

“RACHEL CARSON HERON HERALD”



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Web Page: www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/rachelcarsones/

Principal: Larry Chop
Assistant Principal: Cathy Shinn

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!

Rachel Carson Elementary School's Mission Statement

The staff, students, and families of RCES will share responsibility for ensuring that each child demonstrates consistent, measurable progress on the way to reaching his or her potential as a learner and responsible citizen.

A CHARACTER COUNTS! SCHOOL!

NEXT WEEK AT RACHEL CARSON RED RIBBON WEEK

MONDAY

11/2

No School – Professional Day (*Report Card Preparation*)

5:00-8:00 p.m. *Buca di Beppo Family Night Fundraiser*

TUESDAY

11/3

3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd K-1 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 126)

*At Governors

3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)

Square }
Apartments }

6:30 p.m. *Principal's Tea* – *Parent Resources and George B. Thomas, Jr. Saturday School*

7:00 p.m. *PTA Meeting*

WEDNESDAY

11/4

7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)

8:00 a.m. *Parent Outreach Meeting – Conference Room*

Chess Club

3:10-4:10 p.m. Tae Kwon Do K-5 (Gym)

THURSDAY

11/5

Math Olympiad

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. *Grade 4 to St. Mary's City*

3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd 2-5 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (Art Room)

3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K-5 Rm. 108)

3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)

FRIDAY



11/6

Session II After-school Clubs Brochure Distributed

7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)

3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5 (Gym)

LOOKING AHEAD

- 11/9 ***The Power of One – Anti-Bullying Assembly – (K-3-1:15-2:05 p.m.)(4 & 5-2:15-2:55 p.m.)***
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K&1 Rm. 139, 1&2 Rm. 147, 3-5 Rm. 148)
 3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)
5-8:30pm Chicken Out Family Night Fundraiser
- 11/10 **Last Day for Session I** HoopEd K-1 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 126)
- 11/11 **12:35 p.m. Early Release Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences**
No Pre-K Classes No Clubs
 Sally Foster Gift Wrap Distributed
- 11/12 **12:35 p.m. Early Release Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences**
No Pre-K Classes No Clubs
 Sally Foster Gift Wrap Distributed
- 11/13 3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5 (Gym)
- 11/16 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K&1 Rm. 139, 1&2 Rm. 147, 3-5 Rm. 148)
 3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)
- 11/19 **11:10 a.m.-1:50 p.m. Grade 2 to Strathmore (National Philharmonic)**
Last Day for Session I HoopEd 2-5 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (Art Room)
- 11/20 *Grade Level News Distributed*
Last Day for Session I Hip Hop 2-5 (Gym) 
7:00 p.m. Barnes and Noble Family Night
- 11/23 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K&1 Rm. 139, 1&2 Rm. 147, 3-5 Rm. 148)
 3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)
5:00-8:00 p.m. Potomac Pizza Night
- 11/25 **12:35 p.m. Early Release Day** 
No Clubs
- 11/26 **Thanksgiving - No School**
- 11/27 **Thanksgiving Break - No School**
- 11/30 **Session II Clubs Begin**
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K&1 Rm. 139, 1&2 Rm. 147, 3-5 Rm. 148)
 3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)
3:30 p.m. School Improvement Team Meeting

Parent-Teacher Conferences

**COLUMBUS DAY - OPEN HOUSE**

We were thrilled so many parents, grandparents and other relatives found time to join us for the Columbus Day Open House. Parent volunteers greeted many guests at the sign-in table. The coffee and cookies were provided through the PTA. We appreciate the support of our parent volunteers and PTA, who together with our wonderful staff, made this day an outstanding experience for all.

PTA MEETING/ PRINCIPAL'S TEA

The next Principal's Tea and PTA meeting will take place at **Governor's Square Apartments** on **Tuesday, November 3**. The Principal's Tea will focus on **Parent Resources and George B. Thomas, Jr. Saturday School**. Baby-sitting will be available. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

NOVEMBER PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please make sure you have scheduled a **Parent-Teacher Conference** on either November 11 or 12. There will be a **Spanish** interpreter available on **Wednesday, November 11 from 12:30-4:15 p.m. and Thursday, November 12 from 12:30-4:15 p.m.**, and a **Chinese** interpreter available on **Wednesday, November 11 from 12:30-4:15 p.m.** Conferences are scheduled on fifteen minute intervals. Call or write your child's teacher to request a specific time if needed.

REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION

Report cards will be handed out during the **November 11 and 12** parent conferences.

If you have not scheduled a conference, please contact your child's teacher. Parents who do not schedule a conference will receive their child's report card on **November 11 via their child**. The parent conference is the perfect time to ask questions about your child's progress. Parents are encouraged to make every effort to attend.



SATURDAY SCHOOL

Parents who would like their children to participate in the **George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc.** can register their children to participate in the **Saturday School program**. This is a great opportunity for your child to receive additional support with academic studies. Call **301-320-6545** or go to

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/gbtl/> for more information about the academy.

NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS AT STRATHMORE - GR. 2

Once again, all Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Grade 2 students will attend a National Philharmonic Concert at the Music Center at Strathmore. There are no costs for elementary schools in association with this program. Our students are scheduled to attend the concert on November 19, from 11:10 a.m.-1:50 p.m.

This program is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for elementary music and the National Standards for Music Education. The superintendent's ongoing budget initiative provides the opportunity for every Grade 2 student in MCPS to attend this performance.

MCPS staff in the Department of Transportation, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and Strathmore personnel have developed a comprehensive plan to move students safely to the music center and back to the buses after the performance. Only Grade 2 teachers and one general music teacher are permitted to serve as chaperones on the bus and in the music center. Strathmore provides a full-time adult guide who will lead the students from the bus to their seats and back to the bus after the performance.

If you have questions regarding this concert, please contact Mr. Rick Penix, coordinator, instrumental music, at 301-279-3836, or via e-mail to [Rick S Penix@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rick_S_Penix@mcpsmd.org).

YEARBOOK PRESALES COMING SOON!

Our 2009-2010 Yearbook will soon go on sale. Look for the **pre-sale flyer** to come home soon! This year, yearbooks must be purchased by check or money order. This will act as your receipt.

LOST AND FOUND

We have accumulated quite a collection of coats, hats, sweaters and sweat jackets in our Lost and Found. If your child is missing any of these items, please come to claim your child's belongings. All of the Lost and Found items will be on display during parent teacher conferences.

SPELLING BEE

Our third annual spelling bee (Grades 3-5) will be held during the month of February. Look for a letter and words to study from Mr. Chep in November. The students will have time to study these words, compete in a classroom bee and then, the classroom winners will compete in a Final Spelling Bee.

GIANT BONUS BUCKS DONUT PARTY- WINNING CLASSES

Congratulations to all Rachel Carson classes. We did a great job this year turning in our Giant Bonus Bucks forms. We have more than 300 registered cards to date. And there is still time to help. If you haven't yet registered, please enroll today at www.giantfood.com/aplus.

The following classes turned in the most forms in their grade and have won a Donut Party for their class.

PreK -	Mrs. Sayegh
Kindergarten -	Ms. Daley
1st Grade -	Mrs. Bell
2nd Grade -	Mrs. Bayburtian
3rd Grade -	Ms. Lubkin
4th Grade -	Mrs. Bannon
5th Grade -	Mrs. Blanc
Learning Center -	Ms. O'Keefe

NO CLUBS

There will be **no after school clubs** on our early release days (November 11, 12 and 25). Please make sure you inform your child about his/her after school arrangements.

FAMILY FUNDRAISERS

We all have to eat to survive, so why not take a break from cooking and dine at one of the restaurants below to help support our PTA and school. While you enjoy a delicious meal during our assigned family fundraising night, we earn money. It's that easy!!!! And, there's no clean up necessary!

<i>November 9:</i>	<i>Chicken Out, 5-8:30pm</i>
<i>November 23:</i>	<i>Potomac Pizza, 5-9pm</i>
<i>December 7 & 8:</i>	<i>South Street Steaks, 5-9pm</i>
<i>December 22:</i>	<i>Baja Fresh, 5-9pm</i>
<i>January 11:</i>	<i>Panera Bread, all day</i>
<i>January 26:</i>	<i>Buca di Beppo, 5-9pm</i>



FROM OUR SPECIALISTS

P.E. News

The Physical Education department is going on all cylinders as the month of October moves along. The Pre K – 2nd grade students continue to work on their fundamental motor skills, spatial awareness, as well as kicking skills. Almost all the students are remembering to **wear their sneakers** during class days and their enthusiasm has been great. The 3rd through 5th grade students have been working on their soccer dribbling skills, punting and passing with the inside of their foot. In addition, they have been learning the difference between resting heart rate, maximum heart rate, and target heart rate. We will begin to talk about the components of fitness and give each student an opportunity to see where they should concentrate their efforts to become a more fit individual.

Next month, all grades will begin to focus on throwing and catching skills. Health and fitness concepts will continue to be emphasized as students become more aware of the importance of exercise and a healthy lifestyle.

Good work to those of you who participated in the NASA Federal Credit Union Young Run with their children. Being a role model for a healthy lifestyle is one of the great gifts you can give your kids.

Mr. Whitman, Mr. Jansson and Ms. Spillman

Musical Notes

- Pre-k students have been keeping a steady beat and moving with music. They are also learning to match pitch while singing familiar songs. They will be learning about the musical opposites fast and slow, and loud and quiet.
- Kindergarten has been studying the musical opposites fast and slow, loud and quiet, and high and low. They will continue to practice keeping a steady beat and will learn about the instruments in an orchestra.
- First grade has been working on their dancing skills. They learned how to dance the Hokey Pokey and Looby Loo! They will review loud and quiet, and fast and slow.
- The second graders learned all the instruments in the orchestra, and which families they belong to, in preparation for our field trip in November to hear the National Philharmonic play at Strathmore Concert Hall. They will continue to prepare for the field trip by learning about some of the pieces they will hear.
- Third graders learned about and compared different styles of music. They will learn how to use musical opposites to express different emotions in their singing, and will learn the musical terms for these opposites.
- Fourth graders worked on their conducting skills and playing instruments to accompany songs. They will use their knowledge of rhythms to create Thanksgiving raps. They will also learn about instruments in the percussion family.
- The fifth graders have learned about rhythms. They got to work in groups to make their own rhythm compositions and perform them for the class! They will learn about how composers choose instruments to use in a piece.

The fifth grade chorus is working hard to prepare for their winter concert on December 21. **I am currently looking for a volunteer to accompany the choir on piano for this concert. If you are interested in accompanying the choir or know of someone who might be interested, please feel free to contact me by phone at the school or by email at julia_sansonetti@mcps.org.** Thank you!

Artistic News

The Awesome RCES Art Department was very busy this month. With the help of our parent volunteers, we hung our first show of the school year. “Art Rules” was **curate** to include a self portrait from each RCES student. The young artists included text that addressed these questions: What do you love about art? What would you like to do in art this year? What are you a “master” at in art? We hope you enjoy all 900 plus portraits.

The kindergarten artists focused again on lines. They examined “Mr. Bones”; our full size model of a skeleton to see where the leg bones are connected to the hip bones, the hip bones connected to the back bone, etc, and then used lines and shapes to create a skeleton with movement with white oil pastel on black paper. We added shape and warm colors making a radial design on a sun inspired “The Eclipse”, by artist Alma Woodsey Thomas!

The turtles have returned! After completing beautiful Native American inspired “messenger bags” called *par fleche*, first graders are moving on to explore the wonderful world of turtles. Look for clay turtles to come crawling slowly home in a few weeks.

Our second and third grade artists really got to know birds. Our mascot the blue heron, a bird of their choice, and an imaginary bird are some of the beautiful drawings you’ll find in the stick bound bird books coming home this month. After such in-depth investigation, we believe our next project, clay bird rattles, will be very successful!

Did you see the meteor shower earlier this month? If not, get ready for one when the fourth and fifth grade artists bring home their star books. These beautiful tiny books include five character traits, rendered in creative fonts, which the students chose to describe themselves. We will finish our skeleton paintings, which were inspired by the tiny skeleton sculptures that grace the alters and shrines when celebrating the Day of the Dead, a holiday celebrated in Mexico and other South American countries.

Ms. Connell and Mrs. Horan would like to send a huge THANK YOU to our volunteers! We cannot keep up our excellent program without your continued support! Thanks also for our beautiful new books that were donated from the book fair!



“Understanding Fluency and Its Role in Reading Acquisition” Adapted from *Journal of Reading Recovery: Spring 2002*

Recent National studies include fluency as one of the critical components of reading development. Many parents often wonder what exactly fluency is and how it effects reading acquisition.

What is Fluency?

Reading has often been presented as a two-fold process occurring in milliseconds. First, printed words must be decoded; second, the decoded words must be comprehended. The mediator of these two separate processes is attention. Readers only have so much attention available at any given time; therefore, in order to become fluent, one must be able to decode automatically so attention can be freed up for comprehension.



It is important to note that while automaticity and a rapid reading rate are important components of fluent reading, it also consists of the ability to read sentences expressively with appropriate phrasing and intonation. Fluent reading is more than just speed and word recognition. Expression, phrasing, and intonation are all equally important.

Components of Proper Phrasing

Appropriate phrasing includes *juncture*, *pitch* and *stress*.

Juncture involves slight pauses between words, longer pauses between phrases and clauses and even longer pauses between sentences. Pauses and changes in speed allow the reader to access the language structure units, such as clauses and phrases, which support the meaning of the passage or book. Many of these junctures (pauses) are indicated by punctuation: commas, periods, question marks, and exclamation marks. Direct instruction on how to read using punctuation supports fluency.

Pitch is associated with raising or lowering the tone of voice and provides clues to the type of sentence being read. In English, most sentences begin with a rise in intonation on the first syllable, then a gradual decline in pitch throughout the sentence with a distinct drop on the last syllable. Interrogative sentences (questions) end with a rising pitch.

Stress involves giving relative force or prominence to a syllable or word. Stressing a syllable can indicate a word's part of speech and sometimes meaning. Occasionally stress is cued by italics, bold type or the use of all capital letters within the text itself. Most often the reader needs to interpret where the stress belongs based on the meaning of the previously read paragraphs or sentences.

Why Would Fluency be Evaluated?

In many cases, fluency is a function of comprehension. A teacher or parent may notice that a child is struggling to understand a text and will check fluency to see if that could be the root cause of the problem. For younger children or struggling readers, fluency may be evaluated to determine if it is hindering a child from reading accurately. Good readers use a variety of sources of information to actively decode texts. If a child's reading is slow or lacks phrasing and intonation, they are unable to tap into other sources of information such as meaning and sentence structure to accurately read a text.

Supporting Fluency

- Ensure automaticity with high frequency words
- Give students many opportunities to read a variety of texts
- Avoid correcting word level errors in the middle of reading. Try to wait until the end of the passage.
- Drop the level of difficulty of the book until processing is working effectively
- Read aloud to your child modeling phrased and fluent reading.
- Allow your child to listen to books on tape
- Give students opportunities to reread text that are familiar to them

Kimberly McIntyre, M.S. Reading Specialist

November 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>No School – Professional Day (Report Card Preparation) 5:00-8:00 p.m. <i>Buca di Beppo Family Night Fundraiser</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>6:30 p.m. <i>Principal's Tea</i> 7:00 p.m. PTA Meeting @ <i>Governors Square Apartments</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. <i>Grade 4 to St. Mary's City</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Session II After-school Clubs Brochure Distributed</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p><i>The Power of One – Anti-Bullying Assembly – (K-3-1:15-2:05 p.m.) (4 & 5-2:15-2:55 p.m.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>12:35 p.m. <i>Early Release Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences</i> No Pre-K Classes No Clubs Sally Foster Gift Wrap Distributed</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>12:35 p.m. <i>Early Release Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences</i> No Pre-K Classes No Clubs Sally Foster Gift Wrap Distributed</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p><i>Grade Level News Distributed</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Barnes and Noble Family Night</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>5:00-8:00 p.m. <i>Potomac Pizza Night</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>12:35 p.m. <i>Early Release Day</i> No Clubs</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Thanksgiving - No School</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break - No School</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>Session II Clubs Begin 3:30 p.m. <i>School Improvement Team Meeting</i></p>				

Noviembre 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>No hay clases - Día Profesional (Report Card Preparación) 5:00-8:00 p.m. Buca di Beppo Noche Familiar de Recaudación de Fondos</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Té 6:30 p.m. Principal de 7:00 pm Reunión del PTA @ Apartamentos Plaza Gobernadores</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>7:30 am-5:00 p.m. Grado 4 de la ciudad de St. Mary's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Sesión II después del folleto distribuido Clubes escolares</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p><i>The Power of One - Anti-Bullying Asamblea -- (K-3-1:15-2: 05 p.m.) (4 & 5-2:15-2:55 p.m.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>12:35 p.m. Día de salida temprana - Padres/Maestros No hay clases de Pre-K No Clubes Sally Foster Gift Wrap Distribuido</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>12:35 p.m. Día de salida temprana - Padres/Maestros No hay clases de Pre-K No Clubes Sally Foster Gift Wrap Distribuido</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p><i>Nivel de Grado News Distributed 7:00 p.m. Barnes and Noble Family Night</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>5:00-8:00 p.m. Potomac Noche de Pizza</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>12:35 p.m. Día de salida temprana No Clubes</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Acción de Gracias - No hay clases</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Quiebre de Acción de Gracias - No hay clases</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>Sesión II Clubes Begin 3:30 p.m. Reunión del Equipo de Mejoramiento Escolar</p>				