

"RACHEL CARSON HERON HERALD"



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Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(301) 840-5333
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Web Page: www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/rachelcarsones/

Principal: Larry Chep
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 PEACE WEEK

MONDAY

12/14 3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)

TUESDAY

12/15 **7:00 p.m. RCES Choral Members Sing National Anthem @ QOHS Basketball Game vs. Wootton**
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd K-1 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 126)
Inquiry Investigations Club
Homework Club

WEDNESDAY

12/16 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)
3:10-4:10 p.m. Tae Kwon Do K-5 (Gym)
Chess Club

THURSDAY

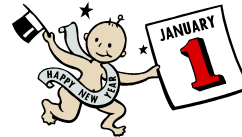
12/17 *Math Olympiad*
9:15 a.m. Kindergarten Open House for parents who will be sending (or are considering sending) their children to Kindergarten at RCES next fall
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)
3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K-5 Rm. 108)
3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd 2-5 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (Art Room)
Homework Club

FRIDAY

12/18 *Grade Level Newsletters Distributed*
7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)
3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5

LOOKING AHEAD

- 12/21 9:15 a.m. Choral/Instrumental Concert Assembly
1:50 p.m. Code Red Drill
3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)
7:00 p.m. RCES' Wonderful, Winter Choral/Instrumental Concert @ QOHS
- 12/22 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd K-1 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 126)
Inquiry Investigations Club
Homework Club
5:00-9:00 p.m. California Tortilla Family Fundraiser
- 12/23 **Last Day of School Before Winter Break!**
7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)
NO AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS
- 12/24 **Holiday – Christmas & Winter Break (12/24-12/31) (No School)**
- 12/29 **2:00-5:00 p.m. RCES 300 Bowling Family Event**
- 1/1 **Holiday—New Year's Day (No School)**
- 1/4 **WELCOME BACK!**

**WINTER CONCERT IN DECEMBER**

Mark your calendars for our **Wonderful Winter Concert** scheduled for **Monday, December 21**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.** Our chorus and advanced band will be performing for the entire community. Please make plans to join us. This concert is being held in **Quince Orchard High Schools' Auditorium**.

SATURDAY DISCOVERIES

Montgomery College is accepting registrations for **Saturday Discoveries**, a one-day enrichment program offered for gifted and talented students in grades 4 and 5. The next scheduled session is **Saturday, January 9, 2010**, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. on the Germantown Campus. Students will have an opportunity to select four workshops to participate in during the day. Workshops cover a variety of topics, including art, literature, flight, and hands-on science. Workshops fill quickly, so register right away. For additional brochures or registration information, contact Workforce Development & Continuing Education at 301-251-7264, 301-251-7917, or access their website: www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth.

JANUARY PTA/PRINCIPAL'S TEA

Our next Principal's Tea is scheduled for **January 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Mr. Chep will share and present information on our school's and cluster's School Improvement Plans. We encourage all parents to attend. The **PTA meeting** will follow at **7:00 p.m.**

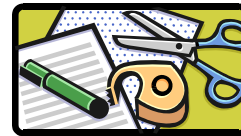
KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSES

During the next four months, December through March, RCES will hold monthly Kindergarten Open Houses for parents who will be sending (or are considering sending) their children to Kindergarten at RCES next fall. Below are dates for each month, in addition to our Kindergarten Orientation dates in May. Mr. Chep will meet with prospective kindergarten parents to discuss our programs and answer questions, and parents will have an opportunity to visit our kindergarten classes. Please inform your neighbors whose children will attend kindergarten during the **2010-11** school year (turning five years old by **September 1, 2010**). It is essential we know early how many children will attend kindergarten to ensure appropriate staffing, and to keep our class sizes down. These meetings are **not** for children. Parents and children will attend our May Kindergarten Orientation.

SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!!!

Kindergarten Open House Schedule

December	17	•	9:15 a.m.
January	15	•	9:15 a.m.
February	12	•	9:15 a.m.
March	19	•	9:15 a.m.



May Kindergarten Orientation - May 6 and 7 (appointments are scheduled)

RECOGNIZE OUR OUTSTANDING STAFF MEMBERS

Please consider nominating your child's teacher!

- **MARIAN GREENBLATT EDUCATION FUND AWARD**
Recognize Master Teachers who inspire their students to achieve. The \$1,000 award, named in honor of Dr. Marian Greenblatt, is given annually to three veteran MCPS teachers, and a \$500 award is given to a first-year teacher who excels at inspiring students' academic achievement.
- **AGNES MEYER OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD**
The prestigious Agnes Meyer Award is presented annually by The Washington Post Company Educational Foundation to one teacher from each Washington metropolitan area school district. One teacher from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will be selected to receive this recognition and an award of \$3,000 from *The Washington Post*. Goals of the program are to recognize excellence in teaching, encourage creative and quality instruction, and contribute in a substantive way to improving education in the Washington metropolitan area. Nominees must be full-time certified regular or special education teachers of pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The award is intended for teachers who work directly with students in their classrooms on a daily basis or with their assigned caseloads. Teachers must have a minimum of three years of teaching experience in MCPS.

○ **THE SHIRLEY J. LOWRIE “THANK YOU FOR TEACHING” AWARD**

The Shirley J. Lowrie “Thank You For Teaching” Award honors extraordinary elementary school teachers who have a deep dedication to the teaching profession. These elementary school teachers Pre-K through Grade 5 must work directly with students in the classroom on a daily basis, demonstrating a thorough knowledge of the subject matter, which is effectively communicated to students. The nominee should be a teacher who will go the extra mile to ensure that students receive the support they need to succeed.

Nomination materials and specific guidelines can be found at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/awards/> or visit the MCPS website on the Office of Human Resources webpage under “Awards and Recognition”.

In order to provide all nominees with the same opportunity, nomination packet requirements must be followed and only the number of pages and the information requested will be considered.

Nomination materials for awards must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 15, 2010.

5TH GRADE YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

Information regarding the Yearbook Cover Contest was distributed to all Grade 5 students before our Thanksgiving break. If you would like to submit an entry for the 2009-2010 yearbook cover contest, you need to do so before the end of school on December 20, 2009. No artwork will be considered after this date. Please submit artwork to the yearbook folder in the office. Contact Kristi Swartz kristiswartz@verizon.net, if you have any questions.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of parent exhibitors for the January 13 Science and Invention Night. Though we have some great displays planned, we would like more parents to contribute. If you have anything you think might be scientific or invention-oriented and interesting to the students, please e-mail Jennifer Goodstein at Jennifer_W_Goodstein@mcpsmd.org.

We are assembling “goody bags” for participating students. We are in need of small items to fill these goody bags. If you or someone you know has a business and have pencils, erasers, rulers, pens, or anything else education or science related to contribute, please contact Darren Straniero at darrenpatrick76@gmail.com. We have about 90 students participating.

Do you or someone you know have the ability to videotape portions of the event? We would like to be able to share the event via the Prometheum Boards in the classrooms in video format. Please contact Meredith Fogle at Meredith@Meredithfogle.com if you can help with this.

FIVE BELOW FUNDRAISER

Now through January 2, **Five Below** (located at 202 Kentlands Boulevard in Gaithersburg next to PetSmart) will **donate 10%** of our purchases back to our school! While shopping, just present the Five Below flyer located in your child's Friday Folder to earn money for RCES!

Five Below carries stationery, school supplies, books, electronic accessories, sporting goods, games, t-shirts, snacks and beverages, great stocking stuffers and so much more!

Happy shopping and happy holidays!!!

PEACE WEEK

Next week, December 14-19, our school will be conducting **Peace Week**. We are doing so to encourage positive student to student and student to staff interactions, reinforce good manners, emphasize the Character Counts pillars, decrease the amount of time teachers have to attempt to mediate conflicts, and lessen referrals to the office. It is our goal to build on this concept of “peace” throughout the school year to reduce conflicts, teasing, and bullying amongst students. To inform the students of Peace Week, our teachers have done the following:

- ◆ Explained the concept of Peace Week is to increase the positive interactions between students, and to create a school environment where everyone enjoys coming to school and focuses on teaching and learning.
- ◆ Provided the criteria for achieving a “Day of Peace” and for achieving a “Week of Peace”.
- ◆ Gave students some examples that demonstrate peace (i.e. being polite and respectful to others, saying please and thank you, working hard in class and completing work, cooperating with others, exercising self-control, accepting all students when playing at recess, being respectful to the adults, following all school rules, responding quickly to cafeteria directions, playing by the rules, etc.).
- ◆ Explained the process to determine if a class meets the criteria:
 - ❖ A class discussion at the end of each day to determine if the class meets the criteria
 - ❖ Placing the “peace sign” outside the classroom to show your class met the criteria
 - ❖ Classes that achieve a Week of Peace will have a hot chocolate inventive brought to their class on either December 21, 22 or 23. Teachers will sign up for day and time.

Criteria for achieving a “Day of Peace”

1. **Red Pillar Free**
2. **Office Referral Free – including lunch/recess**
3. **Six Compliments to the Class by Adults**

Criteria for achieving a “Week of Peace”

1. **Four Days of Peace**

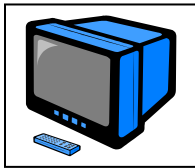
Please support the school and “Peace Week” by reinforcing the concept of peace. Each day remind your children to be kind, polite and respectful to others. Thank you!

WEATHER DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS

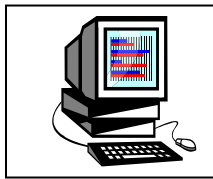
Inclement weather can result in school closings and delays, which force parents to make last minute adjustments to their schedules. When creating alternate plans, please keep in mind the following information. **There is no supervision for children who arrive early.** If your child rides a bus to school, plan on being at your bus stop one or two hours later, depending on the length of the delay. If your child is driven to school or walks to school, please make sure that he or she does not arrive too early. If school begins at 10:50, children will come inside to line up at 10:30 a.m. Decisions about school closings and delays are made by MCPS officials, announced on local television and radio stations, and posted on the MCPS web site.

The following are several ways to find out what is happening.

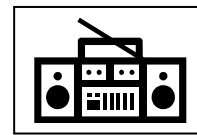
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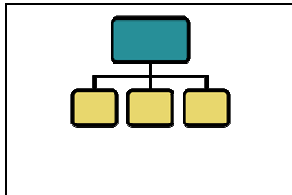
www.montgomerycountyschools.org



Local Radio and TV Stations



Sign up for Alert MCPS
or <http://twitter.com/mcps>



MCPS Taped Message
301-279-3673



Subscribe to MCPS Quick Notes
www.mcps.k12.md.us/info/quicknotes/

QuickNotes —is an e-mail service and can serve as your information connection to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Available in six languages.

MCPS ANNOUNCEMENTS

One-Hour Delay	Two-Hour Delay	Early Dismissal MCPS announces by 11:00 a.m.	School Cancelled
School starts for students at 9:50 a.m.	School starts for students at 10:50 p.m.	School starts at regular time (8:50 a.m.)	School is closed all day
Buses arrive at stop <u>one hour</u> later than usual	Buses arrive at stop <u>two hours</u> later than usual	Dismissal begins at 12:35 p.m.	No Buses
Yes-Morning PreK	No Morning PreK	No Afternoon PreK	No PreK
No before school activities	No before school activities		No before school activities
Yes -after school activities	Yes -after school activities	No after school activities	No after school activities
	Yes -evening activities	No evening activities	No evening activities

***Appointments that are scheduled with RCES staff (i.e. conferences, meetings, etc.) prior to adjusted start times will be rescheduled or cancelled. Contact the appropriate staff member with questions.**



Rachel Carson E.S. Chess Club 2010 Schedule and Sign-Up



The Rachel Carson E.S. Chess Club will resume on January 6, 2010, with coaches Ross Pancoast and Drew Duncan. Each session includes group instruction and organized play. All students are welcome to join, but enrollment is limited. We will maintain a waiting list when classes are full. Information on our other scholastic programs (such as our Saturday Morning Chess Club, camps and tournaments, etc.) may be found on our web site at www.chesscenter.net.

The RCES parent volunteer contact is Sharon Tash at sft14@columbia.edu.

If you can be a classroom helper, please call Carolyn at 301-963-9122

Chess Club meets on Wednesdays 3:10-4:10 PM.

Winter Session Dates: Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 10, 17, 24.

Spring Session Dates: Apr 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2.

We are looking forward to welcoming returning club members and meeting new members!



PLEASE DO **NOT** RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL

Mail this registration form with check made out to: C&O Family Chess Center, 217 West Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877 or Fax to 240-912-7456/mail payment

Rachel Carson Chess Club STUDENT REGISTRATION – PLEASE PRINT

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____ DOB: _____

Parent's (Guardian's) Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

___ New Player -- Use the "Learn to Play" link on our website home page before the session starts

___ Beginner (some chess experience)

___ Plays Regularly (knows all of the moves and has experience)

___ Former club member

Tuition: Check Session/s

___ Winter: 11 weeks @ \$110.00

___ Spring: 9 weeks @ \$90.00

It's time for a Winter Break Bowl Out!



Tuesday, December 29th

2:00-5:00pm

300 Shady Grove Bowling Lanes

Shady Grove Road

Gaithersburg

**Bring the whole family and enjoy everything
300 Shady Grove has to offer...
a big screen tv lounge, pool tables, a great grille menu and, of
course,
incredible bowling in newly remodeled, state-of-the-art
lanes!**

For more information check out their website:

www.threehundred.com/home