

"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

9/14 5:00-8:00 p.m. *Star Diner Family Night Fundraiser*

TUESDAY

9/15

WEDNESDAY

9/16 3:10 p.m. **Chess Club Begins**
6:30-7:30 p.m. *Grade 2 Parent Reading and Math Curriculum Night*

THURSDAY

9/17 7:00 p.m. *Community Forum at Quince Orchard HS*

FRIDAY

9/18 8:00 a.m. **Dads 'n Donuts**

LOOKING AHEAD

- 9/21 **Sally Foster Orders Due**
 9/23 Chess Club
Grade Level Newsletters Distributed
6:00-7:00 p.m. Grade 5 Parent Reading and Math Curriculum Night
 9/28 **NO SCHOOL – Yom Kippur**
 9/29 2:00 p.m. Code Red/Blue Drills
 5:00-8:00 p.m. *Five Guys Family Night Fundraiser*
 9/30 Chess Club
 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. *Grade 2 to Homestead Farms*
6:00-7:00 p.m. Grade 1 Parent Reading and Math Curriculum Night
7:00-8:00 p.m. Grade 3 Parent Reading Curriculum Night
 10/2 **12:35 p.m. Early Release Day – Interims**
 10/5-9 **RCES SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR** →
 10/5 *Teachers Send Home Interim Reports*
 10/6 **6:15 p.m. Principal’s Tea – AP Room (Seven Keys to College Readiness)**
7:00 p.m. PTA Meeting – AP Room
 10/7 *International Walk to School Day*
 10/8 **6:30 p.m. Pizza/Bingo Family Night**
 10/12 **9:00-11:00 a.m. Columbus Day – Open House**
 10/14 *Voluntary Student Flu Mist Clinic*
7:00-8:00 p.m. Grade 3 Parent Math Curriculum Night
 10/15 10:00 a.m. Hands Up for Responsibility Ceremony
 6:00-9:00 p.m. *Parents Night Out – 300 Shady Grove Fundraiser*
 10/16 **NO SCHOOL – Maryland State Teachers’ Association Conventions**
 10/20 6:00-8:00 p.m. *RCES Marble Slab Night*
 10/22 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. *Grade 2 to Green Meadows Farm*
 10/23 *Fall Individual Pictures Taken*
 10/26 **RED RIBBON WEEK**
 10/30 **First Marking Period Ends**
 1:30 p.m. Halloween Parade (Walk for the Homeless) and Parties Begin

Book Fair Hours

10/5	– 9 AM-3:30 PM
10/6	– 9 AM-4:30 PM
10/7	– 9 AM-3:30 PM
10/8	– 9 AM-3:30 PM – 6 PM-9:00 PM
10/9	– 9 AM-4:30 PM



FLU MIST FOR STUDENTS

As you are aware, Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services is offering free, voluntary seasonal flu vaccinations in all MCPS elementary schools. Rachel Carson’s scheduled vaccination (Flu Mist) date is October 14. Seasonal flu vaccine is **not** the vaccine for H1N1 (swine flu). Information about the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine will be available later in the fall.

A packet, which included a letter from the county Dept. of Health and Human Services, a consent form, and a vaccine information sheet, was provided to all parents. If you have any questions about the seasonal flu vaccinations at RCES, please contact our school health tech, Kathy Hanna, or school nurse, Kathleen Mesick.

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).



BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC - BIG SUCCESS! from Kimberly Hall

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the first ever RCES Back to School Picnic last Thursday! It was a beautiful night for a picnic and a great way to kick off the school year. Thank you to the amazing RCES staff that came out; the students (and their parents!) LOVE to see you outside of "school time!" I'd like to say a very special THANK YOU to the following people for helping (during their summer break!) in the planning of this event and for working during the entire picnic: Kristi Cutler, Louise Tabit, Sue Rambo, Eileen Greenwell, Valerie Dugan, Laura and Pete Bedell, Paige Pagley, Mark Ezrin, and Katie Gurcan. Also, thank you to those who volunteered their time on the day of the event: Lisa Gotkin, Kerry Hoch, Dipti Kalra, Lori Wakefield, Indu Levine, Michelle Freedburg, Ailene Renzi, Tara Hoffmann, Dale Lewis, Randy Hall, Shari Ploshnik, Lisa Rubin, and students Abby Dirlam, Claudia Edell, Hannah Spector, Lauren Wakefield, Julian Tash, Aylssa Katon, Josh Berenzwieg, Mira Tash and Jack Ploshnick. Thank you to Nannette Horan (RCES art teacher) for taking photos during the picnic and Mr. Dave Besow (RCES Building Services) for the HUGE help before and after the event! If I have overlooked anyone, I apologize. The event was a success thanks to the many wonderful volunteers - thanks again! *A great, big THANK YOU to Kimberly Hall, who coordinated the planning of this event!!!!*

GRADE LEVEL NEWSLETTERS

Each grade level will send home a newsletter to parents at the end of each month. These newsletters will provide information about curricular activities, field trips, and special events. The first edition comes home on **September 25**. Please take time to read your child's grade level news! Our specialists provide information about their programs through articles included in the Heron Herald. These articles appear in the last Heron Herald of each month.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PICTURES

Mark your calendars and practice those "smiles"! Our students will have their **individual school pictures** taken on **Friday, October 23**. More information will be distributed a couple of days prior to this date.

**HERON HERALD LISTSERV – LAST CALL!**

If you haven't done so, please complete the Heron Herald Listserv form located in your summer mailing (currently on our website) or in our main office, 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. We are planning to discontinue the hard copies (except for those who have indicated "no internet access") after next week's issue.

PRINCIPAL'S TEA

Our first Principal's Tea is scheduled for **October 6, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Mr. Chep will present information on Montgomery County School's *Seven Keys to College Readiness*.

THANK YOU CORRECTION

Last week we thanked a parent for organizing our kindergarten parents to assist during lunch recess. Unfortunately, we thanked the wrong parent. So, a great big THANK YOU TO **Deborah Schwartz** for taking on this huge task – Thank you!!!

COLUMBUS DAY - OPEN HOUSE

Mark your calendar! Rachel Carson's Parent Visitation Day/Open House is scheduled on **Columbus Day, Monday, October 12**. Parents/grandparents are invited to visit their children's classrooms starting at 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Parents may also join their children for lunch in our cafeteria. **If you wish to purchase a school lunch, please have your child pay for and order your lunch in the morning.**

INTERIM REPORTS

Interim reports will be sent home with every child (Grades K-5) on **Monday, October 5** to inform parents of their children's progress so far this marking period. Please check your child's backpack for his/her report.

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.*

GIANT BONUS BUCKS - SIGN UP TODAY - WIN A DONUT PARTY

Welcome to the start of another year of Bonus Bucks. Our goal is to earn \$7,000 by registering 300 cards. This is an effective, FREE way to earn money for Rachel Carson. Register your card today, use your card number each time you shop, and RCES will earn CASH! Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. The class with the most participation in each grade level will win a donut party. Please fill out the attached form and return it to your child's teacher.

PIZZA DINNER AND BINGO NIGHT

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 – LAST CALL!

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 conduct 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.

SALLY FOSTER FUNDRAISER AT RACHEL CARSON! *Sally Foster*

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). **Orders are due by September 21.**

WEAR THOSE SNEAKERS!!

Please remind your children to wear their sneakers the day their class has physical education (PE). Your child will be safer and it will be easier for him/her to run and move. Our PE teachers require sneakers to be worn, so accidents from slipping and sliding will be limited and to provide better traction when engaged in physical activities.



SPRING TESTING – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The following dates are provided to inform parents of the schedules for the state's mandatory spring testing in Grades 3-5 (Maryland School Assessment - MSA) and the county's testing in Grade 2 (Terra Nova Second Edition - TN/2). Please mark these dates on your calendar. Parents should refrain from scheduling trips/doctor appointments/etc. on these dates. It is *extremely* important that our children attend school on these days and participate in these assessments.

Terra Nova Second Edition (TN/2)

Grade	Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics
2	April 26–30

Maryland School Assessment (MSA)

Grade	Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics
3-5	March 8-17

Grade	Science
5	May 5–11 (paper/pencil)


DESTINATION IMAGINATION – BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

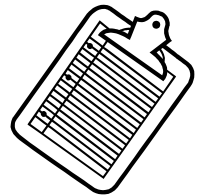
Destination ImagiNation is an innovative organization that teaches creativity, teamwork and problem solving to students across the U.S. and in more than 30 countries. Its main program is an extraordinary team tournament, where student teams from all over the world solve mind-bending challenges. Teams 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.**

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 the 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.

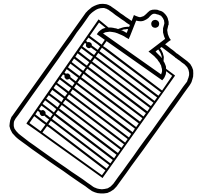
COMPLETE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU NEED TO MAKE CHANGES.

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:	





Win a DONUT PARTY for Your Class SIGN UP TODAY

Welcome to the start of another year of A+ BonusBucks for RCES. Last year we registered 255 cards and earned \$6,600 for our school by shopping at Giant. This year our goal is to earn \$7,000 by registering 300 cards. Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for Rachel Carson to receive credit.

The sooner you sign up, the sooner Rachel Carson can begin earning CASH! This is an effective, FREE way to earn money for our school.

If you don't have a BonusBucks card and you shop at Giant, please be sure to sign up for one online or at the Customer Service Desk. If you have lost your number, please call the Bonus Card Hotline at 1.877.366.2668.

The class with the most participation in each grade level will win a donut party. Class contest ends October 9th. Parents must use the registration card below to be counted for classroom participation.

Complete this form and return it to your child's teacher

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____



1. Clearly fill in your 12-digit card number below:

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2. Clearly fill in the first three letters of your last name:

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3. Fill in the School ID number for your chosen School(s).
You may choose up to three schools:

0	1	4	4	1							
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If you choose more than one school your A+ Bonus Bucks will be evenly distributed among those three schools.
Fill in the school ID codes of ALL schools each time you add/change your registration.

You can only select schools that have registered for the program.

Fill all boxes

Rachel Carson's School ID