



Sligo Creek Elementary School

PTA Newsletter



Volume 11, Issue 8

Friday, May 7, 2010

PTA President's Column

The year is rapidly coming to a close and I am pleasantly surprised by the accomplishments the PTA has made this year. At the start of the year, we kicked off the "10 for 10" campaign to raise money to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Sligo Creek Elementary School. As we faced tough economic times and a boundary change, we questioned if we would be able to raise those funds. The Events committee in conjunction with fundraising committee breathed new life into the fundraising calendar by hosting two new events for SCES. The first annual Spaghetti Dinner was held in October for over three hundred people and our own Tom McIntyre hosted the Wine Symposium in March. And most recently, many of us attended the Silent Auction, which was quite a success. When reviewing our fundraising efforts, we exceeded our goal of raising \$10,000 to celebrate Sligo Creek's 10th Anniversary by over \$5,000. Congratulations to all who donated their

time, money, and special talents to pulling off this achievement. I especially want to thank Cori Vanchieri, Liz Skinner Grandonico, and Rob Gronda who were a trifecca in coordinating and organizing all of us for these fabulous events. As a result of these efforts, SCES will be receiving a new mobile computer lab to be used in the classrooms to enhance the curriculum. In addition, some funds will be earmarked for additional reading materials to be used for both French Immersion and Academy students. Again, as we face even more budget cuts in the coming years, it is our hope that we will continue to assist SCES staff with monetary assistance to mitigate the drain on resources. It is our involvement that can make a better learning environment for our kids. Please keep up the good work.

*Jennifer Lage
PTA President*

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents and Families,

We are having such a successful year that I find it hard to believe we are rapidly approaching June. Many changes will take place in the coming year and we are collaborating with staff, students, parents, principals and various offices within MCPS to provide a smooth transition for the coming year.

The decrease in our school boundary for the coming year means a reduction in staffing as you know. We will be saying good bye to Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Peggins, Ms. Creticos, Ms. Greene, and Ms. Jones. Mr. Fahmi will be leaving us as well but will be available to be here as a substitute teacher when we can book him! These teachers have given so much to our students and have brought experience, skill and a fresh look at teaching to us. They will be greatly missed.

While our art, music and physical education hours were reduced, at this time Ms. Hahn, Ms. Jennings and Ms. Barbe will be returning. Ms.

Dodson will continue as our science specialist and Ms. Murray will continue as our math content coach. Mr. Andy Goldberger will be out new staff development teacher. He comes to us from the Office of Organizational Development as a staff development specialist. We look forward to working with him. Our ESOL staffing was reduced by almost half with the reduction in our ESOL population for the coming year. Fortunately, Ms. Wagner will be back next year.

We are planning grade level events so we will have an opportunity to celebrate with students who will be leaving us. Additionally, students from East Silver Spring will be coming over next week to visit the school and to meet us. The principals from Piney Branch and Takoma Park will come to us to meet their new students and to welcome them to their perspective schools.

We are working on moving all of our classes into the building for the coming year. This will be the first
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(Principal's Letter, continued from page 1)

time in many years that we had no students outside in "learning cottages." We will still have three portables on campus but they will allow ample space for our part time people and will allow us some much needed space. While change is difficult, it is how we manage it that matters. While we still have many questions related to the coming year, we know that when the doors open in the fall, we will have all the answers!

We are enjoying Staff Appreciation Week. We certainly do feel appreciated. It is a joy to come to work every day, and I mean that. With all that we have to do this time of year and throughout the year, you make our job so much easier. Many thanks to all of you.

*Sincerely,
Diantha Swift*

Super 70s Silent Auction Was a Sensational Success!

In a word, GROOVY! Thanks to the passion and dedication of Liz Grandonico and Cori Vanchieri, this year's Silent Auction was outstanding. A crowd of nearly 150 people were in attendance to bid on some great auction items, have a great time and raise money for the 2009-2010 PTA's gift in honor of the 10 year anniversary of Sligo Creek Elementary School. In addition to the Silent Auction, the night also included great food from Vace's Italian Deli, child care activities by Kid Power, and a Cake Walk.

Matt Grandonico served as the Auction Emcee, Cake Walk announcer, and auctioneer. Thank you Matt for being our toastmaster! The SSIMS and SCES cafeterias were decked out with peace signs, lava lamps, and album covers (for those of you who do not know, an album is a disc-shaped piece of vinyl used in the old days to play music on a machine called a record player!).

Items available at the auction ranged from lunch at McDonald's with Ms. Swift (which, by the way, went for \$180!) to hand painted note cards to a gourmet wine dinner for 8. Contributions by SCES staff and families proved to be the most creative and popular donations. Local Silver Spring and surrounding area business community also donated many wonderful auction items.

There were 20 delicious and beautiful cakes waiting to be won at the Cake Walk. Red Velvet, Double Chocolate Cake, Carrot Cake and more. Thank you to all the bakers who shared their talents and donated cakes and help to add a fun and yummy element to the auction.

The night would not have been possible without the following people and local businesses:

Liz Grandonico and Cori Vanchieri, Silent Auction co-chairs
Rob Gronda, Food
Matt Grandonico, Emcee
Sara Melnick and Melissa Milkie, Cake Walk
Valerie Dulk-Jacobs, Chocolate 4 Good
Vace's Italian Deli in Bethesda

Thank you to the SCES and SSIMS administration and building staff for your help with logistics and clean up. Thanks also to the parents who solicited businesses for us and to the parents who helped with set up, check in, check out, and clean up. Always SO much appreciated!

We are still finalizing all the transactions, but we raised more than \$12,000! THANK YOU SCES! The funds raised from the auction will be used towards the purchase of a mobile computer lab; the 10 Year Anniversary gift from the 2009-2010 PTA to the staff and students at Sligo Creek Elementary School. Thank you to everyone for helping to make this event such a success.

French Immersion Camps

Parents who have enrolled in French Immersion Camps: Your information sheets and camp fees are due by May 21, 2010.

If any FI parent still wants to enroll, please contact me and I will send you the information necessary to enroll by May 21: [Donna M Gouin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Donna.M.Gouin@mcpsmd.org)
There will be no enrollment possible after that date.

Merci!

Tree Planting in Memory of Eloise Gale, Beloved Teacher

On **Saturday, May 15th**, 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.

MULCH SALE TO BENEFIT SCES PTA – ORDER BY MAY 10TH, DELIVERY ON MAY 15TH

Spring is here: it's time to pick up your mulch and get gardening. Here's a way to avoid the crowds 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, in the front office, and on the PTA website. *All orders must be received by Monday, May 10th!*



Also, 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 or Tori Hall at Victoria.tor.hall@gmail.com (tele. 301-652-2969).

SPRING BEAUTIFICATION DAY AT SCES – SATURDAY MAY 15TH, 8:30AM-1:00PM

Our dedicated school staff mow the lawn and do basic exterior maintenance, but all the extras – shrubs and other landscaping, 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 15th, 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! 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) or Tim Abrahams (abrahamslawn@hotmail.com).

Help Our Art Teachers Set Up the Annual Art Show!

Sligo Creek's annual art show will be Thursday evening, May 27. As you may know, our art teachers put on an amazing art show each year, but they need help!!!! They need LOTS of volunteer hours to help prepare for the show. This is the first year that they do not have any time in the school day to prepare. Everything that gets done will be in addition to their long teaching days.



So...please contact me (debbiespielberg@yahoo.com) if you can help for an hour (or more) in the coming days and weeks and in the days right before the show. I will coordinate all the volunteers and pass the information on to Ms. Lightfoot and Ms. Jennings to save them some time.

Any and all help is greatly appreciated. Kids who are willing and able to help are welcome to participate.

Below are the days and times that volunteers are needed. (It has to be specific times because Ms. Lightfoot or Ms. Jennings needs to be available to give you instruction) . Please let me know what days and times work for you.

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With Ms. Lightfoot: Wednesdays and Fridays 4:00 to 6:00 pm

With Ms. Jennings: Wednesdays - afternoon until 4ish, Thursdays - mornings are better but until 4ish OK and Fridays - mornings are good but afternoons until end of school OK.

Thank you!

Debbie Spielberg (Mom of Dalya, 4th grade, and Mollie, K)

Great News! SCES is Now a Certified Maryland State Green School

As explained by the program, “the Maryland Green School Awards Program is a holistic, integrated approach to authentic learning that incorporates local environmental issue investigation and professional development with environmental best management practices and community stewardship.”

Over the last two years, SCES staff, students, parents and partners have done the following to earn this award (among other things):

- Significantly increased recycling and energy conservation rates thanks to the Green Team of 4th graders led by 4th grade teacher Janna Schrank
- Planted over 50 native trees, shrubs and flowers that add wildlife habitat, erosion control, and beauty to the schoolyard, thanks to our PTA Beautification



Committee, our partnership with Abrahams Landscaping and GreenKids

- Taught environmental science lessons in all grades throughout the school year either through our partnership with GreenKids, classroom teachers or Science lab.
- Participated in several school and community projects such as Habitat for Humanity jeans recycling (to make insulation), Growing Native nut collection and anti-litter poster contest.

Thanks to all the parents, students and staff that participated in this two-year endeavor. Now we just have to maintain our stewardship of our school property and continue to do a good job with recycling and energy conservation to maintain our status as a Maryland Green School.

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 still seeking nominations for the PTA Executive Board: **President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary.**

To nominate someone, or yourself, for one of these positions, please contact Diane Kelleher (Diane.Kelleher@gmail.com) or Alice Vorosmarti (vorosmarti@verizon.net). Nominations are due at the end of May so they can be voted on at the final PTA meeting of the year on June 1.

PTA and School Calendar 2010

May 10	Mulch Sale	
May 15	Spring Beautification Day & Memorial Tree Planting	8:30 – 1:00 pm
May 27	Annual SCES Art Show	6:00-8:00 pm
May 27 & May 28	Kindergarten Orientation – No school for current K students	
May 31	Memorial Day – No school	
June 1	PTA Meeting	7:00 – 9:00 pm
June 2	World Culture Day	
June 16	Last day of school	

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

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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