



# The Salamander's Tale

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

**November 14, 2008**

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

11/17	Mobile Dental
11/18-21	Hearing & Vision Screening
11/18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade to Strathmore Center
11/21	Dovie Thomason Assembly-PTA
11/22	Beautification Day
11/26	Early Release
11/27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday -No School

## **RUTH RALES**

We need reading tutors to support second grade students who participate in the Ruth Rales Comcast Kids Reading Network program at Sligo Creek ES. Community volunteers including the PTA, family members, and friends are encouraged to tutor in this terrific program.

It only takes one hour per week on Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.. Each tutor will work with the same student, one-on-one, during the school year. Tutors receive training in advance, and all the books and materials are provided for you.

For more information contact Sara Cartmill at Interages, Inc, 301-949-3551, X19 or [Cartmill@interagesmd.org](mailto:Cartmill@interagesmd.org) (Interages is a nonprofit organization helping recruit tutors

for this MCPS program) or Linda M. Jones 301-562-2722, Reading Specialist

## **DOVIE THOMASON ASSEMBLY**

In commemoration of Native American History Month, on Friday November 21st the Cultural Arts Committee of the PTA is sponsoring an assembly featuring Ms. Dovie Thomason, an award-winning storyteller and recording artist recognized internationally for her ability to share a glimpse into Native cultures through the traditional stories she first heard as a child. Her stories are windows into her Native culture and mirrors for her listeners to see themselves, while she gently dispels stereotypes and false media images of the First Nations People of North America. The assemblies for grades K-2nd will be held at 1:15 p.m. and for grades 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 p.m. Funding for this assembly is being provided by the PTA and by Arts in Education grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. Parents are always welcome at these events.

## **MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**

Montgomery College will hold a one-day special enrichment program at their Germantown Campus on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 8:30 -2:50 p.m. This program is for gifted and talented students in grades 4 and 5. Registration deadline is Monday,

January 5, 2009. For additional information, please visit their website, at [www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth), or you may call their office at 240-567-7264.

## **FROM THE SCIENCE LAB**

Here is a presentation that ties into our fourth grade study of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. It will also be interesting for anyone with an interest in Sligo Creek or any aquatic habitat. These creatures are truly amazing!

From Sargasso to Sligo: Our American Eels  
Keith Whiteford, Maryland Fisheries  
Biologist

**Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.**

**Long Branch Community Center**

Sligo Creek hosts a population of American eels, the only migratory fish in Maryland that lives most of its life in fresh water. Years after arriving in our creeks and rivers as three-inch "elvers," they return as adults to the Sargasso Sea (between Bermuda and the Bahamas) to spawn and die. We will be introduced to this unusual fish and its place in our ecosystem by Keith Whiteford, fisheries biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Even though Maryland produces the largest harvest of American eel of any state in the Union, we rarely see the eels in Sligo because they hunt only at night, making it a challenge for the Great Blue Herons who feed on them. Keith directs the state's American Eel Project, which includes the Eel Population Study and Maryland's role in the eel management program of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

## **BEAUTIFICATION DAY**

On Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 8:30 am to 3 pm Silver Spring International Middle School and Sligo Creek Elementary will be having a joint beautification day. We will be raking out the leaves in the flower beds next to the canopy entrance, and weeding/raking in the large courtyard, (not the kindergarten courtyard, but the one that we share with SSI and have the butterfly beds and new rain garden). If you have them, please bring a leaf rake, weeding tools, and/or gardening gloves. You can contact Emily Sudbrink at 301-593-1001. Hope to see you there!

## **VISITOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Effective Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, we will implement the new visitor sign in system. Letters went home in October explaining the new sign in process for all visitors. Please have an Id with you, such as a drivers' license, or a business card. Once you are in the system, we will not need this information again. Please be patient with us during this transition.