

PAW PRINTS



Web-Version

Volume 2 Issue 10

January 22, 2009

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

Principal's Update

Dear Parents,

"College ready" is a phrase that is often used in our school district as we think about where we want our students to be when they are graduated from high school. It certainly is our expectation and goal to prepare each MCPS student to be college ready when they graduate. But sometimes our students don't really know what a college or university might be like. We were very pleased to have many guest readers during our Reading Rocks 2009 last week, including over 35 student-athletes from the University of Maryland Track Team. In addition to reading to our students, they took the opportunity to share about the academic rigors of college life and what skills it takes to be success in college. Many of our students asked questions and they were able to broaden their understanding of what college will be like. We hope you will take the opportunity to continue to set goals with your children and when the opportunities present themselves, have our children dream big!

Mr. Chia
Principal

School News

Student News



Parent Thank You's!

Thank you to the many parents who donated breakfast items for our guest readers during Reading Rocks 2009. A special thanks goes to

parents who were guest readers this year. We appreciate all our parent support and involvement at Rock Creek Forest! PS - Look for a new parent resource room that is being developed!

Multicultural Night TONIGHT!



It is not too late to come join us at our Multicultural Night TONIGHT! It begins at 6:30 pm and additional parking is available at Temple Shalom at the corner of East-West Highway and Grubb Road. We hope to see you tonight! (Snow date is next Thursday, January 29, 2009)

Dress for Recess



It is important that students come to school dressed for outdoor recess every day - that means a warm coat and when needed, hats and gloves. Thanks for your continued support in helping keep our children safe and warm while at recess.

Afterschool Programs



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! Spring Afterschool Activities will be held from March 31st to May 29th. More details will be coming soon. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Ashton at 301.650.6410.

Discipline Policy Review



Every three years, local MCPS schools review the discipline policy and make adjustments based on data and feedback. A parent survey will soon be sent to parents for feedback. If you are interested in being part of the workgroup that reviews the RCF Discipline Policy and Bee-Bavior Program, please contact Mr. Chia at 301.650.6410. Information on meetings will be announced next month.

Spanish Immersion Update



There is a new process for families interested in the Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs. This **Don't Miss** year, parents/students interested in a foreign language immersion program at one of the seven elementary schools can participate in a lottery for one of the seats by completing an *Immersion Interest Form* for the 2009-2010 school year. This form takes the place of using the Change of School Assignment form (COSA)

that has been used in the past. The *Immersion Interest Form* will be available on January 16, 2009. To download the form and learn more about elementary foreign language immersion programs, visit the Rock Creek Forest website or the MCPS special program website at:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion_news.shtml

Completed forms should be faxed, mailed, or delivered directly to:

Division of Consortia Choice and Application
Program Services (DCCAPS)
Spring Mill Field Office
11721 Kemp Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902
Fax: 301-649-8155

The **deadline** for submitting an *Immersion Interest Form* for the 2009-2010 school year is **Wednesday, April 1, 2009**.

Homework Hotline Live!

The Montgomery County Public Schools Instructional Television (MCPS-ITV) program *Homework Hotline Live!* (HHL) has provided homework help to thousands of students. HHL offers one-on-one homework help in most academic subjects from kindergarten to 12th grade. MCPS teachers take calls from students live on-the-air and assist them with homework problems. HHL resumed its season on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 from 5:00 to 6:00pm on Comcast Ch. 33, Verizon Ch. 35, and RCN Ch. 88. The program will air every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from now through Apr. 30th (except Inauguration Day and Spring Break). The number to call for free homework help is 301.279.3234.

Specialist News

Music - Congratulations to the fifth grade students on a very fine job they did with the December musical performance. Their hard work was definitely apparent from the performance they gave. Also, thank you to the teachers and parents of the fifth grade students for the assistance they gave to make the musical a huge success.

As we go into 2009, students in music classes will continue learning concepts relating to music including various kinds of notes, types of notes, characteristics of music, and music structure. Mr. Fisher would like to remind instrumental music students to practice their instrument at home to progress and advance. Proper practice should include playing/practicing the instrument at home five days a week.

- Mr. Aaron Fisher & Mrs. Teresa Hopkins

Physical Education - In Physical Education classes, all classes are presently completing gymnastic units. By the middle of February grade K thru 2 will be taught striking skills using lollipop paddles, yarn balls, balloons and beach balls. Grades 3 thru 5 will be practicing volleyball skills using beach balls and trainer volleyballs and also participating in floor hockey skills and lead-up games.

- Mr. Barry Conti

Library/Media Center - The Media Center program connects to the classroom curriculum as we reinforce and review concepts through picture books, research, and the use of technology. Kindergarten students learned to distinguish between real vs. make-believe when they listened to the story, *Bear Snores On* and discussed what a real bear might do and what a pretend bear would do in a story. First graders compared stories by the author and illustrator, Eric Carle. The Media Center collaborates with first grade teachers to enhance and complement classroom author studies. Students in grade two are researching animals following the AGOPPE process. Learning how to do research is essential for all students. Students begin research by discovering what they know about a subject and what they want to know. The next step is a questioning process, and then they find information to answer the question. The research model also includes taking notes and producing a final product. Students are using print materials and computer databases to find relevant information on their animals. Third graders are selecting a state to research. They



will be writing a postcard from their state using a computer program. We look forward to their display of postcards when they complete their research. Fourth and fifth grade students are creating their own holiday and are designing a flyer on Publisher to promote their holiday. They are creating symbols, colors, and the reason to celebrate their holiday. This activity supports *writing to persuade* in the MCPS curriculum.

- Mrs. Nancy Barry

Math homework due tomorrow? How can I help?

Family members - as children's first teachers - are crucial to student success. You should feel good if your child comes to you for help with math homework. No matter what your own experiences are with math, there are questions you can ask that will help your child. The following are suggestions of questions you might want to ask your child:

- What is the problem you're working on?
- What do the directions say?
- What words or directions don't you understand?
- What do you already know that can help you work through the problem?
- Tell me what you've done so far.
- Where can we find help in your textbook or notes?
- Are there similar problems to look at?
- Let's try drawing a picture or making a diagram.
- What did the teacher ask you to do?
- What problems like this one have you had before?
- Tell me where you're stuck.
- Who can you call to get help?
- Can you skip this problem and go on to another?
- Why don't we look for some help on the Internet?



Providing support with homework is only one way to help your child be successful in math. Visit http://www.figurethis.org/fc/family_corner.htm for more suggestions, activities and resources for helping you support your child's education.

Adapted from figurethis.org

- Mrs. Candy Markovitz

Counselor's Corner

January's Virtue of the Month is **Citizenship**. Citizenship involves making our community a better place by following rules and obeying laws, cleaning up after ourselves, voting to elect leaders who will work toward a better community, and working as a team. We should practice good citizenship in our families, at school, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. Our classroom guidance lessons will focus on peacefully resolving conflicts the remainder of the school year. *DeBug* will continue to be reinforced in the primary grades. The steps are Ignore, Move away, Talk Friendly, Talk Firmly and then Get Adult Help. The upper grades will be focusing on strategies to deal with bullying.

- Ms. Jennifer Hitchcock

Speech and Language Program

The focus of the Speech and Language Program is Oral Communication. In a structured, small group setting, our students work to improve their ability to express ideas verbally, and/or to comprehend the language of the classroom. Goals are specific and individualized to include the speech, receptive, or expressive language skills needed to facilitate access to the curriculum. Examples of activities utilized to support student progress towards their goals may include:

- Phonemic awareness
- Vocabulary development
- Basic concepts
- Making connections between two concepts
- Oral formulation

- Mrs. Babbs Moss

Community News

RCF Ice Skate

There will be a RCF Ice Skate at the Wheaton ice rink on January 26, 2009 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. There is no school for students on January 26, 2009. Students will pay \$6.25 for a bracelet to skate during that time and RCF will receive 15% of proceeds. At the time of bracelet purchase directly at the rink, **purchasers need to indicate they are there for RCF for RCF to**

receive 15%. Please contact Mrs. Sandra Aresta if you have any questions.

Social Bullies: Dealing with Cliques and Exclusion

People used to think of bullies as the big kid on the playground taking your lunch money. Today, girls and boys are using less direct techniques to bully: such as exclusion, rumors, and teasing. These bullies are less likely to identify their behavior as bullying. Come and explore these behaviors and discuss strategies for helping bullies, victims and bystanders. Kids and Teens welcome! This is a FREE event!

Traducción al Espanol disponible, Se tiene que registrar con anticipación.

Monday, January 26, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Long Branch Library, 8800 Garland Avenue, Silver Spring. Contact Pam Mintz at 301.229.1347

School Closing Information

Montgomery County Public Schools Web Site

The MCPS home page immediately displays emergency announcements (in bold red letters at the top of the page) when appropriate.

- [MCPS home page](#)

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org>

Telephone Information Service

Call **301-279-3673** for recorded information.

Cable TV

Cable Channel 34 is available to all county residents with cable television access through converter box mechanisms or cable-ready television sets.

Local radio and television stations

Tune in to local stations for information.

Calendar



- Jan. 22 Multicultural Night
- Jan. 26 Report Card Preparation Day
(No school for students)
- Jan. 29 Multicultural Night (snow date)
- Feb. 2 Leadership Team Meeting (3:45 pm)
- Feb. 4 NAEP Testing (Fourth Grade)

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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