

# Staff Development Newsletter

Danielle H. Sultan



## Team Updates

Thanks for your terrific collaboration in posting notes on our Private Folder. This continues to help us all stay informed. Everyone is sharing the responsibility of posting notes to the folder. Here are some highlights to celebrate:

**Kindergarten:** The K team warmly welcomes its newest member Lauren Texteria. Check out her innovative license plaque in our parking lot! This month the team is working on nursery rhymes and is using the many resources offered by the its skilled teachers. Denise Gordon is also lending a special hand introducing a word retrieval pyramid game.

**1st Grade:** The first grade team is actively involved in quarterly planning and setting their team goal. They have thoroughly collaborated on plans for all content areas and have a great structure to move them ahead as a team. In getting ready for Halloween, they have decided to have 1 activity in each room and have students rotate through the first grade classes! Way to go 1st grade!

**2nd Grade:** Our dynamic

2nd grade team is also mapping out terrific plans that they are all following. They are planning for ways to use their progress monitoring tools and are going to jointly score and find anchor papers amongst our present students. Awesome work team!

**3rd Grade:** The third grade team has begun its plunge into the new grading and reporting data collection sheets. Together they are setting goals on which data to collect and are sharing ideas on assessments. They are also benefiting from the expertise of James Schneider who is our Special Education Specialist in Math.

**4th Grade:** Our grade 4 team is working hard to develop common BCRs to be used in reading. They have agreed to use the same formative assessments in math. Like all of our teams at Sargent Shriver they are working hard with Shari Bernstein to implement the use of Math Monitoring Tools. Bravo team!

**Grade 5:** Kudos to the grade 5 team for being one of the first to create a mission statement. They are also working hard to find a

variety of ways to manage the reading instructional block.

Their new goal is to develop a strong spelling program. Hats off to you grade 5!

**ESOL:** With increasing enrollments, the ESOL program continues to expand. We are all thankful that Heather Zomer has kindly agreed to increase her hours as our ESOL population continues to grow. The team has set their goal which is related to student discourse and vocabulary and aimed at helping our kids succeed on grade level in their classrooms. Que bueno!

**Specialists:** Our specialists team is innovative as always and is sharing ideas from other teams. For example, they are sharing the fifth grade team's Peace, Time Out, Reflection program. They are using this program with all grade levels. The SERT team is in full swing thanks to our Specialists!



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### News for You



- Do you have a best practice to share with your colleagues? Please submit them to Danielle to be published in this newsletter!

## Classroom Discussions... Our Study Begins Soon!

Circle Monday, October 15th on your calendars. Why? This is the date for the kick off of our school wide professional development inquiry groups.

This year all of our staff will be engaged in a year long inquiry group studying Classroom Discussions Using Math Talk to Help Students Learn by Suzanne H. Chapin.

Our kick off led by Shalini Nandwani begins on Monday, October 15th and is brought to you by Sargent Shriver's PDO group that studied this book last year. The eight facilitators will be: Shalini, Deborah, Athena, Sandi, Denise, Vicky, Gina and Rosemary.

You will soon find out about the five "talk moves" which we all hope to integrate into our daily classroom practices. We will discover the power of these "talk moves" in engaging our students in oral discourse. Though the title suggests that the moves are for math, we have found that they are applicable in all content areas.

The text is available to you through your team leaders. Please read the preface and Chapter 1 prior to our October 15th kick off! You will soon be talking the discourse talk!



## PDO Sign Up

Do you know how to sign up for professional development courses? Professional Development On-Line is also called PDO. To access this site, go to the Staff section of the MCPS webpage and sign up. You will see a tremendous array of courses both MCPS classes and CPD classes. Here are a few examples:

- *Above and Beyond Math with Digi Blocks*
- *Assignments, Quizzes & Writing Prompts—United Streaming,*
- *Corrective Reading Training,*
- *Courageous Conversations about Race ...*

*Have I whet your appetite?* From the Staff Page on MCPS's webpage click on PDO and have your log in and password ready.

**"One of the richest professional development opportunities available for experienced teachers is the National Board Certification process." This is one of the most challenging and enriching experiences you can have as a teacher. Ask Danielle for more information.**



## Writer's Workshop Staff Development Opportunity

Did you know that you can have special support in your classroom to launch your Writer's Workshop program?

Jennifer Barrett, is our resident expert in writing. She can come into your class and using the Model, Coach Apply strategy, can transform your students into writers!!!

Please sign up today for a month's focused concentration in writing! This professional development opportunity is for any teachers in grades K–5. Write on!

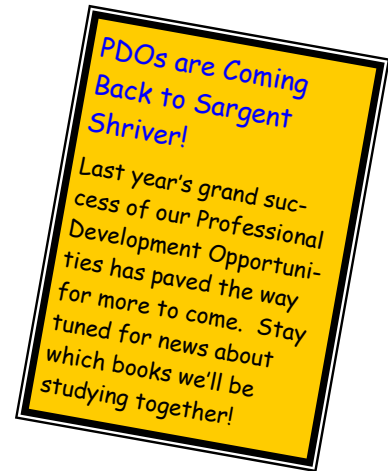


## Have you registered your Giant card?

Please do register your Giant card for the Bonus Bucks program. Each time you use your Giant card, we will get a percentage donated to our school. At the end of the year, we will receive money that we can use for our school.

Don't put this off for one more moment and register

on line at  
[http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/pin\\_aplus.htm](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/pin_aplus.htm). Your support counts! Our school number is 05344.



## Diversity Tip of the Month: The Heart of the Matter

Relationships form the foundation of every classroom. Whether students learn or not, behave or not, stay engaged in school or not, become better human beings or not, is all contingent on the pivotal relationships that they have with their teachers. Research over several decades has underscored the powerful influence, both positive and negative, that educators have on the children under their care—that, in fact, caring relationships are at the very

heart of the matter of student Positive relationships with students also make educators' work easier—caring relationships have been shown to be the "keystone" of effective classroom management (Marzano). As educators, no doubt we can all remember students who worked in our classes simply because of the positive relationships we had established with them. In fact, Nodding's research indicates, "these relations provide the foundation for successful pedagogical activ-

ity."

This is a portion of the Diversity Tip of the Month created by the MCPS Diversity Team. For more information go to MCPS' Diversity Training & Development page.



## Math Matters

Do you know that we have a Math Specialist whose name is James Schneider ready to support us in our work with Special Education students? In a recent third grade team meeting, James shared some tips with us. He methodically went through the upcoming unit of Place Value and pulled all of the procedural terms. For example: Circle, Label, .... He explained how important it is to use these

terms in our everyday math instruction so that our students are not stumped by the procedural vocabulary when they work through an assessment.

Shalini shared a strategy she uses with her students for rounding. She uses a 100 chart and colors in all of the numbers which have a 5 in the ones place. For more information see her! Her visual model will make a picture

worth a thousand words!



## Sargent Shriver Elementary School

12518 Greenly Drive  
Silver Spring MD 20906

Phone: 301 929-4426

E-mail:  
Danielle\_H\_Sultan@mcpsmd.org

► Our Motto:  
"Whatever it Takes!"

Check out Danielle's Webpage on the  
Sargent Shriver Website  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shriveres/staffdevelopment/index.html](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shriveres/staffdevelopment/index.html)



Montgomery County Public Schools

## Cooperative Learning Tips

One of the greatest ways to ensure equity is to engage students in cooperative learning groups. Here are a few cooperative learning structures that will lead to increased student participation, student discourse and cooperation.

### Rally Robin

1. In the first step, the teacher poses a question that has multiple answers. Step two, the first student in each group writes one response on a paper and passes the paper counterclockwise to the next student. Finally, in step three, teams with the greatest number of correct responses gain some type of recognition. This type of cooperative learning can

easily be used in the science classroom. For example, the students may be asked to write as many reptile names as they can. At the end the group with the most reptiles written down is rewarded.

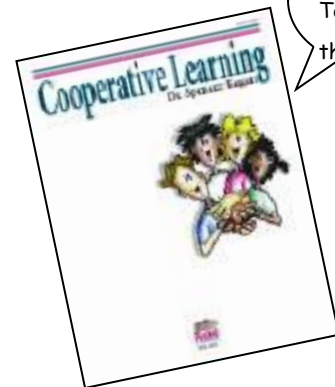
### Numbered Heads Together

Each team member is given a number. The teacher poses a problem to solve or a question to discuss. All teammates put their heads together to discuss or solve the problem. The teacher then calls on a number. The person with that number stands up and shares the thinking of the group. If the person is stumped, they can request a huddle, confer with the team and then have another go!



## Leadership Team's Mission Statement

As the leaders of Sargent Shriver Elementary School, it is our mission to provide the support and structures necessary to establish and maintain an effective professional learning community whose collaborative work results in high quality teaching and meaningful learning. We will embrace our cultural academic diversity and build relationships among all stakeholders.



See Danielle  
To borrow  
this!

Do you have a favorite cooperative learning structure that you would like to share with others? Share it with Danielle and your tip will appear in our next newsletter!