



The Salamander's Tale

Weekly Newsletter of Sligo Creek Elementary School, Silver Spring, Maryland

September 16, 2011

Diantha Swift, Principal

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301-562-2722

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 9/17 Beautification Day
- 9/22 Guest Scientist -7:00 p.m.
- 9/28 Early Release-dismissal @12:50
- 9/29 No School - Rosh Hashanah
- 9/30 Interims go home

BEAUTIFICATION DAY

This Fall, as we do twice a year, the PTA is asking for volunteers to maintain the landscaping around the school, and to generally keep our grounds looking sharp.

This Saturday, September 17th (8:30-1:30) is our Fall Beautification Day. Please join other parents and students as we beautify the outside of our school. We'll focus on the playing field by weeding and mulching around the trees, removing any trash and graffiti, and taking out the large weeds above the retaining wall. We also plan to refresh the daffodil bulbs around the trees and beds out front. In addition, we'll do some basic maintenance on the butterfly garden in the SCES/SSIMS shared courtyard. If you've never been in this courtyard, come take a tour with us on 9/17 and learn more about this great shared space.

We know Saturday mornings can be busy -- just drop by for a few minutes and together our efforts

make a huge difference! Jobs available for all ages. Healthy snacks and drinks provided. Middle-schoolers can get community service hours for the time they spend at SCES Beautification Day, so this can be an event for the whole family.

We hope to see you there!

Tori Hall (mother of Phoebe) tele. 301-652-2969

Tim Abrahams (father of Cooper and Hayden) tele. 301-585-6695

Environment & Outdoors - Beautification Subcommittee Co-Chairs

SATURDAY CLASS FOR STUDENTS

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. is offering tutoring and mentoring to help students in Grades 1 – 12 to reach their academic goals. The academy assist students with school work, study skills, and test taking skills. Sessions begin on Saturday mornings, beginning September 24, 2011 through April 21, 2012 form 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. @ Blair High School. For further information you can call 301-320-6545 or SCES at 301-562-2722.

GUEST SCIENCE SERIES

We invite SCES children and their parents to join us Thursday night, **September 22nd at 7 PM** in the **SCES cafeteria**, for the kickoff of this year's Guest Scientist Series. We'll start off with a new twist – a tag team presentation, by NOAA crab researchers Anna Coffey and Denise Ellis-Hibbett.

Anna Coffey received her M.S. in Marine Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at the College of William and Mary in January 2011. Her thesis research involved studying a parasite of blue

crabs and the ecology of how an infection is passed from one crab to another. Ms. Ellis-Hibbett is working on her Ph.D with the Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences Department at University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research examines the health and prospects for the horseshoe crab species *Limulus polyphemus* in Massachusetts.

Ms. Coffey and Ms. Ellis-Hibbett will catch us up on all things crab – the vitality of the crab populations in Chesapeake Bay, how you know when a blue crab’s about to molt and why horseshoe crab blood is a little...different. Please join us next Thursday night, September 22nd at 7 PM in the SCES cafeteria, as we scuttle around the world of crustacean science!

READING SPECIALIST MESSAGE

Thank you for the warm welcome to Sligo Creek this year! As the new reading specialist, I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children, and supporting you throughout the year in literacy. As the school year kicks in, I wanted to share a valuable parent on-line resource - www.readwritethink.org. Check out the “Parent Resources” tab and scroll down to the tips page with articles for parents on choosing books to read with your child and how to help your child with projects, or have your child check out the “Games & Tools” section with great study organizers and activities to use at home.

Also, we have wonderful resources here at Sligo Creek for your children to use in reading. I would love to have some parent volunteers help to create a book inventory in the book room. So grab a friend and come in for a couple of hours to help out! You can contact me to set up a time to volunteer at Stacy_K_Miller@mcpsmd.org. I’m looking forward to a great year with your children, and remember: the best thing you can do with your child is read!

HOMEWORK HOTLINE LIVE

On September 14 Homework *Hotline Live* (HHL) will start its 26th season of helping students. Last year, the number of requests for help increased by 130%!

This year, we’re adding to this success:

- 1) Homework help is starting earlier this year. *Hotline Live* will be available most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting on September 14.
- 2) Students can watch HHL from 4 to 6 pm on MCPS-TV (Comcast 34, Verizon 36, RCN 89) and through the web at www.AskHHL.org.
- 3) Students can ask questions by:
 - a) Calling 301-279-3234
 - b) Sending text messages to 724-427-5445 (this spells 7244 ASK HHL on a standard phone keypad)
 - c) Sending a message through the website: www.AskHHL.org
 - d) Posting a message to the HHL Facebook wall (search for “Homework Hotline Live”)
 - e) Emailing a question to: question@AskHHL.org
- 4) **NEW FOR THIS YEAR** – students can send text, email and Facebook questions until 9 pm!
- 5) Parents and teachers can follow HHL on Twitter @AskHHL. It’s a great way to keep up with the latest news about the show.

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Montgomery College is offering KIDS COLLEGE enrichment and advanced courses for students in grades 2-12. For brochures or registration forms, you can access the web at <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youthpdf/kidscollege.pdf> or you can call the office at 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917.

GREEN KIDS SCHOOL GARDENS PROGRAM

Supporting school gardens couldn’t be easier! Mark your calendars now to stop and shop on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20** at one of five Montgomery County Whole Foods Markets ([Rockville](#), [Bethesda](#), [Kentlands](#), [Silver Spring](#), and [Friendship Heights](#)). On that day, Whole Foods Market will donate 5% of the receipts from all of these stores to support the Audubon Naturalist Society’s [GreenKids School Gardens program](#). Please help ANS meet its goal by shopping on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20** and spreading the word to your friends, family, and colleagues. Your efforts will make a difference!