

PAW PRINTS

Volume 2 Issue 14
March 19, 2009



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

Principal's Update

Dear Parents,

We are in the midst of the MSAs and students are giving their best effort to demonstrate how much they know and are able to do. The MSAs are important but they are just one data point that paints a more complete picture of each student. To that end we continue to explore ways that we can educate and equip each student with the key life skills and quality characteristics to excel in their future. We are assessing our character education program and are looking at ways to help our students become leaders who are able to adapt to different situations, leaders who are empathetic and understanding, leaders who are proactive and take initiative, leaders who are creative problem solvers and effective communicators, leaders who are accountable and responsible for their choices, and leaders who will lead other students into the 21st century. We will need your input on this and we invite you to our next school leadership team meeting on Monday, May 4th at 3:45 pm to continue our discussion and planning.

The articulation process for the 2009-2010 school year has also begun. In the March 5th Backpack Mail, parents received 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's homeroom teacher. We would like the forms returned to school by April 24th at the latest. Thanks for your continued support.

Finally, please look for some important calendar events the week prior to spring break as we have several events for parents and students including a *PTA meeting* on March 31st, a presentation of our new *Promethean Board* on April 1st, and the *Variety Show* on April 2nd. I appreciate your continued partnership and support at Rock Creek Forest!

*Mr. Chia
Principal*

School News

Afterschool Programs Update!



Spring Afterschool Activities will be held from April 14th to June 5th. An information packet has been sent with Backpack Thursday. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Ashton at 301.650.6410.

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.

Middle School Matriculation



Fifth grade students should have made a decision about where to go to **middle school** at this point. If you have not turned in a registration form to your respective school, please contact Mrs. Garcia at 301.650.6410 so we can help you complete matriculation. Additionally, fifth graders in the

Spanish Immersion program intending on matriculating to Westland MS must complete a 2009-2010 Change of School Assisgnment (COSA) form (MCPS Form 335-45) and return to their home middle school for authorization by **APRIL 1, 2009**. Again, please contact Mrs. Garcia at 301.650.6410 with any questions or for assistance.

MSA Testing Dates Reminder

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) testing began on March 16th and will conclude by March 31st 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:

3rd Grade March 16th-17th Reading

4th Grade March 16th-17th Reading

5th Grade March 18th-19th Reading

3rd Grade March 20th & 23rd Math

4th Grade March 20th & 23rd Math

5th Grade March 24th-25th Math

3rd-4th Grade Make-ups March 26th-31st

5th Grade May 4th-5th Science



Parent Resource

Calling All Junior Astronomers! - Some of our parents have found a great deal on telescopes! The International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are among the organizations sponsoring the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009). In support of IYA2009, astronomers have built a high-quality, low-cost telescopes called Galileoscopes™. For approximately \$15 plus shipping, your family can view the night sky just as Galileo did in 1609. There are several astronomical guides and activities, as well as additional information about the Galileoscopes™, at www.galileoscope.org. Get out there and find a new planet!

Calendar



Mar. 23 - Candace Wolf Residency begins
(5th Grade)

Mar. 30 - Professional Day (NO SCHOOL)

Mar. 31 - PTA Meeting (7:15 pm)

Apr. 1 - Promethean Board Presentation (7:00 pm)

Apr. 2 - Scheduled Code Blue/Red Drill

Apr. 2 - Student Variety Show (evening)

Apr. 6 - 13 Spring Break

May 21 - Kindergarten Orientation

(No school for Kindergarten Students)

Kindergarten Orientation
Thursday, May 21, 2009

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.



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