

# PAW PRINTS



Web-Version

Volume 2 Issue 12

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

## Principal's Update

Dear Parents,

**Ap-pre-ci-a-tion** : noun  
- gratitude; thankful recognition

There are many ways to show appreciation and our RCFES staff send a sincere **thank you** to our students and their families for the way you showed us your appreciation during Valentine's Week. The notes, poems, cards and gifts from our Secret Valentines made for a very fun week for all of us at RCF. Thanks!

As we continue with the rest of February, I want to highlight an important **Leadership Team** meeting next Monday, February 23, 2009. Parents are invited to join us at this meeting as we will have a guest presenter share about race and equity in education. I hope you will be able to join us. More details follow in the next column.

Also, I would like to have parents join our **discipline committee** as we review our discipline policy. This is a triennial review. If you are interested, please contact me. We'll meet in late March.

And finally, we are thankful to our parents and the PTA as we are in the process of installing our first **Promethean Board**. This is a technology tool that is highly interactive and engaging for students and staff. We hope to have it up and running in the next few weeks and have our students be able to use it. We are very thankful for your continued partnership and support. Thank you!

*Mr. Chia  
Principal*

## School News

### Student News



We are proud of our **Student Government Association** as they continue to work on projects for all students at RCF. The recent Valentine's Week notes were very fun! We are also proud of our **Yearbook Club** as they are completing the work and design of this year's yearbook!

### Important Reminder: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents!



All fifth grade students who do not live in the RCF neighborhood are slated to return to their home schools for sixth grade. Fifth graders in the Spanish Immersion program intending on matriculating to Westland MS must complete a 2009-2010 Change of School Assignment (COSA) form (MCPS Form 335-45) and return to their home middle school for authorization by **APRIL 1, 2009**. Please contact Mrs. Garcia at 301.650.6410 if you have any questions.

### Feb. 23 - School Leadership Team Meeting



Our staff has been involved in a year long study and discussion as we look at **race and equity in education**. At our next School Leadership Team (**Monday, February 23, 2009 from 3:45 pm to 5:15 pm**) all parents are invited and encouraged to attend as we continue our study with a guest presenter and video focused on race and education in the United States. If you would like to attend, please contact Mrs. Garcia at 301.650.6410 to RSVP so we may plan appropriately for the meeting location.

### MSA Testing Dates Reminder



The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) test dates for this spring are from March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> for students in third through fifth grade. It is important that students are at school to complete the MSAs. Fifth grade science MSAs will be the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Discipline Policy Parent Survey

Every three years, local MCPS schools review the discipline policy and make adjustments based on data and feedback. Your time in completing the following parent survey will provide feedback to our committee. If you are interested in being part of the workgroup that reviews the RCF Discipline Policy, Bee-Bavior Program, and feedback surveys, please contact Mr. Chia at 301.650.6410. The survey is may be accessed at <http://tpilot.mcps.k12.md.us/tpilot/schools/rcforestes/disciplineparents2009.tp3> No password is needed.

### Afterschool Programs



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

### **Specialist News**

Physical Education - Primary grade students have just started striking skills using beach balls, yarn ball, lollipop paddles and a lower volleyball net. They also enjoy rope jumping, parachute play and hula hoop activities. Intermediate grade students have started volleyball and floor hockey.

- Mr. Barry Conti

Library/Media Center - Rock Creek Forest will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday March 3<sup>rd</sup> - March 7<sup>th</sup>. The Media program will highlight the works of Dr. Seuss and other activities are planned. All students are encouraged to participate in the daily themes inspired by Dr. Seuss:

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>: *Oh the Places You'll Go*  
Wear something from a place you have been

Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>: *The Cat in the Hat*  
Everyone can wear a hat to school

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: *One Fish, Two Fish*  
Wear red and blue clothing

Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: *Green Eggs and Ham*  
Wear green clothes to school

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: *Sox on Fox*  
Wear colorful socks to school

- Mrs. Nancy Barry



Counselor's Corner - February's Virtue of the Month is **RESPECT!** Respect is our character virtue for September. Respect is treating the others they way you want to be treated. When you respect other people you show them that you value their feelings. Let's remember to be respectful to all the members of our school community. We will host the **Pennies for Patients** assembly will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and **Career Day** for all students will be held in May. Please let me know if you or someone you know would be interested in presenting to some of our classes on Career Day. Thank you.

- Ms. Jennifer Hitchcock

### **Calendar**



Feb. 25 - B-CC Jazz Ensemble (All Grades)

Feb. 27 - Early Dismissal (1:00 pm)

Mar. 2 - 6 Dr. Seuss Week!

Mar. 3 - Pennies for Patients

Mar. 4 - PTA Meeting (7:15 pm)

May 21 - Kindergarten Orientation

(No school for Kindergarten Students)

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*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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