



# Sequoyah

# Signal

## Sequoyah Elementary

April 2013

### Dates to Remember

- 4/1     **Holiday-No School**
- 4/2     **Professional Day-No School for students**
- 4/4     **Cultural Arts – Reptile Wonders**
- 4/8-26 **MSA Science (on-line)**
- 4/10    **Flyer Distribution**
- 4/11    **Report Cards Distributed**
- 4/12    **Principal's Coffee**
- 4/12    **7pm PTA Spring Dance**
- 4/18    **PTA Mamma Lucia Night-Olney**
- 4/22    **Earth Day**
- 4/24    **Market Day Pick-up**
- 4/25    **Take Your Child to Work Day**

Dear Sequoyah Families:

Kindergarten Orientation for our August 2013 class will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2013 and Friday, May 3, 2013. Please use the tear-off sheet below to let us know about eligible children in your families. To be eligible, a child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2013. Children who will be five on or before September 1, 2013, must attend kindergarten:

- In a public school, or
- In a licensed private school, or
- At a home under the law regulating home education, or
- Complete and submit an Exemption to Kindergarten Attendance Requirement, MCPS Form 560-19.

If you know of anyone in our community who will enter kindergarten in the fall, please share this letter with them so we can send them registration materials in April. If you have any questions, please call us at 301-840-5335.

Sincerely,

*Bobbi Jasper*  
Dr. Bobbi Jasper  
Principal

BJ:msv

### Sequoyah Elementary School – Kindergarten Orientation 2013-2014

Child's Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Work Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Work Number \_\_\_\_\_

Has child attended any MCPS program such as EEP or Head Start? If yes, where \_\_\_\_\_

Name of oldest child at Sequoyah (if any)  
\_\_\_\_\_



Sequoyah Elementary School  
17301 Bowie Mill Rd  
Derwood MD 20855  
301-840-5335

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

#### Market Day Contact:

Jen Trickey  
JenTrickey@gmail.com

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



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### Sequoyah Elementary

Queridos padres de Sequoyah:

Tendremos orientaciones de Kindergarten para las clases de Agosto 2013. Las orientaciones va hacer el jueves, 2 de Mayo y el viernes, el 3 de Mayo de 2013. Por favor corte la parte de abajo y indique si en su familia existe niños elegibles. Para ser elegibles un niño debe de tener 5 años para Septiembre 1, 2013. Niños que tendrán 5 años en o antes de Septiembre 1, 2013 deben asistir a Kindergarten.

- En una escuela pública, o
- En una escuela privada y aprobada, o
- En casa bajo las reglas educativas, o
- Completando y entregando la forma MCPS 650-19, “exento de asistir a Kindergarten”

Si usted sabe de alguien en nuestra comunidad que entrara a Kindergarten en el otoño, por favor comparta esta carta con ellos para que nosotros les mandemos materiales de registraci3n. Por favor llama aqu3 a la escuela, 301-840-5335.

Sinceramente,

Dr. Bobbi Jasper  
Principal

BJ:msv



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### Sequoyah Elementary School – Kindergarten Orientation 2013-2014

Nombre legal del Nino \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha de Nacimiento \_\_\_\_\_

Domicilio \_\_\_\_\_

Tel3fono de casa \_\_\_\_\_ Celular \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del Padre \_\_\_\_\_ Tel3fono de su trabajo \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre de la Madre \_\_\_\_\_ Tel3fono de su trabajo \_\_\_\_\_

Su ni1o a asistido a un programa de MCPS como EEP o Head Start? Si indica si en d3nde fue?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del hijo mejor que asiste a Sequoyah (si lo est3) \_\_\_\_\_

## SAVE THE DATE

Come join us for a Principal's Coffee

Date: Friday, April 12, 2013

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Where: Sequoyah E.S. Media Center

What: Time for parents to ask questions...



## Community Updates from MCPS

### New on the MCPS Web

#### MCPS Moments

*MCPS Moments* are two-minute videos that highlight recent events, school programs, and more. The videos are featured online and on MCPS TV. Following is a list of some recent *MCPS Moments*:

[Students Celebrate School Meals on Worldwide Scale at Harmony HillES](#)

[Community Offers Input on Strategic Plan](#)

[Community Meeting Focuses on Closing the Achievement Gap](#)

[Federal Officials Visit Rolling Terrace Elementary School](#)

[Superintendent Hosts Student Town Hall at Walter Johnson HS](#)

#### Gallup Surveys

The results of the Gallup engagement surveys taken by staff and students earlier this school year were discussed with the Montgomery County Board of Education at its February 25 meeting. The results for individual schools have now been posted to the MCPS website. The school results are available at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/gallup/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/gallup/)

## MCPS Ethics Policy

MCPS recently revised its ethics policy in response to new state law by the States Ethics Commission. A staff member may accept an unsolicited gift that does not exceed \$20.00 in value or an unsolicited series of gifts not exceeding \$100 in value in a calendar year. If a gift that exceeds \$20.00 is given to a staff member by only one person, the gift must be returned.

Please see <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/ethics/> for additional information.

# Good Readers Don't Sound It Out



*Helping Young Readers Use Great Reading Strategies*

By Alix Moore

*Reading Specialist, Sequoyah Elementary*

Have you ever asked your child what strategies he or she will use if s/he is reading and comes to a tricky word? I have talked to hundreds of children over the years, and the first thing many children say is, "I will sound it out." That's the first thing most parents think of as well. But sounding out words is not necessarily the best strategy for dealing with tricky words, and it's not the first thing your child should try.

**First, Think About What Makes Sense**

So at this point I hope you're wondering why sounding it out is not the best response to a challenging word. That's a great question, and it goes to the heart of what I want you to understand about reading. First and foremost, reading is an activity about making sense of the printed page. Good readers look at the pictures, think about what they already know on the subject, keep in mind what they know about the genre they are reading, and, above all else, they keep thinking about what makes sense.

When children try to sound out words they are often so focused on the individual sounds that they lose track of the meaning. Many times I will see a child spend several minutes sweating the individual sounds of a word when a quick glance at the picture would tell them instantly what the word was.

**Chunk It!**

Another reason sounding it out is ineffective is that children typically try to sound out every single sound in the word. Research has shown us that the human brain is a pattern detector. It's much more natural and effective to look for patterns in a tricky word. This is called chunking the word. Here's an example:

If your child gets stuck on the word *surrender* and s/he tries to sound out each sound, there are 7 sounds to separate out and blend back together. The child must say *s/u/r/e/n/d/r*. On the other hand, if the child looks for chunks that s/he already knows, then the word can be problem-solved like this: *end/rend/ render/surrender*. As the child grabs larger chunks of the word, he or she can process the tricky word very quickly, while keeping a piece of their attention on what makes sense and on what is happening in the text they are reading. This is tremendously more efficient and effective.

**Keep it Fluent**

One last thing to keep in mind is that good reading is fluent reading. If your child is reading like a robot, one-word-at-a-time-in-a-way-that-is-painfully-slow, then either he or she doesn't know that good readers make it sound like talking, or the book s/he is reading is too hard for them. Think about how you read a bedtime story to your child: you probably read with expression, even dramatically. Your voice is smooth and flowing, loud, soft, or scary as the text demands. Your child should read that way also.

So, next time your child starts to painfully work his or her way through a tricky word sound by sound, remember—good readers don't sound it out! Ask your child to think about what makes sense or show you the parts of the word s/he knows instead.

Happy reading!

Alix

## Art News

For the month of April, students in all grade levels will continue to explore different ways of creating art, and create wonderful artwork that communicates their ideas as an individual and an artist!

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn how to draw people in proportion and design their own superhero.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn about the history of sumi-e and create a painting in this style.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will create a holograph print using their abstract drawing inspired by music.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will complete their parade drawing lesson.
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will create an abstract sculpture using recycled materials.
- Kindergarten students will create a clay medallion to celebrate their success in art.



**Artists of the Month!** The students who were selected for the month of April are Mary Canas, Allsion Lemus, Adriana Perla, Alex Rivas, and Simon Fergis from Kindergarten, Stephany Amorim, Nicole Diazdiaz, and George Maestras from 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and Kiera Trickey, Samuel Matussek, Beverly Blanco-Gomez, Luis Cruz Martinez, and Joshua Ramkissoon from 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Congratulations! Please stop by to look at their wonderful artworks!

## PE News



Throughout the first few weeks of the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period, grades K-2 will be focusing on an underhand strike, as well as striking an object with various parts of their body. Activities will include a volleyball bump using a beach ball, kicking a stationary ball and a rolling ball. Students will enhance their level of cooperation with each other and understand their responsibilities when they are using the equipment around their classmates.

Grades 3-5 will be engaged in activities that promote the FITT principle, which is (F)requency (I)ntensity, (T)ime, and (T)ype. Students will demonstrate a forehand stroke and the ability to strike a ball both stationary and moving using a bat. Throughout the fourth marking period we will also take some time during class to start reviewing some activities that will be available to students on their annual field day.

Some dates to keep in mind...

Kindergarten Field Day—Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Field Day —Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Field Day-Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

More information regarding the field days will be upcoming in forms going home and on the website!

## Music News

Here's what will be going on in the music room during the month of April! As we start the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period, all students will have the chance to become composers and write their own music.



Kindergarten students will be reading iconic notation for songs and games we have learned and be learning new songs about spring.

1<sup>st</sup> grade students will expand their music reading vocabulary by learning about a new pitch, la and the symbol for silence in music, quarter rest.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be learning songs that use the pentatonic (5 note) scale and continue practicing our music reading skills.

3<sup>rd</sup> graders are continuing on recorder, learning new notes and songs; and will explore improvisation on instruments.

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be exploring songs that use the major scale and how we can use chords to accompany songs. We will also learn how we can compose our own songs using pitches and rhythms we have learned this year.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming spring performances! Willy Wonka Kids is May 1 and 2 and our spring choral and instrumental concert is May 31<sup>st</sup>!

## Lost and Found

Our *Lost and Found* is growing and we are running out of space. Please make sure to stop by and check for any lost items. Anything that is not picked up by the last day of school will be donated to charity. Please help reduce the number of items in *Lost and Found* by labeling your child's belongings.

### COUNSELOR'S CORNER~ Fundamentals of Emotional Intelligence

#### Communication/ Reflection Opportunity

Spring is a great time to have conversations about family unity and support. Use the following inventory to talk as a family about how you help each other.

IN MY FAMILY, PEOPLE GENERALLY: Place a check mark next to the number that you feel positive about.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to me  | <input type="checkbox"/> Say what they think and feel clearly                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speak and act respectfully  | <input type="checkbox"/> Care about my feelings                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trust each other  | <input type="checkbox"/> Like each other   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Respect each other's privacy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciate each other (give compliments/say "thank-you")  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Show confidence in me   | <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss problems together, rather than blaming or yelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have some fun times together  | <input type="checkbox"/> Are courteous to my friends                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work together to solve problems instead of ordering other around or punishing |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support me in school without pressuring me                                    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are organized- each person knows what needs to be done (chores)               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Look for practical ways to help me become more capable                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Look for ways that I can contribute to the family                             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage and support my friendships  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate each other (birthdays, special events)                              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observe some religious, cultural or family traditions                         |  |



Mr. Plaisance

School Counselor





# GRIEF RELIEF FAMILY PROGRAM

Peer Support for Grieving Children - Ages 4-12 yrs  
and Their Parents/Guardians

Weekly on Thursdays 4:30 - 5:45 pm  
Hospice Caring Cottage in Bohrer Park, Gaithersburg

**Free of Charge**

Share grief experiences with new friends.  
Learn how to cope with feelings and changes.  
Have fun!



Circle Time ♥ Art ♥ Games ♥ Crafts ♥ Music ♥ Physical Activity ♥ Snacks

To register, call  
Toby Rabbin: (301) 990-0854

# 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, 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.

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 Escrip merchants (i.e. Safeway) supports your student's education. Simply 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.

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

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

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

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



### Market Day Contact

Jen Trickey jentrickey@gmail.com

Please place order online at:

www.MarketDay.com

or submit a paper order form prior to the due dates.

### **You're on FACEBOOK... Now the PTA is too!**

Join the SES PTA community online at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/sespta>

The more our membership grows, the wider our combined knowledge base becomes!

- ⇒ Got a question? —Ask the group!
- ⇒ Got an idea for a new program or fundraiser? —Post a poll or start a discussion!
- ⇒ Missed the monthly PTA meeting? —Catch up on the minutes here!
- ⇒ Want to be notified personally when there's an SES event happening? — Check it out!
- ⇒ Join the group — receive event invitations and reminders!