



# Sunbeams

Parent Teacher Association Newsletter  
Dec. 18, 2009



*Dear Sunrise Valley Families,*

*This is the last edition of the Sunbeams newsletter for 2009.*

*On behalf of the Sunrise Valley PTA, I would like to wish you a happy, healthy and safe holiday season! Enjoy the winter break, and we'll see you in 2010!*

*Melissa Gifford*

*SVES PTA President*



## Gibson to Address FCPS Budget Crisis after Jan. 12 PTA Meeting

Stuart Gibson, FCPS School Board Representative for the Hunter Mill District, will be at Sunrise Valley Tuesday, Jan. 12 to speak with parents and other community members about the budget crisis that our schools and families are facing for next school year. The discussion will begin immediately following the PTA meeting (7 p.m. in the Library) – we anticipate that Mr. Gibson will start at around 7:30 p.m. All Sunrise Valley parents and staff are invited to attend, as are parents from neighboring schools, community members (with or without school-aged children), volunteers, business partners and local businesses. So please help spread the word!

Gibson had a similar meeting at Hunters Woods ES this week. The meeting was extremely informative, if not eye-opening. The discussion centered around three questions: 1) what exactly is the budget situation we're facing, 2) why are we in this situation, and 3) what specific steps can we take to preserve the quality of our schools? Make no mistake, use of the word "crisis" is no exaggeration. Funding the schools at current levels means the elimination of ALL items on the list of potential cuts (see <http://files.sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com/200000099-e586ce680b/possiblecuts1119.pdf> for details). The next two months are critical – our children and our schools need all of us to be active advocates. Please join us for this important session!

The budget page of the PTA web site is being updated on a regular basis. Please check it out at <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com/a2011-budget/> to "get informed and get involved"!



## ***Heritage Night Scheduled for February 4***



Last week, you received a flier and registration form for World Heritage Night in your child's Friday Folder. This amazing celebration of Sunrise Valley's world community will take place on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Last year, 50 families came together to help host this event, which is not only fun and educational, but also opens our eyes to the people and world around us, and connects children and adults in our community in ways that otherwise would not be possible. We hope that you will consider sharing your family's heritage and/or traditions this year! Please remember that "heritage" is not limited to ethnicity, religion or geography - it can extend to so much more: a military tradition in your

family, a lasting connection to an alma mater, etc. Use your creativity and return your registration by January 11<sup>th</sup>!

## **Re-gifting – Not Just for Fruitcake and Neckties!**

Here are a couple of ways you can financially support PTA programs, like field trips and art programs, without spending any additional money. It might be the best re-gifting there is – make purchases you normally would make for your family, and let SVES to "dispose of" the packaging for profit.! It requires only a few moments of your time and a visit to the collection boxes in the SVES lobby! Details are found below. If you have questions, please email [svesptafundraising@gmail.com](mailto:svesptafundraising@gmail.com)., and as always, thank you for your support!

### **Box Tops for Education**

SVES participates in the Box Tops for Education program. Each time you turn in a single box top cut from some of your favorite grocery items, it will be turned in for earnings of \$.10. Simply clip and deposit the box tops in the box located in the school lobby. Also, be sure to visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com), for a wealth of information, including coupons, recipes, and parenting resources.

### **Ink Cartridge Recycling**



SVES PTA works with Think Recycle, a free print cartridge and cell phone recycling program that allows us to earn rebates while helping the environment. *For every 24 qualifying products we collect, Think Recycle plants a tree in the name of Sunrise Valley Elementary School!* Deposit your used ink cartridges and cell phones in the box in the SVES lobby, and do good for the environment and for SVES!

## ***Congratulations SVES Girls on the Run!***

You might remember Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – that was the very cold day that started with a steady rain and ended with several inches of snow. While most of us were warm and dry that morning, our amazing Sunrise Valley Girls on the Run were completing the Reindeer Romp 5K Race! The event was the culmination of the fall GOTR program – Coach Seabreeze Osbourne led the girls through twice weekly practices and a practice 5K in preparation for the race, in which 6,500 girls and buddy runners participated! Wow! The girls didn't let the weather dampen their spirits – in fact, several were heard singing Christmas carols along the route.

Congratulations to Coach Osbourne and the race participants (girls AND buddies): Kelsey McLain, Kristina Macaluso, Sarah Wolfe, Lexi Novak, Sarah Heymsfeld, Cecelia Bisk, Isabel Viner, Jessica Huay Din, Mimi Drozdetski, Nicole Hendzel, Valerie Cyphers, Abigail Torres, Sophia Dietz, Anna Huffer, Madison Flammang, Katie Vintimilla and Sarah Goswick! Kudos also to the girls who completed the program but were unable to be at the race: Angela He, Jacqueline Dubois, Ambika Minocha and Niu Niu Luken, and special thanks to Colleen McLain for coordinating the program!



### **Mark Your Calendars for the Following Events:**

**Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.:** PTA Meeting (SVES Library)

**Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.:** Stu Gibson, FCPS School Board, Discussion of the FCPS Budget Crisis (SVES Library)

**Saturday, Jan. 16, TBD:** Skate Night (Skatequest)

**Thursday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.:** World Heritage Night



Special thanks to Jackie Gose and her team of volunteers for hosting the Veteran's Day Celebration and Family Movie Night! Each was a special and memorable community event and we're glad so many were able to participate!

**An updated student directory is now available on the PTA website. The password information has not changed.**

## New State Special Education Regulations - Redefining Definitions

*This is the first in a series of articles informing parents of the new Virginia Special Education regulations. The Virginia Department of Education had a free workshop for parents Dec. 5 to discuss the changes in special education law in Virginia. As an introduction to some of the changes, several of the definitions in the regulations were amended. They include:*

- “Age of eligibility” refers to children who turn 22 after September 30 and remain eligible for FAPE (free appropriate public education) for the remainder of the school year.
- “Change in placement” means any change in the educational setting for a child that does not replicate the elements of the educational program of the child’s previous setting. The level of service received must remain the same.
- “Developmental Delay” The age of eligibility for this disability category was changed from ages 2 through 9 to ages 2 through 6. The purpose for this change was ensure that children are not inappropriately found to be disabled. VDOE feels that requiring a more specific disability category will better ensure that appropriate interventions are provided and that children are placed in appropriate special education classes with related services.
- “Educational record” includes electronic exchanges the contain personally identifiable information.
- “Emotional Disturbance” was changed to “Emotional disability.”
- “Functional behavioral assessment” includes review of existing data or new testing data or evaluation as determined by IEP team.
- “Interpreting services” was revised to include ‘cued speech/language transliteration services’ and ‘interpreting services’ includes services for children who are deaf-blind. Language was added to include students who have expressive or receptive language needs and may receive sign language services if directed by the child’s IEP.
- “Intellectual disability” replaces the definition formerly known as “mental retardation.” This change in terminology does not affect the continued need for individualized supports and services.
- “Parent” was expanded to include emancipated minors and validly married minors.
- “Severe disability” was removed. The VDOE anticipates that students currently identified with this disability will qualify as either having multiple disabilities or another specific disability.

Changes relating to IEPs, discipline procedures, evaluation and reevaluation, FAPE, and eligibility will be discussed in future articles. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Allred, SVES PTA Special Education Co-Chairperson at Allreds5513@yahoo.com.