



# Sunbeams

Sunrise Valley Elementary School  
Parent Teacher Association Newsletter  
Feb. 19, 2010

Dear Sunrise Valley Families,

Wow! What a crazy start to 2010 we've had! Even with all of the snow and cancellations, the Sunrise Valley community has packed in a lot of fun! Our Skate Night with Lake Anne and Terraset Elementary Schools was a blast, we got together for food and fun at Lakeside Inn for a "Destination Dinner", and gathered at Heritage Night to celebrate the diverse traditions of Sunrise Valley. Thank you so much to all of you for supporting these community events and fundraisers by attending, inviting friends, and volunteering your time to help! Thanks especially to the volunteer coordinators who made these events possible - Katie Pieruccini, Alicia Leonard, Joy Onozuka, Kathy Leatherwood, Sumi Vintimilla and Anisha Goveas-Foti.

The fun continues tonight at Bingo Night - a favorite of students and parents! Please join us at school beginning at 6:30 for bingo, desserts, and awesome raffle prizes - it's a great way to reconnect after being snowed in! Another favorite, Show What You Know, is right around the corner on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

At Tuesday's PTA meeting, the school and PTA jointly announced a brand new opportunity for community fun - the Sunrise Valley ES/Fox Mill ES Basketball Challenge, which will be held at South Lakes High School on April 9<sup>th</sup>. This awesome evening and the weeks leading up to it will be jam packed with fun for all, and offers a special opportunity to foster ties with a school that's new to our pyramid! There will be basketball games involving our 6<sup>th</sup> graders and our faculty, cheers and cheerleaders, yummy concessions, and a pep rally - just to name a few. We're looking for folks to lead and support several committees for this event. So if you're interested in getting involved, please email [svesptapres@gmail.com](mailto:svesptapres@gmail.com). And watch for more details in the future!

Melissa Gifford  
SVES PTA President

Visit the PTA website at: [sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com](http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com)



Tired of all the ice and snow?  
Then come join your SVES family  
and friends for a fun night of  
Bingo!

**When:** Tonight!

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

**Where:** SVES gymnasium

**Cost:** \$6 per person

**Questions:** Contact Garen Duchak  
at (garenduchak@yahoo.com).

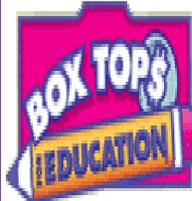
Come out of the cold and have  
some fun!

## Life, Camera, Action!

This year, SVES is offering  
online ordering for the 2009-  
2010 yearbook. Order at  
[www.splendidportraits.com](http://www.splendidportraits.com).  
The SVES Group Image Lo-  
cator Number is 23736108.

**NOTE:** Remember to place  
a separate order for each  
child to ensure proper deliv-  
ery to the classroom (you  
will be asked to enter a ship-  
ping address, but books will  
be delivered to your child at  
school). The cost for year-  
books is \$20 (\$15 plus \$5  
handling) and the order  
deadline is Feb. 28. If you  
have any questions, please  
contact Melissa Smith at  
[smithpack@gmail.com](mailto:smithpack@gmail.com).

## Final Call for Box Tops for Education!



Thank you so much  
for continuing to  
send in your Box  
Tops for Education!

As of February

16th, Sunrise Valley parents  
and friends have clipped  
\$547.20 worth of box tops!

That's so great! Our next box  
top submissions deadline is  
February 23. Please look  
through your pantry and clip  
any additional box tops.



SVES has a wonderful and dedicated  
administrative staff. Unfortunately, the  
parking spots assigned to them are  
usually taken when they come to work.  
Please do not park in the slots next to  
the handicapped permit spots in the  
side parking lot facing the gym. Thank  
you for your cooperation.

# The FCPS Budget Crisis – You Can Make a Difference!



The School Board's Advertised Budget was released on February 4<sup>th</sup> and is being considered by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS). **Please take a few moments this week to email members of the BOS and ask them to fully fund our schools. Time is running out, so please act now!** Your plea and your personal story CAN make a difference! Contact information can be found at <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com/a2011-budget/>.

The FCPS School Board's Budget Forum (rescheduled) will be this Saturday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at Marshall High School in Falls Church. The purpose is to educate the community on how they can participate in the budget process. Learn about the School Board's budget (released Feb. 4), the budget process, and communicating for change. Check the PTA or FCPS website for details.

## SVES Green Team Recycles!

The SVES Green Team sent in the first 128 empty juice packs to TerraCycle in the fall. Since placing a TerraCycle bin in the cafeteria in January, our numbers of juice packs have grown drastically. Another 300 are ready to ship, and an additional batch of about the same number is ready to count and ship. We didn't realize how many of those were packed in lunches!



Please remind your student to empty the juice pack completely (preferably by drinking it all) and throw the straw into the trash. Only then should the empty juice pack be placed in the TerraCycle bin. There is still a bin in the front of the school for you to send juice packs in from sports, scouts, and family use. The Green Team is pleased to be keeping all of these foil pouches out of the waste stream, and we thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Leatherwood at [kleatherwood@fcps.edu](mailto:kleatherwood@fcps.edu).

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\* **JUST OF REMINDER . . . The next DTA meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9** \*  
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## Miraculous Heritage Night 2010

By Kathleen Leatherwood

Nestled between two snow days in an unprecedented winter, Sunrise Valley's Heritage Night sparkled brilliantly on February 4th. Many new families took part as presenters, and others who had shared their traditions and heritages in the past enjoyed being observers this year. Behind an evening of this magnitude are many hard working supporters, without whom Heritage Night would not occur. The Heritage Night Committee (Joy Onozuka, Sumi Vintimilla, Kathy Leatherwood, and Anisha Goveas-Foti) would like to thank the following people who gave of their time and resources to make Heritage Night a success this year.

Key to Heritage Night are our families who share their heritages and traditions with others. We thank all of the 45+ families and friends for stepping forward and showing us a glimpse of your lives and culture this year, not to mention a tasty morsel of its cuisine as well. A suggestion was made that we should have a Sunrise Valley cookbook due to the scrumptious foods present.

Heritage Night would not be the same without the enthusiasm, talents, and perseverance of our incredible music teachers, Ms. Frazier and Mr. Layne. They fashioned our students into performers who delightfully sang in whatever language was given to them, and drummed whatever beat was at hand. The dedication of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade drumming ensembles and our debuting 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus was obvious in their focus and enjoyment of the music they created. Our gratitude for our two music teachers is beyond words. Who else could talk our staff into singing Yakko's World in front of the entire student body and a huge group of parents? We thank Dr. English, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Frederick, Ms. Goveas-Foti, Mrs. Ludwig, Mr. Unser, and Mr. Kidder for their fearless can-do attitude and willingness to sing a wacky but difficult song with spirit and joy.

Another large part of this evening is our volunteer team of teen alumni who return to Sunrise Valley to help set up, guide, usher, clean up, and assist in numerous ways. We extend a huge thank you to Benjamin Dietz, Ryan Galliher, Sam Gifford, Kaylyn and Tyler Macaluso, Michael McDermott, Conor McBride, Andrew and Kathryn McCool, Julia Pascal, Abby Reinhold, Anya Walker, and Katie Wolfe. These former SVES students enthusiastically accepted all tasks we gave them and executed them well.

The Sunrise Valley PTA, Dr. English, and Mrs. Burns have been behind our concept for this evening from the very beginning, and we greatly appreciate their support of our vision. We also extend a special thank you to Mrs. Brotemarkle, Ms. Helsel, Mr. Huffer, and Mr. Montaquila, for attending Heritage Night. Kudos to our classroom teachers, who encouraged our students to express their heritages through projects that proudly adorn the SVES hallways. They will remain in place for all to enjoy for several weeks.

Our fabulous custodians under the direction of Patricia Claggett and Cheryl Harrod not only keep the walkways and parking lots clear and the school tidy and clean, but managed to set up tables, chairs, help with set-up and clean-up, and were ready to quickly fulfill any need. They are our solid foundation for this event as well as for Sunrise Valley.

Heritage Night extends beyond our school walls into the community, and we are so fortunate to have the support of many kind people. This year, in honor of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Generous George's provided the funding for us to have special Frisbees made for each student attending Heritage Night. That kind donation as well as those from Dr. Sears and Dr. Tisseront, made our evening possible. Our Reston neighbor, Hunters Woods ES, once again lent us their international flags to supplement ours. Working together, we support our local businesses and they support us, making that circle even wider where all of our children, with their many cultures, can indeed shine. Heartfelt congratulations to all for an astounding evening!

## **State Special Education Regulations – Evaluation and Reevaluation**

**February 2, 2010**

*This is the second in a series of articles informing parents of changes in the Virginia Special Education Regulations. This article highlights some of the information relating to initial evaluations, evaluations, and reevaluations.*

All children who are suspected of having a disability should be referred to a special education administrator, who shall begin the process of determining whether the student is eligible for special education and related services. 8VAC20-81-60

- Referral for an initial evaluation may be made by any source – the VDOE or any state agency.
- There is a 65 **business** day timeline for completion of the evaluation-eligibility process
- The parent and eligibility group may agree in writing to extend the 65 business day timeline; other exceptions to this timeline are also included.
- This timeline is triggered from the point the special education administrator or designee receives the referral (orally or in writing).

The following are new or amended regulations contained in 8 VAC 20-81-70, which concern evaluations and reevaluations:

- A reevaluation must be completed at least every 3 years, unless the parent and the LEA (Local educational agency) agree it is not necessary.
- The team must determine additional data necessary to determine the child's educational needs, present level of academic achievement, and related developmental needs.
- A provision was added that an LEA is not required to evaluate a child who graduates with a standard or advanced studies diploma, but the parent must receive prior written notice of the change in placement.
- A written copy of the evaluation report must be provided at no cost to the parent either prior to or at the meeting where the eligibility group reviews the evaluation report or immediately following the meeting, but no later than 10 days after the meeting.
- If a student is going onto college from High School, parent must request an independent evaluation or school evaluation because most colleges will not accept an evaluation that is over one year old.

Lori Allred  
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