

# "RACHEL CARSON HERON HERALD"



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Web Page: [www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/rachelcarsones/](http://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**

**PENNIES FOR PATIENTS WEEK**

**READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK – Dr. Seuss' Birthday Day!**

**SPRING BOOK FAIR**

**Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart Week**



#### MONDAY

3/1

3:10 -4:10 p.m. Mad Science (Rooms 144 & 145) Creative Adventures (Room 151)  
3:15-4:15 p.m. French Level 1 (Room 149)

#### TUESDAY

3/2

**7:00 p.m. PTA Meeting @ Governors Square Apartments**  
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  
No Homework Club

#### WEDNESDAY

3/3

*Vision and Hearing Screening – Kindergarten and Grade 1*  
7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)  
9:00 a.m. Grade 4 GT Rescreening (InView)  
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Grade 2 Trip to Baltimore Aquarium  
3:10-410 p.m. Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 127) & Chess Club

#### THURSDAY

3/4

Math Olympiad  
*Vision and Hearing Screening – Kindergarten and Grade 1*  
3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)  
3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (Rooms 146 & 149)  
3:10-4:10 p.m. HoopEd 2-5, Creative Crafts 1-2 (130) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (140)  
No Homework Club  
**6:30-8:30 p.m. Festival of Arts**

#### FRIDAY

3/5

*Vision and Hearing Screening – Kindergarten and Grade 1*  
7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)  
3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- 3/8 **Grades 3 & 4 MSA Testing – Reading**  
 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)
- 3/9 **Grades 3 & 4 MSA Testing – Reading**  
 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. *HoopEd K-1 (Gym)*  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. *Creative Crafts 3-5 (140) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (127)*  
*Inquiry Investigations Club*  
 Homework Club  
 5:00-9:00 p.m. *Guisseppi's Pizza Restaurant Fundraiser*
- 3/10 **Grade 5 MSA Testing - Reading**  
 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)  
 2:00 p.m. *Potomac Pizza Visits Grade 1 – AP Room*  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. *Crazy Beads 1-2 (Room 127)*  
 Chess Club
- 3/11 **Grade 5 MSA Testing – Reading**  
 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (Rooms 146 & 149)  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. *HoopEd 2-5, Creative Crafts 1-2 (130) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (140)*  
 Homework Club
- 3/12 **Grades 3 & 4 MSA Testing – Math**  
*Session IV Club Brochures Distributed*  
 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5
- 3/15 **Grades 3 & 4 MSA Testing – Math**  
 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)
- 3/16 **Grade 5 MSA Testing – Math**  
 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. ***Last Day for HoopEd K-1 (Gym)***  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. ***Last Day for Creative Crafts 3-5 (140) & Crazy Beads 1-2 (127)***  
*Inquiry Investigations Club*  
 Homework Club
- 3/17 **Grade 5 MSA Testing – Math**  
 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
- 3/18 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (Rooms 146 & 149)  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. ***Last Day for HoopEd 2-5***  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. ***Last Day for Creative Crafts 1-2 (130) & Crazy Beads 3-5 (140)***  
 Homework Club

- 3/19 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Chinese (Room 146)  
 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  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5
- 3/22 **Staff Raffle Week**  
 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)  
**3:30 p.m. School Improvement Meeting**  
 5:00-9:00 p.m. *Laredo Grill Restaurant Fundraiser, Muddy Branch Festival Shopping Center*
- 3/23 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 2/3 (Room 145)  
*Inquiry Investigations Club*  
 Homework Club
- 3/24 7:55-8:40 a.m. Introductory Spanish (Room 150 & 151)  
**2:00 p.m. Grade 5 Departing Class Picture**  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. **Last Day for Crazy Beads 1-2** (Room 127)  
 Chess Club
- 3/25 **Individual Student Spring Pictures**  
 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. *Grade 1 to Lisner Auditorium*  
 Mad Science Visits Grade 4 – Saidman, Gent & Bannon  
 3:15-4:15 p.m. Spanish Level 1 (Room 144)  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Mad Science (Rooms 146 & 149)  
 Homework Club
- 3/26 **Third Marking Period Ends**  
*Club Registration Forms Due*  
 9:30-10:20 a.m. *Grade 2 Wax Museum*  
 Mad Science Visits Grade 4 – Dembrow & Silversmith  
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Hip Hop 2-5
- 3/29-4/5 **NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK**
- 4/6 **Professional Day for Staff – No School**



### HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS

In accordance with the Maryland State Law, students in Montgomery County Public Schools are screened for possible vision and hearing problems. Trained hearing and vision screeners will be screening students in **Kindergarten and First Grade**. Parents will receive a referral form to take to their child's doctor, if their child fails the screening. If a child is already under care for a hearing or vision problem, or a parent does not wish his/her child to be screened at school, the parent should notify the school nurse in writing. If your child wears glasses or contacts, he/she should wear them to the screening.

#### **RCES Vision and Hearing Screening Dates: March 3, 4 and 8**

We will screen all kindergartners, students new to MCPS, first grade students who were not screened in kindergarten last year and any referrals. If you have a concern about your child's hearing or vision, please call the health room or email Kathy Hanna (health tech.) or Kathleen Mesick (school nurse) to request a screening.

**SPRING TESTING – ONE WEEK AWAY!**

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)**

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

**Maryland School Assessment (MSA)**

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

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>May 5–11 (paper/pencil)</b>

**RACHEL CARSON RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH/SUPPORT**

**How do we support schools’ parent engagement activities?** Schools have developed many great strategies to engage their families. Here is one exciting example: Staff from Rachel Carson ES and the Office of Communication and Family Outreach organized Family Support Nights at the Governor’s Square community in Gaithersburg. Parents have direct access to staff to answer their questions and also provide extra help to students for their homework. Language barriers and physical distance from the school had resulted in families feeling a little disconnected from the school. To change this, Sylvia Jarquin, a parent community coordinator in the Department of Family and Community Partnerships, along with Assistant Principal Cathy Shinn of Rachel Carson ES, school teachers, PTA members and community volunteers banded together to develop these important family engagement events. Family Support Nights fill the rental office at Governor’s Square, and as a result these families have become more fully engaged in their children’s education.



**NO HOMEWORK CLUB – MARCH 2-25**

Due to the Book Fair and MSA testing, there will be no Homework Club from March 2-25. Homework Club will resume on **April 8**.

**SPELLING BEE CHAMPION**

Congratulations to all of our spelling bee finalists. All of the children did an outstanding job! Congratulations to our spelling bee champion –(see **emailed copy for name.**) T. won the spelling bee by spelling – *montage*! T. will be representing Rachel Carson at the regional competition, which will be held at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda on March 13, beginning at 10 a.m. Good luck Tobias!!!!

**PTA/PRINCIPAL'S TEA**

Our next PTA meeting will take place at **Governor's Square Apartments**, on **Tuesday, March 2**. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., we will have several presentations on summer activities offered for children (i.e. City of Gaithersburg Recreation Department, Quince Orchard Library). Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions about offerings, registration, scholarships, etc.

**A REAL TEAM EFFORT**

Kudos to our Building Service Team for all of their hard work in removing snow 15+ inches high. They worked together to ensure the walkways, paths and doorways were all clear for safe passage. In addition, they cleared much of the playground asphalt, so our students could access the playground area for recess. But, they didn't do it alone. A call went out through parent Todd Anderson for additional assistance, and the following parents, students and alumni parents arrived on a Sunday morning with shovels in hand. Thank you to the following people for all of your assistance in removing the snow and making it possible for our students to go outside for recess on Monday.

*Steve, Britt Schwendinger (and child)*

*Chris Fogle*

*Pete Bedell*

*Tim, Jane, Hahn (and children)*

*John Nash*

*Chris Mitchell*

*Tim, Denise Clark (and children)*

*David Elder*

*Dan Tucker*

*Mark Ezrin (and child)*

*Aaron Carreras*

*Dan Burke*

*Todd Anderson (and child)*

*Bridgett Edell*

**MARCH BOOK FAIR**

The **Book Fair** is here! Rachel Carson's Book Fair is scheduled for **March 1-March 5**, in the media center. Please support our school's book fair, since this fund raiser earns 25% of the book fair revenue back to the school, as well as free books for our library and classrooms! All of this and your children get some great books to read and enjoy!! Parents may visit the fair during school hours, as well as after school **until 3:30 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday**, and **until 4:30 on Tuesday and Friday**. The fair will also be open during the Family *Festival of Arts* Night on **March 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm**.

**2009-2010 YEARBOOK – LAST DAY FOR EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**

**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. *The yearbooks are selling fast. Pre-order you yearbook so you are not disappointed if we sell out. We cannot order additional yearbooks once they are all sold!*

**RCES "FESTIVAL OF ART"**

Please join us as the PTA hosts the "**Festival of Art**" **next Thursday, March 4 from 6:30 - 8:30** in the evening. Bring your family to stroll through the halls to see beautiful art work created by all of the students and live performances by a variety of artists in the All-Purpose Room. The Book Fair will be open in the library during the event. Light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

**READ ACROSS AMERICA – DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY/GUEST READER DAY**

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."

Rachel Carson Elementary will be sponsoring its eighth annual **Guest Reader Day** to celebrate Read Across America on **Friday, March 5**. Many of our community leaders, MCPS administrators, and elected officials will be guests in our students' classrooms to read to them. Several of our guests are bringing their favorite book to share with the class in which they will be reading. We are looking forward to a great turnout from some very special guests.

**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!!!**

**PENNIES FOR PATIENTS**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services. On **Monday, March 1, 2010**, the students at Rachel Carson will begin their *Pennies for Patients* drive for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Please consider donating your spare pennies (nickels, quarters, ...) for this very important mission.

**2009 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) uses Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in reading, mathematics, and science to assess student progress toward meeting the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Each student will soon bring home a 2009 School Performance Report Card for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), which provides state, county, and individual school performance data, as well as information on student attendance, graduation rates, and the professional qualifications of teachers at the state, county and school level.

## From The Arts

### **P.E. News**

PE classes are just ending a basketball skills unit (dribbling, passing, and shooting) and are preparing to start a jumping/landing unit in the next few weeks, followed by our annual gymnastics unit. Students will learn about the ill effects of fast food and inactivity. They will continue to discuss healthy lifestyle choices throughout the year. **Please** remember to dress your child/children in **sneakers** on days when they have PE class. Thank you for the support!

Our school is participating in a very special community service program to raise funds for the American Heart Association. We're joining in the fight against our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers – cardiovascular diseases and stroke. During the first week in March, our school will hold Jump Rope (K-5) and Hoops for Heart (3-5) activities in PE classes. These events are held nationwide and help students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health, while raising funds to support vital research and educational programs. The money we raise will help people in our community learn how to avoid heart disease, stroke, and live longer, healthier lives. The school will also qualify for gift certificates for physical education equipment based on the amount raised. Students will receive thank-you gifts based on the amount collected. Last year we raised over **12,000** dollars (100% greater than the previous year)!!!!

Thank you, and have a heart healthy day. - Mr. Whitman, Mr. Jansson and Ms. Spillman

### **Artistic News**

Art students at RCES are busy making art in between snowstorms, but it seems as though it is taking a long time to catch up from all the art time we have missed!

Kindergarten artists are busy making a Stone Soup collage loaded with carrots, potatoes, cabbage, tofu or beef and of course a few stones.

First grade students learned about architecture and saw some world famous buildings on the Promethean Board. They drew buildings using their knowledge of lines and shapes and transferred the sketch to Styrofoam which they will print several times

The second grade students are drawing faces with exaggerated features and using pastels to color them in.

Third grade artists completed their round weavings, and decided they looked best left on the plate loom. Fourth grade artists are just completing their straw loom weavings and feel as though they could teach brothers and sisters the process. The fifth grade classes are weaving on a card board loom and have a very long way to go. Lucky for them, we allow kids to weave during indoor recess. It is fun to weave and chat with friends.

### **Musical Notes**

- Pre-k students have been echo singing and listening to the words of a song in order to know how to move. They will play classroom instruments and move with songs about spring.
- Kindergarten walked and jogged with the beat of music and learned about the instruments in the orchestra. They will learn to identify the different sections of a song.
- First grade learned how to read the pitches *so* and *mi* off of the musical staff. They will play *so* and *mi* on instruments and improvise on instruments to make stories and songs more interesting.

- The second graders read the pitches *so*, *mi*, *la*, and *do* off the musical staff. They continue to work on their note reading skills and learn how to improvise on instruments.
- Third graders practiced the note names for the treble clef in preparation for playing recorders. They also sang rounds with up to four parts. They will start recorders this coming week!
- Fourth graders learned about dynamics, which are words that let us know how loud or quiet the music should be. They will learn about form, which is used to label the different sections of a piece.
- The fifth graders learned about different styles of twentieth century popular music, including ragtime, swing, and early rock. They will continue to learn about twentieth century popular music from the 1960s onwards.

## FROM OUR PTA

Please consider joining the Rachel Carson PTA Board and help contribute to our school's continued success!

Our Nominating Committee has been formed. Thank you to Liz Fontek, Mia Pearlstein and Carol Vincent. Diane Strodel has graciously offered to assist them and serve as an Alternate member.

We are looking for a President, Treasurer and Secretary. Melissa Wilson and Kimberly Hall are one year into their terms and are eligible to continue in their roles. However, as specified in the bylaws, all positions are technically open.

This is your chance to help in a very unique way. Please give it serious consideration.

If interested contact any of member of the nominating Committee:

Liz Fontek: H: 301-990-1998, [lizfontek@gmail.com](mailto:lizfontek@gmail.com)

Carol Vincent: M: 240-750-9064, [cav1947b@yahoo.com](mailto:cav1947b@yahoo.com)

Mia Pearlstein: H: 301-977-4327, [noahhannah@comcast.net](mailto:noahhannah@comcast.net)

Diane Strodel: H: 240-632-2423, [dstrod@verizon.net](mailto:dstrod@verizon.net)

Without your help, we cannot continue to be a successful and involved PTA. Thank you for your consideration.

## Articulation: When Should I Worry If My Child Is Behind?

Contributed by Speech - Language Pathologists:

Marion Bisselle, M.A., CCC-SLP and Dahlia Ellison, M.A., CF-SLP

Parents often ask if their child's speech is developing normally and if there is reason to be concerned. It is not uncommon for school-aged children to make mistakes and pronounce some sounds incorrectly.

Developing speech and language skills is a difficult task. It is natural for young children to make mistakes in the process of learning to speak. Most children eventually drop errors in their speech and develop normal speech patterns without direct intervention. Some children continue to make errors beyond the age when other children have mastered those sounds. The chart below gives general guidelines of sound mastery.

90% of Children Have Mastered  
These Sounds...By Age

vowels, p, n, h, w, m	3 years old
f, v, t, d, b, k, g	4 years old
ing, y	5 years old
l, sh, ch, j, blends	6 years old
r, s, z	7 years old
th	8 years old

It may be time to show concern if your child continues to make errors beyond the age when other children have mastered those sounds, your child's speech is still difficult to understand, your child shows signs of frustration when trying to communicate, and there is documented educational impact.





**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).