

“RACHEL CARSON HERON HERALD”



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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!

THIS WEEK AT RACHEL CARSON SCHOOL SAFETY MONTH

MONDAY

9/7

NO SCHOOL – Labor Day

TUESDAY

9/8

Pre-K Staggered Opening

*Summer Reading Assignment Due (Grades 1-5)

*Summer Math Assignment Due (Grades 1-5)



WEDNESDAY

9/9

Pre-K Staggered Opening

1:50-2:20 p.m. Grade 4 Instrumental Music “Petting Zoo” Assembly

2:25-2:55 p.m. Grade 5 Instrumental Music “Petting Zoo” Assembly

7:00 p.m. Grades 3-5 Back-To-School Night (Agenda Attached)

6:30 p.m. Instrumental Music *Parent Meeting

– *(For Parents of Children in Grades 4 & 5)

THURSDAY

9/10

7:00 p.m. Pre-K – Grade 2 Back-To-School Night (Agenda Attached)

FRIDAY

9/11

LOOKING AHEAD

- 9/14 *Star Diner Family Night Fundraiser*
- 9/16 3:10 p.m. **Chess Club Begins**
- 9/18 **8:00 a.m. Dads 'n Donuts**
- 9/21 *Sally Foster Orders Due*
- 9/23 Chess Club
- 9/28 **NO SCHOOL – Yom Kippur**
- 9/29 *Five Guys Family Night Fundraiser*
- 9/30 Chess Club
- 10/5 Teachers Send Home Interim Reports

GREAT OPENING! – Mr. Chep

In the eight years I have been at Rachel Carson, I don't believe we've had a smoother opening! Thank you to all of the parents for trusting us with your children as they entered our doors on that first day of school. The children did a great job; we only had a few "clingers", but they were great as soon as they entered the building. I hope your children came home as excited as they were when they arrived on Monday. I truly believe most children are excited (plus a little anxious) about returning to school! The staff and I were very excited about welcoming your children and starting the new school year. Thank you to everyone who helped get us off to a great start – staff, parents and students!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

Our **Back-to-School Night** agenda is attached to this Heron Herald. We have two BTSNs, **September 9, Grades 3-5 (including the 3-5 Learning Center classes)**, and **September 10, Grades Pre-K-2 (including the K-2 Learning Centers classes)**. We hope everyone will join us for these very informative nights.

YELLOW EMERGENCY SHEETS

Each child should have received and brought home a pre-printed **Yellow Emergency Sheet**, which includes emergency contact information. This sheet must be updated, as needed, by a parent and returned to school by **ASAP!** These sheets are used in case of an emergency. It is essential that every parent return his/her child's or children's sheet/s. If you did not receive your child's sheet, please inform the office.

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL FORMS/APPLICATIONS

Each family should also have received a Free and Reduced Meal Form/Application. These forms/applications need to be returned **only** if you are applying for Free or Reduced meals. If your child received free or a reduced payment meal last year, you must reapply. These students will continue to receive free or reduced meals only until October 1, unless they are re-approved this year. All applications must be returned ASAP.

HERON HERALD LISTSERV

Please complete the Heron Herald Listserv form located in your summer mailing and submit it to your child's teacher ASAP. **Hard copies will only be distributed to families that do not have internet access.** Distributing the Heron Herald via this method will save us hundreds of dollars, several trees and many hours of precious human resource time.



PEANUTS/NUT PRODUCTS

Many of our students are allergic to peanuts and/or nut products. Please do not bring in any snacks that have nut products in the ingredients. Read the ingredients carefully to ensure that the snacks provided are nut free! Did you know M&Ms have nut products in them? Since the M&Ms with nuts are made on the same conveyer belt, regular M&Ms have traces of nuts, which can trigger an allergic reaction and possible fatal anaphylactic shock in those allergic to nuts. Thank you for your care and understanding!

THANK YOU KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

Thank you to all of the kindergarten parents who have volunteered to assist during our kindergartners' lunch/recess. Your support and assistance is very much appreciated. There is an open invitation to all parents who would like to volunteer throughout the year during their child's lunch/recess time. Please remember – you are there to assist our staff, and younger siblings should not be brought to school while you are volunteering. **A special thank you to Mrs. Kristi Swartz, kindergarten parent, for organizing our parent volunteers.**



DADS AND DONUTS

Dads and Donuts is being held **Friday, September 18, at 8:00 a.m.** in the All Purpose Room. All dads, step dads and granddads are invited to have breakfast with their kids at school. Donuts and coffee will be served (sponsored by the PTA).

SUMMER READING & MATH ASSIGNMENTS

Students in grades 1-5 are encouraged to return their completed Summer Reading and Math assignments to their teachers to receive the offered incentives. The **math and reading assignments are due no later than Tuesday, September 8**. These assignments can be submitted prior to these dates!

NOTES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT

When your child is absent, please do the following:

Call the Rachel Carson Elementary office (301-840-5333) the morning of the absence to let the secretaries know that your child will not be attending school. Please let one of the secretaries know the reason for the absence.

On the day your child returns to class, follow up with a written note that includes:

- Child's full name
- Child's grade and teacher
- Date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence
- Parent's/guardian's signature

Please remember - If your child is late for school, a parent/guardian **MUST** bring his/her child to the office to obtain a tardy slip. Your child should not come to school late by himself/herself. Students with excessive tardies will be required to serve after-school detention.

Absences for vacation purposes are considered unexcused absences. Students should not be taken out of school for this reason!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PARENT MEETING

Ms. Moraca, our instrumental music teacher, will be holding a parent meeting at RCES on **Wednesday, September 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** prior to Back-to-School Night. If your fourth or fifth grade child is interested in playing an instrument this year, you are encouraged to attend.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school day for Grades K through 5 students is 8:50 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. If your child arrives at school at 8:50 a.m., he/she will be late and marked tardy. Parents who transport their children must get their children to school no later than **8:40 a.m.** (*a student is considered tardy if he/she is not **in his/her classroom** by 8:50 a.m.*).

For safety reasons, children should arrive no earlier than 8:30 a.m. If a child is tardy, his/her parent **MUST** bring him/her to the office to sign in and obtain a tardy slip. Please make sure your child arrives on time.

Supervision of students will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. Please plan to drop your child off, if he/she does not ride the bus, as close to this time as possible to make sure your child is in his/her class on time.

Leaving school early also hinders a child's success. Many times, a student misses important information or the closure of a lesson, or doesn't have time to write his/her assignments down. This has an impact on other classmates as well. Please allow your child to finish his/her school day.

THE GEORGE B. THOMAS SR. LEARNING CENTER

The Saturday School program is a tutoring and mentoring program for students in grades 1 through 12. Certified teachers and volunteers work with students on core subjects. In addition, participants will be taught learning and studying strategies to assist them with being successful in school. Saturday School is available at **Northwest High School and Gaithersburg High School**. The parent selects the site his/her child will attend.

Parents who are interested in registering their children early may pre-register at Northwest High School or Gaithersburg High School. **Pre-registration** will be held on **Saturday, September 26** at the Learning Academy Centers from 8:30-11:30 a.m. At the time of pre-registration, parents must provide their child's student ID#, a \$20 registration fee made out to GBTLA, and their children's most recent report card.

An orientation and registration will be held at the Learning Academy Centers (Northwest High School and Gaithersburg High School) on **Saturday, October 3**. Students/parents must attend the orientation from 9:15-10:00 a.m. (You attend the orientation at the site your child will attend). Following the orientation, there will be registration from 10:00-11:00 a.m., for those who did not pre-register. Additional information can be found on the following website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/gbtl/>. *It is highly recommended that all students who have an academic intervention plan at Rachel Carson be enrolled in the George B. Thomas Saturday School Program.*

****PIZZA DINNER AND BINGO NIGHT – DATE CHANGE!**

Mark your calendars for Pizza Dinner and Bingo Family Night! Please join us on **Thursday, October 8, at 6:30 p.m.**—RCES cafeteria. We will be serving pizza, salad, drinks, and dessert, followed by bingo with some guest Bingo callers. Hope you can join us for a fun evening.

ASSIGNMENT BOOKS

Students in Grades *2-5 may purchase a **2009-10 Assignment Book** to record daily homework assignments. A letter was distributed on Monday requesting \$5.00 to purchase an assignment book. Students may opt to provide their own organizational tool for recording daily assignments; however, our assignment book includes a lot of resource materials to aide in completing homework. Parents should check and sign their children's assignment book on a daily basis to ensure they are completing their work. ***Grade 2 will be utilizing the assignment books during the second semester only.** Parents who may have financial limitations can contact Mrs. Seubert or Mrs. Vaca, school counselors, to ensure they are provided the necessary tools without the financial burden this may place on them. Thank you to the following businesses that purchased an ad in our assignment books to help lower the cost to our students – **Mike Aubrey – Remax, Conquest Security, Inc., Benefit Planning Group.**

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After school activities, "The Hopping Heron Clubs," will again be offered this year. We will have several new and returning club offerings. Look for "The Hopping Heron Clubs" brochure within the next two-three weeks. Once again, we will be conducting registration on a quarterly basis. Remember - these activities will fill quickly, and they are on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you are willing and able to sponsor a club of your own, please call Mr. Chep or Ms. Shinn, ASAP at 301-840-5333. In the past, parents have lead sign language, games, French, and engineering clubs. (The PTA will be offering a variety of extracurricular activities as well.)

PROCEDURES FOR INSUFFICIENT LUNCH ACCOUNTS

The following are the county procedures to be followed if a student does not have sufficient money for meals. Please make sure your child has sufficient funds throughout the school year, to ensure that he/she gets to order the lunch he/she prefers.

1. Students will receive a letter informing parents when their account balances go lower than \$5.00.
2. The student account will be allowed to reach a maximum of (-\$ 10.00).
3. If \$-10.00 is reached, the student will receive a cheese sandwich (made in the cafeteria), and the student will be billed 25¢.

SPEAK UP AT COMMUNITY FORUM -FALL 2009

Parents, staff, students and community members are encouraged to testify at community forums sponsored by the Board of Education. Each person will have 3 minutes to speak on the following question: "During difficult economic times, what priorities in the Montgomery County Public Schools strategic plan should we focus on for the 2010-2011 school year to improve achievement for all students?"

Where and When:*Thursday, September 17*

- 7:00 p.m.
- Quince Orchard High School

Thursday, October 15

- 7:00 p.m.
- John F. Kennedy High School

How to Sign Up to Testify - Call to sign up

Call the Board of Education office at 301-279-3617 or 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay) three weeks prior to the forum date.

- September 17 forum - sign up starting August 27
- October 15 forum - sign up starting September 24



SALLY FOSTER FUNDRAISER AT RACHEL CARSON!

Sally Foster is the PTA's largest fundraiser of the year. Help us get off to a great start by supporting the Sally Foster fundraiser -- 50% of every purchase goes directly to our school! There's something for everyone: value-priced gift wrap, premium chocolates, and discounted magazines. And everything's \$20 or less. Every purchase counts, no matter what size.

Questions: contact Jaimee Wibberley (jaimewibberley@verizon.net), Gretchen Dourgarian (gdourgarian@yahoo.com), or Shari Segal (rexsegal@aol.com).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS – Terri Moraca, Instrumental Music Teacher

On **September 9, 2009**, all Grades 4 and 5 students at Rachel Carson Elementary School will have the opportunity to play one or two band or orchestra instruments during a school assembly. This opportunity is being sponsored by Rachel Carson Elementary School and L & L Music and Wind shop. Over 10,000 MCPS Grades 4 and 5 students are members of bands and orchestras in Montgomery County Public Schools. Students will be given sign up forms at the assembly. The instrumental music program at Rachel Carson Elementary provides students with foundational instruction leading towards the development of technical, conceptual and artistic mastery in music performance.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION – BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Destination ImagiNation is an innovative organization that teaches creativity, teamwork and problem solving to students across the U.S. and in more than 30 countries. Its main program is an extraordinary team tournament where student teams from all over the world solve mind-bending Challenges. Teams are tested to think on their feet, work together, and devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of the Challenges. Participants gain more than just basic knowledge and skills—they learn to unleash their imaginations and take unique approaches to problem solving. **We are in need of a parent volunteer to oversee a team of fourth and fifth graders at Rachel Carson ES. If you are interested to chairing or co-chairing this activity, please call or email Mr. Chep.**

RACHEL CARSON KISS AND RIDE PROCEDURES

For parents who drop off and pick up their children in the “Kiss and Ride” area, we are asking parents to:

1. Move up to the farthest position marked along the curb closest to the school.
2. Exercise patience and caution when using the Kiss and Ride area.
3. Only let your child out of the car once you have pulled up to the sidewalk. Please do not let your child out of the car in the parking lot.
4. Refrain from parking or standing in the “Kiss and Ride” area. Parents cannot leave their vehicles unattended in this area.



BEHAVIOR MONITORING SYSTEM – PILLAR POINTS

Has your child mentioned our Green and Red Pillar Points? “Pillar Points” is a school-wide behavior management plan that recognizes children for excellent behavior and for demonstrating acts of kindness, or to inform children they broke a school rule that has impacted another child’s or children’s learning/rights. Below is a description of each pillar and our school rules. Please discuss this system and the school rules with your child/ren.

**Pillar Points –
Behavior Management System**

Our staff members have access to both green and red pillar point coupons. The distribution of pillar coupons is based on six overall school rules, which relate to the pillars of character (see below). There are two different types of pillar points, one for **positive displays of character (green)** and one for **negative displays (red)**. Points can be given at any time of the day by faculty and staff.

“GREEN” Pillar Points – Similar to an On the Spot award, students are given a green pillar coupon to recognize them for going above and beyond in demonstrating the pillars of character. Staff members give these directly to the students, who are then responsible for putting them into the appropriate grade box in the office. Each week a drawing will occur for Grades K-2 and for Grades 3-5. Grade level winners receive a prize from a prize box and recognition on the loudspeaker (or another reward, certificate, etc.).

“RED” Pillar Points – These coupons are given to students when a student’s behavior impacts the rights or learning of others. These cards are put into the teacher’s mailbox, or given directly to the teacher. Homeroom teachers will take action as their behavior management plan calls for (i.e. moving your card to yellow/red, getting a red x in your plan book). If a student accumulates more than 2 red cards in one day, or 3 in one week, a referral will be made to the office.

School wide rules -

Responsibility – A responsible Rachel Carson student makes wise choices and is a good example to others.

Respect – A respectful Rachel Carson student treats himself/herself and others with respect.

Caring – A caring Rachel Carson student helps people in need and cares for the feelings of others around him/her.

Trustworthiness – A trustworthy Rachel Carson student will always tell the truth, thinks independently, and follows the rules of the school.


Fairness – A fair Rachel Carson student plays by the rules, considers others, and resolves conflicts.

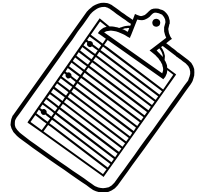
Citizenship – A good citizen of Rachel Carson follows rules, stands up for himself/herself and others, and is a team player.

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FORMS


Below are two forms that will be utilized in case of an emergency. The first is used for our Parent/Student Reunification Plan if an emergency arises in which we must lockdown our building or transition to a holding facility. This form allows you to add names of adults who you give permission to pick up your child in case of one of before mentioned scenarios. The second form should be completed and submitted if you would like to change the main number we are currently calling for Connect-ed messages. You only need to submit this form, if there is a change.

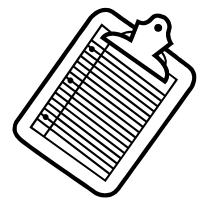
COMPLETE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU NEED TO MAKE CHANGES.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____	
Parent Name: _____	
	Rachel Carson Elementary School Parent/Child Reunification (PCR)
I authorize the following individual(s) to sign out my child in emergency situations.	
Parent Signature:	
Print Name	Write Phone Number



COMPLETE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU NEED TO MAKE CHANGES.

MCPS Connect-Ed Computerized Phone System RCES Parent Preference ▪ Primary Contact Phone Number	
Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____	
Name of Parent: _____	
I want my Primary Contact Number to change from my home number to:	
_____ Work Phone Number or _____ Cell Phone Number	
(_____) _____ - _____	
	
I understand that the computerized system will call the primary contact number.	
Parent Signature:	



RACHEL CARSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

(Grades 3-5)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

(Pre-K-Grade 2)

7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Join us **Wednesday, September 9 (Grades 3-5)** and/or **Thursday, September 10 (Pre-K-2)** for Back-to-School Night. Meet your child's teacher and hear about the objectives and activities for this school year. Teachers will present an overview of the curriculum and major units for the year. Remember that this is a time to have general questions answered. If you have specific issues to discuss with a teacher, please ask the teacher to schedule a parent conference, and your teacher will be happy to do so. The evening's schedule will allow you an opportunity to join the PTA, see a slide show of our students and staff, and visit classrooms and teachers. The slide show will **begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.**, so be on time!

**This is a night for parents. We encourage you to come without your child.
PLEASE REPORT TO THE ALL-PURPOSE ROOM AS YOU ARRIVE
- NOT TO TEACHERS' ROOMS!!**

SCHEDULE

6:45	Join the PTA & Socialize (All-Purpose Room)
7:00	*Don't Miss Our Slide Show in the AP Room/Gym*
7:15	Mr. Chep, Principal Ms. Shinn, Assistant Principal Welcome, Staff introductions, Goals Mr. Mark Ezrin & PTA
7:55	Transition to classrooms
8:00-8:30	Homeroom Teacher Presentations Session 1 (Teachers' classrooms)
(A second session will follow to accommodate parents with more than one child)	
8:30	Transition to classrooms
8:35-9:05	Homeroom Teacher Presentations Session 2 (Teachers' Classrooms)
9:05-9:10	Open Visitation <i>This is an informal time to visit throughout the school.</i> * Visit with specialists * Visit other teachers
9:10	Goodbye! Thank you for coming

Specialists will be available in the Media Center throughout the evening. Don't let them be lonely! Come visit them.