



Sequoyah Sequoyah

Dates to Remember

Events

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, May 4 6:30PM
Topic: The 7 Keys to College Readiness presented by School and Community Partnerships

Book Fair

Monday, May 4 - Friday, May 7

Kindergarten Orientation

Thursday, May 6 &
Friday May 7

Community Carnival

Saturday, May 15

Musical - ANNIE

Wednesday, May 19 at 7PM &
Friday May 21 at 7PM

Volunteer Tea

Friday, May 21 8:30AM

Field Days

Thursday, May 27 (K-2)
Friday, May 28 (3-5)

Memorial Day Holiday

Monday, May 31

Market Day Pick-up

Wednesday, May 19 7PM

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

May 2010

Principally Speaking

Special Thoughts on Raising Kids

SELF-CONCEPT

I'm not held back because of what I'm afraid I can't do. More often, I am held back because of my fear that I might fail, and as a result, I might not like myself. That's called lack of self-esteem.

Our self-concept rules our lives. It sometimes works as a wonderful encourager and sometimes as a tyrannical dictator, controlling almost every move we make. It talks to us constantly, "You can do it. Go for it!" Or, "Not me. I could never do that." Our self-concept lives at the subconscious level of thinking over which we have little control. It grew there when we were little children and continues to grow and change with every new experience. The subconscious mind stores every experience just like a computer.

However, computers have no ability to decide right from wrong, fact from fiction. Everything stored in the computer later comes out as fact. In computerland this is known as "garbage in, garbage out."

Our subconscious mind does the same thing. It cannot tell the difference between things we vividly imagine and things that really happen. As a result, everything that is stored comes out as a fact, even

when the original source is imagination or misunderstanding.

A youngster's mind is especially receptive to what is going on in his or her world. The self-concept computer is not firmly set. Therefore, children are easily influenced by the messages they think they hear from their parents and teachers. We can help children store positive or negative messages. We do the best job of this, not through our words, but through our actions.

Parents and teachers who constantly encourage children to decide between two alternatives teach children to think for themselves. They send powerful messages that imply, "You are so smart that I can allow you to think for yourself." This action also implies, "I can trust you to know what is good for you."

Wise parents usually suggest two choices in a manner that allow them to be happy with either choice. An example of this is: "Our car will be leaving for town in 20 minutes. Are you going to wear your coat or carry it? It's your choice."

Some parents give orders such as "You wear your coat or else!" This sends a "You're dumb." message. After a period of time these parents discover using too many orders has caused



Sequoyah Elementary School
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their child's low self-concept.

A child's self-concept is the sum total of all the "you're smart" messages he or she hears minus all the "you're dumb" messages. Hopefully, our actions send more positive messages than negative ones.

KIDS LOOK AT OUR ACTIONS TO LEARN WHO THEY ARE.



Tuesday, May 4 6:30PM

Topic: The 7 Keys to College Readiness presented by School and Community Partnerships

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



Looking ahead: Keys 5 and 6

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

Students who complete Algebra 2 by the end of Grade 11 with a "C" or higher are better prepared for college entrance exams and success in college. These students are more likely to perform better on the SAT and ACT college entrance exams and are less likely to have to take remedial math courses in college. Students who complete Algebra 2 also are more than twice as likely to graduate from college than are students with less mathematical preparation.



A question parents should ask:

If your child did not perform strongly in Algebra 1, ask what supports the school offers to assist your child in Algebra 2.

Key 6: Score 3 on an AP exam or 4 on an IB exam (High School)

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes are college-level courses taken in high school. Students who take AP/IB classes investigate subjects in greater depth than they would in other classes, and they are encouraged to explore the world from a wide variety of perspectives. It is important for students to take the exams that are offered at the end of these courses. Students who score a 3 or higher (on a scale of 1-5) on the AP or a 4 or higher (on a scale of 1-7) on the IB exam may earn advanced standing in college or college credit.

A question parents should ask:

By late elementary school or early middle school, start asking if your child's school offers advanced courses that will prepare him or her for the challenge of AP and IB courses.

Websites related to the Fifth and Sixth Key:

Key 5 Information:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/keys/key5.shtm>

Key 6 Information:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/keys/key6.shtm>

Overview of Honors and AP

<http://apps.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coursebulletin/Home/Introduction#honorsapal>

Algebra 2:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/alg2page.htm>



Sequoyah National Elementary Honor Society

Congratulations to Sequoyah's first National Elementary Honor Society. These students have achieved excellent grades and have demonstrated Sequoyah's PBIS qualities of being respectful, responsible, and safe through leadership in school and in the community. We will be planning our first service learning activity for this school year.



| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Jessica Alvarado-Alejo | Jazzmin Harrison | Andrew Nguyen |
| Delali Azamati | Brittney Johnson | Emely Nunez |
| Jonathan Bakly | Ajay Lal | Oscar Reyes-Canengue |
| Grace-Ann Bartlow | Katherine Martin (Katie) | Grayson Shifflet |
| Kenz Baryoun | Kathleen Matusek (Ellie) | Eunice Sung |
| Connor Cameron | Juliette McGuire | Thandiwe Tembo |
| Zachary Fergis | Gautam Mehta | Jose Villalta |
| Daniel Fuentes | Kathryn Motley | Sophia Wooden |
| Stephanie Grande | Raven Nickens | Evan VanSnik |

Reader's Corner



We should all be proud of the wonderful progress the students have made this year in reading and writing. This year we have enjoyed our first Family Reading Night with a wonderful turn out and great feedback.

Next month your child will be receiving a summer reading packet from his or her teacher. This packet has suggested titles and types of books your child can read during the summer to prepare for the next grade. If your child continues to read and write over the summer, they will not lose those important skills they gained during this school year. The teachers will ask for the completed packets during the first week of school. Completion of the packets will count towards one of your child's first work/study grades. We will also have extra reading packets in the office during the summer if yours should get misplaced.

Thanks so much for your support!

Beth Deigan—Reading Specialist

Science and Math Corner

This has been a lively year for Math and Science. This past December, we had our first Math Night. Families and staff joined together to make it a successful night. This June we will have our first Science Day. During the day, we will embed Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) into hands-on experiments, student to student conference, demonstrations, and much more. There will be more information to come, so keep your eye out for the Wednesday folders.

In June every student will receive a Summer Math Packet. This packet has math problems that is a review of key learnings from the year. Even though math has a great deal of computational components, it is extremely important for students to talk about and solve mathematical problems. You can plan meals with your child then go to the grocery store and estimate the cost of the supplies. Also, students can prepare the meal by measuring the ingredients and determining the ending time. (elapsed time) These opportunities can build mathematical skills in real world situations.



Hats off to a great year!
Paula Odans — Staff Development Teacher

Classroom Notes

KINDERGARTEN

We will be conducting our annual Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, May 6th and Friday, May 7th. There will be *NO SCHOOL for current kindergarten students* on these two days.

When your children return to school on Monday, May 10th, we will begin our *Spring Reading Testing*. As you may recall from the winter, small group reading instruction will continue in a modified format.

Now that the weather has turned warm, we would like to remind you to have your children come to school wearing appropriate clothing, especially footwear. Your child needs to wear either sneakers or sandals that attach to the ankle. Slip-on sandals and flip-flops (thongs) are not appropriate footwear for school. They pose a hazard to your child while they are running and playing at recess.



FIRST GRADE

Our first graders are “blooming” and getting ready for second grade. We are so excited about sharing what we have learned in reading/language arts at our Authors’ Tea. We are busy reading menus, posters, and fliers. We are even learning how to order from a menu. In math, we are learning to count money. This will really come in handy when ordering from a menu. Please work with your child to count change. You can make a game of emptying your pockets each night and counting the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Our science unit is about rocks, sand, and soil. We will be looking at the properties of rocks: their size, shape, hardness, and color.



SECOND GRADE

Whew! Second graders have completed the Terra Nova 2 testing, and they worked so hard! We have lots of other great news to tell. On May 11, second grade will “share” a performance by The Blue Sky Puppet Theater. Also, as I’m sure you’ve heard, our caterpillars have arrived. We’ll observe them as we learn about the life cycle of the butterfly. We’ll culminate the unit with a field trip to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History on May 18. In math, we will wrap up our unit on measurement and money and then move into fractions. Our students have learned a lot about folktales around the world and now will spend time having fun with poetry. It sure is a great time of year!



THIRD GRADE

In May, third grade will be learning all about poetry. Students will learn about different forms of poetry, such as limerick, haiku, acrostic, couplet and cinquain. In this unit, we will also learn about the elements of poetry like alliteration, free verse, imagery, onomatopoeia, personification, simile, metaphor, rhyme and rhythm. Students will take this learning and apply it to writing their own original poems. Throughout the month, we will continue to read science and social studies non-fiction texts.

In math, we will continue to learn 2-digit by 1-digit multiplication. We will also learn about measurement units

and tools. Students will estimate and determine elapsed time using clocks and calendars, determine temperature and identify volume, weight and capacity of an object. Please continue to practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts with your child at home. In science, we will continue our plant growth and development unit. Students will observe their own plants and record observations. Students will look for changes in their plants as well as identify the parts of a plant. Students will learn about bees and how bees help with pollination. This is always a fun unit that the students enjoy.



FOURTH GRADE



Fourth grade students have been studying the genre of “Mystery.” They are busy learning about the following vocabulary: sleuth, investigation, suspect, detective, deduction, evidence and red herring. All students have selected a mystery from the media center and are currently working on a “Mystery Box” book report to go along with their book. Please help your child obtain a shoe box for this project. This gives students an opportunity to speak in front of the class as they present their clues.

We have also been writing “autobiographical incidents.” Students are developing their writing skills by incorporating figurative language and sensory details into their writing. Students are also becoming proficient at “Persuasive Writing” as they are learning to use facts as evidence to support their opinions about various topics. They are learning to use good transition words that help them to introduce supporting details. These words also help the paper to flow logically and sequentially. These skills will be used the rest of their lives.

In math we are working hard on long division. Students are realizing the importance of quick recall of basic facts. They have flash cards to help with this process. Please quiz them whenever you have a moment or two. Elapsed time is also being studied during this unit. Mathematical word problems present challenges for many. We are trying to get students to evaluate if their answer is at all “reasonable” or makes sense.

FIFTH GRADE

Reading - Students will build on their knowledge of plays from previous years. They will consolidate their understanding about this narrative form and strengthen their abilities to use strategies to understand a play. Through taking a closer look at the elements of a play, students will learn how to determine and state the playwright’s message.



Social Studies- Economics: Creating a New Nation is the topic of the unit for this quarter. Moving back to the present, students review the basic concepts of economics begun in grades K – 3 and examine the role of the government in providing for the “common good” through economic regulation. These topics set the stage for examining the complex events that led to the abandonment of the Articles of Confederation and the eventual adoption of our current Constitution. Students examine the economic forces that necessitated the new form of government and the resulting protection of the individual rights in the final compromise, the addition of the Bill of Rights.

Science- The final unit in Science is Cells and Heredity. Students will learn that cells are the basic unit of life and can differ in structure and in function. They will also understand that traits from animals or

Classroom Notes cont.

plants of one generation are transferred to the next generation, as well as the fact that some likenesses between parents and children are inherited and some are learned. One final understanding that they will acquire is that light is a form of energy that behaves in predictable ways. In the Cells and Heredity unit, students will be able to answer the following essential questions: What are cells? Why does the offspring of any organism resemble its parents? Are all likenesses between generations inherited? and How does light help us observe our surroundings?



Math 5- Students are learning about data and statistics.

They will understand that the representation of data depends on the characteristic of that data, and that statistical measures provide a numeric picture of the shape of the data. Some key questions that they will be able to answer include: What data display is appropriate for a given set of data? How can the mean, median, mode and range be used to describe the shape of the data? and How can mean, median, and mode be computed and compared?

Students will also be learning about measurement during the fourth quarter. They will understand that measurements are approximations. They will also understand that area and volume formulas are derived from linear measures. Some key questions that they will be able to answer include: Why are all measurements approximations? How can problems involving two and three dimensional measures be solved? How can the area of closed figures be estimated? Why are formulas used in measurement? and What is the relationship between linear measures and area and volume?

Math A- Students have begun their unit on Geometry: Shape and Movement. They understand how relationships exist among angles, sides, lengths, perimeters, and areas of two-dimensional figures. They recognize that geometric figures can change position and maintain the same attributes on a coordinate plane. In this unit, they will be able to answer three essential questions that include: How are angle relationships used? How does the movement of a geometric figure affect its attributes? How do line relationships affect angle relationships?

During the fourth quarter, Math A students will also be learning about Algebra, patterns, and functions. They will be able to understand that patterns and relationships can be represented graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally. They will also be able to understand that Algebraic representations can be used to solve real world problems. They following are some essential questions they will be able to answer by the end of the unit: How can a pattern be identified? What can be learned from studying patterns? How are a graph, a description, and an expression/equation that represent a real world situation related?



Let the MUSIC Play ...

All students have been busy showing off their music skills the last 2 weeks on our county music assessments during class. Annie rehearsals are in full swing. Performances will occur on Wednesday, May 19 and Friday, May 21. Students who signed up to participate on stage crew should expect a letter to come home before spring break. All 5th grade students will be taking a field trip to the Music Center at Strathmore on April 9th to hear a special concert. Please make sure your 5th grade student has returned his/her permission slip. Mark your calendars now for our Spring Concert featuring 4th and 5th grade band, strings, and chorus at Sequoyah on June 3rd!

Art News



What great artists we have at Sequoyah!

As the weather warms, notice that the artwork decorating the halls will fit the summer themes: fish, flowers, and fun in the sun. 1st graders have made brightly colored clay fish that will be traveling home in backpacks soon. 2nd graders are putting the finishing touches on their clay pots; they are using glaze to paint pastel patterns on them. Also, 2nd graders have been covering a unit on watercolor seascapes where they learned multiple techniques to create the illusion of depth on a 2-dimensional surface. After a long painting unit, 3rd graders are exploring clay and the many different building techniques. Both 4th and 5th graders are creating radial designs, drawing connections to their mathematical knowledge of a circle's radius and symmetrical, geometric forms found in nature. With only about a month and a half of school left, be on the lookout for artwork coming home soon.

Physical Ed. News



During the month of April we started the 5th Grade P.E. Challenge. The three 5th grade classes will compete against one another in a variety of activities. These activities will prepare the soon to be 6th graders for middle school P.E.

Our first activity was "Capture the Flag". This is invasion game requires speed, stamina, and teamwork, as well as strategy. In our first ever 5th grade challenge Mrs. Kearns' class defeated Ms. Burris' class. It was a great time had by all.

These activities will occur on Wednesday mornings from 9:25-10:15 (weather permitting). Please feel free to come out and cheer the teams on!!!!

SGA: Year End Update

Our very busy SGA has been involved with a lot of activities this school year. We did a canned food drive in the fall (collected 450 cans for an area shelter), and had a lot of fun supporting our International Night. In addition, we were involved with a full week of activities associated with "Red Ribbon Week".

During the winter months, we collected food gift certificates for families in need, and had a wonderful time selling Valentine's candy, pencils, and many other things on Valentine's Day.

As we approached the spring time, we had a pre-recorded message from a Leprechaun during morning announcements on St. Patrick's Day. He stressed the importance of being "Kind" to everyone. "Being kind could actually improve our luck," he said. Also, we had a hunt for a special Leprechaun at recess time. Everyone received a sticker or a bracelet for participating.

In addition, we are planning to do a fundraiser, "Pennies for Patients" between May 17th through May 28th. There will be more information to come. In May, elections will take place for new SGA Officers for the 2010-2011 school year.

Katie Martin– Student Government Secretary
Steven Plaisance-School Sponsor



Reminders

Attention Parents:

Please return the following sheets back to school:

- ⇒ "Are You Returning to Sequoyah Next Year?"
- ⇒ "Tell Us About Your Child."

If you need another copy of the sheet please let us know and we will send a copy home.



SAFETY ALERT

Parents,
PLEASE do not allow your students to exit or enter vehicles on the street side. We have managed to avoid near accidents but this is dangerous.

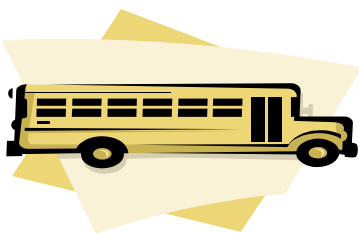
Students must *EXIT and ENTER CURBSIDE* when leaving your vehicle.

Thank You,
Dr. Jasper and Mrs. Deigan

Kindergarten Orientation



If you have an incoming kindergarten student please contact us so that we may send you the registration materials. More details are coming to you in a separate notice.



Save The Dates !!!!!!!

Thursday, May 6 and Friday, May 7, 2010

Reflection Celebrations



On Wednesday, February, 24th, all our finalists were invited to an ice cream treat in the Art room with Ms. Stronsky. After they gobbled up the ice cream drenched with syrup and sprinkles, they were given some prizes. This year we partnered with Candlewood E.S. to swap judges. Their art teacher judged our student's Visual Art entries and Ms. Stronsky judged their student entries. Ms. Stronsky was presented with a gift to show their appreciation for her service. We highly appreciate her for her enthusiasm and encouragement to have a successful year.

Finalists were given an invitation to attend the MCCPTA Reflections Award Ceremony held at Montgomery College in Germantown. On Friday evening, March 12th, everyone headed to the Globe Hall Auditorium. All of the literature entries were spread out on tables, the photographs and visual arts were hung along the walls of the auditorium. What a wonderful sight to see all of the student's artwork on display! Steadily the artist and their family arrived, viewing various masterpieces, recognizing and admiring other artists, and gasping in amazement to see such great talent. Seats were getting filled quickly and by the time the ceremony commenced, we were out of seats. This auditorium seats 500, and we were overflowing!



County Chairperson, Melissa McDonald, announced the names of the recipients and parent volunteers presented trophies for Award of Excellence and medals for Honorable Mention. From our school Paul Mai received an Honorable Mention medal. Congratulations Paul! After all the awards were received, guest speaker Gayle Danley read one of her slam poems. A reception immediately followed the ceremony.

Thank you, thank you, thank you....to every student who entered work in Reflections as well as staff and teachers, and to all who has had their artwork hanging on the wall across from the Art room. All artwork will be returned to students by the end of April. A special "thank you" to Ms. Stronsky and Ms. Reber for your hospitality and resourcefulness. We can get a head start for next year because the theme for 2010-2011 is "Together we can...". Our goal for next year will be to have our students make it to the State level. We can do this Sequoyah!



SAVE THE DATE!!!



Shopping pays off for Sequoyah

Safeway's eScrip program and Giant's A+ Bonus Bucks program have both ended for the year, and all of our shopping paid off for Sequoyah! From Safeway, we earned \$836.95 and from Giant, we earned \$2,253.93. Best of all, this was money made by simply doing your regular shopping – you didn't need to buy anything extra! The earnings will be used for valuable programs and services provided by Sequoyah and the Sequoyah PTA.

Both programs will begin again in the Fall. If you have not yet given me your Safeway or Giant card numbers, please email them to rahr@comcast.net with your name. I'll be sure to sign you up and designate Sequoyah as your school of choice for next school year.

Target's "Take Charge of Education" is a year-round program, and since August we have earned \$166 from your purchases. To designate your Target Visa or Target Card, please visit target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142.

Thank you for your support!

Ellen Rahr
Giant/Safeway/Target PTA Chair



NEW - FUN FALL CLEAN-UP!

Sequoyah Spring Clean-Up has been rescheduled for the Fall! We have such a fun and busy Spring schedule. We decided it made good sense to move the clean-up to the Fall when all our dedicated and hard-working volunteers and staff are not as busy with all our other exciting activities. Our wonderful staff has put in many hours of hard work to keep our school looking so nice after a tough winter - no easy task! Our school will be ready for some TLC as we kick-off another school year! We can clean-up, mulch and plant some bulbs in early September. Thank you so much to everyone who has been ready, willing and happy to commit some time to beautifying our school!



Sincerely,

Emily Matusek and our dedicated Sequoyah PTA and Staff

Sequoyah's Spring Picnic & Movie Night

Join us on May 7th for *Sequoyah's Spring Picnic & Movie Night*. The picnic will start at **6:30 p.m.**, and the movie, "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" will start at **8:30 p.m.** Bring a blanket, pack a picnic dinner, and see old friends and make new ones! Carmen's Italian Ice will also be serving flavored ice, hot dogs, pretzels and sodas.

In the event of rain, the picnic/movie night will be cancelled. There will be no rain date.

Have questions? Please contact us at rahr@comcast.net or 301-208-0805. We hope to see you there!

Ellen & Jeff Rahr
Picnic/Movie Night PTA Chairs



Spring Book Fair...

Friday, April 30 through Friday, May 7



and Special EVENT

Wednesday, May 5
Family Dinner at the Book Fair!