



# Sequoyah Sequoyah

## Dates to Remember

### Holidays

New Year's Day

Fri, Jan 1st

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, Jan. 18th



### PTA meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 5th 7PM

### Reading Night

Thursday, Jan. 14th 7PM

### Market Day Pick-ups

Wednesday, Jan. 20th 7-8PM

### End of Marking Period/ Semester

Monday, Jan. 22nd

### Professional Day

No school for students

Monday, Jan. 25th



### Author Visit

Tuesday, Jan. 26th

Fred Bowen, gr. 4/5



### Market Day Contact:

Brenda Young

Phone: (301) 947-2688

Email:

BrendaYoung722@comcast.net

Place an order online at **MarketDay.com**, or submit a paper order form prior to the due dates.



## Sequoyah Elementary

### From Our PTA President

#### PROUD

It's a term that's probably not used enough. We speak about how proud we are of our accomplishments; how proud we are of our children; how proud we are of our school; how proud we are of each other.

It's the recognition by others that propels us forward - the motivation to propel us to reach new heights - the satisfaction of a job well done and the notice given by others; the desire to come back and outperform what we just completed.

It hit home for me when I attended International night. How proud I was to see how many parents volunteered so much time and energy to make this a spectacular night. The accomplishment of so many different folks who responded to exhibit the diversity of our school and

to educate all about the makeup of who we really are - the quality of their presentations and the aroma of their food; the beauty that variety creates.

As I finished the tour around the school, I saw one of the organizers and expressed my pleasure at just how great the event was. Her response was simple - I'm proud to be a part of this school and to help out. The message was clear - she was willing to give whatever of herself because of the love for the school - not the brick and mortar building - but the students, the staff, the people associated with Sequoyah Elementary School.

Perhaps we all can take a moment to realize just what "proud" means to us and how we see it every day in our school. We think of how much we have accomplished during the first

January/February 2010



Sequoyah Elementary School  
17301 Bowie Mill Rd.  
Derwood MD 20855

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/sequoyahes/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/sequoyahes/)

few months of this year. How much our teachers and staff have given to our children. How much our parents have contributed to make this the best year ever. How much we have achieved and how to we map out where we want to finally arrive at.

#### Proud - Not just Proud - Sequoyah Proud.

Have a great holiday season and please be safe as you spend time with your loved ones!

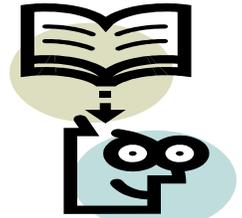
Jacques Croom,  
PTA President

## HAVE A WONDERFUL WINTER BREAK AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

### Reading Night Wednesday, January 14 6:30PM

The date for Reading Night is Thursday, January 14, 2010 from 6:30-7:30. We will be arranging for some Spanish interpreters in hopes of including more families. The reading committee members have been working very hard at preparing reading activities using the theme of their favorite children's authors.

We will be highlighting the works of Eve Bunting, Jan Brett, Cynthia Rylant, Langston Hughes, Peter Reynolds, Ezra Jack Keats, and Chris Van Allsburg. There will be prizes, homework passes, reading activities, and read alouds by your favorite teachers.



Any questions please call or email

Beth Deigan: 301 840 5335

[Elizabeth\\_M\\_Deigan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Elizabeth_M_Deigan@mcpsmd.org)

**Come one, come all and join us for a night of learning fun.**

For more information contact: Beth Deigan at [Elizabeth\\_M\\_Deigan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Elizabeth_M_Deigan@mcpsmd.org)

## Seven Keys to College Readiness



Key 1: Read at advanced levels in Grades K-2



Key 2: Score “advanced” in reading on the Maryland School Assessment in Grades 3-8



Key 3: Complete advanced math in Grade 5



Key 4: Complete Algebra 1 by Grade 8 with a “C” or higher



Key 5: Complete Algebra 2 by Grade 11 with a “C” or higher



Key 6: Score 3 on an AP exam or 4 on an IB exam



Key 7: Score 1650 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT

### First Key of College Readiness:

#### Key 1: Read at advanced levels in Grades K-2

The first key will give students the strong foundation they will need for all learning that follows. In the early grades, students read and comprehend levels of text that vary in difficulty. **In kindergarten** students who can read Level 6 books by the end of the year are reading at advanced levels. **By the end of 1st grade**, students should be reading Level 16 books. **In 2nd grade**, students who score in the 70th percentile or

higher on the reading section of a national test called the TerraNova 2 are reading at advanced levels. Scoring at the 70th percentile means that they perform better than 70% of students nationwide.



#### Websites related to the First Key:

Key 1 Website (MCPS)

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/keys/key1.shtm>

Helping your child become a better reader:

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html>

Tips for future Kindergarteners:

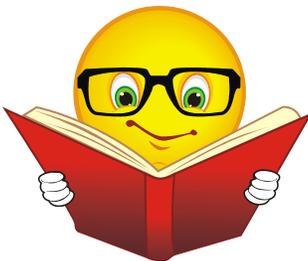
[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/earlychi/parent\\_tips.shtm](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/earlychi/parent_tips.shtm)

Questions to ask the teacher:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/keys/questionstoask.shtm>

### Readers' Corner with Mrs. Deigan

The cold winter months are the best by far to curl up with a good book. Reading is a great way to increase your child's vocabulary. Be sure to talk about the ideas and new words you come across when you read together. Use the new words in your daily conversations with your child. Your child might even want to start “collecting” new words in a journal. If you're looking for some interesting titles to pick up at the public library this season, here is a few of the titles of Children's Favorites of 2009;



Primary:

[The Pigeon Wants a Puppy](#) by Mo Willems,  
[Who Ate all the Cookie Dough?](#) by Karen Beaumont,

[Those Darn Squirrels!](#) by Adam Rubin,  
[Sally and the Purple Socks](#) by Liszc Bechtold.

Upper Elementary:

[How to Speak Cat & How to Speak Dog](#) by Sarah Whitehead,  
[Titanicat](#) by Marty Crisp,

[Car Science: An Under the Hood; Behind the Dash Look at Cars](#) by Richard Hammond.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Deigan

## **Math Night— a resounding success!!!!**

Sequoyah held its first Math Night for students and their families on Wednesday, December 9th. Math problems were posted along the walls in the kindergarten and first grade hall. Activities were held in four classrooms on the second floor.

Our own Dr. Jasper walked around snapping candid photos of parents and students hard at work trying to solve various problems. It was refreshing, albeit amusing, to watch parents as they crouched with their students using collective brain power to solve problems using today's mathematical techniques. Students definitely became the teachers as they explained processes and organizational strategies to their parents.

Our kindergarten students challenged their parents as they sought help for problems usually reserved for second and third graders. Their perseverance these students showed is a testament to their desire to learn and belief they can do whatever they put their minds to. Let us continue to foster this attitude in ALL our students!

Math problems focused on estimation, geometry, addition, graphing, subtraction, and other topics taught in school. Teacher volunteers put together activities that infused real world skills into problem solving. On the second floor students used their estimations skills to learn how shop within a budget—these activities were amongst the most popular.

### Testimonials

*Hello,*

*Just wanted to send a quick email to compliment you on the fun,*

*well-organized event! I've never heard of a "Math Night" and it was everything and more than I would have thought. My kids loved it and were really excited when we left. They kept talking about all the various problems, puzzles and activities that they had worked on. Great work!*

*Thank you for taking the initiative to plan and execute this very worthy event.*

*A big THANK YOU to all of you who were involved in the planning and coordination of last night's math event. It was a hit with our girls. They loved it. It was educational, fun, challenging, interesting and family oriented. Thank you so very much for taking the time to make this event happen. Your time, dedication and long hours were worth it. Let everyone know that it is truly and sincerely appreciated it. Our only request is that more than one hour is necessary to truly enjoy and engage in the activities.*

*Again, MUCHAS GRACIAS (THANK YOU).*



## **PARENTS ROCK !!!!!**

To the Parents of the Sequoyah Community,

We sincerely thank you for your labor of love and support toward us during the week of December 14 - 18, 2009. It is a true pleasure to serve in an environment where our efforts are recognized, appreciated, and rewarded.

Your gift allowed us pause for reflection and enjoyment of the camaraderie that has made us more like family here at the school. It is always refreshing to take time to appreciate all that we have in one another and within ourselves.

We trust your holiday was pleasant and look forward to continuing our community of collaboration with you in the coming months and beyond.

Sincerely,



**Enthusiasm is the genius  
of sincerity, and truth  
accomplishes no  
victories without it. -  
Edward Bulwer-Lytton**

## Cultural Arts

The Lesole's Dance Project will be coming to Sequoyah Friday December 8, 2009 for the school's first Cultural Arts assembly for the school year. The whole school will attend the performances which introduce students to South African cultural dance and storytelling. Dancing through South Africa is divided into a

three-part program that emphasizes the role of dance in promoting a deeper understanding and acceptance among people of different backgrounds and cultural traditions. The group will demonstrate three different types of dances: Ndlamu – traditional Zulu/tribal dance; Gumboot – a dance the

originated in the diamond mines; and Pantsula – modern social/hip-hop dance.

It was a great mixture of music and dance - be sure to ask your student about the assembly! This program is possible by your generous support of the PTA.



## Art Corner



During quarter 1 in the art room, students focused largely on careful observation to create 2-dimensional drawings, collages, and paintings. Kindergarteners explored a variety of materials as they made monster

drawings, paper butterflies, leaf rubbings, and shape castles. They have begun learning the Elements of Art, beginning with colors and lines, and now concentrating on shapes and textures. Our 1<sup>st</sup> graders have had an in depth study of paper sculpture techniques, making paper masks, autumn tree collages, and origami fish in a tissue paper sea. Using Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* as a guide, both

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students measured correct facial feature placement and proportion. They carefully drew realistic self-portraits with the aid of mirrors. Building upon their science curriculum, 4<sup>th</sup> graders invented new animals to survive in Earth's habitats. They created informative illustrations of these animals and wrote descriptions of their behavior and appearance, using John James Audubon as inspiration. Currently they are using their Social Studies knowledge in art class to help them create decorative and functional rattles inspired by those in Native American cultures. 5<sup>th</sup> graders took a mental journey to medieval times as they created their own personal coats of arms full of symbols expressing

their personalities, interests, and values. They are now concentrating on architecture, drawing Russian style onion domes in winter city scenes. This quarter, students were given time to complete an artwork relating to the theme "Beauty is. . .", enabling motivated students to enter the PTA Reflections contest. We are eagerly waiting to hear the results of the contest! All students should be proud of their unique vision of beauty!

As we approach January and February, the art curriculum will begin to shift from 2-dimensional works to 3-dimensional creations. All grade levels will explore clay techniques and create innovative ceramic masterpieces!

## Let's Get Physical

We will have our P.A.C.E.R. (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run) test in P.E. during the month of January. The P.A.C.E.R. is a multistage fitness test that is a 20 meter (21 yards 32 inches) shuttle run. The test is progressive; it is easy at the beginning and gets harder as you go along.

Aerobic capacity is the most important area of any fitness program. Research clearly indicates that acceptable levels of aerobic capacity are associated with a reduced risk of high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, obesity, diabetes, some forms of cancer and other health problems.

Mr. Tracy Martin



We make a living by what  
we get, but we make a  
life by what we give.  
~Norman Mac Finan

## News from the Media Center



Parents, teachers, staff, and students, you should be excited! This year's theme for the Reflections program is "Beauty is...". Time to bring your imagination to life.

Students, let's show off your artistic talent with Visual Arts. Reveal your inspiring thoughts From the Library Media Center:

Please visit [www.PebbleGo.com](http://www.PebbleGo.com) with your students. MCPS has purchased this resource for school and home

use. It is a wonderful animal database that reads to the students. It features more than 200 animal articles correlated to life science standards, animal audio and video, carefully leveled text, educational games, and innovative read-aloud capabilities. Use your Internet browser to visit: [www.PebbleGo.com](http://www.PebbleGo.com) and at the login screen use this information -- Username: **sequoyah** and Password: **school**. Enjoy!  
Janet Reber, Media Specialist



## From our nurse, Mrs. Ruffner

Please remember to:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, OR
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- Put used tissues into a trash can right away. Don't set them on your desk or other surfaces.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing. Wash with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

If you or a family member gets the flu:

- Stay home from school or work if you have a fever greater than 100 ° and have either a cough or sore throat.
- You may not return to school until you are fever-free for at least 24 hours and that means without taking fever-reducing medications.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Get plenty of rest
- Drink clear fluids

And, finally, this is extremely important. Be sure you provide us with up-to-date phone numbers in case your child becomes sick while in school.

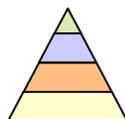
## Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports—PBIS

Do you know the Sequoyah Pledge? Your student does! Do you know what happens when your student's name is called on the morning announcements for great PBIS behavior? Your student does!

Have you seen the new PBIS board in the front hallway with the gorgeous horse painted by Ms. Burk? Your student has!

What is a "green slip"? Your student knows!

If you haven't gotten an update on how we recognize great behavior here at Sequoyah, make sure you ask your son or daughter. Then, reinforce these expectations with matching ones at home. Everyone benefits from consistency and high expectations. The Sequoyah Community appreciates all the support.



## Counselor's Corner with Mr. Plaisance

Our Guidance and Counselor program this year has an overall Focus on building "Self Advocacy" Skills. Grade K and 1 will focus on a program with the "I Care Cat" Puppet. We will work on skills to improve our Listening, Cooperation, Respect, Responsibility, and Team work. Grade 2 and 3 will focus on the Unit of "Making and Keeping Friends". (For ex. What are the character traits of your ideal friend?; What do you offer in a friendship?; How to handle teasing?; How to give and accept compliments, and friendship problem solving skills). Grade 4 and 5 will focus on a Bully Prevention Program- "Stand Up for Yourself" (Skills to handle bullying situations). Also, we will focus our attention on the seven traits of highly successful students and internet safety. In addition, our school participated in "Red Ribbon Week" in October. We emphasized the importance of saying "NO" to drugs. The overall emphasis was placed on the importance of making healthy life-style choices.

## Classroom Notes

### KINDERGARTEN



We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable winter break. January is a very busy month in kindergarten. We hope everyone comes back refreshed and ready to get to work!

We will be reviewing second marking period concepts. Story elements, text connections, odd and even, skip counting, and beginning place value concepts will be reviewed, remediated, and enriched as needed based upon student needs.

The administration of our winter mClass reading assessments will begin on the 11<sup>th</sup>. This testing will continue through the beginning of February, as students are assessed individually. Reading groups will continue on a modified schedule.



### FIRST GRADE

The first grade wants to welcome you to 2010! We are so excited to be back and we are ready to work hard after our winter break. We are starting our next author unit. It is Eric Carle. We will consider Eric Carle's characters and the traits he gives his characters when reading books such as The Grouchy Ladybug, The Busy Spider, and The Lonely Firefly. Look for an exciting project to celebrate African American history month. We will read informational books describing important people and the contributions they have made. In math, we will explore numeration and place value. Keep practicing addition and subtraction math facts. In science we are studying weather including clouds, precipitation, wind and temperature. In social studies, we are learning about natural, capital and human resources. Be sure to join us on Thursday, January 14, for our school wide Reading Night!



### SECOND GRADE

In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, students are working to finish the second math unit. Most students are working on geometry; identifying attributes for plane and solid shapes and congruent figures. Other students are working on measurement, including perimeter and area. In social studies, it's been really eye-opening to see how differently pilgrim children lived and how pilgrims worked with Native Americans to survive in America. We're also learning the comprehension strategy of identifying "in the text" vs. "in my head" questions and answers. When we write answers, it's important to write in *complete sentences!*

### THIRD GRADE

In math, Unit 3 will cover multiplication and division therefore it is imperative that the students know their basic addition and subtraction facts. The third unit will also have a lot of word problems therefore the students will need to take their time when reading each story; we will now be working with four operations versus two therefore being focused will be a necessity for success. Also, students will be exposed to variables in open numeric sentences as well as the order of operations. In reading, we will wrap up our study of informational texts by examining different types of texts used to perform a task. We will use our knowledge of text to evaluate the clarity of these types of texts. Then, as part of reading for literary experience, we will begin our study of folktales by identifying important characteristics found in many folktales. We will continue an-



swering different types of BCRs to improve our written responses. For the remainder of the quarter, the students will be writing informational paragraphs focusing on two of the 6+1 traits of writing, ideas and organization. They will be using the internet and nonfiction books, as well as other resources, to research their topic. They will also be incorporating text features to help their readers understand their writing.



### FOURTH GRADE

Fourth graders will continue to be very busy this winter. We are studying the elements of historical fiction in Reading and also learning more about various Native American tribes in Social Studies. We are continuing our investigation of pollution and the Chesapeake Bay and some students are reading *Waterman's Boy* as a supplement to the Science curriculum while others are creating an informational report about ecosystems from around the world. Unit 2 of the Math curriculum involves basic facts, function tables, and expressions using parenthesis. The fourth grade teachers would like to invite parents to practice math facts with their students at night to keep their skills sharp.

### FIFTH GRADE

Poetry will continue to be the focus during the month of January. Students will identify simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration and how the poet uses these literary devices to convey meaning. Through a collection of short stories written by various authors, students will identify theme, mood, tone, and author's purpose.

Students will "travel" west, starting with the 13 original colonies and moving over the Appalachian Mountains and across the ever expanding United States. How the United States acquired these large amounts of land and the reasons that various travelers spent up to 6 months to go to their new homes will be explored.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science:** Did you know that with a battery and a few wires you can make a compass needle point all sorts of directions? In January, we will conclude the unit on electricity and magnetism. Now that we have learned about the flow of electrons and mastered circuit building we are ready to learn about magnetism and how it relates to electricity.

We will explore the strength of magnets, design and conduct experiments magnetism, investigate the effects of electric current on objects sensitive to magnetic forces, and even build an electromagnet.

**Math 5:** Let's sharpen our pencils; it's time to do some computation! In January we are strengthening our skills in the four basic operations in math; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. We will especially be reviewing long division and multiplying by 2-digit factors.

We are also working on developing decimal and fraction skills. We will name, order, and evaluate decimals. We will apply decimal skills to using money and to measuring in metric units. We will evaluate fractions and order them, add and subtract fractions, and understand how to estimate fraction sums and differences.



**Math 6:** How many different ways can we calculate a restaurant tip? We will explore this skill and others skills relating to percentages, proportions and ratios in Math 6. In January we will continue with Unit 2, which building on our skills of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers. We will apply fractions to measuring with customary units and decimals to using money and measuring with metric units. We will use the principle of equivalent fractions to solve ratio problems. We will also perform basic operations with integers and compare integer and whole number patterns. Wow! We will be busy!

