

PAW PRINTS



Web-Version

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May 21, 2009

Rock Creek Forest Elementary School

Mr. David Chia, Principal

Mrs. Stacy Ashton, Assistant Principal

Principal's Update

Dear Parents,

As we come towards the last month of school, we are gearing up for the summer months. The **Regional Elementary Summer School** held at Bethesda Elementary School is an excellent opportunity for students to reinforce what they have learned this year and get a glimpse of the next school year. Parents who are interested may contact Mrs. Stacy Ashton, our assistant principal, for more information. We have limited funds to assist families defray the cost of the program. Mrs. Ashton will also serve as an administrator at Bethesda ES this summer.

Also, we continue to refine our schedule based on student needs and staffing. We realize that the delicate economy has affected many areas of our lives, including education. While we have had a reduction by a 0.5 position (equivalent to a half-time teacher position) for the Spanish Immersion program (teaching English to 4th & 5th SI students), we have been allocated an additional 1.0 teacher for the English Academy program in first grade. Also, we have had a 0.1 increase in art, music, and PE (equivalent to a half-day each week). We are in the process of staffing the various positions and I will have an update in the last Paw Prints next month. It is important for parents to know that staffing is tied to enrollment and enrollment fluctuations may impact staffing during the summer. You can expect an update in the RCF summer newsletter that will be mailed end of July.

Finally, I hope many parents will come out next Wednesday night at 6:00 pm for our **Arts & Technology Night** which will also include science

inquiry projects and musical performances by third and fourth graders. This will truly be a night to showcase the many talents of our students. I hope to see you there!

Mr. Chia
Principal

School News

Student News

Staff Update

As we come to the close of the school year, we have several staff members who are departing Rock Creek Forest. **Mrs. Jan Bloom** will be retiring from MCPS after teaching at RCF for nine years. **Mr. Rodrigo Godinez** will be transferring to A. Mario Loiederman Middle School to teach 8th grade mathematics. **Mrs. Nancy Barry** will be transferring back to Burning Tree ES as their media specialist. **Ms. Erin Lisa** will be resigning from MCPS as she relocates to Washington State. And **Ms. Alka Sharma** will be transferring to Arcola ES as a support professional. We wish each of our colleagues best wishes as they begin new adventures in their lives. I know you will join me in showing your appreciation for their work with our children at RCF as the school year winds down. I would also like to extend a special thank you to **Mrs. Isa Barnet**, **Mrs. Nitsa Dalamaras**, and **Mrs. Ronnie Vicenzi** who will also complete the year as long-term substitutes.

Arts & Technology Night - May 27th!

All students and their families are invited to join us on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for **Arts & Technology Night!** In addition, we will have *musical performances* by third grade recorder (6:15 pm) and fourth grade chorus (7:30 pm). Also, *science inquiry projects* will be on display. The computer lab & media center will have displays of *technology projects* for all to see (some are interactive). And our hallways will be turned into an *art gallery* with student self-portraits. Parents will have an opportunity to interact with our *Promethean Board* as well. This is a great way to see how

arts and technology is integrated into the MCPS curriculum. We hope to see you here next Wednesday!

Cultural Arts Update - A special thank you goes to **Trish Nudelman** and the Cultural Arts Team for a terrific year of activities, performances, and trips to enhance what our students are learning. Recent cultural arts activities included a performance by two-time Grammy winner Bill Harley, the Green Kids Program and Audubon working with our kindergarten and first grade students, the "Journeys" experience for our fourth graders, Mad Science workshops in second grade and the Candice Wolfe artist in residency for our fifth graders.

Specialist News

Counselor's Corner with Ms. Hitchcock - We raised \$1,119 this year for children with leukemia and lymphoma through the **Pennies for Patients Drive**. Way to go Tigers!! I also want to thank the many parents who presented to our students during our recent **Career Day**. Students really enjoyed hearing about the many different careers they have as possibilities in their futures - thank you again!

Media Center News with Mrs. Barry - Many students at Rock Creek Forest are eagerly awaiting news about the Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book award winner. Fifteen outstanding picture books were nominated for this award and students are eligible to vote if they have read or listened to at least eight books. From January to April, students in many grades listened to or read the books nominated for the award. During the month of April, student voted electronically for their favorite book. Votes from across the state of Maryland are tallied and the winner was announced in early May. All the students enjoyed participating in the Black-Eyed Susan Book program and were introduced to different writing styles, topics, and authors.



This is also another reminder that **all books will be due back to the Media Center on May 29th**. If a book cannot 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 I talk to the 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.

Calendar



- May 21 - Kindergarten Orientation
(No school for Kindergarten students)
- May 22 - Kindergarten Field Day
- May 25 - Memorial Day (Schools Closed)
- May 27 - Arts & Technology Night with Musical Performances and Science Inquiry Projects
(6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
- May 22 - Grades 1-5 Field Day
- June 1 - School Improvement Team/Leadership Team Meeting (3:45 pm)
- June 2 - B-CC High School Graduation
- June 3 - 4th & 5th Grade Instrumental Music Concert (7:00 pm)
- June 4 - Last day of Spring After-school Clubs
- June 15 - **Fifth Grade Promotion (10:00 am)**
- June 16 - Last Day of School (Dismissal 1:00 pm)

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.



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Developing Every Child as A Leader