

History of Alex Sanger Preparatory School

The autumn of 1956 dawned with the completion of a sleek, modern-looking school to serve the booming White Rock area. The school was named after Dallas merchant Alex Sanger.

| ACCESSION SURVEY | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|--------|------|--------------|
| DATE | NO. | AUTHOR | TITLE | ED. | PUBLISHER | YEAR | AMOUNT | NO. | REMARKS |
| 4/20/56 | 201 | Frank, Sam | Ballad for Mary | | Knopf | 1955 | 00 | 2.50 | |
| | 202 | Frank, Sam | Little Single Horse | | Knopf | 1957 | 00 | 2.50 | |
| | 203 | Frank, F. S. | Gift | C. E. | Knopf | 1950 | 00 | 2.00 | Frank's gift |
| | 204 | Frank, F. S. | Parties | | | 1945 | 00 | 2.00 | |
| | 205 | Frank, F. S. | Under Field of Ice | | | 1937 | 00 | 2.25 | |
| | 206 | Frank, Leslie | Johnny Coon's Garden | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.75 | |
| | 207 | Frank, F. S. | Peppie and the space ship | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.00 | |
| | 208 | Frank, F. S. | Peppie and the space ship | | Knopf | 1953 | 00 | 2.00 | Frank's gift |
| | 209 | Frank, F. S. | Swedish Flag | | Knopf | 1956 | 00 | 2.00 | Frank's gift |
| | 210 | Frank, Margaret | America in 48 counties | | Knopf | 1955 | 00 | 2.75 | |
| | 211 | Frank, F. S. | Samuel, a little boy of Berlin | | Knopf | 1955 | 00 | 2.00 | |
| | 212 | Frank, F. S. | Small stripes and bright stars | | Knopf | 1955 | 00 | 2.75 | Frank's gift |
| | 213 | Frank, Leslie J. | Stone soup | | Knopf | 1947 | 00 | 2.25 | Frank's gift |
| | 214 | Frank, Leslie J. | Cinderella | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.00 | Frank's gift |
| | 215 | Frank, Margaret J. | Cinderella | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.00 | |
| | 216 | Frank, Margaret | The little brown boat | | Knopf | 1955 | 00 | 2.50 | |
| | 217 | Frank, Margaret | Little fir tree | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.00 | |
| | 218 | Frank, Margaret | Little India | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.00 | |
| | 219 | Frank, Margaret | Red light, green light | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.50 | Frank's gift |
| | 220 | Frank, Margaret | Summer night book | | Knopf | 1952 | 00 | 2.75 | Frank's gift |
| | 221 | Frank, Leslie | The silver eel | | Knopf | 1956 | 00 | 2.50 | |
| | 222 | Frank, Leslie | Swiss 10's spring, 10's spring | | Knopf | 1956 | 00 | 2.75 | |
| | 223 | Frank, Leslie | Jump A B C | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.75 | |
| | 224 | Frank, Margaret | In ponds and streams | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.00 | |
| | 225 | Frank, Leslie | Once of Italy | | Knopf | 1954 | 00 | 2.75 | |

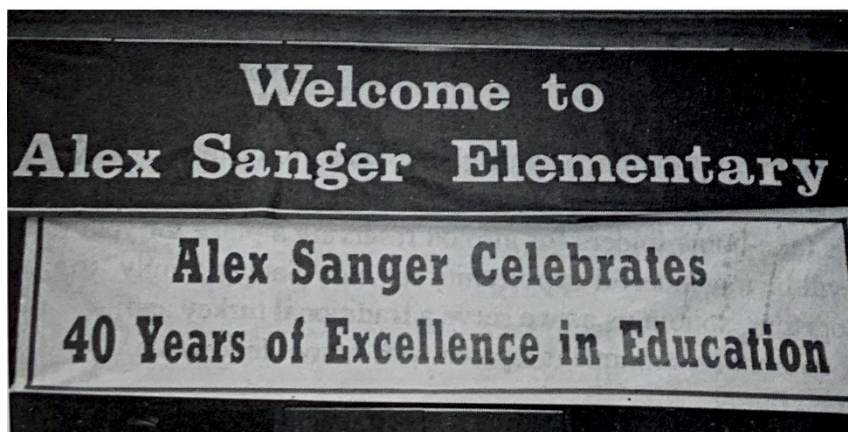
A page from Alex Sanger's Library Accession Register September 10, 1956 – Click for larger image.

"We lived on Diceman and it was very exciting for a new school to be built in that neighborhood," say Colleen Plunk, an "original" Sanger parent.

The school was finally ready but not the street in front of it. "It was like a big dirt road and sand was flying everywhere," she recalls. "And don't forget we had no air conditioning then!"

P.J. (Peggy) Ward also was thrilled to have her school so close to home on San Fernando. "It was not just one teacher that changed my life, it was all of them," Ms. Ward says.

Excerpts from *The Sanger Stallion* – The Monthly Newsletter of the Alex Sanger Elementary PTA October 1996.



A new banner hangs proudly above the St. Francis entrance proclaiming Sanger's 40th anniversary in 1996.

Paul Oswalt recently reflected on his early years in Forest Hills. Paul lived in Forest Hills from 1952-2000.

"I was at Sanger the year it opened and attend Sanger for 2nd, 3rd grades and 5th through 7th grades (I was in the 4th grade in Canoga Park, CA.)

My teachers were Ms. Ross, 1st grade, Ms. Nowlin, 2nd grade, Ms. Dixon, 3rd grade and Ms. Davidson, 5th grade. Charle Chowning was principal during most of those years. I think Mr. Hogue was principal the first couple of years. Mr. Geldmeier & Ms. Blessing were gym teachers/coaches. I also had wonderful art & music teachers.

On weekends & summers kids would gather to play baseball & football on the playground at Sanger. Very thankful for those memories, kids figuring out fair play by themselves."

Marvel Kiewit was quoted in Forest Hills May-June 2010 newsletter.

"Forest Hills has been home to Marvel Kiewit since 1963. Her five children grew up in our magical neighborhood. It was a time was a time when Alex Sanger Elementary was the school everyone went to and the center of friendship and activity in our community. Back then, Marvel was always busy with PTA."

New Construction

Construction started in December 2019 for the new 2-story classroom addition and on April 14, 2001 Alex Sanger Preparatory School celebrated the completion of the 14 million dollar newly constructed addition and renovations.

The new two story classroom addition including 23 new classroom, a new gymnasium which also serves as a storm shelter, music rooms a dance studio, science labs and a computer lab, new paving, walks, fences, and gates, re-roofing the existing school building, new aluminum canopies, and new PA system as well as fire alarm system throughout school.

In addition, a new electronic security and access control system, new primary electrical services, new site utilities and new aluminum storefront system throughout.

The renovations were years in the making and the construction started on 6/10/2019 and was completed 9/17/2021.

This addition and renovation allowed Sanger to grow from the traditional Pre-K4 to 5th grade to Pre-K3 to 8th grade.



Today Sanger Preparatory School has approximately 750+ students and offers a two-way dual language option and a general education option.

In May 2022, Sanger middle school has winning robotics teams, Robolution, taking 1st and 2nd in the Teamwork Challenge and 2nd and 3rd in Skills category, finally winning the Design and Excellence awards!

In 2023, Alex Sanger received several awards. In April, both the Elementary and Middle School Robotics teams placed 3rd and 4th in their respective categories and earned the Innovation and Excellence Awards! They then competed at Nationals in Iowa where the Elementary team ranked 8th and came home with an Innovation award and both middle school teams made it to final rounds where they ended up ranked 8th and 6th. Both teams won bids to the World Competition to be held in Dallas in May

What's in a Name?

But how did our neighborhood school become Alex Sanger Preparatory School?



Our neighborhood school was named after Alexander Sanger born on May 8, 1847 in Germany. In 1865 he followed his brothers to Cincinnati and then to Corsicana, TX in 1872 to join the Sanger Brothers family business. He moved to Dallas later that year when he opened and then managed a branch of the company. Sanger and Sanger Brothers was extremely successful in retail and became the company president on December 28, 1918.

Image in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107](#)

His business success is a small part of the impact Alex Sanger on the city of Dallas. He helped to organize the first synagogue in Dallas and he was successful in lobbying and in raising funds for the Texas and Pacific Railway to build an east-west route railway.

Sanger donated to establish the Dallas Public Library and was one of its directors. Maybe one of biggest and lasting contributions was organizing the State Fair of Texas. He was the director from its inception until his death on September 13, 1925.

Alex Sanger was also a charter member of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. An active supporter of Southern Methodist University also was a regent for University of Texas from 1911 to 1917.

For those of you who remember the department store Sanger-Harris, it began as two separate and competing firms: Sanger Brothers and A. Harris and Co. On February 6, 1961 a merger created Sanger-Harris Department Stores, Inc. Sanger Brothers was started by Lehman Sanger as a dry goods store in Weatherford, Texas in 1855 under the name Baum and Sanger.

A further connection to Forest Hills occurred when Alex Sanger married Fannie Fechenbach. Fannie Sanger nee Fechenbach was the sister of Leon's father, Samuel M. Fechenbach. April 11 1924, Leon L. Fechenbach dedicated the plat of the Forest Hills Addition.



For a number of years, Forest Hills residents have supported the needs of the students through donations to the Alex Sanger Pantry. You can donate to the Sanger Pantry through Amazon's Wish List (scan, tap or click code).