



Dates to Remember

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, Apr 5th 7 PM

Report Cards Distributed

Thursday, Apr 7th

Market Day Pick-up

Wednesday, Apr 13th 7-8 PM

Spring Break

Monday, Apr 18th-21st

Easter Holiday

Friday, Apr 22nd

Monday Apr 25th

Kindergarten Orientation

Thursday, Apr 28th

Friday, Apr 29th

Spring Carnival

Saturday, Apr 30th 12-4 PM

Spring Musical

Cinderella Kids!

Thursday, May 5th 7 PM

Friday, May 6th 7 PM

McEducator's Night

Tuesday, May 10th



Sequoyah Elementary School
17301 Bowie Mill Rd
Derwood MD 20855

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/sequoyahes/

Market Day Contact:

Scott Trickey

scott.trickey3@gmail.com

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

Sequoyah Elementary

April 2011

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

Special Thoughts on Raising Kids - Dr. Bobbi Jasper, Principal

Getting Kids to Do as Asked

"This kid is driving me crazy! You'd think she could do the few little things I ask her to do without having to be reminded over and over! I don't know what is the matter with her!" It's not uncommon to hear frustrated parents talking like this. However, the good news is that it doesn't have to be this way.

Parents who have the most difficulty getting their children to do things generally fall into three categories:

1. Parent who do not follow through with a consequence when their child fails to perform.

The most effective parents don't demand that their children do something until they have first thought of what they will do if the child doesn't accomplish the task. Ineffective parents often give an order, wait to see if it will be carried out and then start *hoping* that they can think of a consequence. Too late! Times of frustration, disappointment or anger are terrible times to come up with effective consequences which need to be delivered in non-angry ways.

2. Parent who make idle threats and/or reminders.

Children know how to handle this kind of parent. Some children don't comply. Some feel obliged to resist doing as told just to see if the parent is actually going to do anything about it. Some comply, but complete the job only halfway. Regardless of the way the child handles it, the parent ends up frustrated and the child's feelings of responsibility and competence are damaged.

3. Parents who say, "Do it now!"

Children have a subconscious preference for this approach. They seem to instinctively know that a parent can never win this one. Just knowing that a parent can never make you *"do it right now!"* gives a child a sense of power. Children who don't feel a healthy level of personal control learn that they can overpower adults just by *"dragging their feet,"* and saying through their actions, *"You can't control me."*

The Solution is a Reasonable Deadline

Step 1: Never say *"Do it now."* It is always more effective to say, *"I'd appreciate you picking up your room by 5:30 p.m. Thank you."* Remember to add the thank you in advance. It shows that you don't expect less than pleasant compliance.

Step 2: Don't remind! Hope that the job does not get done. Your youngster can then have an opportunity to see that something actually happens when he/she doesn't cooperate. Keep the possible consequence a secret so that it can come when least expected, just like a lightning bolt out of the sky.

Step 3: At precisely 5:31 p.m., pick up the room and put the clothes and toys where they can't be found.

Step 4: When the child asks about his/her things say, *"Oh, the clothes and toys? They didn't get picked up on time so they're gone. Every time you do something helpful around here without being told, you can earn one of them back. It will be fun to see what you decide."*

Set a reasonable deadline and don't remind!

Box Tops



Please remember to clip **pink** Box Tops off of many popular grocery items. 25 Box Tops can be taped to a collection sheet or placed in a baggie and given to your child's homeroom teacher. Bonus coupons can be stapled to the collection sheet and then subtracted from the total amount of the sheet. Please remember to include the first and last name of your child. Every month, the students will be called on the morning announcements to go to Mrs. Cameron's room to select an awesome prize!

Contact Information: Andrea Cameron, camerona@comcast.net
www.boxtops4education.com



SES PTA's 4th Annual Spring Carnival

Mark your calendars!!!

You won't want to miss the 4th Annual Spring Carnival, Saturday April 30th from 12-4pm.

This great event is open to the community - so please invite friends, family, neighbors and even your neighbors friends and family. The more the merrier!!! We'll have some past favorites including Wacky World, Giant Slides, Body Boppers and the DUNK TANK. There'll be prizes to win and fun to be had. Plan to bring a family picnic or grab lunch at the event.

This event has become one of the most looked forward to events at our school - but it can't happen without your help. Please consider volunteering to manage a game, one of the inflatables, be a clown or gypsy, help with set up...there's lots to do. If you have an older student that is interested in earning SSL hours, this is a great way to earn those hours toward graduation.

Please contact Danielle Rice at daniellemrice@gmail.com or 301-366-9225 to volunteer or for more information

Thank you so much to everyone who donated baked goods and water for the **Spring Dance!** Your generous donations helped us keep expenses low so more money can go to our school.

Thank you also to everyone who helped set-up, serve tacos/nachos, and sell baked goods and water! Your friendliness and helpfulness made the night run very smoothly!

And another huge thank you to everyone who stayed to clean-up - I'm sure everyone was as tired and ready to head home as I was! Your kindness in staying and helping until everything was cleaned-up was so very much appreciated!

Thank you Jackie Koehn for all your time and effort last week and last night handling ticket sales!

With so much cheerful and generous help we had another fun and successful SES family Spring Dance!

Thank you! Emily Matusek and Dawn Greene (Spring Dance Chairs)

Sequoyah Elementary School

Office of the Principal
17301 Bowie Mill Road, Derwood, Maryland 20855
Phone: (301) 840-5335 Fax: (301) 840-5356

March 28, 2011

Dear Sequoyah families,

Today we had a wonderful opportunity to host three students from the Fukushima Prefecture Junior and Senior High Schools in Japan. They were accompanied by their mother and host family from Frederick. All three of the students were in Japan when the horrific earthquake and tsunami hit on March 11, 2011. Our students were able to learn, firsthand, how families in Japan have been impacted by this natural disaster.

The Japanese students shared what life was like in Japan, prior to the earthquake. Each of the students described where they were when the earthquake hit. One of the students described how they were on a class trip when the earthquake hit. It was several days before he was reunited with his family due to transportation being inoperable. Sequoyah students were able to see pictures and video of the destruction that took place in Japan. Our students gained incredible insight on the fears and concerns that exist for families living in Japan.

In addition to speaking to Sequoyah students and staff, the Japanese students spoke to reporters from The Gazette and NBC4. Their stories and experiences will now be shared with the greater Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

We hope that the stories of these students will enable the Sequoyah community to understand how we can help so many others like them in Japan. We hope that you will be able to contribute to our 10 day "Happy Hearts Fund" fund-raising campaign. Through this campaign, our children will learn the value of giving, in order to help others in need. They will be able to send a clear message of hope to other children in Japan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bobbi Jasper

Reader submitted Links to online articles about this event:

- http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Japanese_Students_Visit_Local_Elementary_School_Washington_DC-118801449.html
- http://www.gazette.net/stories/03292011/montnew130103_32595.php



“Thank You for Teaching” Award Winner

★ Congratulations to Sequoyah's own Kathleen McInnis, one of our wonderful 2nd grade teachers. Ms. McInnis is this year's recipient of the Shirley J. Lowery "Thank You for Teaching" Award.

★ This award honors one extraordinary MCPS elementary school teacher each year who has a deep dedication to the teaching profession. Those of you who have had children in her class or the opportunity to work with her on various projects, know that Ms. McInnis is deserving of this honor.





The PTA *Kindergarten Orientation Committee* needs your help!

We will be welcoming the
2011-2012 Kindergarten Class
(children living in our boundary area that will be 5-years-old on or before September 1, 2011)

to our Sequoyah Community on
**Thursday, April 28th &
Friday, April 29th**

Reminder

There will be **NO SCHOOL** for **CURRENT** kindergarten students on these days!

Volunteers are needed for:

1. Making phone calls that week to remind parents about their orientation appointment.
2. Taking “shifts” on those days for the following times:
 - Thursday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 - Thursday, April 28 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Friday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 To perform the following duties:
 - a. greeting parents and handing out folders
 - b. taking photographs of the kindergarteners & their parents with “Brownie” (our Stallion mascot)
 - c. answering questions parents may have
 - d. giving tours of the school to parents and their incoming kindergartners

Contact Heather Whirley at 301-926-3723 (home) or by email at heatherwhirley@comcast.net if you are available to help.

Sequoyah Elementary School

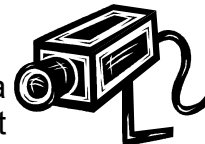
Office of the Principal
17301 Bowie Mill Road, Derwood, Maryland 20855
Phone: (301) 840-5335 Fax: (301) 840-5356

March 3, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We have finally been granted the increased security that we have requested over the years! During the next few months, a new access control system (ACS) will be installed at Sequoyah Elementary School. This initiative to enhance school-based security is a component of the Montgomery County Public Schools six-year capital improvements plan, which includes installation of an ACS in all elementary schools during the next three years.

ACS consists of a surveillance camera installed at the school's main entrance with a second camera at another entrance. Signs will direct a visitor to push a button to alert main office staff of your arrival. A remote locking system, controlled from the main office, will allow entry into the building during the period between students' morning arrival times and afternoon dismissal times. When a visitor arrives during these times, they will be prompted to press an alert button at the main entrance. Office staff will communicate with the visitor and provide controlled entry into the school. All visitors will be instructed to report to the main office to sign-in. Visitors arriving at the secondary entrance will be instructed to enter only through the main entrance. In order to ensure the successful implementation of ACS, all other entrances to the school building will remain secured at all times.



This initiative and others that will follow are provided to ensure the safety and security of the learning and working environment. Thank you for your continuing support. Please call me if you have questions or wish to discuss this new security initiative.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bobbi Jasper,
Principal

BAJ:keh

Sequoyah Elementary School

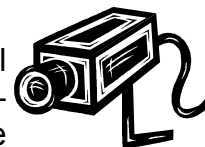
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3 de marzo de 2011

Estimados Padres/Guardianes:

Durante los próximos meses, se instalará un nuevo sistema de control de acceso al edificio (access control system-ACS) en la escuela elemental de su hijo/a. Esta iniciativa para mejorar la seguridad en la escuela es un componente del plan de Montgomery County Public Schools para mejoras de capital con un plazo de seis años, que incluye la instalación de un sistema ACS en todas las escuelas elementales durante los próximos tres años.

El sistema ACS consiste de una cámara de vigilancia instalada en la entrada principal de la escuela y una segunda cámara instalada en otra de las entradas. Una señal indicará al visitante que debe apretar un botón para anunciar su llegada al personal de la oficina principal. Un sistema de cierre por control remoto, controlado desde la oficina principal, permitirá la entrada al edificio desde la hora de llegada de los estudiantes por la mañana hasta la hora que los estudiantes se retiran de la escuela por la tarde. Cuando un visitante llega durante este horario, se le indicará que debe anunciarse apretando un botón de alerta localizado en la entrada principal. El personal de la oficina se comunicará con el visitante y le permitirá entrada controlada al edificio de la escuela. Se indicará a todos los visitantes que se presenten a la oficina principal para registrar su entrada. Aquellos visitantes que lleguen a la entrada secundaria serán dirigidos a entrar únicamente por la entrada principal. Para asegurar la implementación exitosa del sistema ACS, todas las demás entradas al edificio de la escuela permanecerán cerradas en todo momento.



Estas iniciativas y otras por venir se están implementando para asegurar la protección y seguridad del entorno de aprendizaje y de trabajo. Gracias por su continuo apoyo. Por favor llámenme si tienen preguntas o si desean hablar acerca de esta nueva iniciativa de seguridad.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bobbi Jasper
Principal

BAJ:keh

2010-2011 Reflections

The local finalist ice cream celebration was held on Wednesday, March 2, with Ms. Kang in the art room.

Ms. Kang was recognized for her service as a judge and for facilitating students with visual art entries.

Then each student was given a prize. Next came the ice cream feast. Students were delighted with fun flavors and enjoyed this special treat.

The result of the State competition was notified and Kendra's entry will not move forward to National. We've been thrilled to have her represent our school at the State's competition. She will receive a certificate to recognize her participation. We are looking forward to your entry next year!

Thank you to all the students, teachers, staff, and parent for making the Reflections program a success. All artwork will be returned to the students with a participation ribbon. It's wonderful to see every child's creativity.

Chair Contact Information: Allison Mathis, 240-632-1041
koeung@yahoo.com
www.ptareflections.org



SAVE THE DATE!!! The Carnival Is Coming!!!

Don't miss the 3rd Annual Sequoyah PTA Spring Carnival - Saturday, April 30th.

This has been a great event - fun and affordable and open to the community.

We will need parent and student volunteers - it's a super fun way to earn SSL hours.

**Please contact Danielle Rice with ideas or if you are interested in helping
at 301-366-9225 or danielle.m.rice@comcast.net.**

2010-2011 Reflections

The local finalist ice cream celebration was held on Wednesday, March 2, with Ms. Kang in the art room.



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Sequoyah Elementary School is participating in the pilot of a new mathematics assessment that is under consideration for inclusion in Montgomery County Public Schools assessment program. The Measures of Academic Progress—Mathematics (MAP-M) parallels the Measures of Academic Progress—Reading (MAP-R) that we currently administer two to three times per year in grades 3, 4, and 5.

MAP-M is a 52-item computerized adaptive assessment that takes approximately 45–75 minutes to complete. This assessment consists of multiple choice items that are adjusted in difficulty based on each student's response to test questions. The test can measure student academic growth over time, independent of grade level or age. MAP-M provides one data point used among many others to plan meaningful instruction for your child.

Since the purpose of this assessment is to measure your child's growth over time and this is the first administration of the assessment, the data from this administration is only being used for exploratory purposes. Your child's scores will not be sent home until after the spring administration. At that time, you will receive both winter and spring scores and a detailed interpretation of those scores. Please know that this assessment provides one data point among many that will be used to inform instructional decisions for your child.

If you have any questions or would like more information about our participation in this pilot, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Jasper



Mark Your Calendars for McEducator's Night!

Tuesday, May 10th

5pm -8pm

McDonald's® Restaurant

7200 Muncaster Mill Rd

Derwood, Maryland

(Redmill Shopping Center)

You don't want to miss this popular event. Come see your teachers "working" at McDonalds!
The Sequoyah PTA receives a percentage of all sales, so invite friends and family.

News from the Art Room

This month all grade levels will be working with recycled materials to create art. All the materials that we are using are easily accessible so I recommend you to try it out with your students at home as well! It's a great way to turn your trash into something more meaningful.



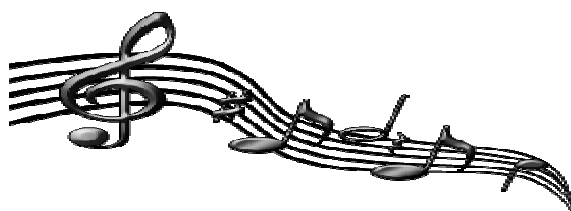
With the recycled materials students will;

- * Kindergarten- create their own musical instrument using a toilet paper tube.
- * 1st grade- construct a sculpture as a group using all sorts of recycled boxes, paper, toilet paper tubes, and paper towel tubes.
- * 2nd grade- create a collage of their favorite thing (toy, animal, etc.) using plastic bags.
- * 3rd grade- transform a crushed soda can into a canvas and create a painting of an endangered animal on it.
- * 4th grade- create paper beads using recycled magazines.
- * 5th grade- create a collage of themselves or their favorite celebrity using magazines and different types of junk mail we receive in the mail.

(We will continue to collect recycled materials so if you have any of the listed materials it would help enormously if you could send it to the art room- egg cartons, toilet paper/ paper towel tubes, soda cans, old magazines/books, plastic/paper bags, and newspaper)

This month, since many of the grade levels have been working with clay the "Artists of the Month" will only include the 4th grade, 1st grade, and Kindergarten students. The new "Artists of the Month" for April are, Hannah Noble, Mkyah Matthews, Gia Koeung-Zambrana, and Mohamad-Said Anani from 4th grade, Elat Dubale (1& 2 combo class), Phoenix Moran, and Dan Tran from 1st grade, and Antony Delcid-Justo, Colin Anderson, Emily Zanni, and Elvina Bigirimana from Kindergarten. Congratulations and make sure you stop by to look at their beautiful artworks!

Ms. Kang
Art Teacher



Music News

All of our students are hard at work making music and demonstrating what they know on our county music assessments. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are wrapping up our folk dance unit, demonstrating dances like the Virginia Reel and The Old Brass Wagon. Coming up in April, we are working on the following...

Kindergarten: using symbols to show musical opposites: high/low, fast/slow.

1st grade: reading and writing so and mi on the staff and learning a new symbol to show silence (rest).

2nd grade: we will begin to sing songs that use the pentatonic, or 5 note scale, and compose our own rhythm patterns.

3rd grade: students are making progress in Recorder Karate, working toward their yellow, orange, and green belts.

Make sure you are practicing at home and bring your recorder to music every week!

4th grade: learning to read rhythms in 6/8 time and songs using the major scale.

5th grade: we will be starting our African drumming unit and learning how to play in a drum circle.

Mark your calendars now for our spring musical production of Cinderella Kids! on May 5th and 6th at 7PM in the SES all purpose room. Watch for information about ticket sales at the end of the month!

Mrs. Wardell
General Music

Bully Prevention - Mr. Plaisance

Bully Prevention-Talk with Your Child about Bullying!

First it is important to recognize the difference between “Normal Peer conflicts”, and “Bullying”.

Normal Peer Conflicts	Bully
Equal power or friends	Imbalance of power; not friends
Happens occasionally	Repeated negative actions
Accidental	Purposeful
Not serious	Serious with threat of physical Or emotional harm
Equal emotional reaction	Strong emotional reaction from Victim and little or no emotional Reaction from bully
Not seeking power or attention	Seeking power, control, or material Or material things
Not trying to get something	Attempt to gain material things or Power
Remorse- will take responsibility	No remorse- blames victim
Effort to solve the problem	No effort to solve problem

Garrity, C (2004), Bully Proof Your School. Colorado: Sopris West Educational Services.

Secondly, the follow suggestions should be helpful:

Listen: It is the child’s story; let him or her tell it. They may be in emotional pain about how they are being treated.

Believe: To knowledge that your child is being bullied can be shocking. To be an effective advocate, parents need to react in a way that encourages the child to trust.

Bully Prevention Continued - Mr. Plaisance

Be Supportive: Empower your child with empathy (I am sorry that this is happening). What can we do to make the situation better? Say, "I know we can find a solution." Keep the situation positive, your child is already feeling isolated.

Be Patience: Your child might be feeling insecure, withdrawn, frightened, or ashamed. Hence, he/she might not be ready to open up right away with their concerns. Your child might think that a parent might make the situation worse, or that the bully might make the situation even worse.

Resource Information: It is important understand some outdated ideas concerning bully.

- Boys will boys: the implication is that bullying is okay- it is natural for boys to be physically or verbally aggressive. However, research indicates aggression is learned behavior, not a natural response.
- Girls don't bully: research shows that girls can and do bully. While they do not physically bully targets as often as boys, they will often use verbal and social bullying. Bullying for escalates during the middle school years.
- Words will never hurt you: Studies have shown even though thought words don't leave bruises or broken bones, they may leave deep emotional scars that can have lifelong implications. Children learn at a very early age that words can hurt other children.
- Bullying is a natural part of childhood: There is nothing natural about being bullied. Bullying is often considered a normal part of childhood because it is such a common experience. Physical or emotional aggression toward others should not be tolerated as a consequence. Of childhood.
- Some people deserve to be bullied: No child's behavior merits being hurt or harmed in any manner. Instead, a child who is different from others deserves to be treated with respect and consideration.
- Bullying will make kids tougher: Bully does not make someone tougher. Research has shown it often has the opposite effect- lowering a child's sense of self-worth. Bullying often creates fear and increases anxiety for a child.
- Telling the teacher about bullying is tattling: It is very important for children to understand the difference between – Reporting (when the situation is harmful to self or others) and Tattling (when you trying to get someone in trouble). Secrecy of bullying only serves to protect the bully and to perpetuate the behavior.
- It was only teasing: Most children are occasionally teased; teasing in which the parties are not hurt is not considered teasing, Teasing is bullying when a child does not understand they are being teased and /or the intent of the action is to hurt or harm.

Explore Option for Intervention Strategies: Make a list of next steps in order to address. Seek assistance from your child's teacher, counselor, and administrators if the bully situation is happening at school. Use the school counselor as a general resource, as well.

Be aware of Cyber (electronic) Bully: Seek assistance from the Cyber bullying Research Center: <http://www.cyberbullying.us>

Steve Plaisance- School Counselor (consultant assistance- Nancy Averill- counselor)



Health News We Can All Use

Please remember to:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, OR
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- Put used tissues into a trash can right away. Don't set them on your desk or other surfaces.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing. Wash with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

If you or a family member gets the flu:

- Stay home from school or work if you have a fever greater than 100 ° and have either a cough or sore throat.
- You may not return to school until you are fever-free for at least 24 hours and that means without taking fever-reducing medications.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Get plenty of rest
- Drink clear fluids

And, finally, this is extremely important. Be sure you provide us with up-to-date phone numbers in case your child becomes sick while in school.

READING CORNER

Dear Families,

Last month I shared some ideas about asking questions as your child reads. This is a strategy to keep your child reading actively.



This month I would like to introduce you to another strategy, making inferences.

This seems easy and complicated at the same time. Think of it this way, we are always inferring as we go about our day. You know what "that look" means from your boss or your spouse, or you may infer another driver's state of mind as you watch them on the road with you.

When we read we often call inferring reading between the lines. It's the life experience we bring to the story. The author hasn't told us everything; we have to add to the story for it to make sense. For example, Cinderella's step sisters made her do all their chores and wouldn't allow her to go to the ball. One might infer the sisters were mean, jealous, or just thoughtless.

As you are reading with your child, practice inferring. Talk about how the character may be feeling, or why they did what they did or said in the story. Share some of your inferences as you go about your day. Talk to your child about what they are reading, ask why they thought a character behaved in a certain way, how they looked, what they might do next...that's inferring!

Enjoy!

Beth Deigan

Reading Specialist

301 840 5335

Elizabeth_M_Deigan@mcpsmd.org





Shop at Target, Earn Money For Sequoyah

We've discovered a terrific way to raise funds for Sequoyah. It's super-easy, and all you have to do is use your Target® Visa® or Target® Card. We will receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation to Sequoyah from Target through the Take Charge of Education® program. Target donates 1% of all Target Visa Credit Card and Target Credit Card purchases made at a Target store or at Target.com and 1% of all Target Check Card purchases made at a Target Store. Target donates 1/2% of all Target Visa Credit Card purchases made outside of Target.

It's easy. Just visit target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate Sequoyah as your school. So if you're going to Target anyway, please consider using your Target® Visa® or Target® Card and selecting Sequoyah as the beneficiary. Grandparents, neighbors and friends can take part, too.

Any questions, please contact Ellen Rahr at 301-208-0805 or rahr@comcast.net.

Thanks for your support!

Would you like to be able to donate money to Sequoyah without having to do anything?



Well, you can!

All we need is your Giant Bonus Card number (should be 12 digits), your Safeway Club Card number (11 digits) and your name and address. We'll add you if you're new or renew your participation and make sure a percentage of your purchases from Giant and Escript merchants (i.e. Safeway) supports your student's education. Simply email the information to Ellen Rahr at rahr@comcast.net, or complete this form and return it to school.

Know anyone else that would like to support Sequoyah in this way (grandparents, aunts, uncles)? Give us their card numbers, names, and addresses and we'll do the rest!

This is a great way to help the many programs and services provided by the Sequoyah PTA – and it doesn't cost you any extra! Simply shop at Safeway or Giant as you normally would. Just be sure to use your Club Card or Bonus Card and designate Sequoyah Elementary as your school.

Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Rahr at 301-208-0805 or rahr@comcast.net.

My Giant Bonus Card # (12 digits): _____

My Safeway Club Card # (11 digits): _____

My Name: _____

My Address: _____