

PAW PRINTS



Web-Version

Volume 2 Issue 15

May 7, 2009

Rock Creek Forest Elementary School
Mr. David Chia, Principal
Mrs. Stacy Ashton, Assistant Principal

Principal's Update

Dear Parents,

As the days warm and we enter spring, children (and adults) are excited about the upcoming summer break. We have just six weeks of school remaining and we plan on making each day count with a full day of learning and enjoyment. We celebrate the many accomplishments of our students and continue to find ways to develop each child as a leader.

I hope you and your family enjoyed our two recent school events - Family Math Night and the Spring Fair. A special thanks goes to *Mrs. Markovitz* and *Ms. Malozowski* for coordinating the Family Math Night. Children and adults had a terrific night of sharing math activities led by *half of our staff* who facilitated sessions. A special thank you also goes to *Barbara DeLollis*, Spring Fair Chair, and *Amanda Waugh*, Auction Chair, along with over *two dozen of our parents* who volunteered to make this year's fair and auction a reality. Children had a wonderful time at the fair, including my two little ones! I appreciate the collaborative support of parents, community members such as Kids Adventure, and our staff in creating memorable experiences for our students. It is satisfying when our students and children say, "Remember when we had a great time math night..." Or "I remember the Spring Fair being so much fun...."

Thank you for your continued partnership at Rock Creek Forest Elementary!

Mr. Chia
Principal

Developing Every Child as A Leader

School News

Student News

Students are gearing up for the May 27th Arts & Technology Night. Additionally, students participating in Science Inquiry Projects will share their work. And our third graders will hold a recorder performance and four grade chorus will sing. It will be a night to showcase our many talents of our students! It all begins at 6:00 pm. More details will follow.


Staff Update

Mrs. Register has been on short-term medical leave as a result of a detached retina. We expect her to return soon and will keep you updated when we have more information. *In our next Paw Prints, we will be announcing information of teachers who are making changes for the next school year.*

Career Day

The 2009 Rock Creek Forest Elementary School Career Day will be held on Friday, May 15th from 9:30-11:30 and students will have an opportunity to learn about different professions and career opportunities. If you have questions about Career Day 2009, please contact Ms. Hitchcock at 301.650.6410.

Media Center Update

 The year has flown by and **all books will be due back to the Media Center on May 29th**. If a book can not be found at home, the easiest way to clear it from your child's record is to pay for it. At every Media Center class, Mr. Padilla and Mrs. Barry talk remind students who have overdue books out. We encourage the students to take responsibility to find the books and bring them back to the library. If your child receives a notice from the Media Center about an overdue book, please ask your child about it. **In June, report cards are not distributed until outstanding library fees are paid in full.** If you have questions about overdue and/or lost books, please contact Mrs. Barry at 301.650.6410.

Westland Middle School Summer School Update



Due to current MCPS budget constraints, Westland Middle School is only able to offer 5 summer school classes. Therefore, our 2009 summer school will be invite only. Invitations should be mailed home by May 1st. Westland administration apologizes for any inconvenience. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ben Costa, WMS assistant principal at 301.320.6515

Class News

Kindergarten - This year is soon coming to an end. All of the students have shown tremendous growth and progress. Although summer is near, we need your support in keeping the children focused. We want to let you know the topics we will be covering in the fourth quarter of the school year. This will enable you to support our program at home, which will help your child succeed at school. This quarter's reading emphasis in **reading/language arts** will

be on small group reading instruction for independent reading. We will continue utilizing our high frequency words and writing will be based on our word wall. This quarter's writing intents are Writing to Inform and Writing for Personal Expression. At home, please continue to read with your child. Have discussions, retell stories, and help them make connections. You and your child may want to keep a simple journal that may be shared with school staff. In **mathematics** this quarter, we will be



working on combining and separating sets (addition and subtraction). We will also work on estimating. Lastly, we will be stressing coins and their values. In kindergarten we focus on the penny, the nickel and the dime. Please provide opportunities for the children to manipulate coins at home and exchange pennies for nickels and dimes. In **social studies** and **science**, we will continue *Myself and Others* and *Communities*. We will continue to talk about seasons as well as *Living Things*. We will talk about the summer as well as summer safety. We will also be introducing *Balls and Ramps*. We



would like to have one more field trip as we finalize the



year. We are making arrangements and more details on this will follow.

Some important dates for May include **no school for Kindergarteners on May 21, 2009 due to Kindergarten Orientation for next year's students.** On May 22nd we will have **Kindergarten Field Day** (more information will follow).

The Kindergarten Team - Isa Barnet, Silvia Goncalves, Veronica Lay, Brooke Mayhew and Dolly Xeron

First Grade - The fourth marking quarter is here! During the month of May, we will complete our poetry unit in **language arts** and focus on reading to be informed, as well as plays. We will read and create posters, menus, and much more! Further, our writing focus is for students to write a personal narrative. Writing stories about ourselves is lots of fun, as exciting things are happening in our lives each day! In **math**, we will continue to work with money and move into fractions. Problem solving, fact families, and practicing our addition and subtraction skills will be emphasized as well. The **social studies** unit is called "Telling About Ourselves." We will learn about ourselves by focusing on personal family traditions, which will help generate ideas for our personal narratives in writing. Further, in our **science** unit, we will continue to focus on weather. We will study clouds and learn about different kinds of weather, as this will prepare us for an exciting science presentation this month about weather! Please continue to have your child read with you every night. Reading together is so important. Thank you all for all the ways you help your children learn, as well as help us! We couldn't do it without you!

The First Grade Team - Olga Allen, Debbie Cunningham, Nancy Morgan and Melissa Sanders

Second Grade - Second graders have passed a milestone in their lives...the TN2 test is over! They did a great job! In **reading/language arts**, we have been learning the tricks and trades of poets. "What can I, as a student, learn from poets to compose my own poetry and to improve my writing?" We are also identifying and using

dictionary skills to improve our vocabulary! Students should be able to use a dictionary to learn more about interesting or unknown words that they hear and read. The current **science** unit is about the states of matter. We are experimenting with liquids and how they interact with other solids and liquids. Students can learn more about the different phases of matter through cooking at home. How long will it take an ice cube to melt? What happens if you leave a solid tab of butter out on a warm day or put it in a warm pan? What happens to sugar when you mix it with eggs while making cookies? Please have your child share their at home discoveries with us at school! In **math** we will continue to explore concepts of multiplication and division. You can help your child at home with these tough skills by incorporating math in your daily lives. Planning for a party? Involve your child in "dividing" up candies for goodie bags. Or have him or her help solve other daily "problems" such as determining how many packs of water bottles you will need for the soccer team. If 6 come in a pack and there are 18 kids on the team, how many packs will you need to purchase? Continue to work on basic facts. Students should be able to solve 30 addition and subtraction facts accurately in one minute.

The Second Grade Team - Lyndsay Fetrow, Erin Lisa, Yamalis Nieves and Eva Pacheco

Third Grade - The third grade continues to work hard as we enter spring. We have begun unit 5, dealing with fractions, probability, algebra, money, multiplication, and division. In **reading**, we will be studying our unit on reading for literary experience, dealing with various texts dealing with fantasy and poetry. In **writing**, we will be finishing our unit on writing to persuade, and will begin our unit on writing for personal expressions, which goes into detail about developing a story map, and working on the students beginning, middle, and end of a writing piece. In **science**, we will begin our third unit dealing with sound. In this unit, the students will be exposed to concepts such as pitch, vibrations, volume, and decibel. The unit will conclude with the students making a musical instrument. Finally, in **social studies** we will be finishing unit 2 dealing with

transportation systems, and beginning unit 3, dealing with cities of the past in order to meet the economic wants of expanding groups of people.

The Third Grade Team - Nicole Cohen, Rodrigo Godinez, Veronica Kheradmand and Matt Rosenthal

Fourth Grade - In **reading/language arts**, students will read mysteries during May. Mystery stories follow the familiar narrative story structure that includes characters, setting, problems, actions taken to solve the problems, and resolution. Suspense is an important characteristic of mysteries. Suspense builds as the reader wonders if and when the mystery will be solved. Students will analyze and discuss historical mysteries, detective mysteries, fantasy mysteries, and problem and puzzle mysteries. In **writing** students will write mysteries during May. They will apply their knowledge of the characteristics of mysteries and story elements to create a piece that is well developed, organized and captures the curiosity of the reader. Teachers will focus on mapping out a mystery, writing an interesting lead, developing the setting, and fully developing the main character of a mystery. Teachers will score student work using a rubric for writing to express personal ideas. In **science**, students will study Earth Science. They will explore the materials that make up the Earth's surface. Teachers set the stage for students to learn that rocks are made of minerals by revisiting the understanding that matter is made of smaller parts. Making detailed observations and recording observations are key skills to be developed throughout the unit. Students will also explore fossils to see how fossils of organisms and environments of the past. Finally, students will complete the unit with an exploration of how erosion and weathering impact the surface of the Earth. In **math** during May, math content will focus on measurement. Students will measure with precision and develop formulas to determine area and perimeter. They will determine equivalencies within a measurement system and use manipulatives to determine volume. Students will also examine situations



that negative numbers can model, including temperature. The concepts and skills developed in this unit provide the foundation for multi-step measurement problem solving in Grade 5 and for investigating integers on a number line. In **social studies** for the remainder of the year, we will study the topic of government and civics during our social studies and reading time. This topic covers a broad span of United States history starting with a description of our present system of government, then moving back to daily life during colonial times, 1700-1761. We will study and test the following four sections: *Political Systems Today*, *The Decline of the Blue Crab*, *Decision Making in the Colonies*, and *The Colonies Come Together*. Please discuss with your child your own views of the role of government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Also encourage him or her to extend our studies beyond the school experience through trips to the historical resources of our region.

The Fourth Grade Team - Jan Bloom, Maria Garcia and Laura Perez

Fifth Grade - Our Reading and Writing classes will continue their focus on Folktales, Legends and Memoirs. The Candace Wolf program, "**Honoring Our Elders**" is winding down. Final presentations are scheduled for the first week in May. Again, we look forward to this powerful learning experience and would like to thank those who worked so hard to make it a success! In **Math 5**, students will finalize their studies related to measurement as well as the conversion of units of capacity, distance and weight. Our final unit of study approaches. It is related to the study of probability. In **Math 6**, students are currently finalizing their studies in unit 4 and will be administered the end-of-unit assessment shortly. We will initiate our studies in Probability immediately after this examination. In **science**, the Science Maryland School Assessment was administered on May 4th and 5th. The final unit of study in Science for this school year is related to cells and biology. This is a new piece in the 5th grade curriculum and will provide background knowledge of the use of the microscope and single and multiple cell organisms. In **social**

studies, students thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Mount Vernon. It proved to be an exciting culminating activity in their studies of colonial America and the building of our national identity. We would like to express a heart-felt thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted us with this event. We could not have done it without you! We would like to express our gratitude to parents who attended our planning sessions for our **Family Life and HIV prevention curriculum units**. Formal instruction will be initiated on May 11, 2009. Additionally, our **Bill Harley** program was a huge success! Students enjoyed his perspective on the creative process of writing and how he incorporates his personal memories into his recordings. We are about to initiate preparations for our **5th grade promotion** exercises scheduled for **June 15, 2009 at 10:00 am**. Our orientation session at Westland Middle School was well received by our students. Our Math night activities were exciting and fun for all of the parents and students who attended. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who attended and put into practice the games and skills that were presented during the evening.

The Fifth Grade Team - Mary Crilley, Marvin Kopit, Eric McDonald and Ivelisse Yordan-Torres

Calendar



- May 15 - Career Day
- May 19 - Fifth Grade Class Picture (9:30 am)
- May 20 - Fifth Grade to Strathmore
- May 21 - Kindergarten Orientation
(No school for Kindergarten students)
- May 22 - Kindergarten Field Day
- May 27 - Arts & Technology Night (6:00 pm)
- May 29 - Grades 1-5 Field Day

Paw Prints is published on the first and third Thursday of each month with school information for parents. The first Thursday edition (odd issue numbers) includes grade level news and the third Thursday edition (even issue numbers) includes teacher specialist news. The web-version is modified from the hard copy version that you receive in Backpack Thursday.



*Rock Creek Forest Elementary School
8330 Grubb Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815
301-650-6410*