PTA Notes and News

Dear Parents,

The month of May started off with a bang. Congratulations to the PTA’s Musical Theatre club for putting on the wonderful and entertaining show Shrek Jr, the musical. This musical showcased the talent of Sangster’s students as well as the teachers who put together this production. It was enjoyed by the whole community in several sold out performances.

With the help of the Military Spouses Group, teachers, and parent volunteers the Sangster Family Fun Run was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many of our students and families turn out and run despite a very rainy start to the day. We could not ask for a better team of teachers and parents to cheer our slightly damp students across the finish line and along the route. Students also enjoyed a PTA sponsored assembly that gave them the opportunity to see the Rope Warrior, world record holder for seated rope jumps. The kids cheered, laughed and were entertained while learning how healthy and fun jumping rope can be. They learned that some of the best jump rope tricks are discovered by making mistakes.

Let’s not forget the Carnival! Thank you to all the Parents and High School volunteers that came out to make this PTA Fundraiser a smashing success. Thank you to all of our teachers that donated so many wonderful prizes for the silent auction and for coming out to help during the event. We had a packed house filled with activity, games, raffles, auction bids, vendor goodies and, of course, cupcakes. Thank you parents for bringing in the delicious donations. My hat goes off to Linda Whitestone and Jan Swicord who once again have succeeded in making Carnival so much fun. This month we welcome next year’s PTA Board elected by unanimous vote at the PTA meeting.

- Kristin Zauel, President
- Jami O’Neill, Vice President
- Frances Schatz, Treasurer
- Karyn Smydra, Secretary

Best regards,
Michelle
Dear Sangster Community,

Now that spring is truly here – the weather is warmer and the days are longer, we tend to spend more time outside. It’s important to keep moving to stay in shape – both for children and for adults.

Research shows children copy the behavior of adults in their life. If parents are physically active, the children will be active too. Exercise burns calories, which assists in maintaining ideal weight. Fit adults and children exercise 60 minutes per day.

Here are some ideas to stay in shape as a family:
• Plan daily family walks
• Limit television or computer time to 1-2 hours per day
• Make exercise fun
• Encourage play outside with other children
• Assign chores that involved activity such as cleaning or walking the dog
• Help your children find physical activities they enjoy

Remember, making healthy change takes time and don’t expect perfection. Just keep moving. Here’s to a healthy and happy spring!

Your partner in education,
Lisa M. Reddel
Principal

Are You Keeping in Touch With Sangster?

If you are not receiving Sangster’s brief but informative “Keep in Touch” weekly emails, please go to http://www.fcps.edu/kit to sign up or update your subscription.
The Sangster Reflections Committee is honored to announce that Charles N. has won second place in the Special Artist Division of the National Reflections Competition for his Literature entry “Rhythm of the Marching Drums.” All of Sangster Elementary, and especially your Reflections Co-Chairs, are proud of your wonderful accomplishment this year. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Alisa Goetz & Laura Key, Reflections Co-Chairs

There will be no school on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day

Reminder! All library books are due back on Thursday, June 9

All newsletters are available on the PTA web site under the newsletters header.

http://sangster.digitalpto.com/
Cultivating Awareness—Using Fix-Up Strategies

Using Fix-Up strategies is the last of the seven comprehension strategies discussed by Susan Zimmerman and Chyrse Hutchins in their book The 7 Keys to Comprehension: How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It. Fix-Up strategies help readers get back on track when comprehension appears to be breaking down. Not only do our children need to know how to use these important strategies, but they’ll need to know when they are necessary.

Unfortunately, many of our children don’t realize they’ve lost their way when they read, thinking, “If I rush through these words and turn pages I’ll just get through it.” Well, the reader will be “getting through” it, but will he/she get anything out of it? The best fix-up strategy of all is self-awareness as a reader. We need to help our students be so engaged in the text, that when their engagement breaks down, they recognize it and make a conscious decision to get themselves back in the text.

How do our students come to the realization that they are no longer engaged?

• Mind movies, or visualization ceases
• Questions during reading stop
• The student is no longer able to summarize, retell, or paraphrase what they just read

Once our children realize that they are no longer engaged, then what? We need to encourage our children to stop, reread, and think along the way. When they’ve noticed a breakdown in engagement, their task is to do some problem-solving. Is the problem decoding, a grammatical problem, or maybe the problem is with word meaning or a lack of background knowledge. Each of these problems requires a different solution.

• Decoding - Use the picture clues, check the first and last letter and get your mouth ready and/or chunk the word into known pieces. Give it a try and see if the word makes sense. If these strategies are not helpful, find a friend for support.
• Grammar - Stop and reread; it might be that the reader missed necessary punctuation. Our students need to understand that punctuation impacts meaning. Reread to see if the problem is missed punctuation or confusing dialogue. Reread for clarification.
• Word meaning - Stop and reread and/or read on for clarification. Often times word meaning can be inferred from the context of the passage or picture clues. If that is not sufficient, checking the dictionary might be necessary. We should encourage our children to be sure that the definition chosen makes sense in the sentence.
• Conceptual Breakdown - The chances are good that he/she will need to build some additional background knowledge through conversation in class and/or at home...

As parents we can support this necessary active engagement by making a game of “getting it.” Pause and summarize the story line. We can model for our students what we do to get back on track when we get lost or confused while reading. Our children need to see that we are active readers; that reading really is a running conversation -- between the book and the reader.

Happy Reading!

Donna Salussolia

“Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body.” (Sir Richard Steele, 1672-1729)
Coming Soon to Sangster...

**Book Your Summer** is a reading incentive program that will build a community of motivated readers here at Sangster! We are teaming up with FCPS to encourage reading for pleasure around a variety of genres.

Get your book titles lined up for the fun of SUMMER READING.

**June 27, — September 7**

**More information to come next month!**

Here’s a hint...

There will be **PRIZES!!!**