



# Sunbeams

Parent Teacher Association Newsletter  
Oct. 16, 2009

Dear Sunrise Valley Families,

Our PTA is an active and visible force at our school. We work hard to serve and inform the Sunrise Valley community, but in the midst of the fliers and emails, the “big picture” sometimes gets lost. To bring that big picture into focus, we need to understand the underlying objectives of the PTA. Over the coming months, I’ll use this forum to share a little bit about those objectives.

One of the primary goals of the SVES PTA is to build a strong sense of community at our school. The reasons for this may seem obvious - we want our children to feel safe, comfortable and happy at school – we want them to experience a sense of belonging. But beyond that, studies show that strong social bonds within a school community help build core values, enhance self-esteem and boost academic performance.

To that end, PTA sponsors a variety of community-building events throughout the year, and our community comes together in amazing ways to make them truly memorable – teachers and administrators serve as “guest callers” at Bingo Night and dance with students at Hoe Down (using line dances taught by the PE staff); our amazing custodians make sure everything is in place for all the fun; friends cheer one another around the rink at Skate Night; our music teachers rehearse patriotic songs and host the Veteran’s Day Celebration; families and friends curl up and munch popcorn at Movie Night; and of course, school staff and family members work side by side to make all of these events possible.

For more information on community events held throughout the year, check out the Programs & Events page on the PTA website at [sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com](http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com). We hope to see your family at these fun and memorable events!

Melissa Gifford

SVES PTA President

It's our first Destination Dinner of the Year! Generous George's has so graciously agreed to host us again for a Destination Dinner. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, come friends, eat great games with your family earning some money Generous George's will free pizzas! Dinner is SVES will earn 15% of all receipts during that time. Hope to see you all there! Questions? Contact Alicia Leonard at wish4uk@comcast.



## Juice Pouch Project Begins!

The Green Team is ready to start collecting foil juice pouches to clean up the earth and earn a bit of money for the school. There's a white collection bin in the entryway of the school, complete directions will be posted and followed up in a Keep In Touch. Any foil juice pouches are welcome, such as Capri Sun, Honest Kids, Kool-Aid and store brands. The nitty gritty: discard the straw, empty out the pouch, send it to school in a zip-lock bag and bring the bag back home to use again. Simple and just slightly sticky, but think about how you can keep those pouches out of landfills! Join us in being green! If you have questions, contact Kathy Leatherwood at KLeatherwood@fcps.edu.

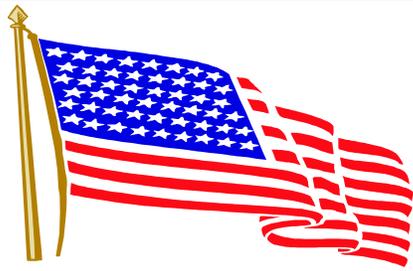


## November Spotlight on Learning

Join us for our next Spotlight on Learning parent education session! On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr. W. Dorsey Hammond will present "Raising Skilled Readers – How Parents Can Make a Difference". The session will be preceded by an approximately 30 minute, PTA meeting, which will begin at 7 p.m. Both will be in the library.

## BECOME A PTA MEMBER TODAY!

The SVES PTA membership and donation drive is winding down, but there's still time to join! Simply send in your PTA membership envelope (available in the school lobby and office) with dues of \$10.00 per member. You may also wish to consider making a tax-deductible donation in support of PTA sponsored programs – some families do this in lieu of participating in fundraising events. Contact Lilian van Ek at svesptamembership@gmail.com for more information.



### **Volunteers Needed for Veteran's Day Celebration**

Sunrise Valley's annual Veteran's Day Celebration is coming up on November 11<sup>th</sup>! Help is needed to set up and clean up a breakfast of bagels, muffins and juice before school. Please contact Jackie Gose at [jdragose@verizon.net](mailto:jdragose@verizon.net) if you are able to help.

**PLEASE NOTE: Skate Night, originally set for Nov. 7, has to be rescheduled. Keep posted for the new date.**

### **Be a Part of the Budget Dialogues**

Several opportunities remain to participate in the joint Fairfax County and FCPS Community Budget Dialogues. This is your opportunity to learn more about the budget crisis and shape its impact on our schools and children. Registration is required. More information and online registration is available through the SVES PTA website and at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget).

- **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.

### **Volunteer Orientation**

The annual Volunteer Orientation will be held on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 a.m. This orientation is especially important and helpful for classroom volunteers and room parents. Please plan to attend.

### **The Student Directory is Here!**

The new and improved "green" Sunrise Valley Student Directory is now available online at the PTA website! The secure directory is encrypted and password protected. Passwords will be distributed **only** to Sunrise Valley families. Check your child's Friday Folder for information on accessing the directory. For more information, e-mail [svesptaweb@gmail.com](mailto:svesptaweb@gmail.com).



Parents are invited to attend a meeting on **Wednesday, October 21st at 7 p.m. in the SVES cafeteria** to learn about the new elementary school progress report that's being field tested at Sunrise Valley.



## 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](mailto:sumivan@verizon.net).

## *Show Your Sunrise Valley Spirit!*

There's still time to order your Sunrise Valley 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary apparel! The order deadline has been extended to Monday,



October 19<sup>th</sup>. To see the cool new designs - short and long sleeved tie dye tees, short sleeved solid tees and solid hooded sweatshirts - go to the PTA website ([www.sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com](http://www.sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com)). You can also print out an order form. Additional spirit items, such as SVES logo magnets, water bottles and tote bags, are also available for order.