

*March

1 7 11-15 13 14 16 19 22 25-29	Read Across America Spirit Day PTA Meeting 6:30 PM Mobile Science Lab Coffee & Connect 9:15 AM School Play 6:30 PM Family Bingo Night 3:30 PM Steam Night / Coffee House 6:30 PM AVID Day / Kona Ice Spring Break
A	pril
1 2 3 5	Spring Break School Reopens Swag Shop 3rd Marking
5	Period Ends 3-hours Early Dismissal Peacemaker House Party
8	Spirit Day Square 1 Art Begins
10	Schools Closed for Students / PD for Teachers
11	DEI Meeting 6:00 PM
12	Kona Ice 3:45 PM
15-19 16	Earth Week Recorder
17	Concert 6:30 pm Individual & Class Picture
17	Day Coffee & Connect 9:15 AM / Report
17	Cards Distributed School Improvement
18	Team 4:00 PM Kindergarten Round-Up
19	Earth Day Fair
26	Schools & Offices Close
29	3-hours Early Kindergarten Conferences (Ne school for KG)

Rodgers Forge Chronicles

RFES empowers all students to be lifelong learners who are committed to academic excellence and global citizenships.

Principal's Greeting

March 2024

Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

We certainly made the most of all 29 days of **February**! Our students celebrated the **100th Day** of School (where many students and teachers aged significantly in the process!). For Cultural Diversity Day, students enjoyed learning about other cultures from the parents of their classmates. Last week, students and families enjoyed an evening of magic sponsored by the PTA. We also held the Heart Challenge where students raised money and participated in heart healthy activities to promote heart awareness.

Our students in the Black Excellence Club have been busy the past few months participating in a book club, learning facts about black history, and researching about a chosen individual who was a "barrier breaker". These presentations will be featured in the main lobby and hallway next week for all students to see. All their work paid off because they were awarded the Legacy Award for the Black Excellence program!!! I am so proud of them!

The month of March looks to be just as busy with activities. We kicked off the month of with a "Read Across America" celebration where classes were partnered together to read together. For the remainder of March, students are encouraged to improve their reading vocabulary by "collecting words". More information about this program is in Ms. Day's Chronicles article. I can't wait to see the vocabulary walls that we will be building with vivid and powerful words!

Our school play which was written, produced and performed by fourth and fifth grade students will be performed in the evening on March 14th and for the school on March 15th. Our PTA is organizing an amazing **BINGO** on March 16th and **STEAM** Night will be held on March 19th. There are MANY activities in March before we start **SPRING BREAK** on March 25th!

If you have not completed the BCPS Climate Survey, it is not too late!! It closes on March 8th. The survey has been condensed this year and takes about 2-3 minutes to complete. Information gathered from parents, students and staff will help drive our School progress Plan for the 2024-25 school year. To begin the survey, click the link:

https://www.bcps.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=2828&pageId=68186371

Thank you for all of your support! We could not do all these things without it! Be sure to continue to follow all that is happening at "the Forge" by following us on Twitter at @mrowlandRFES.

Michele Rowland

Principal

PAGE 2

RODGERS FORGE CHRONICLES

Message from the AP...

What is the School Improvement Team (SIT)?

A school improvement team (SIT) is a group of educators and other stakeholders who in partnership with the school's leadership, meet to ensure that activities outlined in the School Progress Plan are completed and are helping students achieve all they can.

Please join our next School Improvement Team Meeting on April 17th at 4:00 PM. We will be meeting in the Library. All are welcome!

Spring 2024 MCAP

- MISA Grade 5
- ELA and Math

MISA -All grade 5 students will be testing on Wednesday, March 6th and Thursday, March 7th. Testing will begin right after announcements and will run for two hours. Please make sure your child is on time and ready to go for testing. Once testing begins, **students cannot** join their class if they come in late, as it is a secure testing environment. Remember, students may not access electronic devices during testing, this includes phones and Apple Watches. Teachers will be collecting phones and watches prior to the beginning of testing. Headphones are required during testing, and while we have headphones at school, I know some students prefer to use their own.

ELA/MATH -All grades 3-5 students will be tested in ELA & Math.

ELA - Test Administration Window April 4 - April 30

Math Test Administration Window May 1 - May 24

Days and times of ELA/MATH testing will be forthcoming.

PAGE 3

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PTA

Happy Spring, RFES Community!

We hope everyone had a great time at the Magician Night last month. It was a great turnout and lots of fun!

This year we are so excited to host our first Family Bingo Night in partnership with Roland Park Orthodontics! There will be some amazing prizes and raffles to look forward to. We have donors such as Monster Mini Golf, Washington Nationals, Camp Invention led by Mr. Rowland, Kona Ice, Roland Park Orthodontics and so much more! We were overwhelmed with the quick RSVPs and will be looking for ways to increase attendance for next year! We will have Kona Ice available for purchase outside in the bus loop, if you're unable to make it to Bingo Night we hope you can stop by for a snow cone.

We hope you can make it out to our PTA Meeting on March 7th at 6:30 pm, remember Caliday is available for school-aged childcare during the meeting.

We will also be having a spirit evening at The Charmery on March 13th, we hope you can make it out for a sweet treat!

After spring break the school year starts to speed up! Take a look at our upcoming events, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram: Rodgers Forge PTA and @rodgersforgepta

March 7- PTA Meeting 6:30 pm 11-15- Mobile Science Lab 13- Spirit Night at The Charmery 14-15- School Play 16- Family Bingo 19- Steam Night/Coffee House 6:30 pm 22- Kona Ice 25-29- Spring Break April 2- School Reopens 12- Kona Ice 17- Class & Individual Picture Day



Kindergarten Registration is underway!!!!!!!

You Can Register Your Child Online.

Once you register, you are welcome to come in person on Thursday, April 18th to meet with our school nurse and school counselor. Our registrar will be there to go over all your registration documents, making sure all required information and documents are submitted online. She will also be able to make copies of any documents that you were not able to upload through the online portal.

The kindergarten teachers would also like to meet your child.

Once you have registered your child online, please call ahead to schedule your appointment: 443-809-3582

Directions for online registration

Go to www.bcps.org

Click on "Register your child"

Click on "Focus Parental Portal"

Following the directions to either create a parent portal or sign into your existing parent portal.

Below are the documents required to complete your registration.

1. Proof of residency such a deed/mortgage statement or Updated rental agreement if you rent your home.

2. Three (3) pieces of legal mail, such as BGE, Phone, Water bill etc.

3. Parent photo ID must match current address or current passport.

- 4. Child's birth certificate or Passport
- 5. Copy of immunizations.

RFES STEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, March 19 6:30-8pm



GRAB YOUR PASSPORT AND JOIN US FOR AN ADVENTURE AROUND THE WORLD!

Science – Football Forces Across the USA – Create a paper football and see if it can go the distance.

Technology – Calling All Coders to India – Create a 3D game and make robots dance.

Engineering – Test Your Golfing Skills in Scotland – See if you can get a hole in one on the student created course.

Art – Glistening Geodes from Namibia – Create your own artistic paper geode.



Math – Manipulating in Denmark – Create number representations and vocabulary on concept circles and play Number Corner games.

SWING BY FRANCE FOR THE COFFEE HOUSE FILLED WITH ORIGINAL ENTERTAINMENT!

All students must be accompanied by an adult. Activities are designed for both primary and intermediate students.

March Library Update!



Hello everyone, from the RFES library! Although the weather has been a bit cold lately, the learning in the RFES library has been heating up! First Graders have been using the author's words to visualize illustrations, 2nd and 3rd graders have been evaluating books so they can choose the Black-Eyed Susan award winner in the Picture Books category, 4th graders have been on a genre tour of the fiction section – looking at Science Fiction, Fantasy, Realistic, and Historical Fiction books. 5th graders meanwhile created their own book award after hearing about 3 great books awards and their criteria.

March Library Spotlight– Great Women In History!



In March, our library units all feature great books that reflect great stories and history from women that made history! These stories will be woven into library units from Kindergarten to 5th Grade! In addition, African-American authors and illustrators will be highlighted as well!

EBOOKS!!! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



What are ebooks? They are books you can read and check out on your computer right from Schoology!!! They have features like an on-screen reader, electronic bookmarks, and even the ability to take notes. Thanks to the generosity of the Follett Corporation, we have been gifted \$935 for an ebook online order in the past 2 years! Here are 2 videos to help you get started with how to check out and enjoy the features of ebooks!

Here is a direct link to the Library site!

https://baltimore.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas007_19 93744

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TEAM!

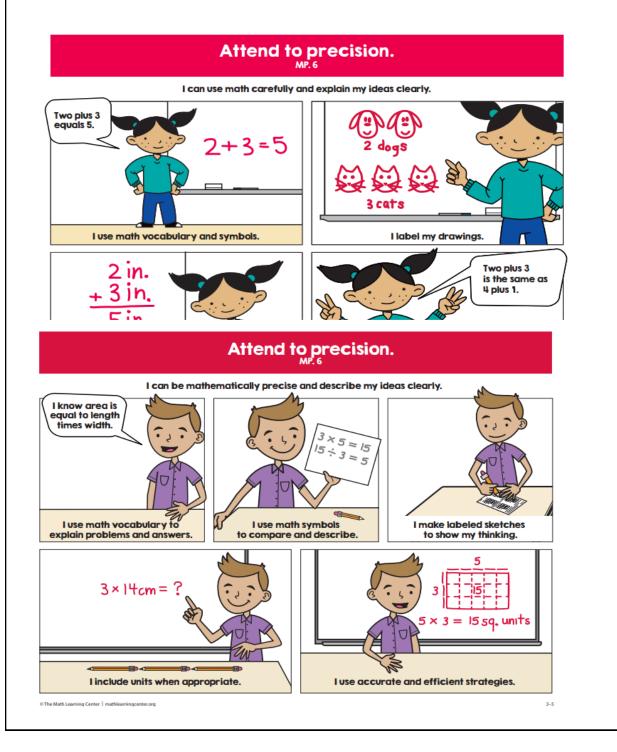
Congratulations to Misha, Eva, Sophie, Braith, Landon, Hazel, Gavin, Molly, Calvin, and Ethan. These students are a part of a great program called Battle of the Books. Teams from different schools square off against each other, and answer questions about 10 books that have been nominated for the Black-Eyed Susan Award, an award given to the best chapter book and graphic novel in the state of Maryland! Let's all wish them good luck as they begin to battle other schools, and represent Rodgers Forge! In late February, our team battled Oakleigh Elementary in a rematch from 2023, and the 2 Rodgers Forge teams again took the top 2 spots when the final scores were announced! Next up, they face off against Hillcrest Elementary from Catonsville, with battles ahead against West Towson, Stoneleigh, and Hampton ahead on the schedule. They have been enthusiastic, shown good sportsmanship, and have had fun sharing their books.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Connect with me via email at <u>pholden@bcps.org</u>, and follow the Rodgers Forge Library on Twitter at PetePHolden! Happy March to you

Hello from the Math Committee!

Our committee will continue to highlight one mathematical practice each month to provide you with ways to support your child at home. The sixth mathematical practice is to attend to precision. You can be precise by clearly showing your work and explaining your ideas using math vocabulary. Try having your child explain how they solved one of their homework problems to you. Communication is important!



RFES Equity Committee



We would like to thank all the volunteers at the RFES Cultural Diversity Day on Feb. 14th! We hosted speakers who focused on the following:

Japanese Culture

Italian Culture

Jewish Culture

Indian Culture

Lunar New Year

Colombian Culture

African (S. Sudan) Culture

Director of Smithsonian Center of Folklife and Cultural Heritage





PAGE II





Students were thrilled to learn more about these cultures from around the world, including languages, clothes, flags, food, traditions, dances and so much more!

Students, teachers, and administration were impressed by the well prepared, kidfriendly, engaging presentations.

Thank you, volunteers!



This month in...

Exploratory Music

Students are exploring the violin by learning the parts of the instrument, how to hold the bow, and how to play pizzicato and arco! We are also learning about string instruments from different cultures.

Instrumental Music

Twelve fifth grade students are participating in this year's Solo and Ensemble Festival at Dumbarton Middle School on **Saturday**, **March 2**, **2024**. Congratulations!!!

Fifth grade students will also be learning new notes on their instruments and preparing to play longer, more difficult full band/orchestra pieces for our Spring Concert! Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the CoffeeHouse on March 19th. Please make sure your child is practicing at home to prepare for our Spring musical events! Stay tuned for more musical opportunities! =)

Ms. Annemarie Dickerson adickerson3@bcps.org

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March Is Music In Our Schools Month!

This year the theme is....



In 1985, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) officially designated the entire month of March as a celebration of school music. The purpose of Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM) is to not only raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children, but to bring music programs to the attention of each school and community to show that school is where ALL children should have access to music and to display the benefits of school music to students of all ages.

This March, music educators and music students will be celebrating music education in our school communities demonstrating how **"I See M**usic **E**ducation" resonates with them. This is the theme of the 2024 observance of Music In Our Schools Month®. Music is a part of each of us and we experience it everywhere- in our homes, cars, communities and schools. Music gives us an opportunity to express ourselves-how we feel and experience the world. Music has a unique way of bringing everyone together and giving everyone a place to belong. It doesn't matter what kind of music you are performing, creating, or listening to, music is inside all of us.

We hope you can join us for STEAM Night on March 19. Many of our 4th and 5th grade students will be sharing their talents that evening at our **Coffeehouse**.

Music is in all us!

Thank you for supporting music in your child's life and here at RFES!

Sing-cerely,

Mrs. Lisa Tierney

ltierney@bcps.org

Save these Date: Concert Connections

Fifth graders will participate in our Spring Concert. The chorus, band and orchestra will be featured. Concert attire will be white shirts and dark pants or skirts. Spring Concert: May 21, 2024 @ 6:30



March 19, 2024, 6:30-8, will be our school STEAM Night. Our 4th and 5th grader performers will be sharing their talents at the COFFEEHOUSE. Also stop by to check out the artwork, grab a book and have a cookie and drink (for students).

Third Graders have begun playing recorders. As part of our *Recorder Karate* unit, we will celebrate our accomplishments with a concert on April 16, 2024, at 6:30. Our concert attire will be casual. School colors, red and/or white shirts, and comfortable shoes.



Your Box Tops add up and support RFES music!

Please download the free Box Tops app and scan your receipts from the grocery store, Target, and Walmart...wherever you buy Box Tops products! Click the link below for more information! <u>Get the App - Box Tops for Education (boxtops4education.com)</u>

Keep Scanning! So far this year we have earned \$127!



Thank you for scanning receipts for Box Tops!

News from the Counselor's Corner



Virtue for March

Our virtue for the month of March is **PATIENCE**. "Patience is quiet hope an trust that things will turn out right. You wait without complaining. You are tolerant and accepting of difficulties and mistakes. You picture the end in the beginning an persevere to meet your goals. Patience is a commitment to the future."



Theme for March Lessons

School counseling lessons for the month of March will be focused on Mindfulness. Mindfulness strengthens our attention and focus and aids in emotional regulation. Students in both primary and intermediate grades will be invited to participate in experiential learning around sensory awareness, attention, and relaxation with the hope that they can then utilize these mindfulness strategies as positive coping skills.



Family and Community Engagement News

Here are some upcoming parent workshops for the month of March.





Every Wednesday – Family Support Wednesdays March 6, 13, 20 – 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM Virtual Presented by BCPS Department of Special Education

Lunch & Learn – Compassion vs. Control: Finding the Balance You Need (also offered May 10)

March 8 – 12:30 PM Virtual Presented by Mariposa Education

Lunch & Learn – Introduction to Bullying Prevention (also offered May 16)

March 12 – 12:30 PM Virtual Presented by Brad Engel, Maryland State Department of Education

Lunch & Learn – Celebrating Baby Sleep Day: Preventing Sleep Problems Before

they Occur March 15 – 12:30 PM Virtual Presented by the Center for Family Success The Office of Family & Community Engagement continually offers events throughout the year.

Please visit our website and click on the Parent University schedule to see our full list and to register for these events!

La Oficina de participación familia y comunitaria tiene eventos durante todo el año.

Visite nuestro sitio de web, haga click en Parent University para ver el calendario completo de eventos y para inscribirse

https://www.bcps.org/cos/communi cations/FACE/parent_university

Links to register for any of these workshops can be found here: <u>https://cdnsm5-</u> <u>ss3.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_2744/File/FACE/Parent%20U%20Schedule%2</u> Oof%20Events%20Online.pdf RODGERS FORGE CHRONICLES

March Green School Minute RFES is Keeping It Green!



In February, our Green School Council started finalizing plans for Earth Week, April 15th – 19th, with our Green School Earth Day Fair on Friday, April 19th from 3:45 – 5:00pm. We hope you and your child can join us to view our stations for make and take as well as learning more about being green! We have some community members who will also be setting up a table where you can get more environmentally friendly information. If you have a business or would like to share your expertise on this day, please email Michele Paris at <u>mparis3@bcps.org</u> and we will work with you to see how you can help present on this special day.

During our Earth Week celebration, students will be asked to create something at home that they can bring in made from recyclable materials. This can be something fun, like a robot or a stuffie carrier, or something useful like a

pencil cup or reuseable bag. Projects can be brought in on Monday, April 15th and will be part of a contest. There will be a winning entry picked from primary and intermediate entries. We



hope this will be a fun project for your child to complete at home. You can find some ideas here: <u>https://www.craftprojectideas.com/now-</u> <u>trending/12-recycled-crafts-for-earth-day/</u>



Here are some more ideas you may find helpful. https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/craftideas/g39561047/recycled-crafts-for-kids/



Thanks for helping RFES Keep it Green!

If you get the chance to collect trash around the neighborhood, don't forget to record your collection for our efforts towards the Baltimore County Clean Green 15 Initiative.

https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/environment/cleangreen/cl eangreen15.html



VOLUME I, ISSUE I





Kids Heart Challenge was a huge success!! We met 99% of our goal by raising about \$9,900. All R.F.E.S. students celebrated heart health during the event!! Thank you to the Special Area teachers for your support during our event!

HELP NEEDED!!!

I will be setting up the Movement Education Equipment on March 23rd from 3:45 for about 1 hour. The Movement Education Equipment is a large climbing apparatus constructed of a few heavy pieces. I am looking for volunteers to help get the equipment down off the shelves and connect them to be ready for the students the next morning. If you are able and willing to help her, it would be greatly appreciated!! Any questions or interested in helping please contact Mrs. Celenza at <u>bcelenza@bcps.org</u>







The PE department is always looking for gently used outdoor games, aerobic steps, old lacrosse sticks (especially girl's) and other sporting equipment (we have plenty of soccer balls, though). If you have any that you would like to clean out...please contact Mrs. Celenza at <u>bcelenza@bcps.org</u>



Sports Day

(Volunteers Needed-Info will be in April Chronicles)

May 31, 2023- K-1 grades 9:15 am- 12:30 pm

June 1, 2023- 2-3 grades 9:15 am- 12:30 pm

June 2, 2023- 4-5 grades 9:15 am- 12:30 pm

Tennis Shoes for P.E Class and Recess!!

As the weather and temperatures fluctuate, many students enjoy wearing boots or Crocs to school. When outdoor recess is possible and/or P.E. class is scheduled, please send a pair of tennis shoes for your child(ren) to change into for these activities to keep him or her safe while participating.



DON'T FORGET!!! Please continue to submit the Coke Rewards Points from product like Dasani Water, POWERADE and other Coke products at <u>https://us.coca-</u> <u>cola.com/give/schools/</u>. These points will allow our Physical Education Department to earn new equipment. Thanks for your support!

Stay Active!!

Mrs. Celenza

The Reading and Writing Corner

Dear Families of Rodgers Forge Readers,

This Friday, March 1 we will be celebrating **Read Across America Day** through buddy reading in our classrooms. Our theme this year is based on the book <u>The Word Collector</u> by Peter H. Reynolds. If you are not familiar with this story, it can be found online as a read aloud. We will be discovering the magic of words, just as Jerome does in this story. Students of RFES will spend the next 2 weeks "collecting words" when they read at home. Vocabulary is so important in the reading process and plays a critical role in comprehension. We want children to think about new words that they encounter each day and learn their meanings.

On Monday, March 4 students will begin collecting vocabulary words during their nightly reading. We are encouraging students to collect rich and vivid words, powerful words that stand out, and unique words that can be added to their vocabulary. On Monday, each student will receive a **brick wall recording sheet** to collect their words on and return on Friday. The words collected by students will then be transferred onto labels to stick on a large brick wall display for each grade level. Students will then be given a new recording sheet on Monday, March 11th and complete the same process again. Grade levels will work together to build vocabulary walls that will be displayed in the hallways. We can't wait to see our students building their word walls!

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=U-hTKWCX7hc

Thank you for your support,

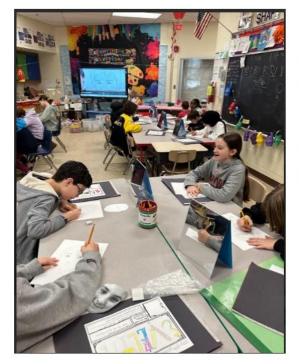
The RFES Literacy Committee





In the Art Room!

Grade 5 and grade 4 artists have just begun rendering their Realistic Self Portraits using both observation from a mirror as well as a photograph. Many famous, portrait artists will be introduced in this unit, including Chuck Close, Amy Sherald, Leonardo da Vinci, Judith Leyster, Rembrandt, Frida Kahlo, Shirin Neshat, and Kehinde Wiley. Grade 4 artists have just finished their Color Wheel Silhouettes. Ask them to name the 6 tertiary colors.







Grade 3 sculptors are continuing to create a sculpture using plastic and acrylic paint. Please remind your 3rd grade child to wear clothes appropriate for painting. Third graders have learned all about Dale Chihuly who created large-scale, organic, floral sculptures using glass. Ask them about the colors they are painting on their sculptures.





Grade 2 have been learning all about the art element of VALUE as they begin to create different light and



dark values with shading, highlights, and cast shadows in their Snow People Chalk Pastel Drawings!

Grades 1 artists have been learning many techniques for creating a Bird Collage. These amazing young artists were inspired by both nature and some famous collage artists as

they used observation to create their bird collage using textured finger paint paper they created..

Kindergarten artists were creating Snow Flake Prints with Radial Symmetry as they used found-objects to create their prints. Look for all this exciting work up on display in the school as you come visit during STEAM night!



Ms. Kotapish kkotapish@bcps.org

Future Makers ART/STEAM CLUB?

The FUTURE MAKERS club run by Ms. Kotapish. This is a creative, hands-on club where your elementary-aged future scientist, engineer, artist can "make and take" their creations.

Some creations the club will be exploring will be Art Machines, Electric Cars Robots, Flying Machines, "Crankie" (moving pictures), Draw Robots, and much, much more!





