



The Salamander's Tale

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

February 6, 2009

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2/11 Gr. 3 Annual Animal Gallery Walk
- 2/12 Gr. 4 & 5 March Madness
- 2/13 Valentine Parties
- 2/16 **PRESIDENT'S DAY -NO SCHOOL**
- 2/17 Group Picture Day
- 2/19 French Immersion Open House

2009 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

The Sligo Creek E.S. Geography Bee was held in December and January. The Geography Bee is a national competition for grades 4 through 8 sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The winners of the class competitions compete together to determine a school winner. Congratulations to all the class winners:
Naomi Ostriker - Mme. Dickson, Zach Bridwell - Ms. Maharajh, Griffin Eisenmann - Ms. Schrank Amy Gilbert - Mme Thompson, Paola Chavez-Sanchez - Ms. Wells, Sarah Guise - Ms. Conti Joyce Banks - Mme Falloux, Brody Harkless - Ms. Jones, Maddie Dadian - Mme Kellinger, Tommy Tripp - Ms. Reinhardt.

The class winners then competed in a very difficult Championship Round. At the end of this competition, Tommy Tripp, who won the school competition last year, once again was the Sligo Creek school winner, and Zach Bridwell was the

first runner-up! Tommy then took a written test that has been sent in to the National Geographic Society to determine if he qualifies for the Maryland State Competition. Congratulations to Tommy!!! We hope that all the effort that he put in on the final test will enable him to participate in the state competition.

Thanks to all the students and all the teachers of the 4th and 5th grades for helping to promote geography education by participating in the 2009 National Geographic Bee.

IMMERSION APPLICATION PROCEDURE

This year, parents/students interested in a foreign language immersion program can participate in a lottery for one of the seats by completing an **Immersion Interest Form** for the 2009-2010 school year. This form takes the place of using the Change of School Assignment Form (COSA) that has been used in the past. To download the form and learn more about elementary foreign language immersion programs, visit

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/speci alprograms/admissions/immersion_news.shtm

Completed forms should be faxed, mailed, or delivered directly to:

Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS)

Spring Mill Field Office

11721 Kemp Mill Road

Silver Spring, MD 20902

Fax: 301-649-8155

The **deadline** for submitting an **Immersion Interest Form** for the 2009-2010 school year is

Wednesday, **April 1, 2009**. Parents of incoming kindergarteners, who have children already in an immersion program, **MUST** fill out this form as well, and submit it by the deadline. These siblings have preference in the lottery, but the form must be submitted for the preference to be granted.

OPEN HOUSE DATES

Open house dates for parents interested in applying to the French Immersion Program at Sligo Creek E.S. are **February 19** and **March 10, 2009**. Sessions begin at 9:30 with visits to the classes. At 10:20 there will be questions and answers with the administrator and the program coordinator. We encourage everyone who is even considering the possibility of enrolling in French Immersion to attend an Open House to become familiar with the program, its components and its philosophy. Please tell your friends, neighbors and families about these dates.

FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT

Our first Family Science Night will be March 5th from 7 to 8:30 pm in the cafeteria, and the focus will be "The Sun: Yours to Discover." SCES parent Lou Mayo will be our presenter and the evening promises to be informative and fun! For more information please see Lou's description below, or you can contact Emily Sudbrink or Ms. Frye.

Additional Family Science Nights (with different topics and presenters) will be held on April 21st and May 14th. Presenter: Lou Mayo

Title: The Sun: Yours to Discover

Abstract: 2009 is the "International Year of Astronomy" celebrating the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope to view the heavens. Think of how much our knowledge of science has advanced in this brief moment of human history. Great advances in scientific knowledge often follow great advances in technology. Though there are stories of ancient sunspot sightings by the Chinese, Galileo was the first to identify them as blemishes on the sun and to derive the sun's rotation rate by observing their motions. Today, we have a virtual armada of spacecraft as well as ground based telescopes observing the sun in every wavelength from radio to gamma rays, and its effect on the Earth and the solar system. Not

until 1938 did we understand how the sun creates its energy. We are just beginning to understand the solar cycle and solar storms, by far, the most violent events in the solar system, that can cripple spacecraft, knock out our power grids, disable electronic communications, and that pose real problems for any chance we have of colonizing space. At the March SCES Family Science Night, SCES parent, columnist, and professor of Astronomy, Lou Mayo will present the sun as few have seen it, through demonstrations and amazing NASA images and video, and discuss how it shines, and why it is so important to the future of our planet to understand its violent nature. Cookies and soda will be served after the talk, courtesy SCES PTA.

GLOBAL SCREENING

On Tuesday, Feb. 12th, all second grade students will participate in the Global Screening Process.

Global Screening is a county wide process used to gather information about student's strengths to provide accelerated and enriched instruction. For additional information, please contact the division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) at 301-279-3163.

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This tutoring and mentoring program can help your child reach his/her potential through individualized assistance with school work, study skills and test-taking. For additional information, please contact the GBTLA office at 301-320-6545.