

# PAW PRINTS



Web-Version

Volume 2 Issue 13

March 5, 2009

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

## Principal's Update

Dear Parents,

As we look towards spring and the warmer weather, we are also warming up to the testing season. It is important that students come to school on time during their testing days. If a student is late, we will hold the student out of the testing for that day and then the student will have to use a make-up day. That means the loss of instructional time for the child and we want to avoid that. Please note the testing dates that are highlighted in this issue of Paw Prints.

This week we are celebrating Dr. Seuss's 105<sup>th</sup> birthday with various reading events. Ask your child about their favorite book and activity from this week. Also, we are working with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and this year's **Pennies for Patients** drive. Students will be collecting pennies all month to help support cancer research.

We are also beginning the articulation process for the 2009-2010 school year. In this week's Backpack Mail, parents and guardians are also receiving a copy of the "**Student Information Articulation Form**" for the 2009-2010 year. Please take the time to complete this important information sheet as it will help school staff work on class assignments for next year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child homeroom teacher. We would like the forms returned to school by April 24<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Thanks for your continued support.

*Mr. Chia  
Principal*

## School News

### 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 in May. All testing begins at 9:30 am each day so please help us make sure your child arrives to school on time after a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Thank you.

### MSA Testing Dates Reminder

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) dates are as follows:

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** March 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Reading  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** March 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Reading  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** March 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Reading



**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** March 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Math  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** March 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Math  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** March 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Math

**3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Make-ups** March 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** May 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Science

### Enrollment Reminder

MCPS has a new system in place for students who show interest in a language immersion school. Interested parents may pick up registration information, schedule an enrollment date with Mrs. Terina Garcia, and submit the Immersion Interest form. **Deadline for submitting an Immersion Interest Form is April 1, 2009.** For students in grades K-4 currently enrolled in an immersion program, their younger siblings have priority seating. Parents of current kindergarten to fourth grade students who wish for a younger sibling to attend the immersion program **must** enroll their child at their home school then complete and submit the **Immersion Interest form by the deadline, April 1, 2009.** If you have any questions on enrollment in the Spanish

Immersion program, please contact Mrs. Garcia 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. 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://tinyurl.com/RCFDiscipline> No password is needed to complete the survey.

### **Healthroom Request**



The health room is in need of boy pants and/or jeans from size 5 - 14. In preparation of the warmer weather, shorts and t-shirts for both boys and girls, all sizes, are now being accepted. Thank you for your donations. Any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Tina McNeal, health technician or Virginia Custer, school nurse at 301.650.6410.

### **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.

## **Class News**

**Kindergarten** - Spring is around the corner. We



can't wait to see all the changes this new season brings. In reading and language arts, we are enjoying our selection of folk tales. We continue to engage our students in the discussion of books and we help them make connections. There will be an increased focus on reading comprehension as well as retelling stories and recognizing cause and effect. We are continuing with our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter's writing focus which is *Writing to Persuade*. In mathematics,



we will continue to work on estimating, measuring, and weighing objects. Please practice three-dimensional shapes and their attributes with your child. We also

continue to talk about before and after as well as different times of the day as a precursor to telling time. In social studies and science, we will continue *Myself and Others* and *Communities*. We continue to talk about seasons as well as living things. We are also planning for one or two more field trips for the remainder of the school year. More details to follow!

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

**First Grade** - We are working on vocabulary lessons and reading informational texts. We will continue writing to persuade; which has been lots of fun! In math, we will explore *Geometry* to learn about solid and plane shapes. We will also use fractions and learn about measurement for the second grade math curriculum. However, please continue to practice regrouping at home with addition and subtraction. In Science, we are finishing up our "Construction" unit and will be starting "Weather" shortly! In Social Studies, we are continuing with the "Economics and Me" unit, as we continue to learn about wants and needs, in addition to goods and services. We are celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday with various school activities throughout the upcoming weeks. We are looking forward to spring weather and our break! Thank you for all the student support in and outside our classrooms! Remember to keep reading!



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

**Second Grade** - In **math** we are studying fractions and measurements in the units 4A and 4B. Students will explore parts of regions and sets as well as compare fractions. In measurement students will be able to select an appropriate tool and use it to measure the attributes of an object. Explore using a weight scale with your child at your local grocery store! In **writing** our authors are writing friendly letters to persuade someone how to act or feel about a topic. You can practice friendly letters at home by corresponding with family and friends! If you choose to correspond over email, encourage your

child to use friendly letter form (date, greeting, body, and closing). In **science** we are using what we know about balance to compare and weigh food. This is an excellent connection to our unit on measurement. Students are exploring capacity, volume and non-standard units for weight. Take a family field trip to the National Gallery of Art museum in Washington, D.C. and check out the art of Alexander Calder using balance. In **social studies**, we are learning the basic principal of economics in social studies: people have unlimited wants which are satisfied by scarce resources. Discuss the difference between your families' wants and needs! In **reading**, we are reading for information about important people and identifying the text features that help us gain information. Biographies tell the life story of someone. We will determine the important events in a person's life and make a timeline. You can support your child at home by taking them to the biography section of the library and letting them pick someone to read about.



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

**Third Grade** - The third grade team continues to work as we try to get through the winter months. In math, we will begin working on Unit 5, dealing with fractions, probability, algebra, money, multiplication, and division. In reading, we will continue working on figurative language, characteristics of historical fiction, reading short novels, and identifying text features in various texts. In writing, we will continue working on writing to persuade, and the students will have to take a stand on a certain topic and try to persuade others to agree with them. In social studies, we will continue working on unit 2, dealing with cities of the past and transportation systems. Finally, please keep in mind the following important dates. It is important that your child is in school during the MSA testing which are **MSA Reading** - Monday and Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and **MSA Math** - Friday and Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.



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

**Fourth Grade** -In the coming month of March, fourth graders will be working on the following topics:



**Mathematics** - In Unit 4, the students will explore the patterns that exist in multiplication and division. They will refine and apply the strategies they have learned in the past and to be able to multiply and divide multi-digit numbers thereby becoming more fluent in these areas. They will also be investigating equivalent periods of time.

**Reading** - Reading classes will work on different genres of literature during this coming month. The main focus will be on biographies. As always, students will read independently, in a whole group, and small group settings. They will continue to write and evaluate their growth with BCR's.

**Writing** - Students will continue to polish their writing by using writing process skills such as: pre-writing, drafting, revising and editing. This strategy is of great use to the students as they prepare to write to persuade.

**Science** - Students are involved in the Chemistry unit. They will be observing liquids, solids and gases. Through experiments they will note if temperature affect matter. They will observe weather patterns, the water cycle and observer if changes of state occur.

**Social Studies** - By reading from a variety of texts and other materials, the students will begin to understand how immigrant groups have affected different regions of the US during different time periods.

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

**Fifth Grade** - The fifth grade team will be embarking on field trips in the near future and will announce dates and locations very soon. In **reading and language arts** we are focusing on drama and science fiction. Students will be reading significant pieces of literature in each of these areas and learning underlying literary elements related to them. In **writing** class students are currently focusing on composing

persuasive and informational essays. During this process they are developing a network of organizational skills and becoming more proficient in areas of grammar and usage. Our **science** program continues to deal with the topics of electricity and magnetism. Areas of astronomy are being introduced. Post-revolutionary America remains at the forefront of our studies in the **social sciences**. Students in **fifth grade math** are now working with measures of central tendency and displaying these as they develop various types of graphs. Students in **sixth grade math** are completing their geometry unit of study. Please note MSA assessments in reading and mathematics are scheduled for mid-March. Kindly observe upcoming schedules accordingly. We are currently in the process of planning our Family Life curriculum. Additional information in this regard will be forthcoming to parents. We are also planning on taking field trips to museums in Washington DC on May 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow. We would appreciate your support in the period ahead. Please work with us in ensuring that your child is attentive to their studies, doing their independent reading and keeping up with all aspects of our academic program.

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

**Kindergarten Orientation  
Thursday, May 21, 2009**

### Parent Resource



Following up to several parent requests for helping students learn to type at home, RCF can provide a copy of "Type to Learn 3 Home Edition" (WIN98/2000/XP/Vista/MAC) from a vendor for \$15. Type to Learn is the software that students use in school but teachers do not have sufficient time for students to use this software when they enter the computer lab (other software and projects are completed in the lab). More information can be found at <http://www.smartkidssoftware.com/ndsun3.htm>  
***If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this software, please send note with your child's name and a check for \$15 to "Rock Creek Forest Elementary School." The check should have your child's name in the memo section.*** Mrs. Terina Garcia will call to confirm that we have received your order. A school order will be sent on March 20 so that you will receive the software before Spring Break.

### Calendar



Mar. 2 - 6 Dr. Seuss Week!  
Mar. 4 - 25 Pennies for Patients Drive  
Mar. 13 - Spanish Immer. Open House (9:30 am)  
Mar. 30 - Professional Day (NO SCHOOL)  
Apr. 6 - 13 Spring Break  
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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