



# Sunbeams

Parent Teacher Association Newsletter  
Oct. 2, 2009

Dear Sunrise Valley Families,

One of the many great things about being the parent of school-aged children in Fairfax County is the opportunity we have to effect positive change in the lives of our own children and of other children in our community. In this edition of Sunbeams, we highlight a number of these opportunities. I encourage you to get involved in whatever way works for you - whether it's becoming a member of the PTA, learning about academic programs at a parent information night, supporting a fundraiser, sharing your views as part of the community budget process or getting tips on helping your child stay organized at a Spotlight on Learning session. I hope that you find the information on these topics beneficial. The PTA is pleased to support your efforts to support our schools.

Your support is on display every day at Sunrise Valley. We already have 20 "Girls on the Run" training for a 5K, 60 students exercising their creativity in Drama Club, nearly 100 chess masters honing their skills and over 80 students preparing to study other cultures and languages, just to name a few! In addition, we know those creative juices are flowing as children prepare musical compositions, works of art and literature for the Reflections Art Program and as volunteers get ready to launch our Grace Art program this month. By the time the Hoe Down arrives on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, we'll be ready to kick up our heels and dance! I hope to see you and your family there!

Melissa Gifford

SVES PTA President

## Mark Your Calendar

Sunrise Valley ES was selected to be part of the field test of Fairfax County's revised progress report. The school will be holding a meeting on **Wednesday, October 21st at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria** where parents can learn about the shift to a standards-based format and ask questions.

## Let Your Voice Be Heard on the Budget!

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) anticipates having to face a budget deficit of \$100 to \$200 million for FY 2011 (next school year)! SVES parents and staff are encouraged to participate in Community Budget Dialogues with FCPS and Fairfax County government. Please plan to attend one of the remaining meetings to hear budget presentations and participate in small group discussions:

- Wednesday, October 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Marshall High School and South County Secondary School.
- **Saturday, October 24, from 10 a.m. to noon** at Centreville Regional Library, **Reston Regional Library**, and John Marshall Library.
- **Thursday, October 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at South Lakes High School** and Woodson High School.
- Saturday, November 14, from 10 a.m. to noon at Kings Park Library, Sherwood Regional Library, and George Mason Regional Library.

Registration is required. More information and online registration is available through the SVES PTA website ([sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com](http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com)) and at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget).

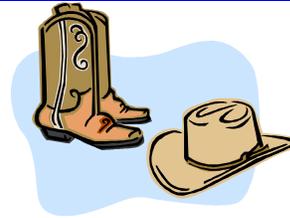
## Advanced Academic Programs Information

The FCPS Office of Advanced Academic Programs (formerly Gifted & Talented) is holding four Parent Information Nights. The sessions will provide an overview of the K-12 continuum of services offered through advanced academic programs and will include screening, testing, and identification procedures; and important timelines. No pre-registration is required. Dates and locations are:

- Thursday, October 8th at McLean HS
- Tuesday, October 13th at Oakton HS
- Thursday, October 15th at Annandale HS
- Monday, October 19th at West Potomac HS.

All sessions will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. For additional information contact the Advanced Academic Programs Office at 703-846-8663 or the Advanced Academic Programs Office website:

<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/advepd/advepd.htm>.



Pull out your boots and blue jeans and get ready to join us at the Hoe Down Friday, October 16. Dinner from California Tortilla runs 6:30-7:30 and line dancing led by a professional DJ starts at 7 p.m. Forms are in Friday Folders and available on the PTA web site. Questions? Contact Anne Moriarty at [AnneMoriarty@msn.com](mailto:AnneMoriarty@msn.com) or 703-716-2899.

## Virginia PTA Legislative Agenda

Our Sunrise Valley PTA is part of a larger PTA organization that advocates for children throughout Virginia and our country. The Virginia PTA has prepared its proposed legislative agenda for the year, and it is now time for local PTAs, such as ours, to vote for or against the proposals. Please check the News on the PTA web site at [sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com](http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com) for details. We will be voting at our next PTA meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Spotlight on Learning – Helping Children and Families Organize for Success

The PTA will be holding our first Spotlight on Learning parent education session immediately following the PTA meeting on October 13th! Ann Dolin, M. Ed. – a parent favorite who spoke to us last year about “Hassle-Free Homework” – is back! Ann will be helping us reduce stress and organize for academic success with “Messy Backpacks, Binders and Bedrooms? 7 Surefire Ways to Tackle Disorganization at Home and School.” This free “how to” workshop for parents will be filled with practical and easy-to-implement suggestions as Ann shares her 20+ years of experience in this special session for Sunrise Valley! Please join us for the PTA meeting at 7:00, and stay to hear Ann’s presentation at 7:30! Visit [sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com](http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com) for more de-

**THANK YOU**

We want to say a huge “thank you” to Kate Herndon Millman for serving as the PTA’s Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) coordinator for the last two years! We wish Kate’s family all the best as they relocate! We need someone to see the FLEX program through the rest of the year. Interested? Please contact Melissa Gifford at 703-716-0097 or [svsptapres@gmail.com](mailto:svsptapres@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

## HAVE YOU JOINED THE PTA YET?

The number one reason to join the Sunrise Valley (SVES) Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help our school. But there are many more PTA advantages:

- Get Connected - Know what’s happening at Sunrise Valley.
- Discover Great Resources – Take advantage of programs for parents and students.
- Tap into a Network - Meet parents and teachers, build rapport, and share ideas, concerns, and experiences.
- Watch Yourself Grow - Put your skills and hobbies to use for a noble cause—your child and all children in our community.
- Speak Up & Witness Improvement - Be part of the solution, helping enrich the SVES experience.
- Be a Role Model - Demonstrate to your child the importance you place on education.
- Enjoy Benefits - Take advantage of discounts and offers from member benefits providers and sponsors, parenting resources, leadership training, and much more.

Please join the SVES PTA by sending in your PTA membership envelope (found in your child’s Back to School Folder or in the PTA cabinet drawer in the school office) with dues of \$10.00 per member. Donations are also welcome. Please refer to the membership letter in the Back to School Folder and on [sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com](http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com) for more information on how your membership and donation dollars are working for our children, and other membership benefits.



## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION UPDATE



Thank you for continuing to clip and send in your Box Tops for Education. We have now collected \$330 worth of box tops! That's amazing! Thank you and keep clipping! Remember -- Although we'll be collecting box tops throughout the year, our fall submission deadline is this month. So, search your household for those box tops and send them in as soon as you can. There's a Box Tops for Education box in the foyer where you can place the box tops. The money that we receive from the Box Tops for Education program goes directly towards programs for our SVES students. Thanks! If you have any questions about the program, please contact Mariella Walker at mariella-rob@aol.com or 703-391-7206.



## Appreciation for Bus Drivers & Custodians

It's that time of year to show our appreciation to our custodians and our bus drivers! If you would like to participate, we would appreciate it if you would donate two dozen of your favorite homemade cookies. **Don't worry about wrapping.** Send your cookies to the office on the morning of **Monday, October 19.** We'll make a nice gift bag for everyone. Those who are interested in donating cookies, please contact Sumi Vintimilla at sumivan@verizon.net .



## Sally Foster Sale Orders Due

The PTA is raising funds for many programs that will benefit our children, including technology, field trips, GRACE Art, staff appreciation, and many others. Because 50 cents of every dollar is returned to our school, every order—no matter how large or small—is important!

**Order forms are due on Monday, October 5th!**

**Online sales will continue all year!** Encourage out-of-town family and friends to visit [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com) to place orders. Type in Sunrise Valley's Group Account #290062 when prompted during check out and Sunrise Valley will earn 50% of each purchase! Parents may also register online at [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com) in the Seller's Section to have a direct link sent to family and friends in a personalized e-mail.

### Important Information for Online Orders

- Any order over \$70 will be shipped for free.
- The order will be shipped directly to the person who placed it. Sales tax will be applied as required by the state from which the order is placed. Merchandise is shipped within 7–10 business days from the time the order is placed. Internet orders containing perishables will be shipped after November 1st due to the fragile nature of the candies in warm weather.
- The online store will remain open all year long and new items will be added to reflect changing seasons and holidays. Sunrise Valley will receive 50% of internet sales throughout the year. **Be sure to enter our school Group Account # 290062 or select Sunrise Valley from the school listing at check out.** It's easy and convenient!

**We appreciate your support!**