



# Sunbeams

Parent Teacher Association Newsletter  
Dec. 4, 2009

Dear Sunrise Valley Families,

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, what better time to say “thank you” to all of you who make the Sunrise Valley community so special? So, THANK YOU...

...to the teachers, administrators and staff for their tireless dedication to educating and nurturing our children!

...to the many, many volunteers who enrich the Sunrise Valley experience by assisting in the classroom, shelving library books, coordinating and helping with PTA events & fundraisers, answering phones, making copies, chaperoning field trips, running before- and after-school enrichment programs and so much more!

...to the families, friends, coworkers and neighbors who provide financial support for PTA programs through their generous donations and participation in fundraising activities!

...to the parents and families who attend community-building events, join the PTA, participate in enrichment programs and advocate for education!

Through these collective contributions, Sunrise Valley is much more than a school – it is a truly remarkable community. Thanks for being an active part of it!

Melissa Gifford  
SVES PTA President

## Update on the Budget Crisis

As detailed in our last edition of Sunbeams, Fairfax County and FCPS are facing a substantial budget shortfall for next fiscal/school year. Here's what's happened in the last couple of weeks:

- As of November 24<sup>th</sup>, FCPS updated their list of potential program reductions or eliminations. The proposals are now even more far reaching and devastating. Changes include **increasing class size by 2 students** (up from an increase of 1 student in the November 11<sup>th</sup> proposal) **plus another 2 students in Advanced Academic Programs classes** (for a total of 4 students), and charging student fees for middle school after school programs. The complete list of proposals is on the last page of this newsletter.
- The final set of Community Budget Dialogue Meetings was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting results can be accessed via <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com/a2011-budget/>

The Superintendent's Budget is now being prepared – it's time to share your views with the Superintendent(s), School Board and Board of Supervisors. For more information, including contact information, sample letters and talking points, go to <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com/a2011-budget/>.

## Student Directory Update

The PTA will be publishing an update to the online student directory. If you have any updates or changes to your SVES student directory information, please email them to the directory team at [svesptadirectory@gmail.com](mailto:svesptadirectory@gmail.com). Updates must be received by **Monday, December 14th**.



## Family Movie Night is Tonight!

Please join us tonight - Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - for the **Free Family Movie Night** sponsored by the SVES PTA! We'll watch *The Tale of Despereaux* and munch popcorn with family and friends in the SVES cafeteria. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. Bring a sleeping bag or blanket, a pillow and a water bottle or drink. No drop-offs please. We hope to see you there!



## SVES Chess Club Wins Tournament

Martha's Table received 40 cans of extra food from the Sunrise Valley Chess Club, just in time for Thanksgiving. On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, The US Chess Center held a charity event, hosting 32 schools in Northern Virginia. Twenty-one students from SVES participated and included many who were competing in their first chess tournament. It proved to be a winning combination as SVES won first place, pulling away from a four-way tie. Those participating in the tournament included:

Grade 1 -- Ritesh Shrivastava

Grade 2 -- Jimmy Lowe, Max Deleon, Jess Galliher

Grade 3 -- Joshua Pan, Ritika Shrivastava, Adam Drain, Ryan Ferzoco

Grade 4 -- Ian Cobb, Ben Guo, Druv Sardana, Katie Vintimilla, Jake Hoetmer, Li-pan Wang

Grade 6 -- Oliver Gainer, Jarrett Lee, Kullen Kristky, Nikhil Ramachandran, Stuart Orloff, Kevin Vintimilla, Cullen Kelley

## SVES Girls on the Run



On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, girls from Sunrise Valley will run in the Reindeer Romp 5K race at Reston Town Center. This event represents the culmination of the fall Girls on the Run program. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. and all are welcome to come cheer thousands (yes, thousands!) of young girls and their buddy runners to the finish line - it is quite an event!

## **Inclusive Schools Week Dec. 7-11**

Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference and other factors.



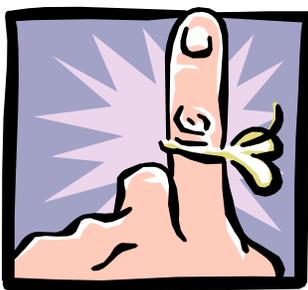
Inclusive Schools Week provides an opportunity for educators, students and parents to discuss what can be improved to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children. Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event sponsored by Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) and Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) as a way of acknowledging the hard work and commitment of teachers, administrators, students, and parents in making their schools more inclusive, and thereby, significantly contributing to the development of a more inclusive society.

The Special Education Committee appreciates the participation of all educators and administrators in this important event. We would especially like to thank the special education teachers for all the hard work they do to help our kids to learn and grow and also to the general education teachers for accepting and welcoming the special education students into their classes and the lives of their students.

We live in such a diverse culture; let's embrace the opportunity to celebrate our similarities! If your child would like to participate, check out the poster contest on the next page.

## **Free Workshop for Parents on New Special Education Regulations**

The Virginia Department of Education will present a free workshop on the new special education regulations from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 at Fairfax High School. This regional workshop is for anyone -- parents, families, friends and advocates of children with disabilities -- who wants to know how these changes impact special education rights, protections and procedures in Virginia. The workshop will be in the Multipurpose Room of the high school, which is located at 9001 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22015. You may register online via survey monkey at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ieDfz4JU2laaAu3ojPPDxQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ieDfz4JU2laaAu3ojPPDxQ_3d_3d). Should you have questions please contact Nicole Brenner, Co-Chair Special Education Committee, SVES PTA at 703.864.0688.



**REMEMBER: When driving on and around school property, please drive slowly, obey parking and traffic signs, and follow procedures for Kiss & Ride and SACC. Our Sunrise Valley neighbors and community will appreciate it!**



# WE BELONG!

**A Disability Awareness Poster Contest  
Sponsored by The Arc of Northern Virginia**



**Prize:**

Bus Ride with The Arc to Richmond, VA on 01/18/10 for a reception, Photo with your poster, Complimentary T-Shirt, Poster displayed on the 7th floor of the General Assembly Building in Richmond, VA for 6-8 week show.

**Questions:**

Please contact Angela Thanyachareon [nthanyacha@aol.com](mailto:nthanyacha@aol.com)

**Deadline:**

**December 23, 2009 at 5:00 pm**

**Mail/Delivery Location:**

**The Arc of NoVA,  
98 N. Washington St,  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
703-532-3214**

**Please put Individual/Team Names,  
address & telephone number**

**Rules:**

**Theme:**

We Belong: People of all disAbilities want to have A Life Like Yours (ALLY). People with all disAbilities want a place to Live, Learn, Work, and Socialize.

**Eligibility:**

Open to the Public for All ages

**Submission Dates:**

December 1 – 23, 2009

**Deadline:**

December 23, 2009 at 5:00 pm

Any media may be used to create a flat or two dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters. Posters size must be 18" x 22" All posters may be created by an individual or team.

The Theme: "We Belong" must be on your poster (Please do not use another title)

Younger children may receive help from parents but most of the work should be done by children.

Posters will be judged by a panel of judges and judged on:

Disability Awareness Message (50%), Visual Effectiveness(30%), Originality (10%), & Universal Appeal (10%)

## KEEP SVES IN MIND DURING YOUR SHOPPING TIME

Thanks to all the members of the Sunrise Valley community for your continued support of our fundraisers! The generous support of these sales by SVES families and friends help fund technology, student enrichment, field trips, staff development, and much more. In the next few issues of Sunbeams, we'll highlight some special opportunities, including **ways to financially support PTA programs that cost you no money** and just a few moments of your time! For questions and more information about PTA fundraising, please send e-mail to [svestafundraising@gmail.com](mailto:svestafundraising@gmail.com) or check <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com> for more details.

### Sally Foster Specials

Sally Foster is offering extra holiday savings on online orders of gifts, gift wrap and more at [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com)! Enter the promo code SF09HOL2 when placing your online order, and you will receive a free gift (valued at \$20) with your order. Remember to specify Sunrise Valley at checkout so that 50% of your sale comes back to SVES PTA! Sally Foster offers free shipping on orders over \$70, and has an online clearance section where prices have been reduced by 50%!

### Grocery Stores

As you stock up your pantry for holiday baking and guests, remember to link your store savings card so that a percentage of your purchase will be donated to SVES! Signing up costs you nothing, and the school has a lot to gain! Encourage your friends and family to designate Sunrise Valley too. You can make a difference every time you shop for the rest of the school year! Go to the links at <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com/fundraising/store-rewards/> to register your Safeway, Giant, Harris Teeter and Target cards.

### Holiday Shopping at the eScrip Online Mall

Did you know you can shop your favorite online stores (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Toys R Us, Nordstrom and more!) for the holidays and earn rebate rewards for Sunrise Valley on all your purchases? Discounts and coupons are also available. Access the eScrip Online Mall at <http://shopping.escrip.com>, login using your Safeway card info, select your favorite stores, and shop as usual. A percentage of your purchase will be credited to SVES. Windows users who download AutoEarn from the Online Mall site can bypass the Online Mall and go directly to the merchant web site - your contributions are made automatically. So bookmark <http://shopping.escrip.com> (and tell family and friends to do the same) and start there for all your holiday shopping needs!

Following is a list of potential program reductions and or eliminations that may be considered as the FY 2011 budget is being developed. This list is the starting point for discussions, and no decisions have been made. This list is not comprehensive and is intended to begin the discussion of the impact of potential reductions that may be required to meet FCPS' projected deficit of \$176 million.

For the latest information on the FCPS budget, please visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm> .

| Program   | Impact   | Position Estimate | Estimate (in millions) |
|---|--|-------------------|------------------------|
| Middle School After School Program                                  | Charge student fees  | 0                 | \$0.2                  |
| Activity and Athletic Fees  | \$100 per sport; per student   | 0                 | \$1.2                  |
| Driver Education  | Eliminate financial support for the administration of behind-the-wheel portions of program | 0                 | \$0.3                  |
| Test Fees for AP, IB, and PSAT                                      | \$75.00 per test for AP and IB; actual cost for PSAT                                       | 0                 | \$2.0                  |
| Alternative High Schools  | Close Pimmit Hills   | 18                | \$1.0                  |
| Class Size  | Increase by two students   | 730               | \$38.2                 |
| Class Size at Advanced Academic Centers – ES & MS                   | Increase by two additional students above the increased general education class size       | 6                 | \$0.4                  |
| Assistant Principals  | 10% reduction  | 40                | \$3.5                  |
| Instructional Supplies  | 15% reduction  | 0                 | \$4.5                  |
| Instructional Assistants  | 20% reduction  | 56                | \$1.5                  |
| Fine Arts   | Eliminate elementary band and strings  | 117               | \$7.0                  |
| Foreign Language Immersion  | Eliminate additional staffing provided to mitigate smaller class sizes at upper grades     | 31                | \$1.4                  |
| Foreign Language in the ES (FLES)                                   | Eliminate program  | 37                | \$2.0                  |
| Full-Day Kindergarten   | Reduce from 101 schools to 32 Title I schools  | 286               | \$13.3                 |
| Modified Calendar (7 schools)                                       | Eliminate General Fund Support   | 7                 | \$0.6                  |
| Excel (20 Schools)  | Eliminate General Fund Support   | 0                 | \$1.2                  |
| Summer School   | Eliminate general education summer school  | 3                 | \$7.8                  |
| Activities and Athletics  | Eliminate all freshman sports plus 2 other sports at all levels                            | 0                 | \$1.8                  |
| Technology Support  | 10% reduction  | 33                | \$2.4                  |
| Teacher Leadership  | Eliminate  | 0                 | \$2.9                  |
| Custodians  | 10% reduction  | 134               | \$3.0                  |
| National Board-Certified Teacher Stipend and Tuition Reimbursements | Eliminate  | 2                 | \$2.4                  |
| Guidance, Psychologists, and Social Workers                         | 10% reduction  | 54                | \$3.1                  |
| Internal Audit  | 40% reduction  | 2                 | \$0.2                  |
| Buses   | Eliminate new bus purchases  | 0                 | \$1.1                  |
| Equipment Replacement Funding                                       | 50% reduction  | 0                 | \$2.0                  |
| Preventive Maintenance  | Eliminate one year of ten-year funded plan   | 10                | \$0.6                  |
| Department Nonschool-Based Staffing                                 | 20% reduction over 3 years; 5% for FY 2011   | 85.0              | \$5.0                  |
| Community Use Fee Increase  | 20%  | 0                 | \$0.2                  |
| Autism Ratios   | Increase student-teacher ratios  | 118               | \$3.1                  |