



# Sequoyah Signal

December 2010

## Dates to Remember

### December Events

**Picture Re-Take Day**  
**Restaurant Night @ Ledo's—No Homework Night**  
December 2

**PTA Meeting**  
December 7th 7PM

**Market Day Pick-up**  
Wednesday, Dec. 8th

**Barnes & Noble Book Fair**  
Dec. 10th 6:30PM - 8PM

**First Grade to Woodlawn Manor** Dec. 15th 9:30 -12:30

**Winter Concert**  
Dec. 16th 7PM - 8PM  
(Rain date Dec 21)

**Winter Break**  
No School  
December 24 – December 31



Sequoyah Elementary School  
17301 Bowie Mill Rd.  
Derwood MD 20855  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)

**Market Day Contact:**  
Scott Trickey  
scott.trickey3@gmail.com

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

## Sequoyah Elementary

### PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING - "And I Mean It!" --- Making your Word Gold

How many times have you heard a parent give an order to a child and then add, "Do you understand me?" Children can't wait to hear a parent talk like that because it means they have reached the end of their rope. The parent has once again reduced his or her authority through hollow, meaningless words.

This happens each time we make statements that can't be enforced- when we tell a child what to do or not do, than what we will do. In cases where parents frequently make unenforceable statements, children learn they do not have to do whatever the parent says or asks. Parental authority is undermined as children test the limits, act out and feel a general lack of control.

Some parents do not have

these problems because their word is gold. They understand that they actually have control over themselves and no one else. The art of making enforceable statements involves talking about ourselves and what we will allow, what we will do, or what we will provide. For example:

Unenforceable: "Don't talk to me like that!"

Enforceable: "I'll be glad to listen when your voice is as soft as mine."

Unenforceable: "Study NOW, young man!"

Enforceable: "Feel free to join us for some TV when you are finished."

Unenforceable: "Be nice to each other. Don't fight."

Enforceable: "You're both welcome to be around me when you're not fighting."

Unenforceable: "As long as

you live in this house, you won't be drinking alcoholic beverages."

Enforceable: "When I no longer have to worry about alcohol use, I'll let you use my car."

Parents who make only those statements which they can and do enforce, raise children who believe their parents mean what they say. Their children seldom test limits.

This technique needs practice. You might try, "Hey kids. From now on you need to know that I will be giving you dessert when you protect your teeth by brushing." It's much easier to withhold treats than to cram a toothbrush in a child's mouth!

Cline/Fay Institute, 1989

### PTA's Scholastic Book Fair

Hooray to all our Heroes at the PTA's Fall Book Fair. Thanks to everyone's support, we raised almost \$1700 for the PTA and over \$500 for our Media Center based on our sales. Our *One For Books* contest was a big hit with the students. They must be eager to see their Assistant Principal Curry be covered in whip cream. Thanks to the students and Mr. Curry's good heart, we have raised over \$100 for One for Books. All monies raised goes directly to our Media Center to support reading programs and Scholastic will match funds raised for it's charities. The honor of covering Mr. Curry in whip cream goes to Ms. Stief's class. Congratulations Sequoyah students, you've done a wonderful job!

Thank you to all these families who lent a hand at this fall's Book Fair. This year's list of parent volunteers helping out at the Book Fair was nothing short of heroic. Not only did we have a number of new families lending a hand, all the old familiar names came back as always to support Sequoyah ES and it's PTA. We certainly could not have done it without you: The Koehns, Camerons, Grandes, Perry's, Martins, Motleys, Rahrs, Nobles, Starost, Robbins, Clarkes, Suttons, Hoff's, Francis, Walshes, Zannis, Awans, Cannettis, Tomasettis; Ms. Reber, Ms. Newcomb, Mr. Curry and the Hernandez'.

Our family night was a wonderful success and we can't say thank you enough to all our Community Heroes who came and read aloud to eager students. You have an important job in our society and we wouldn't have a safe and fun community without you. Cheers to Firefigter Beth Kee, Police Captain Croom, The Starost Boy Scouts, Teachers McGuire, McGinnis, Burk, and Vielhaber for being our Heroes.

Look for the Book Fair again in February. It will be the first Winter Carnival held at Sequoyah.

**Analysis:**

Definition of Analysis:

Breaking down a whole into parts that may not be immediately obvious and examining the parts so that the structure of the whole is understood.

**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 Gr. 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



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

In order for students to be highly successful students it is important for them to learn the skill of analysis. Analysis is key for students to be successful in the workforce and/or college. As students make their way up the seven keys, they will face many hurdles that will require them to analyze a problem or situation. By breaking things down (analysis), students can develop their potential for learning. Analysis will help students to learn to approach and solve new problems, so that they will have the capacity to solve problems in the future. Often students look at what is there and forget to break it down to see the parts. When students analyze they are going beyond what is and searching for the unknown. They are able to face a problem and have the tools to solve complex problems. Students will use the skill of analysis in all subject areas and facets of life.

**Key vocabulary for analysis**

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| √ critical thinking | √ comparisons   |
| √ parts             | √ connections   |
| √ attributes        | √ details       |
| √ patterns          | √ relationships |
| √ similarities      | √ analysis      |
| √ differences       | √ components    |
| √ observations      |                 |

**Barnes and Noble Night**

When: Friday, December 10, 2010  
 Time: 6:30-8:00  
 Where: Barnes & Noble at the Washingtonian Center

**Spotlight on Sequoyah**

- Hear our school chorus perform!
- Join us for a sing along
- Play games with your favorite teachers
- See your artwork displayed at the store
- Enjoy listening to a story
- Hear one of our very talented students play her cello
- Browse the store for some great books to read.
- Support the Sequoyah Reading Program while enjoying time with your family and classmates



Visit [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) to support us online from 12/10/10 to 12/17/10 by entering Bookfair ID 10359099 at checkout



## Joe Corbi's Fundraiser to benefit our school:



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Joe Corbi's fundraiser. You helped the PTA earn over \$4,000. Congratulations to our top 3 sellers: Johnny Dove, Katie Stevens-Donati and Hannah Cameron. If you didn't get a chance to place your order this time around, don't worry, we will be having a second Joe Corbi's fundraiser in the spring.

## International Night 2010



This year's International Night took place on Wednesday, November 17th. This annual event celebrated the diverse cultures of the Sequoyah community. We had 21 countries represented and over 300 people came to take this virtual trip around the world.

We thank Mrs. Aury Burriss for chairing this annual event this year. We also want to acknowledge Mr. Plaisance, our school counselor, and Mr. Curry and the Equity Committee for supporting this evening's events.

If you did not participate this year, we hope you will write down next year's International Night on your long-range calendar for next year and show off your child's heritage.

## 2010-2011 PTA Reflections Program

This year's theme for the Reflections program is "Together We Can..." Ask your child(ren) to think about the theme and then let them decide either to write, draw, or take a photograph of their idea. We had many beautiful Visual Arts pieces last year and I would love to have more writers and photographers this year.

Tell your child(ren) to show off your artistic talent in Visual Arts. Share their inspiring thoughts through literature, and capture the theme with the click of a camera. All participants will be recognized. It is important to have the proper form completed and take time to explain their interpretation of the theme. The deadline is Thursday, December 2, 2010.

Encourage your child to create an original work of art based on the thought of "Together We Can". Last year's National winners can be viewed at [www.ptareflections.org](http://www.ptareflections.org). For more information on rules, format, presentation, and necessary form, please contact Allison Mathis at 240-631-1041 or email [koeung@yahoo.com](mailto:koeung@yahoo.com).

Chair Contact Information: Allison Mathis, 240-632-1041  
[koeung@yahoo.com](mailto:koeung@yahoo.com)  
[www.ptareflections.org](http://www.ptareflections.org)

## Physical Ed. News

We just completed the P.A.C.E.R. test in Physical Education for the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades!! Please ask your child what their score was and how it compared to the national average. We will be doing two more tests (February & May). In preparation for the upcoming tests we have discussed goal setting and how using it will help to increase their scores as well as keep them in excellent shape. With the Holidays and cold weather fast approaching this can be a difficult time for a child to stay active. Please remind them of their goal setting.



Tracy Martin~ P.E. teacher



## Music News

Get ready for some exciting musical happenings in December! Selected 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus members will be performing at Barnes and Noble night on December 10<sup>th</sup>. All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in our winter concert on December 16 at 7 PM in the gym. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. It is not too late for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to purchase a Sequoyah Music T-shirt. Please see Mrs. Wardell if you need an order form.

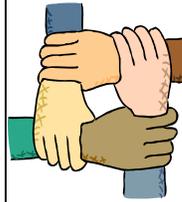


## Instrumental Music



Beginning instrumentalists are working hard on learning how to read and play their first five notes. Once they are comfortable with these notes, they'll be able to play many songs. It is an exciting time for them so please encourage them at home- no matter what they are sounding like in these early stages. Students should not be asked to practice their instrument outside because certain weather conditions can damage their instruments. Please help them to remember to bring their instrument and book on their lesson day each week. Second year instrumentalists are busy preparing to perform on December 16 in a joint concert with the fourth and fifth grade choruses.

## News from the Art Room



Students at all grade levels completed the multicultural art unit with great results! Some of the works are displayed outside the art classroom so please stop by to take a look!

For the new unit students will...

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade- become a designer and design a future car.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade- study the proportions of a human body and create a sculpture in response.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade- learn how to weave and create a bag.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade- learn about the Fauvism art movement and create a self-portrait in their style.
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade- learn about architecture and create their own building.
- Kindergarten- read Where the Wild Things Are and create their own "Wild Thing".



## Artists of the Month

The new "Artists of the Month" for December are: Aiden Logmanni and Julia Dhala from Kindergarten, Gabriel Wong and Maya Solomon from 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Kendra Colindres from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Charlie from ½ class, Ms. Stief's whole 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, Chloe Jenkins and Israel Hernandez from 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and Leena Mahboob, and Markel Grant from 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Congratulations!  
Ms. Kang

# Take a Letter... from Jacques Croom, PTA President

*For kids today, they would respond by choosing a letter; any letter. Those of us old enough to remember would recognize this as a phrase between manager and secretary to signal the start of diction. But let's ask ourselves, when was the last time we sat down and penned a letter? Not an email - those we do by the thousands week in and week out - but an old-fashioned letter written by pen or pencil on good old-fashioned paper.*

*In our fast-moving world, have we lost sight of the impact a simple letter has on others? Remember reading letters in college from family or friends? Or maybe you were in the military or somewhere else far from home. Some of us retained them and when we pick them up and read, our emotions rush back to that day in time; and if that's true, then are we depriving our own families of that same benefit?*

*Think of the possibilities:*

*A loving note to your spouse or child reminding them what they mean to you, how proud you are of them, congratulating them on a significant accomplishment, reviewing what a great year they had or setting goals for the next year, the possibilities are endless...*

*A good friend told a nice story of how she pens letters not only to her siblings but to future generations so they can come to know her and what today was like. A few minutes each week to jot down thoughts that will bring untold joy to one of her descendants - more than history from a book, it will educate and fascinate because not only is it real, it was their relative writing to them.*

*We teach and preach reading and writing - we all know how powerful the written word is and at work, we constantly remind our superiors that words are nice but put it in writing! So my challenge to each of you is simple - put away the computer, take out a pen and paper, and write a letter - it doesn't matter to whom - but write from the heart to the ones you love. You'll brighten someone's day and motivate them to do the same - I'm going to write mine now!*

*Inspired by Cathy Bruce*

## The Reading Corner

from Beth Deigan

I want to give more information about our upcoming Spotlight on Sequoyah at the Barnes and Nobles at the Rio. You may have noticed the weekly flyers in the Wednesday folders. The date for this event is Friday, December 10, 2010, from 6:30-8:00 PM.

We have several exciting activities planned for family enjoyment:

From 6:30-7:00 we will have *Think Fun* games in the children's area of the store with some of your favorite teachers who are excited to share the games with you. This has been a popular activity in the past.

Some of our teachers will be doing read-alouds during the evening.

Between 7:00-8:00 Mrs. Wardell and some 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus members will be sharing some of the pieces they have prepared for the winter concert as well as leading a sing along. At 7:30 one of our talented fifth grade students will be on hand to treat us to a cello piece

she has prepared for her recital.

Throughout the evening, you can browse the store to enjoy artwork by our very own students. Imagine, having your art displayed in a big store for everyone to see and enjoy! In the past we've used paper vouchers to identify ourselves at the store so we can get credit for our purchases (and who can resist books?!) This year all you need do is mention that you're from Sequoyah at the check-out and we automatically get credit for our school. You can also shop online and still get credit for Sequoyah if you shop [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) between Dec. 10 and 15. Friends, family, and co-workers can also support us through online shopping by typing in our **Bookfair Number: 10359099**

We are all looking forward to this annual fun family event. See you there!



# Sequoyah Student Government Association



## It's Time for Our Student Government's Annual *Winter Warm & Happy Days* Canned Food Drive

Being held between December 6 - December 17

The Student Council of Sequoyah Elementary is asking for non-perishable **canned** foods, **boxed** foods, or **grocery store certificates** for our food drive. The generous Sequoyah Elementary School community's contribution in past years has been a huge success. Please, let's continue the tradition.

Sequoyah Student Council would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" for all your support in the past. Our school community has been extremely generous and we know that families who receive your gifts of kindness have been grateful. Together, we can make a positive difference in the lives of many of our Sequoyah community members.

Thank you for your continued support,  
The Student Government Association and Mr. Plaisance

### Positive Behavior In Sequoyah (PBIS)

Parents,

What do you want to know about PBIS?

How well do you really understand what PBIS  
(Positive Behavior In Sequoyah) is?

How about when and why your child might get a coupon or a referral? What happens next?

Do you want ideas about how to extend PBIS to your home?

What are the special monthly celebrations?

If you have one or more of the questions above or any other questions about PBIS, please let us know at Sequoyah. Just call the school 301-840-5335 or email Ms. McInnis at [Kathleen\\_P\\_Mcinnis@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kathleen_P_Mcinnis@mcpsmd.org) with your suggestions. A great way to find updates about PBIS is attending a future PTA meeting or asking your child if he or she earned a coupon for their positive behavior.

In the meantime, **have you put your bumper sticker on your car?** It's neat to see cars with the stickers showing how proud the parents are of their child's behavior. We look forward to hearing from you!



# Math and Science Brief



As you walk through the halls and classrooms of Sequoyah, you may see blue bins with a familiar recycle icon. We see them more and more as we go from business to business. Our children are now growing up in an age where recycling is a part of what they do and not something that they have to “learn”. Below you will find some facts about recycling. Let’s help reduce our carbon imprint.

Think about:

Do you already use your recycle bins to the fullest at home?

If not:

Make a family focus to recycle bottles, cans and papers.

If yes:

Make a plan to conserve less energy by turning the lights off in unoccupied rooms, turning off the water when you brush your teeth, or keeping doors closed to conserve heat.

DID YOU KNOW?

## Recycling Glass

Glass can be recycled virtually forever. It never wears out. For every 2,000 pounds of glass that is recycled, we save more than 2,000 pounds of other resources (1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar.) Most bottles and jars that you use contain at least 25% recycled material. The energy saved by recycling just one bottle could light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.

## Recycling Metals

Recycling an aluminum can saves 95% of the energy needed to make aluminum from bauxite ore. In the United States, the amount of steel that is discarded and not recycled every year is enough to build all the new American-made cars.

## Recycling Plastic

Americans use 4 million plastic bottles every hour, but only 25% of plastic bottles are recycled.



## Recycling Paper

75% of each tree that is cut down for paper is not used in a paper product. 98 tons of various resources are required to make one ton of paper. Paper made from recycled paper uses 70% less energy.

Math and science *is* the world around us.

Even in the above “Did you know” boxes you will find percentages, measurements in pounds, tons, hours, and watts. It is important for students to know  $1 + 1 = 2$  or  $3/4 = 75\%$ , but it is even more important for students to make a connection from their world to the world of math and science. For example, I can memorize that 1 pound is 16 ounces. However, I have to stop and ask myself, so what does that mean? What does 1 pound look like? If I make a reference to something I already know, like a can of soup is about one pound, then I can continue building on from that point. As a parent you can help build reference points for your child. You may want your child to think about his or her weight and then compare it to what 2,000 pounds of glass might look like.

Even though we look at math and science as two different subjects, they actually fit hand in glove. As our children grow into adolescents and onto adults they need a strong math and science background. It is important for us to encourage children's curiosity of the world around them. Many times one question leads to why and then another why and so on. Turn the question around and ask them why do they think it happened or what do they think will happen, or how is this like something else you've experienced? Together we can build the foundation for future scientists and mathematicians.



## Shop at Target, Earn Money For Sequoyah

We've discovered a terrific way to raise funds for Sequoyah. It's super-easy, and all you have to do is use your Target® Visa® or Target® Card. We will receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation to Sequoyah from Target through the Take Charge of Education® program. Target donates 1% of all Target Visa Credit Card and Target Credit Card purchases made at a Target store or at Target.com and 1% of all Target Check Card purchases made at a Target Store. Target donates 1/2% of all Target Visa Credit Card purchases made outside of Target.

It's easy. Just visit [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe), or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate Sequoyah as your school. So if you're going to Target anyway, please consider using your Target® Visa® or Target® Card and selecting Sequoyah as the beneficiary. Grandparents, neighbors and friends can take part, too. Any questions, please contact Ellen Rahr at [rahr@comcast.net](mailto:rahr@comcast.net) or 301-208-0805

Thanks for your support!

Would you like to be able to donate money to Sequoyah without having to do anything?



**Well, you can!**

All we need is your Giant Bonus Card number (should be 12 digits), your Safeway Club Card number (11 digits) and your name and address. We'll add you if you're new or renew your participation and make sure a percentage of your purchases from Giant and Escript merchants (i.e. Safeway) supports your student's education. Simply email the information to Ellen Rahr at [rahr@comcast.net](mailto:rahr@comcast.net), or complete this form and return it to school.

Know anyone else that would like to support Sequoyah in this way (grandparents, aunts, uncles)? Give us their card numbers, names, and addresses and we'll do the rest!

This is a great way to help the many programs and services provided by the Sequoyah PTA – and it doesn't cost you any extra! Simply shop at Safeway or Giant as you normally would. Just be sure to use your Club Card or Bonus Card and designate Sequoyah Elementary as your school.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Rahr at 301-208-0805 or [rahr@comcast.net](mailto:rahr@comcast.net)

My Giant Bonus Card # (12 digits): \_\_\_\_\_

My Safeway Club Card # (11 digits): \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Address: \_\_\_\_\_