



# The Salamander's Tale

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

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**January 20, 2012**

**Diantha Swift, Principal**

**Chrystal Brown, Assistant Principal**

301-562-2722

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 1/23 Professional Day - no school for students
- 1/26 Gr. 5 to Smith Center
- 1/27 Gr. 5 to Smith Center
- 1/31 FI Open House
- 2/1 School Assembly
- 2/1 Report Card Distribution
- 2/3 Gr. 5 to Imagination Stage

## **THANK YOU PARENTS!**

Thank you to all who responded to the call for reading volunteers! So far we had 12 parents attend the volunteer training, and at least 18 people who would like to volunteer to read with our students. Thank you!

## **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.

## **PTA SPONSORED ASSEMBLY**

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012, in honor of Black History Month, the Cultural Arts Committee of the PTA is sponsoring two as-

semblies featuring Discovery Theater, the Smithsonian Institution's theater for children. The theatrical performance is titled "How Old is a Hero" and tells the stories of three young activists— Ernest Green of the Little Rock Nine, the first black student to graduate from an integrated high school; Claudette Colvin, who refused to give up her bus seat before Rosa Parks; and Ruby Bridges, who won equal rights before she could read. The show features moving archival Civil Rights recordings. The assemblies will be at 1:15 and 2:15 in the SCES gym. The PTA is providing the funding for these assemblies. As always, parents are welcome to attend these events!

## **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](http://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](mailto:Nellie_J_Thompson@mcpsmd.org)

## **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.

## **WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCIES**

Winter weather emergencies, such as snow and ice, may cause disruptions in school operations, including the closure of school, a delayed opening, or an early dismissal. Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Cable TV (Comcast Channel 34, Verizon FIOS Channel 36, RCN Channel 89), Outlook, on the Internet at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org), and on a recorded telephone message at 301-279-3673. Emergency announcements are available by signing up for MCPS QuickNotes and Alert MCPS text and e-mail notifications on the school system's home page. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcement is made by 11:00 a.m.

## **WORLD CULTURE DAY**

World Culture Day (WCD) is just around the corner, on Friday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 '10, 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 consider helping out with this very fun day. Please email [worldculturesces@yahoo.com](mailto:worldculturesces@yahoo.com) if you can 'host' a country.

### **SNIDER'S RECEIPTS**

If you have any Snider's receipts from 2011 lying around, please bring them into 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!

### **PTA MEETING**

The January PTA meeting was cancelled due to the holiday schedule; the next PTA meeting will be Tuesday, February 7, at 7 p.m. PTA meetings are open to everyone, and free babysitting is provided for children 3 years or older.

### **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 courtyard 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!

### **VALENTINE'S DAY SOCK HOP**

Mark your calendars to dance the night away at our Valentine's Day Sock Hop on Friday February 10th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the gym, sponsored by the PTA. This is an all school event for students and families, and will feature our very own Mr. Baldwin as D.J.! Light dinner food will be served and a bake sale will be held. The event is free but donations will be gladly accepted. We would love to have some volunteers to help on the night of the event and some bakers to bake for the bake sale. If you can help please send an email to Susan Dahiya at [susandahiya@verizon.net](mailto:susandahiya@verizon.net). This is not a drop-off event - children must be accompanied by an adult.