

The Jaguar International Silver Spring International Middle School PTSA Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2005



**Versión en español de los artículos de importancia
están en página 6, 7 y 8.**



From the PTSA

A Community of Giving

Silver Spring International Middle School is such an important place in the lives of our children. As we approach the mid-point of the school year, I continue to be amazed at the generosity and commitment of so many members of our school community.

- ? First, I am so thankful for our outstanding administrative staff. Ms. Parcan, Mr. Mamana and Ms. Harley have truly dedicated themselves to leading the effort to insure that Silver Spring International has a positive climate for learning.
- ? Second, I am thankful for our outstanding staff. Each staff member that I have seen this year is putting in extra time and making an extra effort to insure that our children have a successful year. This has been a personal sacrifice for many teachers and we cannot begin to thank them enough for their work.
- ? Third, I am thankful for our wonderful students. Many people that Ms. Parcan and I spoke with over the summer wondered if our students could rise to the challenge of very high behavior and academic expectations. Although we were convinced that there is nothing that our excellent students cannot do, the amazing young people continue to meet and exceed our standards.
- ? Finally, I cannot say enough about our parent community. You have been so generous with your time and your money. We must continue to ask for your help throughout the year, but please know that the PTSA executive board continues to marvel at the caring brought to Silver Spring International by its parent community.



If you haven't had a chance to

contribute through participation in a fund-raiser or through volunteering at the school, please watch for an opportunity in the coming months. We need every parent to play a small part in our school. There are many of us, so the small contributions add up to an incredible force for school improvement.

- ? On December 13th, we will have an El Golfo Night fun and fund-raiser.
- ? On January 10th, we will have our next PTSA meeting with a presentation on our implementation of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.
- ? We will be conducting a magazine sale to allow us to maintain a strong mini-grant program to help our teachers obtain materials and do programs that benefit our children.
- ? On February 3^d, we will have a Sports and Fitness Night so that we can once again join together to build community.

Please make some time in your schedule to come to Silver Spring International and show your child that their school is important in YOUR life too!

**Mary Abe
PTSA President**

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6TH Grade News



Mark Your Calendars Now!

Outdoor Education, May 15-19th, 2006, Skycroft Center

Explorers team (Mrs. Earby) – Monday, May 15th – Wednesday, May 17th

Navigators team (Ms. Halter) – Wednesday, May 17th – Friday, May 19th

Skycroft is located on South Mountain near Middletown in Frederick County. The property is near the Washington Monument State Park and offers an abundance of Civil War history including being the site of the Battle of South Mountain. Skycroft provides a picturesque setting for many exciting study areas including a mapping course for orienteering and confidence course activities. Skycroft boasts wonderfully diverse habitats for ecological, wildlife and forest studies and activities. The cost of outdoor ed. is \$76.00 which includes transportation, three meals a day, lodging, and a full time nurse.

Permission slips will be going out the end of March to give ample time for return. There will be a parent information meeting on March 29th to give out important information about the trip.

We will need parent volunteers to bring in s'more materials, prizes for the skit performances, individually wrapped candy for game prizes, donation or borrowing of board games to be used for game night, and other team needs. We may need additional male chaperones, a great volunteer opportunity for fathers.

Black-Eyed Susan Books

What is the Black-Eyed Susan Award? Each year since 1992, the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award has been given in several categories. The purpose of this award is to promote literacy and lifelong reading habits by encouraging students to read quality, contemporary literature. The books selected to be placed on lists for each category are expected to broaden the human experience and provide accurate, factual information. The Black-Eyed Susan Book Award honors outstanding books, chosen annually by Maryland students. Committees of school library media specialists and other interested persons meet over the course of a year to determine which books will go on the lists. Anyone is can suggest titles. Following are some of the criteria:

- * Books may be fiction or nonfiction.
- * Books must have a copyright date of the current year or one of the last 3 years and be listed in the current Books in Print.
- * Each title selected will have received positive reviews from appropriate professional journals.

Members of the committee will read and discuss the submitted books and choose. When the required number of books has been read by students, each student will cast one vote for the book he / she considers to be the most outstanding in each category. Votes from across the state are sent in to the Black-Eyed Susan committees and tallied to determine the winners. The winning authors and/or illustrators receive a pewter plate engraved with the year and the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award logo. Authors, illustrators and publishers recognize the award as an honor bestowed by Maryland students. The public libraries have the Black Eyed Susan listings and are a great resource when looking for excellent age appropriate reading for your children.

6th Grade Highlights – Mrs. Earby's 6th grade English Classes

Mrs. Earby's English classes are participating in literacy circles and reading Black Eyed Susan books in November. In December they will switch to Fantasy Book Buddies.

Literacy Circle Requirements:

Ticket 1: Bring your book to class. No book, no snack.

Ticket 2: Six vocabulary: Define & Use in a sentence. Choose words that you think your classmates may not be familiar with or may be interested in. Choose words that may be specific to the type of book you are reading.

Ticket 3: Three paragraph summary: (many choices, three paragraph minimum). These are only helpful hints or ideas. Add your own ideas!

A. A letter to the author

1. Describe to the author how you felt about the book.
2. Give examples of reason, quotes or scenes that you enjoyed.
3. Tell the author why you liked it or why you didn't like it.
4. Tell the author how you would have written it differently.

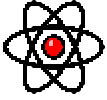
B. Rate the book on a scale of 1-10 and justify your rating.

1. Give reasons for your rating.
2. Offer specific changes you would make.

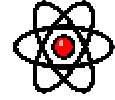
C. Change the ending of the book



(Continued on page 3)



Seventh Grade News



Science – Seventh grade students should be continuing to work on the independent well-designed investigation project. The remaining due dates are:

- ? Phase 4 – Evaluating
 - ? Due Dates (Even: 12/16, Odd: 12/15)
 - ? Deadline (Even: 12/22, Odd: 12/23)
- ? Final Project – Poster
 - ? Due Dates (Even: 12/20, Odd: 12/19)
 - ? Deadline (Even: 1/5, Odd: 1/6)

The final project must be in the form of a tri-fold poster; this is a requirement. Students may purchase tri-fold posters from the science teachers (\$5.50 for white or \$6.50 for color) or purchase one on their own. The 7th grade science teachers are offering lunch help on December 1, 8, 15, and 22; after school help is available on December 7, 14, and 21.

Books for Classroom Library – Ms. Medland (7th grade English) would appreciate any donations of used novels/books for her classroom library. She is trying to build up her classroom library so that students have a variety of books from which to choose for silent reading and their reading logs. If parents have any books their children no longer need (all reading levels are welcome, but juvenile fiction is preferred), she will gladly take them. Please send them to her in room 218.

Career Exploration – Seventh grade counselors Corinne Stevenson and Bobbie Moore have been working with the 7th graders during their Social Studies classes. The students have been interacting with a career awareness web site, www.bridges.com. The site includes an interest inventory and a great deal of information concerning various careers. The counselors' goal is to increase the 7th graders' awareness of how their interests and capabilities connect to the world of work as well as to the vast number of careers that exist. They also want the students to be thinking about the Down County Consortium and the high school academy that they will be choosing this time next year. SSIMS's access number for the web site is 0091164, and the password is "silver". Parents are welcome to explore the site with their child or on their own. It is entertaining and educational!

FACS – Students in 7th grade FACS are working on interesting projects this quarter. Groups were assigned a different food nutrient and asked to develop a three-fold brochure with information on the nutrient. Sub-headings included composition of the food nutrient, types, food sources, functions, and deficiencies. Students are sharing this information in classroom presentations. Students have also been assigned a long-term creative sewing project. They will be designing and sewing creative pillows. Parents should be on the lookout for due date/deadline information from Ms. Moore, FACS teacher.

Lisa Harris

PTSA 7th Grade VP



(Continued from page 2)

1. Write a new ending for the book.
 2. Explain why you do or don't like your ending better.
- D. Create a poster
1. Use pictures or illustrations.
 2. Include captions and text to describe how the picture is related to the book.
- E. Character sketch
1. Choose three characters about the story to describe in detail.
 - a. What did you like/dislike about them?
 - b. Describe the characters in great detail.
 - c. Write about someone they may remind you of.
- F. Create a model or scene
1. Use a box to create a model representing the book.
 2. Use a box to re-create a scene in a box.
- Parents donate snacks for students to enjoy during their book talks....

**Silver Spring International
Middle School**

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Principal: Ms L. Victoria Parcan

Assistant Principals:

Ms Tonia Harley and Mr Joe Mamana

PTSA President: Mary Abe

Newsletter Editors:

Bernadette Baudry and
Anthony Maurelli



Eight Grade Update



Our students are getting ready for high school next year. I have known many of the 8th grade kids since 6th grade and many of them from elementary school. I've watched them grow into wonderful, vibrant teenagers, already making choices and decisions about their future. Many are excited about 8th grade graduation, a huge celebratory milestone for the students making that giant leap to high school. That said, please take note of the following:

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE FOR SCHOOL CHOICE FORMS IS DECEMBER 12.

DCC is Getting Ready for Choice!

The time has come for grade 8 parents and students to participate in high school Choice. This fall Downcounty Consortium (DCC) students have been learning about Choice and the Academy Programs through various activities.

- ? Grade 8 students participated in counselor-led classroom lessons that involved exploring their interests.
- ? Grade 8 students and parents have had opportunities to attend evening information meetings that provided an overview of the Choice Process and the Academy Programs.
- ? Grade 8 families have received, *Milestones*, the newsletter for and about the DCC in the mail.

High school choice forms will be mailed to homes during the last week in November. The deadline to submit completed forms to Ms. Malcolm, 8th grade counselor, is December 12! Please be sure to review the DCC Academy Program booklet with your child in preparation for making choices for high school in December.

**Diane Taitt
8th Grade Parent Rep.**

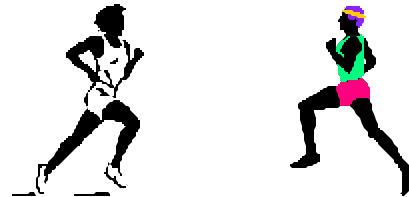
Hoops for Heart

The Hoops for Heart fundraising event for the American Heart Association will be held on Wednesday, December 14th from 3 PM to 5 PM. Watch for pledge forms and permissions slips so that your child can participate in this fun event.

In the past, our school has been recognized by the Association for our outstanding efforts, and we would like for our fundraiser to be as successful as the ones of the past. Not only does this raise money for a very worthy cause, it also is a great source of pride for a school and giving students time to enjoy each others company in a positive environment. This year, we are doing things a little differently. Instead of having the event during the school day in students' gym classes, we are going to be having it after school. Because this means students have a choice whether or not to attend the event, it has to be even more fantastic than usual. This means more games, more contests, more music, and the best briber of all, food.

Parents are being asked to donate Gatorade and healthy snacks to help make this event which supports the Community and Service area of the IB Middle Years Programme a huge success! Donations can be left in the office on December 13th or 14th or brought to the gym at 3 PM on December 14th. Contact Mary Abe (301-754-2632 or e-mail mc.abe@verizon.net) if you would like to help with this event.

**Diane Adamson, Eighth Grade Student and
Hoops for Heart Committee Leader
and Mary Abe, PTSA President**



**Every Thursday is
PTA PIZZA DAY*
at Papa John's (4 Corners)**

Simply:

????? Call in your order: 301-681-4400

????? Pay the menu price

??????? Mention Silver Spring International
and code PTA 22

* *Papa John's will donate 20% to
Silver Spring Int'l Middle School PTA*



International Night Returns to SSIMS A Great Community Event!



On Friday, November 11th, over 200 members of our SSIMS community came together to celebrate our diversity. Students, parents, friends, and teachers worked together to prepare for the event; practicing performances, creating decorations, cooking yummy appetizers and cakes, designing and building displays, and so much more. The students had a great time showing all that they can do. The International Night Committee would like to thank everyone for all their help and for making International Night such a wonderful event. Special thank yous to....

- ? Ms. Moore, her students in the FACS cooking club, and fellow teachers, who made those wonderful appetizers and cakes!
- ? Mrs. Newhard and her students in the Art Club, who made the beautiful Chinese Lanterns, Mexican paper cut banners, and origami lotuses, and who staffed the craft table all evening.
- ? Ms. Dillard and her dance students, for their terrific, energy filled performance.
- ? Ms. Barrera and Ms. McGarrie and their students in the Traditional Latin Dance Group, for their wonderful, fun performance, Ms. McGarrie also spent most of the afternoon before the event helping to set up.
- ? The Black Belt Martial Arts Demo Team, who so generously donated their time, and gave such a fun demonstration of Tae Kwon Do.
- ? Corinne Ducey and friends from the Culkin School of Irish Dance, accompanied by David Abe on violin, who delighted us with their jigs and reels.
- ? Mr. Wright and his staff, who so patiently helped set up the tables, and cleaned up.
- ? Giant Foods, who generously donated all of our soda, juice, and water.
- ? Papa John's Pizza, who generously donated 10 pizzas.
- ? Ms. Christian, for running the "Homeland Heroes" essay contest.
- ? Ms. Randolph, for helping to organize and run the International Night/Geography Contest and Raffle.
- ? Mr. Harris, Ms. Bradley, and Mr. Taylor, for their patience and help in running the raffle, Ms. Rubin, Ms. Brobby, and Ms. Coleman, for helping to gather materials for Students' displays on Ancient Egypt.
- ? Ms. Parcan, Ms. Harley, and Mr. Mamana, for their patience and wonderful support.
- ? Mr. Bianchini, Mr. Boeckman, Ms. Caison, Ms. Cobb, Ms. Cordeiro, and Mr. Lynch, for all of their help setting up and running the event.
- ? SSIMS parents...Tijuana Traore, Tracy Brown, Senaida, Maria Romero, Carolyn Ibici, Lisa Harris and friends, Soffie Ceesay, Ann Leger, Marghi Akram, Diane Taitt, and Pita Lubis, who created wonderful, educational displays.

All of the families who brought such yummy dishes, and who came and had a wonderful time, and a very special thank you to Sergio and Luis Morales, who stayed until the very end of the evening to help clean up and put everything away...

International Night was a wonderful, COMMUNITY event, only because of everyone's hard work and tremendous support. The committee is very grateful for all of the "extra miles" so many went to, to make this event so successful!

Holly Harness, Ivania Hernandez, and Emily Sudbrink
International Night Committee Co-Chairs



Fundraising

PTSA Fundraiser at El Golfo Restaurant

Treat yourself and family to a night out!

Take a break from the holiday rush with a relaxing meal!

Eat in with family or friends; take out if you're in a rush!

Come out for an El Golfo Restaurant Fundraiser Night where SSIMS PTSA will receive 25% of the sales between 5 PM and 10 PM on Tuesday, December 13th! Just tell your server that you are part of SSIMS and then enjoy a great meal. There's everything ranging from pupusas to fajitas to fish and steak to vegetarian specialites. Fundraising just doesn't get any easier than this!

Hope to see you there!

El Golfo Restaurant is located at 8739 Flower Ave, Silver Spring.

Mindy LeBlanc





Science Field Trips for the Family



Science education does not stop once your child leaves the classroom! The SSIMS science department is working hard this year to extend your child's science education by offering a variety of after school activities, such as the environment club and final frontiers, as well as field trips.

The Science Department encourages you to take part in enriching your child's science education by going on a family science field trip this year. All of the suggested field trips below are Metro accessible and located on the mall in Washington, DC. Here are some of the interesting trips you can take that are directly related to what you child is currently studying:

6th Grade Science

Natural History Museum: "Into the Deep" IMAX film.

This film cost the same as any other movie; however, its content is directly tied to the state of Maryland's learning outcomes for sixth graders.

7th Grade Science

American History Museum: "Whatever Happened to Polio?" exhibit.

This exhibit is tied to the 7th grade structure and function of living things and disease unit.

8th Grade Science

Natural History Museum: "Gems and Minerals" exhibit.

Take a tour of gems and minerals from around and even out of this world! This exhibit is tied to the 8th grade earth's structure and chemistry units.

All Grade Levels

American History Museum: "Science in American Life" exhibit.

This exhibit shows how science and technology have changed the lives of Americans.

American History Museum: Hands on Science Center

This is a special part of the American History Museum that has hands-on activities for learners of all ages. Students can test water for water pollutants, explore the mysteries of DNA, and use lasers to see light.

For more information, visit the museums' websites:

The National Museum of American History

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/>

The National Museum of Natural History

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/>

The SSIMS Science Department thanks you for being involved in your child's education!

HELP MAKE STRUGGLING SECOND GRADERS AMAZING READERS

Passion for Learning, a nonprofit organization based in Silver Spring, seeks volunteer tutors from middle and high school to work with struggling second grade readers. Sligo Creek Elementary School is still looking for volunteers for this program. Each volunteer tutor commits to tutoring one child for one hour per week. Tutoring can take place before, during, or after school. For a list of participating schools, see <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/readingnetwork/about/schools.shtm>.

To find out how you can help make second graders AMAZING READERS, contact **Cynthia Rubenstein**, Director of Passion for Learning, at 301-562-6014 or p4learning@aol.com.

AYUDE A QUE LOS ALUMNOS DEL 2DO GRADO SE HACEN LECTORES MARAVILLOSOS

Pasión Por el Aprendizaje, una organización sin fines de lucro basada en Silver Spring, busca tutores voluntarios de las escuelas intermedias y secundarias para trabajar con estudiantes del 2do grado que tienen dificultades con lectura. La Escuela Primaria de Sligo Creek todavía necesita voluntarios para este programa. Cada voluntario se compromete a trabajar con un niño por una hora a la semana. La tutoría puede pasar antes, durante, o después de las clases. Para una lista completa de las escuelas participando, visite el siguiente sitio de Internet:

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/readingnetwork/about/schools.shtm>.

Para averiguar como su alumno de SSIMS puede ayudar a un niño del 2do grado a volverse en un LECTOR MARAVILLOSO, contacte a Cynthia Rubenstein, Directora de Pasión Por el Aprendizaje al 301-562-6014 o al correo electrónico p4learning@aol.com.



Presidenta de la PTSA

Una Comunidad Generosa

La escuela Silver Spring International ocupa un lugar muy especial en la vida de nuestros niños. Estamos por cumplir la mitad del año y estoy impresionada por el esfuerzo y actitud generosa de tantas personas en nuestra comunidad.

- ? Primeramente quisiera agradecer a la administración de la escuela. La Sra. Parcan, el Sr. Mamana y la Srta. Harley se han dedicado a asegurar que el ambiente de la escuela facilite el aprendizaje.
- ? Segundo quisiera agradecer a todo el personal de la escuela. He observado que cada miembro del personal está haciendo un gran esfuerzo y dando extra para que nuestros alumnos tengan un año de éxitos. Para muchos de los maestros esto es un sacrificio de tiempo con sus familias y les debemos nuestro profundo agradecimiento.
- ? Tercero, estoy muy contenta con nuestros magníficos estudiantes. Mucha gente con quien la Sra. Parcan y yo hablamos el verano pasado expresaron dudas que nuestros alumnos podrían alcanzar las metas académicas y de comportamiento que habíamos establecido. Aunque estábamos convencidas de que nuestros estudiantes lo lograrían estamos admiradas de sus éxitos.
- ? Finalmente quisiera agradecer a todas nuestras familias que nos han ayudado con su tiempo y su dinero. La junta directiva de la PTSA está admirada del apoyo de nuestra comunidad y seguiremos contando con ustedes.

No se olviden que hay varias oportunidades para colaborar y esperamos que cada familia pueda contribuir con algo, no importa cuan pequeña sea. Si todos ponemos de nuestra parte lograremos mucho.

- ? El 13 de diciembre los esperamos en el Restaurante El Golfo.
- ? El 10 de enero habrá una presentación sobre el programa académico de Años Intermedios del International Baccalaureate (IB) durante la reunión de la PTSA.
- ? Para recaudar fondos vamos a lanzar una venta de revistas. Estos fondos se utilizarán para dar becas a los maestros para la compra de materiales y programas que enriquecerán sus clases.
- ? El 3 de febrero los esperamos en la Noche Deportiva.

Por favor pasen a visitar la escuela Silver Spring International y enseñen a sus hijos que la educación es importante.

Mary Abe
PTSA President



Noticias del 7to Grado



Ciencia – Los estudiantes del 7to deberían seguir trabajando en su proyecto independiente de investigación. Las fechas importantes que les quedan son:

- ? Fase 4 – Evaluación
 - ? Fecha de Entrega (Día Par: 12/16, Día Impar: 12/15)
 - ? Última fecha para entregarla (Día Par: 12/22, Día Impar: 12/23)
- ? Proyecto Final – Un Cartel
 - ? Fecha de Entrega (Día Par: 12/20, Día Impar: 12/19)
 - ? Última fecha para entregarlo (Día Par: 1/5, Día Impar: 1/6)

El proyecto final debe de ser en forma de un cartel doblado en tres; este es el requisito. Los estudiantes pueden comprar los carteles doblados en tres de los maestros de ciencia. (\$5.50 por un blanco, \$6.50 por uno de color) o pueden comprar uno en otro sitio. Los maestros de ciencia del 7to están brindando ayuda durante el almuerzo en las siguientes fechas: Diciembre 1, 8, 15, 22; y ayuda después de la escuela: Diciembre 7, 14, y 21.

Se Busca Donaciones de Libros Para una Librería en un Salón – Sra. Medland (Maestra de Inglés – 7to) apreciaría cualquier donación de libros/novelas usadas para su librería en el salón. Ella está tratando de aumentar la selección de libros en su librería así que los estudiantes tengan una variedad de libros para leer durante la lectura en silencio y para su diario de lectura. Si los padres tienen cualquier libro que su niño ya no necesita (acepta todos niveles, pero prefiere la ficción para jóvenes) ella estará encantada de tenerlos. Favor de mandarlos al salón 218.

Exploración de Carreras - Las consejeras del 7to, Corinne Stevenson y Bobbie Moore, han estado trabajando con los estudiantes del 7to durante sus clases de estudios sociales. Los estudiantes trabajaban con un sitio en el Internet que se trata de diferente tipos

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SSIMS PTSA Newsletter
Silver Spring International Middle
School
313 Wayne Avenue

de ocupaciones, www.bridges.com. Este sitio incluye un cuestionario sobre los intereses individuales y un montón de información cerca de varias carreras. La meta de las consejeras es informar a los estudiantes de cómo sus preferencias y destrezas están relacionadas con el mundo de trabajo, así como la gran cantidad de carreras que existe. También, ellas quieren recordar a los alumnos que necesitan pensar en el Down County Consortium y la academia que van a escoger para la escuela secundaria durante esta misma época del próximo año. El número de SSIMS para acceso al sitio es 0091164, y la contraseña es "silver". Los padres están invitados a explorar el sitio solos o con su niño. Es divertido y educativo!

Clases de FACS - Los alumnos del 7to están haciendo un proyecto interesante en la clase de FACS durante este cuarto. La maestra asignó a grupos un nutrimento de comida y pidió que ellos desarrollen un folleto doblado en tres con información sobre el nutrimento. Temas que discutirán en el folleto incluyen la composición del nutrimento, tipos, las comidas que lo contienen, funciones, y deficiencias. Los estudiantes van a compartir la información a través de presentaciones en las clases. También, los estudiantes tienen un proyecto a largo plazo de costura. Ellos diseñarán y coserán almohadas creativas. Los padres deben estar pendientes de información adicional de la maestra de FACS, Sra. Moore, sobre las fechas de entrega.

Lisa Harris, PTSA VP – 7to grado



**Cada jueves en
Papa John's (4 Corners)
es DIA DE PIZZA
para la Asociación de Padres y Maestros
(PTA)**

Simplemente:

- ? Llame al 301-681-4400 a ordenar su pizza
- ? Pague el precio del menú
- ? Mencione el nombre de la escuela Silver Spring International y el número PTA 22

***Papa John's donará el 20% a su asociación de padres y maestros (PTA)**