



# Sunbeams

Sunrise Valley Elementary School  
Parent Teacher Association Newsletter  
March 19, 2010

Dear Sunrise Valley Families,

At last week's PTA meeting, we held a special election to fill the vacancy in the office of President Elect. I'm pleased to announce that Valerie Lister was elected to serve out the remainder of the year as President Elect and to assume the position of PTA President for the 2010-2011 school year. Valerie is well known to many of our Sunrise Valley families as an active and enthusiastic presence not only at our school, but also in the larger Reston community. We are fortunate to have her leadership for the PTA, and I would like to thank Valerie for stepping up to share her time and her talents.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Heather Thomas for her dedication and service to the SVES PTA and community, especially as my "right hand" over the past nine months. I know that Heather's decision to step down from her PTA position was not an easy one. I also know that I am not alone in my respect for Heather and her decision, or my deep gratitude for all that Heather does for our school community – thanks, Heather!

Valerie and Heather are just two of the many amazing PTA volunteers who make a difference in the lives of our children, teachers, and families through student enrichment, advocacy, parent communication and education, community-building, financial support, and more. Over the coming months, the PTA nominating committee will be putting together our slate of volunteers for the 2010-2011 school year. If you are interested in getting more involved, now is the time! New ideas and new energy are needed to keep our community moving forward, and there are a variety of volunteer opportunities available for folks with all types of skills, interests and time commitments. To volunteer or find out more, please contact Valerie Lister at [svesptapreselect@gmail.com](mailto:svesptapreselect@gmail.com).

I hope that everyone has a safe, restful and enjoyable Spring Break, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Sunrise Valley vs. Fox Mill Basketball Challenge at South Lakes High School on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. This event will be a great way to get back in the swing after break, and promises to be a blast for the whole family! See you there!

Sincerely,  
Melissa Gifford  
PTA President

*A volunteer is needed to fill in for Valerie Lister (the new PTA President Elect) as PTA Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary produces the bi-weekly Sunbeams newsletter using Microsoft Publisher. If you know Publisher and are interested in helping for the next few months, please contact Melissa Gifford at [svesptapres@gmail.com](mailto:svesptapres@gmail.com).*

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

## ***We're Playing Basketball . . .***

Come support our faculty and 6th grade teams as they compete in the Sunrise Valley vs. Fox Mill Basketball Challenge Friday April 9 at South Lakes High School. This evening of fun for the whole family will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature a faculty game, 6th grade girls game and 6th grade boys game.



There will be halftime entertainment and the concession stand, which opens at 5:30 p.m. will be stocked with food, including Chik-Fil-A sandwiches, pizza, candy and baked goods. And don't forget to bring your school spirit! Dress your family in SVES spirit wear and cheer the teams to victory. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$3 each. They will be \$5 at the door. Please make checks payable to SVES PTA. All students attending the games must be accompanied by an adult.



To make sure that we can feed all the hungry players and fans, we are taking part in a Bake Sale that will be part of our food concessions for the night. For a lot of fans, we will need a lot of donations! If you can help by contributing a baked treat with or without nuts (prepackaged into single serving portions), please email Kevin Wolcott ([kevin\\_wolcott@gensler.com](mailto:kevin_wolcott@gensler.com)) by **Wednesday, March 24**. *If you're sure your donation is 100 percent nut-free, please label it as such.* Any money raised at this event by the SVES PTA will be used to support student enrichment, technology, staff development, and other PTA-sponsored programs and activities that mean so much to the SVES community.



## **Chess Club Garner's More Honors**

Ten members of the SVES Chess Club participated in the Virginia Scholastic and Collegiate Championships March 12-14 in Blacksburg and brought back four team trophies. In the K-12 Blitz section, SVES finished fourth. SVES picked up an 8th place in the K-8 section and 13th in both the K-5 and K-3 sections. SVES Chess Club members in this tournament included:

1st Grader: Kaliyana Haering ( Part of K-3 Team)

3rd Graders: Adam Drain and Nitin Ramachandran ( Part of K-3 Team)

4th Grader: Ben Guo ( Part of K-5 Team)

5th Grader: Shiling Zhao ( Part of K-5 Team)

6th Graders: Oliver Gainer, Stuart Orloff, Jarrett Lee, Meredith Lee and Nikhil Ramachandran (Part of K-8 Team and K-12 Blitz).

Individual honors were awarded to the top 20 in each section Shiling Zhao finished 9th out of 120 in the K-5 section while Oliver Gainer placed 12th out of 114 in the K-8 section. Members of the fourth place winning K-12 Blitz tournament are: Oliver Gainer, Jarrett Lee, Ben Guo, Nikhil Ramachandran and Nitin Ramachandran.



## **State Special Education Regulations – Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)**

*This is the third in a series of articles informing parents of changes in the Virginia Special Education Regulations. This article highlights some of the information related to a student's right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)*

FAPE must be provided to children who need special education and related services, aged two to 21, who are found eligible and who reside within the jurisdiction of each local educational agency (LEA).

Services provided to the child shall address all of the child's special education and related service needs; however, FAPE is based on the child's "unique needs and not . . . the child's disability." 8VAC20-81-100(1)(a) and (b).

Each LEA shall attempt to make available to children with disabilities a similar variety of educational programs that are available to children without disabilities. Some examples are art, music, consumer and homemaking education, and vocational education.

LEA's may not limit ESY (Extended School Year) services to the summer only.

Use of school-purchased or leased assistive technology devices may be made available to the child for use at home.

Bus transportation for students with disabilities must be comparable in length to those of students without disabilities unless the IEP team determines otherwise. This will eliminate the excessive travel times for children with disabilities. Many parents have experienced issues during the ESY – summer session.

LEA's are responsible for ensuring that children are protected from disability harassment. This harassment must affect the child's access to FAPE. Bullying is not considered disability harassment unless it is related solely to the child's disability.

Lori Allred  
Special Education Co-Chair  
Allreds5513@yahoo.com

***\*\*The Special Education Committee wants to reach parents of students in Special Education classes. Please email Lori Allred or Nicole Brenner if you would like some information or support with the school system or want information concerning community events. We want to help all parents\*\****