

"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! NEXT WEEK AT RACHEL CARSON

- MONDAY**
10/12
9:00-11:00 a.m. Columbus Day – Open House
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)
5:00-9:00 p.m. Noodles and Company Family Fundraiser
- TUESDAY**
10/13
3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd K-1 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 126)
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
- WEDNESDAY**
10/14
Chess Club
3:10-4:10 p.m. Tae Kwon Do K-5 (Gym)
6:00-7:00 p.m. Grade 4 Parent Math Curriculum Night – AP Room
7:00-8:00 p.m. Grade 3 Parent Reading Curriculum Night – IMC
- THURSDAY**
10/15
Math Olympiad Begins
10:00 a.m. Hands Up for **Responsibility** Ceremony
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)
6:00-9:00 p.m. Parents Night Out – 300 Shady Grove Fundraiser
- FRIDAY**
10/16
NO SCHOOL – Maryland State Teachers' Association Conventions
- SUNDAY**
10/18
NASA Federal Credit Union Halloween Young Run



LOOKING AHEAD

- 10/19 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)
- 10/20 3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd K-1 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 126)
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
6:00-8:00 p.m. RCES Marble Slab Night
- 10/21 **7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)**
9:00-10:30 a.m. Pre-K Parent Meeting
Chess Club
3:10-4:10 p.m. Tae Kwon Do K-5 (Gym)
6:00-7:00 p.m. Learning Center Parent Curriculum Night
- 10/22 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Grade 1 to Green Meadows Farm
Math Olympiad
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)
- 10/23 *Fall Individual Pictures Taken* 
7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)
3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5 (Gym)
- 10/26 **RED RIBBON WEEK**
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
-  10/27 **9:30 a.m. Bus Evacuation Drill**
3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd K-1 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 126)
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
7:00 p.m. Grade 3 Highly Gifted Center Parent Meeting at Quince Orchard HS
- 10/28 **7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)**
Chess Club
3:10-4:10 p.m. Tae Kwon Do K-5 (Gym)
- 10/29 Math Olympiad
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)
- 10/30 **First Marking Period Ends**
7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)
1:30 p.m. Halloween Parade (Walk for the Homeless) and Parties Begin 
3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5 (Gym)

COLUMBUS DAY - OPEN HOUSE

Come on in! 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.**



FLU MIST FOR STUDENTS SUSPENDED

The Montgomery Council Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has suspended the seasonal flu clinics scheduled in the remaining 56 elementary schools from October 5 – October 22 until further notice. Therefore, RCES will not conduct the flu clinic that was scheduled on October 14. If you wish to obtain seasonal flu vaccines for your child/ren, injectable seasonal flu vaccine will be available for students at the School Health Services Center, MCPS Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Rockville, M D 20852 on Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., and open to everyone at county flu clinics on October 31, at Silver Spring Health Center 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.; on November 5, at Germantown Recreational Center, 8:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.; and on November 12, at University of Maryland, Shady Grove, 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Please continue to practice general precautions for prevention of flu by covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands frequently, and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. It is important to stay at home when sick with flu-like symptoms (fever 100 F or greater with a cough and/or sore throat). Children should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

SATURDAY DISCOVERIES

The first Saturday Discoveries Program (*Discover Science, Humanities, The Arts!*), a one-day enrichment program designed for gifted and talented students in grades 4 and 5, will be held on **Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 8:30 a.m.-2:50 p.m. at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College**. Students will have an opportunity to select four workshops to participate in during the day. Workshops cover a variety of topics, including art, literature, science, music, movement and technology. This enrichment opportunity is co-sponsored by Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College. Register early - this program fills quickly! Program brochures and registration forms are available by contacting Workforce Development & Continuing Education at 240-567-7264/ 240-567-7917 or via their website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth. **The deadline for receiving registrations is Monday, November 9, 2009.**

MATH SURVEY--PARENT INPUT WANTED!

MCPS has organized a Math work group for grades K-12 to explore the complex issues surrounding mathematics teaching and learning in MCPS, including the math curriculum, instructional practices, assessment, professional development and acceleration. They want parent feedback. A five question survey has been posted on the RCES PTA website, right on the home page. Go to www.rces-pta.org to access. You can also print out the single page questionnaire from the website, fill it in and return it to the PTA box in the RCES office. Responses are due by October 21.

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 have not scheduled a conference will receive their child's report card on **November 11**. The parent conference is the perfect time to ask questions about your child's progress. Parents are encouraged to make every effort to attend.



UPCOUNTY CENTER PROGRAM FOR THE HIGHLY GIFTED

The Upcounty Center Program for the Highly Gifted students will be hosting an informational meeting for interested families at **Roberto Clemente MS on October 14, at 7 p.m.** Below are additional dates of interest regarding the application and testing process.

- October 14** Parent/Student Information Night at Roberto Clemente Middle School (7:00 pm)
- November 9** Application Deadline
- December 5** Testing (8:00 am to 11:00 am)
- December 11** Special Needs Testing (8:00 am to 11:00 am)
- December 14** Teacher Recommendations Due

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.



MAGNET PROGRAMS

A letter was mailed to all Grade 5 students' parents on September 11, 2009, informing them about middle school magnet programs and inviting them to information meetings. The letter also included information about the **Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC): Argyle, Loiederman, and Parkland**. Each MSMC middle school will host an open house at their respective building:

- Loiederman: Thurs, Oct. 15, 7:00 p.m.
- Argyle: Wed, Oct. 28, 7:00 p.m.
- Parkland: Thurs, Nov. 5, 7:00 p.m.

The *Choice* form for the MSMC will be available on the MCPS web site beginning **October 16**. The **deadline** for submittal is **Monday, November 9**. Selection for the MSMC schools is done by lottery.

RED RIBBON WEEK-OCTOBER 26 – 30

During **Red Ribbon Week**, our staff and students will work together to spread the message about the dangers of drug and tobacco use. Throughout the week, students and staff will participate in activities to gain an understanding of the risks of smoking and drug use. **“Wear Red Day”** will take place on **Wednesday, October 28**. We invite and encourage everyone to wear red that day, to show support of the fight against drug and tobacco use.

HANDS UP FOR CHARACTER - RESPONSIBILITY

Our first Hands Up for Character ceremony will take place on **Thursday, October 15, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** Students will be recognized by their teachers for demonstrating the **Character Counts!** pillar of **Responsibility**.

These students will receive a certificate and will place their handprint on one of our school's pillars.

A notice will be sent to parents of children who have been selected to be recognized at the ceremony in our front lobby!

HIGHLY GIFTED CENTER APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the Highly Gifted (HGC) were recently mailed directly to all parents of **Grade 3 students** in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). **This is a reminder that if you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, you must complete the application and return it by November 9, 2009, to:**

HGC Application
Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services
11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902

If for some reason you did not receive an application in the mail, and are interested in the program, contact the school or access it from the website at

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/. The packet also is available in Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

There will be a parent information meeting about the HGC on the following date beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**10/27 Parent Information Meeting at Quince Orchard High School
15800 Quince Orchard Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20878**

RACHEL CARSON HELP THE HOMELESS WALK

Once again, Rachel Carson Elementary School (RCES) will participate in the Fannie Mae Foundation Walk for the Homeless. The walk will take place on Friday, October 30, in conjunction with our Halloween parade. This is not a separate walk and the children will still wear their Halloween costumes. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to make a difference for the families-in-need in our community. RCES will walk to raise money for Gaithersburg HELP, an all-volunteer organization that helps area residents in need of food, prescriptions, transportation for medical services, as well as diapers and formula. Last year, RCES had 113 registered walkers who participated, and we raised \$1,705 for Gaithersburg HELP. Look in your child's backpack for a flyer about the walk, which includes the registration form. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Siegel at 301-330-2260 or robsiegel_2000@yahoo.com.

PUMPKIN ESTIMATION

Once again this year, Peter and Paula Pumpkin will soon be visiting RCES (starting Oct. 19)! Peter and Paula will be on display near the main office. Children will have an opportunity to estimate the weight of Peter and Paula throughout the rest of the month of October. The student who estimates the correct weight (or closest weight) of Peter and Paula will take the pumpkin home after our Halloween festivities. Children in grades K-3 will estimate the weight of one of our pumpkins in pounds and ounces, and students in grades 4 and 5 will have an opportunity to estimate the weight of our other pumpkin in kilograms. This would be a great time to discuss pounds, ounces and kilograms with your children at home. This activity reinforces the concept of estimation taught in math and science.



HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

In a few weeks we will be celebrating Halloween, and children will be wearing their costumes in our annual Halloween Parade. Please discourage your child from wearing any costume that depicts violence to school. **Items that will not be permitted at school are those that resemble weapons.** This includes **metal fingers, knives, guns, etc. (even paper replicas)**. This is in keeping with the MCPS weapons policy and our goal of providing our children with an appropriate model of a safe school environment. Please remind your child that these items are not to be brought to school. This request will be strictly enforced.



For children who do not celebrate Halloween, a flyer will be sent home for parents to complete and return indicating that they would prefer their child be involved in an alternate activity during the parade and parties.

****If you would like to donate slightly used costumes to RCES students, please send them to Mrs. Vaca or Mrs. Seubert.**

!!NO PEANUT PRODUCTS PLEASE!!

Halloween is just around the corner! If you are supplying snacks for your child's class, **please make sure you read the ingredients to make sure the items do not contain peanut products.** Many of our children have allergies, and one of the most serious is an allergy to peanut products. Did you know all M & Ms have peanuts in their ingredients? All snacks brought into school must be store bought, so the ingredients should be available for you to make sure your snacks do not contain any type of peanut product.

Chocolate Lovers/Peanut Free

Good news! While M&Ms are not peanut and nut free, Hershey's Kissables ARE! (Also, they happen to be gluten free.) Hershey's candies have excellent allergen information on their packages. If parents are looking for peanut/nut free candies, particularly chocolates, Hershey's company will state any allergens in the ingredients' list or just below it. **Who needs candy though? Consider providing healthy treats such as fruits and vegetables. After all, the children are going to enjoy lots of candy the following day(s).**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA) ELECTIONS

Our Student Government Association sponsors, Ms. Troilo and Mrs. Saidman, met with all students (Grades 4-5) who expressed interested in running for a SGA officer position. These students received additional information for parents, and important dates and deadlines of upcoming SGA election requirements and events. Our SGA candidate speeches will be conducted during a school-wide (Grades 1-5) assembly on **Monday, October 19, beginning at 1:45 p.m.** Elections will be held after the assembly (time permitting) or the next morning.

