



Sunbeams

Sunrise Valley Elementary School
Parent Teacher Association Newsletter
Jan. 22, 2010

Dear Sunrise Valley Families,

Last Tuesday evening SVES PTA hosted Stu Gibson, School Board Representative for the Hunter Mill District, and Susan Quinn, Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services, for a discussion of Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) budget. While we had strong attendance, I thought it might be helpful to share some of the highlights for those who were unable to attend.

The discussion centered on the Superintendent's Proposed Budget, which was released just days before the meeting. It includes nearly \$105M in cuts, including nearly 600 staff members, and over \$3M in increased fees. While the Proposed Budget does not include all of the potential cuts identified in recent months, it is clear that the proposed changes will have a lasting negative impact on our children, teachers, and community. What's more, if Fairfax County does not fund FCPS at the requested level (a strong possibility), further cuts will be necessary.

So what's next? Over the next several weeks, the School Board will conduct public hearings on the Proposed Budget and prepare their own version of the FCPS budget (the Advertised Budget), which will be submitted to Fairfax County and considered for funding along with all other county requests. In early March, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) will advertise the real estate tax rate – this is significant because the vast majority of county funding comes from real estate taxes, and once this rate is advertised it may not increase. In April, the BOS will hold public hearings on the budget, set the real estate tax rate, and create the final budget (including the amount to be transferred to FCPS). In May, the School Board will create a final budget using the amount transferred from the county, holding more public hearings in the process.

Exceptional public schools have been a hallmark of Fairfax County for many years – they play a large role in attracting businesses and residents, increasing the value of our homes, and improving our quality of life. Their positive impact is felt by all residents of Fairfax County – whether they have school-aged children or not. All of this is at risk.

Now is the time for us to act to protect our schools and our community. As Mr. Gibson stated, however, now is not the time to advocate for one program at the expense of another. Between now and the end of February, please email members of the Board of Supervisors to let them know how important schools are to our community, and to urge them to fully fund our schools. Taking a few minutes to share your views and your personal story will make a difference and will be time well spent. You can find BOS email addresses (along with a wealth of additional budget-related information) on the 2011 Budget page of the PTA web site at sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com. In addition, please consider attending the Budget Forum on Saturday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m.— noon at Marshall HS. This meeting will address the School Board's Advertised Budget and offer concrete steps for advocating for our schools.

Melissa Gifford
PTA President

Visit the PTA website at: sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com

AFTER-SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATER CLASSES AT SVES!

Back by popular demand, Stacey Jones, of *Stage Presence LLC*, will be teaching a 7-week class that will build on last semester's drama classes. New participants are welcome! This semester there will be an in-depth focus on musical theater with a final presentation of excerpts from Schoolhouse Rock!

Dates: For 3rd and 4th graders: Thursdays 2/4-3/25

For 5th and 6th graders: Fridays 2/5-3/25

No classes 2/25 & 2/26

Final presentation for both classes Friday, March 26th.

Times: 4 pm- 5:30 pm

Tuition: \$125.00

Please make checks payable to SVES PTA. Space is limited and based on first-come first-served. Registration ends Feb. 2nd.

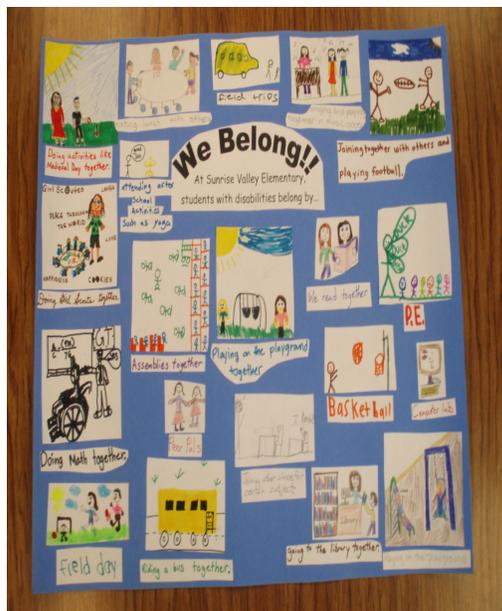
Each participant will also receive a Stage Presence t-shirt!

Questions: Contact Stacey Jones at stagepresence@mindspring.com or 571-214-6080

This program is sponsored by SVES PTA.



"We have all been touched by the devastation in Haiti. Members of the staff, PTA and SVES community are working to identify an appropriate way for the children of Sunrise Valley to reach out and support the children of Haiti. Watch for details via Keep in Touch, newsletters, and in-school announcements."



SVES Wins Poster Contest

Students involved in the school's Peer Pal program won the poster contest celebrating Virginia Disability History and Awareness month sponsored by The Arc of Northern Virginia. The winning entry was based on the theme of "We Belong" and had drawings showing that students with disabilities want a place to learn, work and socialize just like the students in general education. It showcased the shared activities everyone enjoys such as books, physical education, computer, music and the playground. The poster will be displayed in the Virginia General Assembly building in Richmond .

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR REFLECTIONS WINNERS!

Record numbers of Sunrise Valley students participated – 67 total – in this fall's national PTA-sponsored Reflections program. Students responded with creative works to the theme "Beauty Is..."



Superb local artists judged submissions in the categories of Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. The judges were impressed with all the wonderful works our students produced!



First, 2nd and 3rd place winners were chosen in each category in each grade cluster. First place pieces have been sent on to a district level competition. First place winners at district level will go on to compete nationally. Let's keep our fingers crossed for our first place winners!



Literature

K-2: Manda Xie

3-5: Sherry Xie

6-8: Jia Kim



Musical Composition

3-5: James Lovelace

6-8: Michael Yue



Photography

K-2: Caley Duchak

3-5: Ashton Reinhold

6-8: Kirstin van Ek



Visual Arts

K-2: Manda Xie

3-5: Hye Jeong Yun

6-8: Carlin Pohlman

We'll have a show of all the works in conjunction with the SVES 30 Year Anniversary Celebration. Awards ceremony will also take place at that time. Let me know if you want/need your piece back earlier. Pat Sartorius, Reflections Chair.