



The Salamander's Tale

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

February 3, 2012

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2/3 Gr. 5 to Imagination Stage
- 2/6 National Counselor's Week
- 2/7 PTA Meeting
- 2/10 School Wide Valentine Celebrations
Sock Hop -PTA 6:30 -8:00 p.m.
- 2/20 Holiday-President's Day
- 2/22 FI Open House
- 2/24 Interims Go Home

PTA MEETING

The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00 p.m. PTA meetings are open to everyone, and free babysitting is provided for children 3 years or older.

CALLING ALL ART HELPERS

Ms. Lightfoot needs parent help to hang our students' art on the bulletin boards around the school and to install some of our 5th grade legacy art projects. Parents are needed on **Mondays from 3:15pm -3:45pm**, and **Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 am**. Kids are always welcome to volunteer right along with their parents! Our Board of Education is coming to a meeting at Sligo Creek ES on February 16th, and we'd love to have some of this art up and on display before then. If you're able to help out at any of these times,

for just 20-30 minutes, our art department would really appreciate it! If you have any questions, please call or email Ms. Lightfoot (Carol_P_Lightfoot@mcpsmd.org or 301 562-2722).

SALADS IN OUR CAFETERIA

Beginning this month, our school cafeteria staff is able to prepare salads for student lunches as they do for middle school students. Salads for students will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

VAL-O-GRAMS

The Student Council is selling hand-crafted Valentine's grams with treats attached. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go to the American Cancer Society. Students and teachers will receive the grams on Valentine's Day (Tuesday, February 14). If you and your child would like to purchase Val-O-Grams for your child's friends and/or teachers, please print the form on the PTA Website <http://www.scespta.org/val-o-gram.html> and return it to your child's teacher in an envelope addressed to Mme Falloux/Student Council (cash or check - payable to SCES). Your child may decide to add a personal message that will be stapled to the gram (please make sure the name of the recipient and your child's name is included in each message). You can order grams until February 10th! Each gram is \$1. Please contact Mme Falloux with questions.

SOCK HOP

Mark your calendars for the all-school Valentine's Day Sock Hop dance next week on Friday, February 10th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the gym featuring our very own Mr. Baldwin as DJ! This is an event for the whole family, and light dinner food will be served. This is a free event but donations will be gratefully accepted. There will be a bake sale, and we could still use some bakers as well as volunteers to help at the event for half-hour time slots. If you would like to assist, please contact Susan Dahiya at susandahiya@verizon.net or by hitting "reply sender." Please note that all students must be accompanied by an adult.

SNYDER'S RECEIPTS

If you have any Snider's receipts from 2011 lying around, please bring them in to school! Snider's Super Foods will donate 1% of the total amount submitted to the Sligo Creek PTA, but the receipts have to be from 2011. We need to submit the receipts to Snider's by the end of February, so please send your Snider's receipts in your child's backpack c/o PTA Painless Fundraising!

WORLD CULTURE DAY

World Culture Day (WCD) is just around the corner; on Friday, Feb 24th, and we are in need of more volunteers. WCD is an all-day event, coordinated by parent volunteers, where the children visit various "countries" throughout the day. The "countries" are booths located throughout the school, hosted by parent volunteers. The kids have "passports" that get stamped when they visit a country. In 2010, we had 30 different countries represented and a fabulous international parade. We wrap up the day with a cultural performance.

We need folks to volunteer to host country booths from approximately 9:30 - 1:00. It can be a country of your choice - someplace you've visited? Someplace you've always wanted to visit? Someplace your grandparents or parents or you are from? Volunteers will do a short 10 minute presentation on the country & often a little project, game, etc. (5-10 min). This is a great chance to learn about or share your knowledge about a country of your choice, so please consid-

er helping out with this very fun day. Please email worldculturesces@yahoo.com if you can 'host' a country.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

On Tuesday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m., the PTA will host a planning "charette" to gather early ideas, feedback, and comments on the proposed outdoor classroom, which will be constructed in the large courtyard shared by Sligo Creek and SSIMS. The meeting is designed in part to prioritize design elements of an outdoor classroom and will take place in the SSIMS media center. We encourage SCES and SSIMS parents, teachers, and staff to attend and voice your thoughts about what will be great resource for our kids.

FRENCH IMMERSION SUMMER CAMP

Mark your calendars; the French Immersion Camp is back again! As in the past, we will have two sessions. Session 1 - from June 18 - June 29; and session 2- from July 2 - July 13. If you have not yet received a camp application, please contact Mme Thompson or the main office. I look forward to many happy campers.

FRENCH IMMERSION OPEN HOUSES

French Immersion Open Houses are for parents interested in enrolling their children in the French Immersion program at Sligo Creek E.S. for the 2012-2013 school year. The dates are January 31, 2012, February 22, 2012 and March 29, 2012. Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. with visits to the classrooms. At 10:15 there will be a question and answer period with the principal and the French immersion coordinator. We encourage everyone who is even considering the possibility of enrolling in French Immersion to attend an Open House and become familiar with the program and its philosophy.

Application Process for the Immersion Program

The immersion lottery process application dates will be February 1 to April 13, 2012. Parents may participate in the lottery process using the *Elementary Immersion Interest Form*, which will be available February 1, 2012, with directions and information on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion

Even if you already have a child in the program, you must still follow the immersion lottery process in order to enroll a sibling.

Please call Mme Thompson or email if you have any questions: 301-562-2722 Nellie_J_Thompson@mcpsmd.org

Application Process for the Immersion Program at SSIMS

This is for current 5th grade Immersion students only. If your 5th grader is planning on continuing the Immersion program at SSIMS, you must fill out a COSA (Change Of School Assignment) and submit it between February 1st and April 1st, 2012.

2012 READING RESOLUTIONS

In the Media Center, we have challenged students and staff alike to increase the number of books they will read in 2012. We are setting our own goals for the next four months and will track our progress in the Media Center. Participants are encouraged to choose a goal that challenges them, but is not too high as to be discouraging.

In addition, older students can, with parental permission, participate in our group on LibraryThing. At LibraryThing, you can keep track of the books you've read, write reviews and tag your books so that others can find new things to read. If your student would like to participate, check out my homepage at

<http://www.librarything.com/home/Ms.Elkins> .

If you decide to let your child participate, please help them to set up an account and choose their privacy settings. Once they have an account, they should let me know their username so I can invite them to join the Sligo Creek Elementary Readers Group.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM MEETING

On Tuesday, February 28, the PTA will host a planning "charette" to gather early ideas, feedback, and comments on the proposed outdoor classroom to be constructed in the large court-

yard shared by Sligo Creek and SSIMS. This meeting, which is designed in part to prioritize design elements of an outdoor classroom, will begin at either 7 or 7:30 (exact time TBD) and last for 90 minutes. More details will be coming soon, but please plan to attend and save the date!

SCIENCE NIGHT-FEBRUARY 16TH

Please come join us Thursday night, February 16th at 7 PM for our next Guest Scientist night featuring Kathryn Mills, a behavioral neuroscientist at NIH. She'll talk with us about how children's brains develop into adult brains, which part of our noggins direct what part of our behavior, and how it is that a human brain generates enough electricity to power a light bulb. We hope to see you there - 7 PM, Thursday, February 16th in the SCES cafeteria!