



Sunbeams

Sunrise Valley Elementary School • Parent Teacher Association Newsletter • April 9, 2010

Dear Sunrise Valley Families,

This week I've been reminded over and over just how special Sunrise Valley ES and the South Lakes Pyramid are. We're part of an active and vibrant community dedicated to children and families in our neighborhood and well beyond it.

On Monday afternoon at Kindergarten Orientation, Valerie Lister and I had the opportunity to welcome new children and families to our community and to hear our dedicated staff talk about the amazing ways they support our children here at SVES. On Monday evening, I participated in a planning meeting for a new program, called Rising Stars Transition Program, that's being launched throughout the South Lakes Pyramid this spring. This program focuses on easing the transition of 6th graders (and their parents) to middle school, encouraging them to "dream big", and promoting academic success as a way to achieve those dreams (see article on page 2).

On Tuesday, Valerie and I were invited to attend a meeting of the Sunrise Valley 30th Anniversary Planning Committee. This energetic and creative group of teachers and parents has been working since last spring to plan events to commemorate this milestone, including a school-wide art project, an evening showcasing the talents of our students, and a charity 5K walk/run (see article on page 3 or see the Sun Times for more details). In addition, the teachers have generously offered to create "themed baskets" for a special raffle, the proceeds from which will be used to support PTA programs like student enrichment, technology, and the arts.

Tonight we're looking forward to a fun night of basketball at South Lakes HS! Our Sunrise Valley faculty and 6th graders will be taking on teams from Fox Mill ES, and our faculty and student cheer squads will be leading us in spirited support! It's a great chance to get together with our SVES friends and make some new friends from Fox Mill. We hope to see you there! Finally, next Tuesday, following our monthly PTA meeting, we'll hear about a very special way that our children are reaching out to other children as Larry and Eileen Kugler share information about the library SVES is helping create in a South African school. We hope you'll join us for that as well!

Sincerely,

Melissa Gifford
PTA President

Please note: there will be no FLEX Foreign Language Classes held on Monday, April 12th—the snow make-up day.

PTA Meeting and Spotlight on Learning

The next PTA general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the SVES Library. Immediately following the meeting, we'll hear about Sunrise Valley's Book Drive to benefit AV Bukani Elementary in Addo, South Africa. Northern Virginia educators, Eileen and Larry Kugler, will share information about efforts to create a library for the school and how the SVES community will help. As always, free childcare will be provided.

See You Tonight at the Basketball Challenge!

Join us tonight for a fun family evening! The first 60 kids to check in at the SVES ticket table will receive a free mini foam finger.

If you purchased admission in advance, check in at the ticket table to have your hand stamped. If you didn't purchase in advance, admission is \$5 at the door.

Spirit items will be available for purchase, including pom-poms and a limited number of SVES t-shirts. Concessions open at 5:30, so come for dinner (pizza, Chick-Fil-A, etc.).

Opening ceremonies start at 6:00 and the games begin at 6:15. Be there to cheer on the 6th grade boys, 6th grade girls, and your favorite teachers & staff with the help of our student and faculty cheer squads!



Go SVES!

Check out more SVES PTA news at <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com>

Budget News

This week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held public hearings on the fiscal year 2011 budget. Many citizens advocated for our schools and children at these meetings, and urged the BOS to preserve the programs that make our schools exceptional and thus make Fairfax County a great place to live and work. In addition, the School Board formally presented the advertised budget to the BOS. You can find the School Board's presentation, the budget itself, and other valuable budget information on the web at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm> and via the PTA website at <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com>.

Over the next several weeks, the BOS will decide how much funding will be provided to FCPS for next fiscal year. Now is the time to contact members of the Board of Supervisors to urge their support for our schools. You can reach Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor, at hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov and Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the BOS, at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov. These and other email addresses are on the PTA web site.

Attention Parents of Rising 7th Graders!

The Rising Stars Transition Program is designed to ease the transition of 6th graders (and their parents) to middle school, encourage them to "dream big," and promote academic success as a way to achieve those dreams.

This new program, conducted in partnership with George Mason University and other local businesses, is being rolled out to the entire South Lakes Pyramid this year, including our Sunrise Valley 6th graders.

On Wednesday, May 12th, the 6th grade students will be treated to an inspiring day of workshops, presentations, and panel discussions at GMU's Fairfax campus. The following evening, Thursday, May 13th, at 7:00 p.m. it's your turn! Parents and guardians of all 6th grade students in the South Lakes

Pyramid are encouraged to attend the Rising Stars Parent Meeting at South Lakes High School. You'll learn about your child's experience the previous day, hear directly from Langston Hughes MS and South Lakes HS students about the transition to middle school and beyond, and get information on a variety of helpful resources and programs as your child and family make the transition from elementary school. Mark your calendar, and watch for more details coming soon!



Art Show Featuring Works by Langston Hughes MS Students

The art show featuring works produced by Langston Hughes Middle School students will be displayed in the visitors lobby at USGS in Reston from April 5 –April 30. Stop by during visiting hours (9 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays) to view and even purchase the artwork.

There will be a reception for this annual art show on Thursday, April 15, 2010 from 7:00–8:30 p.m. at USGS in Reston. The public is invited to attend.

This is a great way for rising 7th graders to see what they have to look forward to in middle school art and they can see artwork created by friends who are already at middle school.

A First Class Teacher

Congratulations to Erin Harlan, M.Ed. BCABA, Special Education Teacher at Sunrise Valley Elementary School. She was nominated by parents of her students for a First Class Service Award and won!

The Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) handed out First Class Service Awards at the 5th Annual Special Education Conference on March 20th. These awards go to individuals who have gone "above and beyond" to provide inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities.

Ms. Harlan was one of only three recipients for Fairfax County, and the only teacher in FCPS to be recognized (the other FCPS recipients were an administrator and a program). We are so fortunate to have her at Sunrise Valley, and so very proud of this recognition of her service to the SVES children and community!



Happy Anniversary to SVES!

Sunrise Valley turns 30 this year and we're celebrating with two major events.

On Thursday, April 29th, the Sunrise Valley school community will host *Stars of Sunrise*. The event will begin at 6:00 with a dessert reception, Reflections art exhibit, and a themed basket raffle. At 7:00, a variety show will feature entertainment from our talented students on stage in the cafeteria.

On Saturday, May 1st, the 10th Annual *SVES Charity 5K Walk/Run* will be held at the corner of South Lakes/Preston White & Sunrise Valley. The walk/run will benefit Hopecam, a charity that brings home-bound students in Fairfax County together with their classmates and teachers through technology.

Parents and students are invited to attend these special events to celebrate 30 years of excellence at SVES. Your help will also be needed in the next few weeks to make the events a success. Here's how you can help:

- Watch for information to come home about contributing to a themed basket for your child's class and contribute an appropriate item.
- Volunteer to provide baked goods for the dessert reception.
- Show your support for our talented students by attending the Stars of Sunrise event.
- Buy raffle tickets and possibly win a themed basket!
- Register and participate in the 5K Walk/Run.

For more information on these events, visit the PTA website at <http://sunrisevalleypta.webnode.com>



Stars of Sunrise

2009 – 2010 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

All parents of school-aged children and youth who receive special education services in Virginia's schools are encouraged to complete the Department of Education's annual Parent Involvement Survey. This is a great opportunity for parents to provide input to help guide efforts to improve services and outcomes for their children. Your responses will be kept anonymous and never be personally linked to your child. The results of this survey will be made available to the public.

The survey will be available from April 5, 2010 to September 30, 2010.

This online survey can be found at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Parent-Involvement-2010E>

If you are unable to take the survey online, your child's school will provide paper versions for your use. All paper versions of the survey will include a pre-addressed postage paid return envelope. All responses will be sent directly to the Virginia Department of Education.

If you have any questions concerning the Parent Involvement Survey, call Gloria Dalton (Gloria.Dalton@doe.virginia.gov) at the Virginia Department of Education at (804) 371-7420.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta relacionada con la encuesta acerca de la Participación de los Padres o desea una copia de la encuesta en Español, por favor llame al Centro de Padres que abogan por la Educación Especial de sus Hijos (PEATC) al 1-800-869-6782

