



Sunbeams

Sunrise Valley Elementary School
Parent Teacher Association Newsletter
March 5, 2010

Dear Sunrise Valley Families,

This coming week marks a significant event in the Fairfax County budget process. On Tuesday, March 9th, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will set the advertised real estate tax rate for the next fiscal year. This advertised rate represents the maximum amount that can be assessed (i.e., the rate can be adjusted downward in the final budget, but cannot be adjusted upward). Since Fairfax County relies predominantly on real estate taxes as a source of revenue for all county programs (including Fairfax County Public Schools), and given the uncertainty surrounding state funding levels for our schools, the setting of this rate has the potential to literally make or break our schools. It's easy to see that with falling real estate values, a steady or decreased tax rate (which was last week's recommendation of the County Executive) will result in decreased revenue.

Fairfax County Public Schools has worked hard in recent months to identify cost cutting measures and alternative revenue sources to support a growing student population and increased costs, but implementation of many of these measures would mean dramatic changes in our exceptional schools. If you support steady or increased revenue as a part of the solution to the budget shortfall, and its impact on our schools, now is the time to email your representative on the Board of Supervisors as well as the Board Chairman, Sharon Bulova. If you wish to share your views with our elected officials, please do so no later than Sunday, March 7. I believe that most of the Sunrise Valley community is represented by Cathy Hudgins – her email is hnrmill@fairfaxcounty.gov. Chairman Sharon Bulova's email address is chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov. Contact information for all of the Board members can be found on the 2011 Budget page of the Sunrise Valley PTA website at <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com/a2011-budget/>.

Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful schools and our children!

Melissa Gifford
PTA President

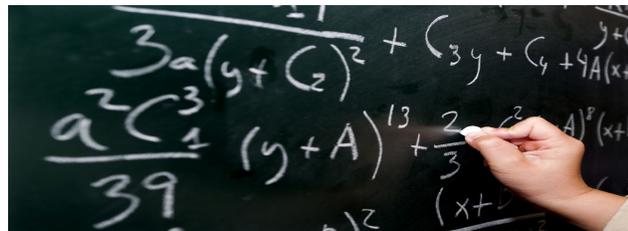
Visit the PTA website at: sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com

PTA Meeting and Special Election on Tuesday, March 9



As previously announced via Keep in Touch and on the PTA website, a vacancy has occurred in the position of SVES PTA President Elect. To fill this position, a special election will be held on Tuesday, March, 7 p.m. (at the next PTA general membership meeting) in accordance with Article VIII, Section 5 of our by-laws. Nominations will be taken from the floor. The elected individual will serve out this year's term as President Elect and assume the role of PTA President in June. PTA members, please join us to cast your vote in this important election.

Spotlight on Math at SVES



Meet the Principal at Langston Hughes Middle School

On Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m., parents of rising 7th graders are invited to meet and hear a presentation by Amy Monticchio, Principal at Hughes Middle School. This event will immediately follow the LHMS PTA meeting which begins at 6 p.m. Parents are invited to attend both the PTA meeting and the Principal's session.



Show What You Know, Sunrise Valley's annual knowledge fair, is Thursday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Come on out and check out the dazzling displays and amazing presentations!



Save the date! Friday, April 9th for the Inaugural Sunrise Valley/Fox Mill ES Basketball Challenge at South Lakes High School! Check your Friday Folders for details.

Green Team's Drink Pouch Brigade

The SVES Green Team continues to count and send juice pouches to TerraCycle. The team packaged another 628 pouches last Friday, bringing our amount up to \$12.76, which we believe is without the last shipment. These numbers are due in great part to our cafeteria bin, which seems to be extremely popular. It's amazing how many juice pouches are 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. If there is still a bit of juice left, please instruct your child to empty the pouch into the trash container. Only then should the empty juice pack be placed in the TerraCycle bin. The bin in the front of the school continues to collect pouches from sports, scouts, and family use, and we have noted that those juice pouches are nicely emptied and without straws. Well done, families!! After working with those sticky pouches in such large numbers, the Green Team is considering writing to Mike Rowe on "Dirty Jobs" to let him know of our endeavor, should he need a new show idea. We'll keep you posted. 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 questions, contact Kathy Leatherwood at kleatherwood@fcps.edu or speak with a Green Team member. Go Green!!

Show Your Sunrise Valley Spirit this Spring!



Those cool new Sunrise Valley t-shirts are on sale now! If you missed out on the fall sale, this is your chance! Order your 30th anniversary t-shirt in tie dye and solid styles, as well as other spirit items, including water bottles, tote bags, magnets, and pre-printed dismissal pads. We also have special 30th anniversary edition Frisbees - new for spring, and just in time for warm weather.

Order forms went out in last week's Friday Folders, and are available online at <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com>. The order deadline is this coming Monday, March 8th. Orders will be delivered in time to show your spirit at the SVES/Fox Mill ES Basketball Challenge on April 9 at South Lakes High School and for the SVES 30th Anniversary festivities later this spring.



Autism Services Parent Workshop

FCPS ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Enhanced Autism Services Parent Monthly Workshop on Tuesday, March 16 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 in Room 4050/4051. Directions and a

map are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5031. The topic is TBD. This workshop is intended for families of students receiving ABA autism services in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools. Please go to <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/ABA> to download the registration form and then fax it to 571-423-4287.

Mooney to speak at FCPS Annual Special Education Conference

The FCPS 5th Annual Special Education Conference: Parents + Educators = Student Success will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 20 at Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150. Go to http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=76 for a map and directions. Nationally renowned public speaker and author, Jonathan Mooney, who struggled in school with a learning disability, will be the keynote speaker. Cathi Cohen and Kirk Martin will also offer workshops for parents and educators along with FCPS staff. For detailed information on the conference go to <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/conference>. This year, the conference will include presentations appropriate for parents and any FCPS staff working with students with disabilities. Please click to respond to this invitation at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FJVGH66>. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Waldron at 703-204-3941 or through email at Elaine.Waldron@fcps.edu.

Workshop topics include:

- Assistive Technology
- Help with Homework
- Reading
- Writing in Content Areas
- Behavior Management
- Preschool Transition
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Services for Language Learners with Disabilities

Information tables include:

- Assistive Technology
- Early Childhood Identification and Services – Child Find
- Fairfax County Disability Services
- Parents of Exceptional Children (POEC)
- Parent Resource Center
- POAC-NoVA
- The ARC of Northern Virginia
- Therapeutic Recreation Services