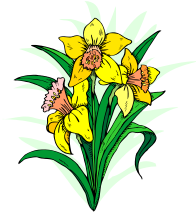




Sligo Creek Elementary School

# PTA Newsletter



Volume 11, Issue 7

Friday, April 16, 2010

## PTA President's Column

Well the time has arrived where we face the stark implications of both the boundary redistricting and budget cuts. Prior to Spring Break, the executive board of the PTA met with Ms. Swift. She informed us that SCES will be losing five classroom teachers from the academy and six hours of paraeducator time from both programs. In addition, there was a 0.2 cut from the math and science positions indicating our science teacher will be at the school two days a week. The school district has projected the following breakdown of classrooms for next year in the academy program: 2 kindergarten, 3 first grades, 5 second grades, 2 third grades, 1 fourth grade, and 2 fifth grades. As a parent of a rising 4<sup>th</sup> grader I am dismayed at the forecast for the upcoming year. Not

only does one class in the fourth grade have implications for differentiation for both reading and mathematics in my son's class, it has implications for the French to English learning taking place next year and the following year. Please contact our community superintendent Bronda Mills at **Bronda\_L\_Mills@mcpsmd.org** to raise your concerns about the upcoming enrollment changes. Dr. Weast gave us assurances, and we lobbied for two fourth grade classrooms next year, so now is the time to ensure the fulfillment of that agreement.

*Jennifer Lage  
PTA President*

## Principal's Letter

Dear Parents and Families,

Congratulations are in order for our beloved Mr. Baldwin. He was recently named FIRST runner up as the Montgomery County Supporting Service Employee of the Year. In our book, Mr. Baldwin is the winner. There were over 50 nominees for this award from throughout the county. Every day Mr. B ensures that our building is clean, orderly and safe. He frequently is called on to serve as a mentor to our children or just provides a listening ear. Mr. Baldwin will receive a recognition certificate. We are very proud of him.

Additionally, Ms. Andrea Speaks, our Staff Development Teacher was selected as a Consulting Teacher to serve the county. She has been with us for the past 6 years and has faithfully supported teachers, students and administration. She has led workshops, presented at conferences, worked with students and has been a tremendous leader and advocate for children. While this is a great addition for the county, it is a loss for us. We will miss her expertise, skill, guidance and humor.

For next year, we anticipate staffing changes at all grade levels, meaning that some teachers will be assigned to a different grade level based on our needs and enrollment. As a result of a decrease in our enrollment there will be a decrease in teachers in the academy in kindergarten, first grade and fourth grade. Next year, we will have three academy kindergarten and first grade positions and one fourth grade academy position. We are still in the process of determining who will be at what grade level for next year.

We will be determining our master schedule for next year as well. Every year we struggle with a schedule that provides the maximum instructional time combined with the lunch and recess schedule and specials. It is a very complicated and complex task. If you have any thoughts you would like to share related to our master schedule for next year, please email me and I will pass your ideas/concerns along to the scheduling committee.

*(continued on page 2)*

*(Principal's Letter, continued from page 1)*

We will keep you updated as we move through a transition time and the major changes that are ahead. We look forward to finishing the remainder of the year and planning for the coming year. We continue

to anticipate great academic success for our children. Thank you for your confidence in us.

*Sincerely,  
Diantha Swift*

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## Kindergarten News

**ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE** will be Tuesday April 20 from 9:30-11:00 for those parents with **incoming** K students. We need to try to find out how many students will definitely be coming to Academy Kindergarten next year. As you probably already know, we have lost three K teaching positions and we are hoping that maybe the county underestimated the number of children coming to Academy next year and some positions could be reinstated.

**KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION** (aka Kindergarten Round Up) for incoming kindergarten students will be May 27 and May 28. Call this month for an appointment and spread the word to neighbors with little ones. There will be **no school** for current kindergarteners on those dates.

**THE KINDERGARTEN MUSICAL:  
LEMONADE! WILL BE PERFORMED SOON!**

All of our SCES Kindergarten Students will be performing the musical play, "Lemonade!" on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. (school assembly performance for 1st Grade Students/Parents Invited) and 6:30 p.m. (evening performance for all Kindergarten Parents, Staff Members, Friends and Families). (**Note:** These dates may change).

Join in the fairytale frenzy when Chicken Little, the Three Little Pigs, Humpty Dumpty, the Cat with a Fiddle, Little Bo peep, Little Boy Blue and a host of other characters are having a **BAD DAY!** But with the help of cheerful Mother Goose, discover how they learn to make the best out of life's ups and downs. Join us as our Kindergarten Students perform speech, songs and movement in this charming musical production!

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## Tree Planting in Memory of Eloise Gale, Beloved Teacher Saturday, May 15th

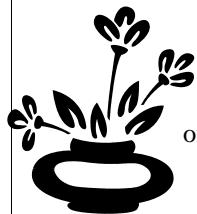
On Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am, during the SCES Spring Beautification Day event, the PTA will be planting a memorial tree in front of Sligo Creek Elementary in honor of Eloise Gale, our beloved kindergarten teacher who died in a scuba diving accident in February. We invite all of Ms. Gale's friends and former students to join us for this tree planting.

Children are welcome to draw cards or pictures that can be hung from the tree during the ceremony, such as a short letter saying what they liked best about Ms. Gale's class. This can be done in advance and we will also have supplies available at the tree planting.

Several parents are funding a bronze memorial plaque which will be mounted to a stone beside the tree. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the plaque or have any other questions about the ceremony, please contact SCES parent Michele Spiegel at [m Spiegel05@yahoo.com](mailto:m Spiegel05@yahoo.com).

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## Staff Appreciation – Volunteers Needed



Our Annual Staff Appreciation Week is quickly approaching. We are **in need of 85 more glass vases** to complete bouquets for the staff that week. Please bring vases to the collection box in the front office. We are also looking for several volunteers to assist with the various events we have planned for the week of **May 3-7**. If you would like to help in any way, please contact us at [scsappriciation@yahoo.com](mailto:scsappriciation@yahoo.com).

*Marianne Quinn & Kari McDonough  
Staff Appreciation Committee*

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2010-2011 SCES PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Have you ever considered serving on the PTA Executive Board? The Sligo Creek Elementary School PTA is seeking nominations for the PTA Executive Board: **President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary.**

The PTA is an integral part of our children's educational success and helps build strong relationships between our families and the school. Serving on the PTA Executive Board promises to be a rewarding experience, and an active PTA ensures that Sligo Creek Elementary remains an outstanding school. The PTA represents all parents and teachers and it cannot function without the committed, dedicated volunteers that are willing to put in the time needed to fulfill the responsibilities of the executive board and committee positions.

To nominate someone, or yourself, for one of these positions, please email Diane Kelleher ([Diane.Kelleher@gmail.com](mailto:Diane.Kelleher@gmail.com)) or Alice Vorosmarti ([vorosmarti@verizon.net](mailto:vorosmarti@verizon.net)). While we haven't set the final due date for nominations just yet, the nominations will likely be due at the end of the May so they can be voted on at the final PTA meeting on June 1.

The 2010-2011 school year will likely be a challenging one for Sligo Creek. As a result of the boundary changes, we will be a smaller school and while the school is going through this transition, we'll still have about 560+ students who need plenty of parent involvement with cultural arts assemblies, after school programs, classroom help, and student socials. We could also use some new faces on the PTA next year, as a number of our stalwart PTA parents have children going into middle school next year and may have less time to help out with SCES activities.

For a complete list of PTA positions and committees, please go to the PTA Web site:  
<http://www.scespta.org/about-us.html>.

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### Silent Auction on April 23



Hope you have signed up to attend the Super 70s Silent Auction on April 23rd! Just in case you were too busy doing your taxes, you can still send your registration form and check into school Monday, April 19 (and still pay the reduced price). But this will be the last day for pre-registration. The registration form is on the website – [www.scespta.org](http://www.scespta.org) – under Calendar, then click on the colorful Auction logo.

Now we are looking for volunteers to help the night of the auction with a variety of things. Could you:

- Help with refreshing the Food and drinks buffet?
- Help Set up the room and auction items at 6:30? 7:00?
- Help during the event when items “close” and the bid forms need to be picked up?
- Help towards the end of the night with “check out”?
- Help clean up after this Wonderful Event!

Please let us know if you are available for helping with any of these tasks.

Thanks Again!

Liz Grandonico ([skinnerliz@yahoo.com](mailto:skinnerliz@yahoo.com)) or Cori Vanchieri ([corivan@verizon.net](mailto:corivan@verizon.net))

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## Calling All Art Enthusiasts!



The Annual SCES Art Show will be on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to this wonderful event that will display artwork created by all Sligo Creek students.

To make this event happen the art teachers (Ms. Carol Lightfoot and Ms. Lisa Jennings) will need to rely on help from volunteers. This year the art teachers **will not** be provided substitute teacher time to set-up the art show, so they will have to depend on our dedicated parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc. to make this event a reality.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to work with Ms. Lightfoot and Ms. Jennings to prep the artwork (between now and May 26<sup>th</sup>), move the display panels when they arrive on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, hang the artwork on the panels, prep the gym the day of the event, and set-up, create and display the welcoming sign in the front hallway for the day of the event, and take the artwork down on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

May 27<sup>th</sup> feels like it's a long way off in the future, but the reality is there are many, many hours of work that go into this exciting event. The art teachers love doing the work, but they **MUST** have our volunteers coordinated and ready to help. **If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Ms. Lightfoot (Carol\_P\_Lightfoot@mcpsmd.org).**

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## French Immersion News

### APPLYING TO IMMERSION PROGRAMS

The window for applying to immersion programs will be from February 1 to April 23, 2010. Application to immersion programs is by an Immersion Interest Form which will be available in late January on the website listed below for the Division of Consortia Choice. All parents applying for an immersion program **MUST** fill out and submit this form during that time frame, **even if you have a sibling already in the program!** The lottery will be held in early May.

Parents interested in learning more about the application process for MCPS immersion programs can email Mme Gouin ([Donna\\_M\\_Gouin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Donna_M_Gouin@mcpsmd.org)) or consult the

Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special/programs/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special/programs/)

### FRENCH IMMERSION CAMPS

Now that the camp business plans have been sent in to Central Office, I can report that both sessions of French Immersion camps will be held this year, and that both sessions have room for more French Immersion students. Dates are June 21 to July 2 and July 6 to 16, 2010. Please let me know if you are interested, and I will send you information and forms. [Donna\\_M\\_Gouin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Donna_M_Gouin@mcpsmd.org)

Merci!

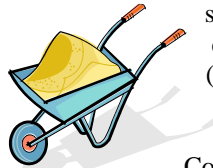
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## Mulch Sale to Benefit SCES PTA: Order by May 10<sup>th</sup>, Delivery on May 15<sup>th</sup>

With spring planting season finally here again, it's time to pick up your mulch and get gardening. Here's a way to avoid the crowds and lines and help out our PTA too. Abrahams Lawn Service, owned by SCES parents Tim and Rebecca Abrahams, will donate to the SCES-PTA 100% of the profits from all mulch sold. They will conveniently deliver the mulch to the school for you to pick up. And, if you order 12 bags of mulch or more and live within five miles of the school, they'll deliver the mulch to your house for free! Look for order forms in your Friday folders and on the PTA website. *All orders must be received by Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>!* If you'd like to help this effort, Tim could also use a few volunteers to assist him in the delivery process. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact SCES parent Tim Abrahams at [abrahamslawn@hotmail.com](mailto:abrahamslawn@hotmail.com).

## Spring Beautification Day at SCES: Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>

Our dedicated school staff mow the lawn and do basic exterior maintenance, but all the extras you see – the shrubs and other landscaping, the flowering bulbs, flower pots, mulching and edging, the trees and mural in the playground – have all been contributed by parents like you over the years. Keeping our school beautiful reflects our school pride, boosts morale every morning, and is a way of thanking the neighbors who surround the school. Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30-1:00pm, is our Spring Beautification Day where we'll rake, trim dead branches, weed, pick

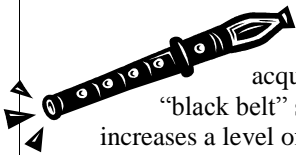


up trash, and plant flowers. All students and parents are invited to join us! Come for 15 minutes or 4 hours. Every minute helps get it done, and also helps students to see that keeping our grounds looking clean and beautiful doesn't happen by itself. (Older students can get community service hours for this work.) If you have any questions, please contact the PTA Beautification Committee Co-Chairs (and SCES parents): Tori Hall (tele. 301-652-2969, [Victoria.Tori.Hall@gmail.com](mailto:Victoria.Tori.Hall@gmail.com)) or Tim Abrahams ([abrahamslawn@hotmail.com](mailto:abrahamslawn@hotmail.com)).

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## The 2010 Recorder Karate Black Belt Team Keeps Growing!



The Recorder Karate Black Belt Team at Sligo Creek Elementary School continues to grow and acquire new memberships each week! Students become members of this team when they achieve the "black belt" status because they have mastered nine different songs. Each Recorder Karate Song gradually increases a level of musical skill and introduces a new musical concept. After each song is tested/performed by a student, he/she receives a different color belt for each song that they have mastered.

Congratulations to all of these students for achieving this honor and for being a member of our 2010 Recorder Karate Black Belt Team! Keep up the great work!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Edgar Alcocer  
William Bass  
Jason Dennis  
Drew DeShano  
Will Donaldson  
Julian Drumwright  
Alex Gramaglia  
Wilver Jimenez  
Nicolas Lage  
Alex Robbins  
Henry Yuan

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Emmett Adler  
Aida Ayuk  
Caitlin Buckley  
Odline Desir  
Tiama Essama-Ayi  
Olivia Gonzalez  
Julian Gray  
Jackson W. Hall  
Maya Hammond  
Jackson Hawkins  
Chaylin Henderson

Emma Jennings  
Elizabeth Joseph  
Garrett Kerns  
Sebastien Kraft  
Avi Krishan  
Allegra Levone  
Michael Liriano  
Emma McIntyre  
Eamon McKeever  
Noelle McKoy  
Alex Mentzell  
Pierre Moglen

Mikaela Moore  
Chinh Nguyen  
Nora Olagbaju  
Marika Pinsonneault  
Tedd Remy  
Matthew Rice  
Elijah Schulman  
Alahna Smith  
Max Spiegel  
Carroll Swain  
Ellie Williams

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Next PTA Meeting: Tuesday, May 4 from 7 – 9 pm

## The Third Grade Opera is Coming Soon!

The Third Grade Creating Original Opera, entitled: “**The Most Mysterious Game of Soccer**” is coming soon to Sligo Creek Elementary School! This opera was composed, written, produced and directed by Third Grade Students! Each of our Third Grade Students has one out of twelve different opera jobs such as writer, composer, performer, public relations officers, set designers, make-up artists, electricians, stage manager, production manager, carpenter, costume designer, and historian. Over the course of one year, these students have formed a Kids Opera Company entitled: “**The Bright Shining Stars Kids Opera Company of Sligo Creek ES**”. In French, the title is, “**Les Étoiles brillantes de Sligo Creek –une compagnie d’opéra d’enfants**”. Below are the revised performance dates and times of this year’s original opera:

**Tuesday, April 27, 2010 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Performance**  
School Assembly Performance for Grades K and 1 Parents Invited

**Wednesday, April 28, 2010 1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Performance**  
School Assembly Performance for Grade 2 and Parents Invited

**Thursday, May 6, 2010 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Performance**  
Performance for Parents

**Friday, May 7, 2010 1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Performance**  
School Assembly Performance for Grades 4 and 5 and Parents Invited

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## PTA and School Calendar 2010

April 20	Kindergarten Orientation	9:30 – 11:00 am
April 23	Silent Auction	7:30 – 9:30 pm
May 3	Kindergarten Performance: Lemonade	2:30 pm & 6:30 pm
May 4	PTA Meeting	7:00 pm
May 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Opera: Evening performance	7:00 – 7:30 pm
May 10	Mulch Sale	
May 15	Spring Beautification Day	8:30 – 1:00 pm
May 18	Spring Concert	7:00 – 8:00 pm
May 27 & May 28	Kindergarten Orientation	

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### SLIGO CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Sligo Creek Elementary School  
500 Schuyler Rd  
Silver Spring MD 20910

PTA Web site: <http://www.scespta.org/>

Jennifer Lage, President  
[jennylage@gmail.com](mailto:jennylage@gmail.com)  
Suzanne Chartol, Treasurer  
Diane Kelleher, Secretary  
Sara Melnick, Vice President for Events & Fundraising  
Yasmina Mudarres, Vice President for Coordination  
Laura Foradori, Vice President for Academic Support

Alice Vorosmarti, Newsletter Editor  
[vorosmarti@verizon.net](mailto:vorosmarti@verizon.net)

