



## February 2009 Sequoyah Elementary Foundation Update

Dear Parents:

This is a second letter from the SEF Board to let you know what we have been doing recently to improve the environment in which our children learn. As I informed you in my fall letter, based on the results of parent and teacher focus groups and an extensive School Improvement Plan, the SEF Board identified four immediate fundraising priorities that parents and teachers believe are needed to improve the education of our children. In order of priority, those four areas are: (1) Supplemental Education (personnel); (2) Supplemental Education (equipment and physical space); (3) Safety and Security; and (4) Playground.

Our progress on those funding priorities has been swift:

- **Supplemental Education (personnel)**: In response to input from parents and teachers as well as unexpected Knox County school budget cuts, the SEF is funding one full time Teachers' Assistant ("TA") and one half-time TA for the 2008-2009 school year, and has committed to funding two full time TA's for the 2009-2010 school year. These TA's work with students in Kindergarten through Second Grade on reading fluency, word recognition and phonemic awareness. They also provide reading enrichment to students in Kindergarten and First Grade. The SEF has also committed to fund a part time technology support person to assist teachers as they integrate technology into their daily lessons. The school will place an advertisement for this position soon.
- **Supplemental Education (equipment)**: Because the teachers participating in our "pilot" ActivBoard program have been thrilled with the educational possibilities that the technology permits, more teachers have requested the technology for their rooms. Thirteen more ActivBoards and LCD projectors have been purchased and will be installed in classrooms soon.
- **Safety and Security**: Based on the recommendations of a professional security assessment, we have ordered seven "key-pad" entry systems which should be in place by the end of the month. In addition, ten outside security cameras and two internal security cameras have been installed. The SEF is being proactive on this front so as to maintain the safe environment of our school by deterring unwelcome trespassers.
- **Playground**: The PTA and Kids Place are currently in discussions about an overall playground upgrade. The SEF has committed to contribute \$5000 toward the upgrade.

We thank you for your continued support which has made all these activities possible. These ambitious plans require ambitious fund-raising as well! We have been successfully raising funds from various sources throughout the year, but our biggest fundraising event is coming soon – *the SEF Benefit "Affair on the Square."* We hope you can attend this fun event on February 28th at the Square Room, 4 Market Square (for ticket information, contact Patty Lewis at [pattyclewis@comcast.net](mailto:pattyclewis@comcast.net) or 755-3197). With your continued support we can fulfill the SEF's mission of "financially supporting a complete academic environment within which Sequoyah School's students will receive a high-quality education exemplified by academic achievement and excellence."

Warm regards,

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