

PAW PRINTS



Web-Version

Volume 2 Issue 16

April 16, 2009

Rock Creek Forest Elementary School

Mr. David Chia, Principal

Mrs. Stacy Ashton, Assistant Principal

Principal's Update

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family enjoyed spring break. The days go by fast so it is important to savor every day - especially the carefree days when our children are young. As our children grow academically, emotionally, physically and socially, we strive to empower every child to be a leader to those around them. As a staff, we continue to revisit how we can become more effective in our work with each other, with our students and with you in our community. We are reviewing the work of Stephen Covey and finding ways to be more effective in our daily work. We are looking at how we can use the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People with our students as well. We invite you to join us at our next **School Leadership Team** meeting on **Monday, May 4th at 3:45 pm**. We will review our school improvement plan and look goals for the next school year. I again invite you to look at the book, [The 7 Habits of Happy Kids](#) from your local library/bookstore or take a look at www.theleaderinme.org (take a look at the parent resource page) as we begin our planning for the 2009-2010 school year.

Also, I hope many parents and students will come out next Thursday, April 23rd for our **Family Math Night**. The math activities will begin just after 6:30 pm. We hope many of you will come with a dish to join us at our pot-luck dinner at 6:00 pm prior to **Family Math Night**. See you then!

*Mr. Chia
Principal*

Developing Every Child as A Leader

School News

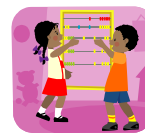
Student News

Bravo goes out to the 44 student acts during this year's Variety Show. You all did a fantastic job showcasing your skills and talents! We are proud of you!

Staffing Update

Please welcome *Ms. Nitsa Dalamaras* who will be our long-term substitute art teacher for the remainder of the school year. She will be working with the art supervisor so that art classes are carefully planned for the fourth grading period.

Family Math Night



All students and their families are invited to join us on Thursday, April 23, 2009 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm to **Family Math Night!** Come learn new math skills by playing games and using math manipulatives. You'll leave with some new ideas for learning math at home. There will be a potluck dinner sponsored by the PTA beginning at 6:00 pm that night.

Student Information Articulation Form

Parents and guardians received a copy of the "*Student Information Articulation Form*" for the 2009-2010 school 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 24th at the latest. Thanks for your continued support.

TN2 Testing Dates



TN2 testing dates for second grade students are April 27 to April 29. Please make sure your second grade has a good night's rest and a good breakfast prior to coming to school on the test dates.

Afterschool Programs Reminder



Spring Afterschool Activities began this week and will end the week of June 5th. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Ashton at 301.650.6410.

Safety Reminder

Parents are reminded that they should physically enter the main office and sign-in their child when a student is arriving to school late. When parents leave a child at the front or side entrance, office staff is unable to know what time a child actually arrives at school. Thanks for your cooperation and support with this procedure.

Softball Schedule

Your Rock Creek Forest Tigers have the following games scheduled this season. All games begin at 4:15 pm.

April 17th at Bannockburn ES

April 24th at Kensington-Parkwood ES

May 1st at Bethesda ES

May 8th vs. Wyngate ES

May 15th at Ashburton ES

May 22nd vs. Bannockburn ES

BoxTops for Education!

Rock Creek Forest has a goal of collecting \$500 in boxtops for this school year. Thus far, we have collected \$488! Please turn in those remaining boxtops you might have at home and we'll reach our goal for the year!



Specialist News

Reading News with Mrs. Register - *Opening the Gate to Successful Formal Reading Instruction*

Many of our children enter school with a limited exposure to books, small speaking and listening vocabularies, varied world knowledge, and only a vague sense of story. It is the task of the kindergarten teachers to get these children ready for formal reading instruction. The two most powerful predictors of early reading success are alphabet recognition (knowing the names of the letters and sounds they represent) and phonemic awareness (understanding that a word is made up of sounds and the ability to manipulate sounds in spoken words). Without a thorough knowledge of letters and an understanding that words are made up of sounds, children cannot learn to read. In addition to alphabet recognition and phonemic awareness,

reading-ready children need to have a sense of story, a basics understanding of concepts of print, and a firm grasp of the language of instruction. This includes an understanding of the following terms: word, letter, beginning, middle, end, base line, sentence, period, comma, question mark, sound, and syllable. From *Phonics from A to Z*, Wiley Blevins, Scholastic Publishing, 2006.

Artist in Residence - Our fifth grade students have been working with *Candice Wolfe* as an artist in residence. The "Walking with Our Elders" final presentation dates are as follows:

May 1 @ 1:55 Mr. Kopit's class

May 5 @ 1:55 Sr. McDonald's class

May 7 @ 1:55 Ms. Crilley's class

May 8 @ 1:55 Srta. Yordan's class

Calendar



Apr. 20-22 - Hearing and Vision Screening (K-1)

Apr. 23 - Family Math Night (Potluck begins at 6:00 pm; Math Activities @ 6:30 pm)

Apr. 27-29 - TN2 Assessments (Grade 2)

Apr. 29 - Open House (9:30am - 10:30am)

May 1 - Spring Fair & Silent Auction

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. The web-version is modified from the hard copy version that you receive in Backpack Thursday.



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