

"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

2/15

No School – Presidents' Day

TUESDAY

2/16

H1N1 Flu Clinic

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

3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd K-1 (Gym), Creative Crafts 3-5 (140) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (127)

Inquiry Investigations Club

Homework Club

WEDNESDAY

2/17

H1N1 Flu Clinic

7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)

3:10-4:10 p.m. **Last Day for Tae Kwon Do (Gym)**

3:10-4:10 p.m. Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 127)

Chess Club

THURSDAY

2/18

H1N1 Flu Clinic

Math Olympiad

3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)

3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (Rooms 147 & 148)

3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd 2-5, Creative Crafts 1-2 (130) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (140)

Homework Club

FRIDAY

2/19

No Moms and Muffins – Rescheduled for March 5

7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)

3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5

7:00 p.m. Winter Dance Family Night – AP Room

Lakelands Park
Middle School
Incoming Sixth
Grade Parent
Information Night -
LPMS cafeteria
February 18,
7:00-8:30 p.m.



LOOKING AHEAD

- 2/22 **2:15 p.m. Weather Emergency Preparedness Drill**
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (Rooms 144 & 145)
 3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Creative Adventures (Room 151)
 6:00-8:00 p.m. *Grade 5 Curriculum Night & Family Life Meeting – AP Room/Media Center*
- 2/23 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)
 3:10-4:10 p.m. *HoopEd K-1 (Gym), Creative Crafts 3-5 (140) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (127)*
Inquiry Investigations Club
 Homework Club
- 2/24 **Grades 2 & 3 Gifted/Talented Screening (Rescheduled Date)**
 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)
 3:10-4:10 p.m. *Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 127)*
Chess Club
- 2/25 10:00 a.m. *Hands Up for Character – Trustworthiness – Ceremony*
 Math Olympiad
 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (Rooms 147 & 148)
 3:10-4:10 p.m. *HoopEd 2-5, Creative Crafts 1-2 (130) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (140)*
 Homework Club
- 2/26 **INTERIMS GO HOME**
Grade Level Newsletters Distributed
12:35 p.m. Early Dismissal Day – Interim Preparation and Planning
No After-school Clubs
AM Pre-Kindergarten Ends at 10:00 a.m. -- No PM Pre-Kindergarten



SPRING TESTING – JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

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)

STUDENT TRANSFER APPLICATION SEASON BEGAN FEBRUARY 1

Montgomery County parents who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season—February 1 through April 1, 2010.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school.

Assignment changes for students from one school to another are permitted under the following limited circumstances:

- An older sibling attends the requested school in the regular program, absent a boundary change
- A continuation in a feeder pattern from middle to high school, except when affected by boundary changes
- A documented hardship situation
- A student selected for an exempt program

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents may request the *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet* that contains the COSA form, describes the process and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February, the COSA booklets will be available in schools and online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfer.shtm. The booklet will be available in both English and Spanish. Exempt programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the information booklet.

For more information about the transfer process, parents are asked to contact the principal at their home school. Non-English speaking students and parents who may require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to get the information they need by telephone at 301-309-MCPS (6277). Telephone operators who speak English and Spanish are available 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Parents who speak languages other than English or Spanish who call the ASK MCPS telephone line and identify their language will have their questions answered through a telephone interpreter.

2009-2010 YEARBOOK UPDATE

Remember to pre-order your yearbook NOW!! The early bird price for the 2009-2010 yearbook is \$18.00. Starting March 1, the price goes up to \$19.00. If you need another order form they are located in the office next to the PTA box. **Checks should be made out to Blanton Studios, no cash.** Save your canceled check as your proof of purchase. The last day to order a yearbook will be April 9, 2010. The only way to guarantee a yearbook is to preorder. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Swartz – kristiswartz@verizon.net.

RCES SCHOOL-WIDE SPELLING BEE FINALS

We welcome all parents, family members, friends, and community members to our second school-wide spelling bee. The Spelling Bee will be held on **Thursday, February 25, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in RCES All Purpose Room.** Join us to support all our outstanding spellers and cheer them on. Hope to see you there!



HANDS UP FOR CHARACTER - TRUSTWORTHINESS

Our next Hands Up for Character ceremony scheduled to take place on Thursday, February 18, has been rescheduled for **Thursday, February 25, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** Students will be recognized by their teachers for demonstrating the **Character Counts!** Pillar of **Trustworthiness**. These students will receive a certificate and will place their handprint on one of our school's pillars.

Our next pillar will focus on **Fairness!** A Fair student: *Plays by the rules, considers others, and resolves conflicts.*

BOX TOP FOR EDUCATION

It's Box Top Collection Time! Turn in box tops between now and February 19, to get them counted for this school year. Please place CLIPPED box tops in a bag labeled with **your child's teacher's name**. The class with the most box tops will win a hot-chocolate winter warm up! The collection box is located in the school office. Questions? Contact Kim Delprete at kimdelva@aol.com.

H1N1 (SWINE) FLU NASAL SPRAY VACCINE – STILL ON!

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services plans to offer the H1N1 (swine) flu nasal spray vaccine to 150 elementary students in each of the 135 MCPS elementary and special schools during after school clinics to be held through March 25.

Consent forms were distributed last week.

Rachel Carson Dates: February 16, 17, and 18

The format for these clinics has been simplified to minimize the impact on staff and the school day:

- The clinic will begin after school is dismissed and will run for one hour.
- Parents may call or email the health room staff to schedule an appointment for the clinic.
- Appointments will close when all 150 slots are filled.
- Parents or a designated adult must come with their child to the clinic and bring the completed consent form with them.
- All screening of consent forms will be done during the clinic by health room staff.
- Only H1N1 nasal spray vaccine will be administered.
- A maximum of 50 doses will be administered each of the three days for a total of 150 doses.
- The clinics will be staffed by three school health services staff.

INTERIMS

Teachers will be sending home interims on **Friday, February 26**, indicating each student's progress for the midpoint of the third marking period. Parents should remember, interims are only required for students who are in danger of dropping two letter grades or more. However, **the staff at RCES has made a decision to provide feedback to all parents**. Since interims are normally distributed to students who are not successfully meeting standards, don't be disappointed if there is not a lot of information on your child's interim. This is most likely an indication that your child is either meeting or exceeding standards.

WEATHER EMERGENCY DRILL

Our students and staff will conduct a practice weather emergency drill on **Monday, February 22**, beginning at 2:15 p.m. This drill is practiced once a year, typically prior to tornado season, to ensure staff and students are prepared to safely react to emergency weather conditions. The fire department expects to take part in our weather emergency drill. This is subject to change because of various emergencies that might be present, but if none of that occurs we will have fire equipment with fire personnel at Rachel Carson just prior to the start of our drill.

GRADE 5 CURRICULUM NIGHT & FAMILY LIFE PARENT MEETING

Our Grade 5 teachers will be conducting their second semester Curriculum Night and Family Life Parent Meeting on **Monday, February 22**, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. During the first hour, the teachers will provide information on the curriculum students will cover throughout the second semester. This will be followed by the Grade 5 Family Life Parent Meeting. Parents receive information about the comprehensive health education units on Family Life and Human Sexuality (FLHS), and Disease Prevention and Control. Instructional materials will be reviewed, and you will have an opportunity to discuss the program with our teachers.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

As a result of the closing of schools last week, due to inclement weather, the February Kindergarten House has been canceled. Our next Kindergarten Open House for parents who will be sending (or are considering sending) their children to Kindergarten at RCES next fall is scheduled for **Friday, March 19, beginning at 9:15 a.m.** 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 **2010-2011** school year (turning five years old by **September 1, 2010**). It is essential that 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 6 and May 7 Kindergarten Orientation**.

SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!!!



MOMS AND MUFFINS
FRIDAY, MARCH 5
8:00 AM



WINTER DANCE
FAMILY NIGHT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
7:00 PM

EXEMPTION FORMS (MCPS Form 560-19)

If your child was of kindergarten age last year, but was exempted from attendance, bring the exemption form with you.

If the Immaturity box was checked, the child may **only** enroll in kindergarten. (Parent/guardian may apply for Early Entrance to First Grade).

If either the Child Care Center or Family Day Care boxes were checked in Part II, then Part IV of this form **must** be completed before the first day of attendance. The child may then be enrolled in first grade. If the parent/guardian prefers kindergarten enrollment, the principal will concur with that request.

All children **without a bona fide exemption** must first attend kindergarten before entering first grade, even if they are age eligible for first grade. (Application for Early Entrance to First grade is permissible).