

“RACHEL CARSON HERON HERALD”



100 Tschiffely Square Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(301) 840-5333
FAX (301) 840-5366



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

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)

TUESDAY

11/17 Homework Club
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)

WEDNESDAY

11/18 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)
Chess Club

THURSDAY

11/19 11:10 a.m.-1:50 p.m. Grade 2 to Strathmore (National Philharmonic)
Math Olympiad
Homework Club
3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K-5 Rm. 108)
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)
Last Day for Session I HoopEd 2-5 (Gym) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (Art Room)

FRIDAY

11/20 Hopping Heron After-School Club Confirmation Letters Sent Home
Grade Level News Distributed

Last Day for Session I Hip Hop 2-5 (Gym)
7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)
5:30-800 p.m. Barnes and Noble Family Night



LOOKING AHEAD

- 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*
- 11/24 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
 Homework Club
- 11/25 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)
 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
 Blanton Studios to take Candid Pictures for 2009-2010 Yearbook
 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*
- 12/1 Session II Clubs Begin
 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
 Homework Club
 6:30 p.m. *Principal's Tea – Math Acceleration Process*
 7:00 p.m. *PTA Meeting (Media Center)*
- 12/2 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)
 8:00 a.m. Parent Outreach Meeting – Conference Room
 Chess Club
 Session II Clubs Begin
- 12/3 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. *Individual Student Make-up Pictures*
 10:00 a.m. *Hands Up for Respect Ceremonies*
Math Olympiad
 Session II Clubs Begin
 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K-5 Rm. 108)
 Homework Club
- 12/4 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)
 Session II Clubs Begin
- 12/7 **ABILITY AWARENESS WEEK**
 3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K&1 Rm. 139, 1&2 Rm. 147, 3-5 Rm. 148)
 Session II Clubs
- 12/8 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
 Homework Club
 Session II Clubs
- 12/9 *Interims Go Home*
 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)
 Chess Club
 Session II Clubs



- 12/10 *Math Olympiad*
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)
3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K-5 Rm. 108)
Session II Clubs
Homework Club
- 12/11 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)
Session II Clubs
- 12/14 Session II Clubs
3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)
- 12/15 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
Session II Clubs
Homework Club
- 12/16 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)
Session II Clubs
Chess Club
- 12/17 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
Math Olympiad
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)
3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (K-5 Rm. 108)
Session II Clubs
Homework Club
- 12/18 *Grade Level Newsletters Distributed*
7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)
Session II Clubs
- 12/21 9:15 a.m. *Choral/Instrumental Concert Assembly*
1:50 p.m. *Code Red Drill*
Session II Clubs
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)
Session II Clubs
Homework Club
- 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)**
- 1/1 Holiday—New Year's Day (No School)**
- 1/4 WELCOME BACK!**



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20!



5:30-8:00 p.m. RCES Night at the RIO Barnes & Noble

PRINCIPAL'S TEA/PTA MEETING

Our next **Principal's Tea** and **PTA** meeting will take place on **Tuesday, December 1**. The topic for Mr. Chep's **Principal's Tea, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**, will be **math acceleration** at RCES. Parents are encouraged to attend to hear about the process used to identify students and understand the vertical articulation of math throughout grades K-12. The PTA meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m. Childcare will be available.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM MEETING

Our next School Improvement Team (SIT) meeting will take place on Monday, **November 30 at 3:30 p.m.** Parents who are current members of our SIT will receive an agenda from Mr. Ash, our Staff Development Teacher. Our School Improvement Team is a collaborative committee of staff and parents that discusses ways to ensure a quality education for our children at RCES. We monitor the School Improvement Plan and discuss ways to improve both the instructional program and day-to-day operations of the building.

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).

SESSION II HOPPING HERON AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Confirmation letters for Session II Hopping Heron After-school Clubs will be sent home on **Friday, November 20**, with each child who registered for a club. Session II clubs begin **November 30!**

SPELLING BEE

Our third annual spelling bee (Grades 3-5) will be held during the month of February. A letter and words to study will be distributed to students next week regarding the classroom spelling bees and the Final Bee. The students will have time to study these words, compete in their classroom bees and then, the classroom winners will compete in a Final Spelling Bee.



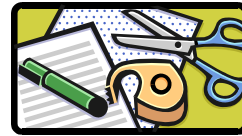
KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSES

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 **2009-10** 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)

LOOKING FOR SCIENTISTS!

Mrs. Friend (K-2) and Ms. Lubkin (3-5) will be hosting **Inquiry Investigations**, an inquiry-based **science club**. The club will run after school on **Tuesdays** from **December 8 to April 27**. Participants are expected to attend all club sessions and present research at a Student Inquiry Conference held off school grounds in May. There are **only twelve openings** for each club level. There is a \$15 club fee. Scholarships are available.

Interested students should write an essay answering one of the following questions:

- **Why are you interested in science?**
- **Why are you a scientist?**

Essays should be one page in length for students in grades 3-5, one paragraph in length for students in grades 1 and 2, and dictated or drawn for kindergarten students. At the top of the essay, students should include their name, homeroom teacher's name, grade level, and parent's email address. Essays are **due** to Mrs. Friend (K-2) or Ms. Lubkin (3-5) by **November 19**. Students will be chosen based on ideas presented in their essays and teacher recommendations. Qualified students will be chosen by lottery. Students will be notified of their acceptance by December 1. Please contact Mrs. Friend or Ms. Lubkin with questions.



City of Gaithersburg and Gazette Newspapers
19th Annual LITERARY ARTS CONTEST
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Deadline for Entry: Monday, December 7, 2009 4 PM

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Literary Arts Contest -Instructions

- ◆ Each entry should be 250 words or less
- ◆ Poetry or Essay form

THEME: "Honoring Heritage: Inspiring Change"

Entry will be judged on:

- *Understanding and appreciation of the ideals of MLK Jr.*
 - *Clarity and originality of expression.*
 - *Adherence to the theme.*
-
- ◆ Please send (3) three submissions only per school for contest entry to: Community Services, 31 S.Summit Ave.,Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
 - ◆ Please type the student's name, school, grade and teacher on a separate cover sheet
 - ◆ Send the total number of participants for your school. We will provide enough certificates for each participant to receive a certificate
 - ◆ The three top winners will be chosen by the City of Gaithersburg Multicultural Committee and will each receive a check from the Gazette Newspapers. They will read their work at the County Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration on January, 18, 2010



Dear Parents:

The PTA would like to provide **Thanksgiving Groceries and Gift Cards for our *Linkages to Learning* partner school, Sargent Shriver Elementary School.** Many families in this school community are immigrant families in need of support from the local community. This is the fourth consecutive year we have participated in the Linkages to Learning Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Shriver Elementary School. (An article from the Gaithersburg Gazette with more information the Linkages to Learning program is at the bottom of this letter.)

Our goal is to provide a basket containing all of the food items listed below for each family. If you are interested in participating in this project, please purchase the grocery items listed below and place the items in one shopping bag, basket or box. **The groceries should be dropped off at Rachel Carson Elementary School on Monday, November 23, between 9:00-10:00 a.m.** If the drop off time is not convenient for you, please contact me at shariplosh@aol.com to arrange another drop off time. The families will also gratefully accept grocery store gift cards to purchase their own groceries.

If you and your family would like to donate a basket or gift card to a needy family in this school community, please contact Shari Ploshnick via email at shariplosh@aol.com or 301-990-7676 to sign up to participate.

Thanksgiving Meal

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5 pounds potatoes | 3 cans corn, peas or green beans |
| 5 large sweet potatoes | 2 cans black or pinto beans |
| 1 pound carrots | 1 box stuffing mix or 2 large bags of white rice |
| 3 pounds onions | 1 loaf of bread or dinner rolls |
| 1 bag celery | 1 64oz. container of juice |
| 3 pounds oranges or apples | 1 large apple pie or cake |
| 2 cans of gravy | 2 cans of cranberry sauce |
| \$10-\$20 Grocery Store Gift Card to purchase Turkey or Ham | |

*No items should require refrigeration.

Linkages to Learning is a school-based collaboration among the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, the Montgomery County Public Schools and non-profit, community based service providers. This program provides services to at-risk children and their families to improve adjustment to and performance in school, home and community. Prevention and early intervention services include health, mental health, social services and educational support.