes to loan money to her young children. She believes this is a great opportunity for them to learn about responsibility and the way our banking system works.

She expects the child to sign a promissory note, provide collateral just as an adult would do at the bank, and pay off the loan by a certain date. She is actually training and preparing her children for the real world.

Recently she repossessed an Ipod when her son did not pay off his loan on time. She said that it really hurt her to have to take the Ipod. However, her most convincing statement was, "My son is really lucky. Here he is, only 10 years old, and he knows so much about the responsibility of paying back loans, collateral, and even repossessions. All it cost him was a \$90 Ipod. It was a bargain."

She added, "My neighbor's boy learned the same lesson at the age of 26 when the

bank repossessed his \$15,000 car. My son had a 16 year head start on the neighbor's boy. Now he has an additional piece of wisdom to carry him through life." His life will be better in the long run as a result of this lesson.

It's painful to watch our children learn through natural consequences. But this pain is the price we pay to teach our children.

We either hurt as we watch our children learn through life's natural consequences, or we hurt as we watch them grow up unable to take good care of themselves.

Allow Kids to Learn When the Price is Affordable

Third Key of College Readiness: Key 3: Complete advanced math in Grade 5

Students can start advanced math as early as kindergarten. In 5th grade, advanced math means Math 6 or higher. Students who successfully complete end-of-unit assessments for Math 6 will be well prepared to successfully complete Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Math 6 is available in all elementary schools.



Seven Keys to College Readiness



Key 1: Read at advanced levels in Grades K-2



Key 2: Score "advanced" in reading on the Maryland School Assessment in Grades 3-8



Key 3: Complete advanced math in Grade 5



Key 4: Complete Algebra 1 by Grade 8 with a "C" or higher



Key 5: Complete Algebra 2 by Grade 11 with a "C" or higher



Key 6: Score 3 on an AP exam or 4 on an IB exam



Key 7: Score 1650 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT

MSA Testing dates:

Reading:

- √ March 8 and 9: 3rd and 4th grade
- √ March 10 and 11: 5th grade

Math:

- √ March 12 and 15: 3rd and 4th grade
- √ March 16 and 17 5th grade

ATTENTION PARENTS:

Please try not to schedule any doctors appointments during the two weeks of MSA Testing.

It is very important for all students in grades **3, 4, and 5** to be present and on time for testing.

Preparing for the MSA Math and Reading

Tips for Testing weeks:

- √ Eat a healthy breakfast
- √ Get to school on time
- √ Try every problem
- √ Don't spend too much time on any one problem
- √ Go back and check your work
- √ Get a good night sleep
- √ Turn off tv and video games

Preparation for the Math and Reading MSA:

- ⇒ Read nightly for 20 minutes to keep your skills sharp
- ⇒ In a journal record ideas and questions you have while you read.

- ⇒ Practice your math facts and use your math journal as a resource
- ⇒ Eat well balanced meals including a healthy breakfast daily
- ⇒ Relax you are well prepared
- ⇒ Stay focused

Websites related to the Third Key:

Key 3 Information:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/keys/key3.shtm>

Sample MSA Home Reports

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/newsroom/publications/pubsother/>

MSA Fact Sheet:

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/407FF8E5-C710-4A64-881C-CA1641821E78/6368/MSA_FactSheet.pdf

Sample Test Items

http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k_8/index_c.html

MARCH MADNESS



MSA Testing Dates:

Reading:

- ✓ March 8 and 9: 3rd and 4th grade
- ✓ March 10 and 11: 5th grade

Math:

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- ✓ March 16 and 17: 5th Grade



Sunday, March
14th
Daylight Savings
Time Begins

Turn clocks ahead!

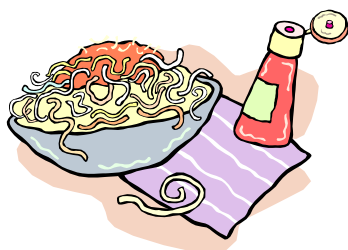
Restaurant Night

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Stay tuned for more information....

MAMA LUCIA

Wednesday, March 24, 2010
Tentative



SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 29th through Monday,

April 5th—*Students return Wed. Apr. 7th*
(Professional Day Tuesday, Apr. 6, 2010)



.NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS! TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010



THANKS TO OUR HARD WORKING PTA

WHAT A GREAT FEBRUARY WE HAVE HAD!



VALENTINE'S PARTIES

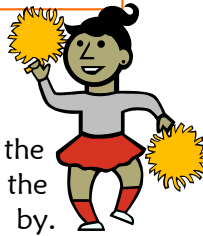
CABIN FEVER

MCDONALD'S NIGHT



We appreciate all you do everyday and we
LOVE the creative and fun ways you build
our community with a variety of activities for our
families and staff.

WE GOT IT!!!!



Spirit that is! Have you noticed the staff on Fridays when you visit the school? If you haven't, come on by. You'll see brilliant blues and bright oranges as the staff wears the Sequoyah colors to show their school spirit.

Special thanks go out to Noelle Donati for ensuring the staff has an enticing selection of spirit wear to choose from. Visitors and school system itinerants have also asked to become part of the Sequoyah spirit by requesting the opportunity to purchase clothing. The spirit is catching on—have you 'got it'?!

Join in on the fun! Spirit Week March 1-5

Monday Pajama Day (wear your PJs)
Get a good night's sleep

Tuesday Backwards Day
(wear something backwards)
Go back and check your work

Wednesday Twin/Triplet Day
(dress like a friend or two)
Get a two or three on your BCRs

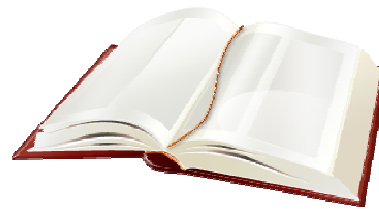
Thursday Wacky Hair Day
(do a wacky hair do)
Keep your focus

Friday Team up for the test
Wear your favorite sportswear (hats included too!)

READING CORNER

What a winter!

This is perfect weather for sledding and curling up with a good book.



One way we try to encourage our students to read is through the Read at Home program. Each grade level has set certain criteria for students to earn a check for doing their reading homework. If the student has completed the needed numbers of checks, their name goes into our data base as having completed their Read at Home work for the month. They will receive a book buck to spend at the Stallion Bookstore and have their name proudly posted on the Reading Wall of Fame in the front of the school. An added bonus is that they will receive a certificate at the awards ceremony at the end of the school year for 100% participation – not to mention that they will have become much better readers for their efforts. Please oversee your child's homework to make sure they are participating in this important part of school expectations. **Read On!**



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

In music, Kindergarten is learning about loud and soft, fast and slow. 1st and 2nd grade are working hard on their music reading as well as improvisation, or making music up "on the spot." 3rd graders are working toward their green belts in recorder karate. Remember to bring your recorder to music class each week! 4th and 5th graders are learning dictation skills: writing music down as they hear it. We are also learning folk dances and games from America and around the world.

The cast has been announced for Annie and our first rehearsal is this Thursday after school. All actors and actresses should have brought home a permission slip to take part. Stage crew sign ups will be the week of March 9th. Hope to see you at the show May 19th and 21st!

Classroom Notes

KINDERGARTEN



February was a very exciting month in kindergarten. The blizzard was a real-world connection to our study of weather! We have worked very hard the last two weeks and have covered the curriculum that we missed during our unexpected days off.

Your child will be bringing home a new weekly homework assignment on Monday, March 1st. This homework will focus on your child's development of writing skills. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions regarding this new assignment. Please note that your child will still be required to complete their Alphabet Books, Weekly Reading Logs, and any other assignments given by their teacher.

MSA testing begins this month. Please rest assured that we are trying to keep disruption to your child's instructional day to a minimum. There will be a total of five mornings in which your child may receive instruction in another classroom, whilst his/her teacher is performing in a different capacity for the MSA test. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

FIRST GRADE



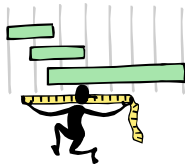
First graders are starting on a new and exciting reading unit. We will be reading different versions of folktales and fables from around the world. For example, Little Red Riding Hood, Lon Po Po, and The Gunniwolf are all different versions of the same story. These stories all have a similar lesson- LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER!

In writing, we will be learning all about persuasive writing. If your child comes home with good reasons to do something (or not), like go to the movies, or not to do homework etc., you'll know that they are learning to persuade.

In math, we will begin our geometry unit which encompasses plane shapes (2-dimensional) and solid shapes (3-dimensional).

We will be continuing our weather unit in Science. Learning about how the weather connects well to all of Mother Nature's surprises in the past month. We hope everyone has a wonderful Spring Break!

SECOND GRADE

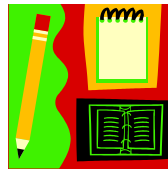


Second grade is digging into learning after digging out from under the snow. We are taking the Unit 3 math assessment at the beginning of March—remember to practice those math facts! Then we'll be working different units of measurement.

Thanks to our MARVELOUS PTA, we had Mad Science of Washington support our science unit on liquids. On February 16, 2nd graders learned more about matter and made a polymer we got to take home. Thanks, PTA! We'll be integrating social studies and language arts as we study the biographies of famous people. Our next report will have a biography focus and be distributed in early March. Thank you, also, to all of our wonderful parent volunteers who helped with the Valentine's Parties.

THIRD GRADE

This month third grade is gearing up to take the Maryland State Assessment (MSA). The third grade Reading MSA will be March 8th and 9th. The third grade Math MSA will be March 12th and 15th. It is very important that your child arrive to school on time on those days as the test will begin first thing in the morning. Please make every effort not to schedule doctor's appointments or vacations during this time. To prepare for the MSA, third grade will continue to focus on BCR writing. There is a lot of BCR writing on the MSA and your child's success depends on how well they can explain themselves in written form. It is very important that your child learns to respond appropriately to BCRs. They have learned that in order to earn a passing score (a 2 or a 3) they need to make sure they have answered the question, and then give relevant details from the text to support their answer. Please encourage your child to write multiple sentences to express their thoughts. In reading, third grade will begin learning about historical fiction. Students will identify characteristics of historical fiction and compare them to other genres. In math, we will begin unit 5. In unit 5 we will be learning about fractions, money and probability. As always, please be on the lookout for data notebooks the first week of each month so you can keep up to date with your child's progress.



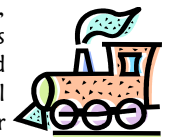
FOURTH GRADE

Fourth Grade has been practicing for the upcoming MSA. We've been working diligently on writing BCR's and reviewing a variety of math problems from the fourth grade curriculum. We have also been preparing for our upcoming field trip to Sandy Spring Museum on March 4th. It will be a great opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of colonial Maryland. Students are also looking forward to participating in a Wax Museum on March 2nd where they tell about the life of a famous person.



FIFTH GRADE

Reading - Students will be introduced to Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, Mike Fink, John Henry and other tall tales heroes who were popular during the time of westward expansion. The amazing feats of these characters will be discussed as well as different accounts of their individual stories.



Social Studies- The National Road, Erie Canal, and the development of the railroad were all instrumental in the movement of pioneers to the western United States. Discussion will include the obstacles faced during construction as well as the impact on settlement patterns in the United States.

Math 6 is in the middle of Unit 3 (Geometry). We've been studying lines, angles, and angle relationships. We're getting ready to explore the properties of solid shapes including volume, area, and surface area.

Classroom Notes cont.

FUN with FITNESS

During the month of February in P.E. we completed the P.A.C.E.R. test in 4th and 5th grade. The P.A.C.E.R. (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run) is a multistage fitness test that is a 20 meter (21 yards 32 inches) shuttle run. The test is progressive; it is easy at the beginning and gets harder as you go along.

Below are the winners of the event. These students will receive a pedometer that can be used to track their fitness levels!!

4th Grade Girls

- 1st place- Lakin Mathis (Stopak) **60 laps**
- 2nd place- Brittney Johnson (Stopak) **59 laps**
- 3rd place - Shawna Pottinger (Madarang) **55 laps**

4th Grade Boys

- 1st place- Caleb McNeil (Stopak) **59 laps**
- 2nd place- Chris Monroy (Madarang) **56 laps**
- 3rd place- Tylique Benjamin (Beard) **50 laps**
- 3rd place- Bryan Cuyun (Beard) **50 laps**

5th Grade Girls

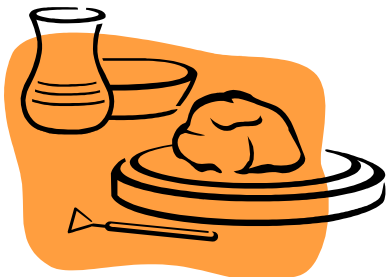
- 1st place- Fiona Stevenson (Kearns) **87 laps**
- 2nd place- Julia Crocker (Kearns) **86 laps**
- 3rd place- Tytiana Taylor (Kearns) **78 laps**
- 3rd place- Lauren Chamandy (Kearns) **78 laps**

5th Grade Boys

- 1st place- Justin Koehn (Kearns) **89 laps**
 - 2nd place- Sasha Lobas (Kearns) **80 laps**
 - 3rd place- Brian Kee (Schams) **70 laps**
- Brian Kee is a 3rd grader but is in 5th grade P.E.!!!!!!



In February and March we are focusing on clay and paint in the art room. 5th graders have been working hard brainstorming and sketching images depicting significant events from their lives. They will soon pick just one of these events to make into a large narrative painting. 4th graders are categorizing colors into hues, tints, and shades. They are creating value scales to prepare them for a monochromatic painting. Using Claude Monet's, Vincent van Gogh's, and Georges Seurat's artwork as inspiration, 3rd graders have been exploring different brush techniques as they create unique, impressionist style landscape paintings. 1st and 2nd graders have been eagerly learning clay hand-building techniques. 2nd graders are rolling coils and making coil pots while 1st graders are forming spheres of clay into pinch pots. All grade levels have seemed happy to roll up their sleeves this month and get their hands dirty in the name of art!



ART
RULES