



## APRIL

- 2 Swag Shop
- 3 Individual & Class Pictures
- 4 Peacemaker House Party
- 4 Spirit Day
- 4 3rd Marking Period Ends
- 4 3-hour Early Dismissal
- 4 Kona Ice at 12:45 PM
- 8 Square 1 Art Begins
- 8 Recorder Concert 6:30 PM
- 9 Coffee and Connect 9:15 AM
- 10 Kindergarten Round-Up
- 14-21 Spring Break
- 22-25 Earth Week
- 24 Report Card Distribution
- 25 Kindergarten Conferences (No school for KG)
- 25 Earth Day Fair
- 25 Kona Ice 3:45 PM

## May

- 1 5th Grade Panoramic Picture 9:15 AM
- 2 Spirit Day
- 2 Square 1 Art
- 5-9 Orders Due
- 7 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 7 Coffee & Connect 9:15 AM
- 8 PTA Meeting 6:30 PM
- 15 DEI Meeting 6:00 PM
- 16 Schools & Offices Close
- 20 3-hours Early PTA Meeting 6:15 PM / Spring Concert 6:30 PM
- 23 College Gear Day
- 26 Schools Closed
- 29 Memorial Day
- 29 Sports Day
- 30 Grades K-1-2 Sports Day
- 30 Grades 3-4-5 Volunteer Recognition / Kona Ice

# Rodgers Forge Chronicles

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

## Principal's Greeting

April 2025

Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

Wow! What a stretch of learning we had in March!! Without any days off for weather or holidays, our students have been working hard. Many of us are eagerly awaiting **SPRING BREAK!!** Our last day of classes prior to break will be **April 11**. We will return on **April 22**. I can't wait to hear about all of the fun and **GAMES** that students enjoy over break!!

**STEAM NIGHT was a SUCCESS!!** It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying some **MARCH MADNESS** as they worked on activities that involved all of the components of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) to complete their "brackets". Students also had the opportunity to perform at the Coffeehouse and had their artwork displayed throughout the walls of the school. A special thank you goes to our STEAM committee for organizing an **AMAZING** event

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our 4th and 5th grade students, under the direction of Ms. Burgner-Hannum and Mr. Porter, that **WROTE** and **PERFORMED** "The Game Show" (in keeping with our school theme this year!). Students performed in an evening performance for friends and family at Dumbarton Middle School. This allowed many of our families to enjoy the production free of charge!

It's hard to believe that third quarter will end on Friday and we will be in the home stretch of the school year! As we approach the final months, please remember that **attendance is crucial**. The **Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) expects all students to attend school at least 94% of the time**. Missing a Friday here and a Monday there can add up quickly. If your child has a doctor's appointment in the morning or afternoon, please bring them to school for the rest of the day. Every moment of learning counts, and we'd rather have them here for part of the day than not at all. Thank you for your support in ensuring strong attendance!

Teachers have been busy planning field trips and the many "end of the year" activities that we enjoy each year. These include the **Recorder Concert, Earth Day Fair, Spring Music Concert, Sports Days, and the 5th Grade Farewell**. More information about all events will be forthcoming.

As always, thank you for your partnership in helping our students **LEVEL UP** their learning!

RFESstrong,  
*Michele Rowland*

# April

## SPRING 2025 MCAP

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Grade 3 – MCAP ELA 9:30 – 11:00	Grade 3 – MCAP ELA 9:30 – 11:00	
27	28	29	30			
		Grade 3 – MCAP ELA 9:30 – 11:00	Grade 3 – MCAP ELA 9:30 – 11:00			

# May

## SPRING MCAP 2025

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Grade 4 – MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	2 Grade 4 – MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	3
4	5	6 Grade 5 – MCAP MATH 10:15 – 12:00	7 Grade 5 – MCAP MATH 10:15 – 12:00	8 Grade 4 – MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	9 Grade 4 – MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	10
11	12 Grade 4 – MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	13 Grade 3 MCAP Math 9:30 – 11:00 Grade 4 – MCAP ELA - 9:15- 11:00	14 Grade 3 MCAP Math 9:30 – 11:00	15	16	17
18	19 Grade 5 – MCAP ELA 10:15 – 12:00	20 Grade 5 – MCAP ELA 10:15 – 12:00	21 Grade 5 – MCAP ELA 10:15 – 12:00	22 Grade 5 – MCAP ELA 10:15 – 12:00	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## April Green School Minute

### RFES is Keeping It Green!



In March, our Green School Council was busy making posters and flyers for our upcoming Earth Day Week and Earth Week Fair! This is the highlight of our school year, with time to share green activities as well as invite community organizations to share their green resources. We hope you will all stop by on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> to visit the vendors and stations. We are hoping for a sunny, beautiful day! If you have questions or need information, please contact Michele Paris at [mparis3@bcps.org](mailto:mparis3@bcps.org). Thanks!



Thanks for helping RFES Keep it Green!



RFES Green School Council Celebrates...

Earth Day Week!

Our Power, Our Planet!



Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>– Wear an Earth or Tie-Dyed Shirt

Decorated Door Contest

Virtual Field Trip Day



Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>– Waste-Free Wednesday

Recycle Trays Day

Collect Trash on the Way to School

Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>– Nature Bingo– Nature Collage

Recess Trash Collection

Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – Ride Your Bike to School Day

After School Earth Day Fair!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual RFES Earth Day Fair



Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

3:45 - 5:00 pm

RFES Green School Council will be hosting our Third Annual Earth Day Fair! Come join us to visit displays, make and take activities, and demonstrations.

Kona Ice will be on-site and will donate a portion of their proceeds to our Green School Council.

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

MASTER  
GARDENER



Irvine  
NATURE CENTER

THE  
FURRY PAWS  
FOSTER INN  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Adopt • Foster • TNR



- ❖ Use Recyclables to Make a Project
- ❖ Plant Sunflowers
- ❖ Earth Day Sticker Give-Away
- ❖ Recycled Crayons
- ❖ Master Gardener Display
- ❖ BGE Education
- ❖ Compost Crew
- ❖ Irvine Nature Center
- ❖ Furry Paws Foster Inn
- ❖ Deep Creek Woods Natural Body Care
- ❖ Beekeeper Jeremy Carlino



## Kindergarten Registration is underway!!!!!!

### You Can Register Your Child Online.

Once you register, you are welcome to come in person on **Thursday, April 10th** 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 like to meet your child. We will also provide a school tour for you and 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 <https://www.bcps.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=2828&pageId=70815332>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and 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.



## **Starting immediately, the new morning drop-off procedures will be as follows:**

Drop-off will continue to take place in the bus lane at the front of the school. Students are welcome to enter through either entrance, though breakfast will still be served at the cafeteria entrance. For the smooth flow of traffic, please ensure you pull all the way forward when dropping off your child, and refrain from going around the barricade. To maintain safety, please do not drop students off on Dumbarton Road. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



## April Chronicles – Health Suite

Spring has sprung! I am already seeing a number of students complaining of itchy red eyes and drippy or stuffy noses. If your child has allergies, please don't forget to give them their daily dose of allergy medication before each school day. There are no discretionary medications for students with allergies except for Benadryl, and the one provided is the one that makes the child drowsy, even in a reduced dosage. I primarily use it for children who develop hives, not itchy eyes or stuffy or itchy noses. Also, I cannot administer any medication to any child in the school outside of what is provided by the County as a discretionary medication without a doctor's order. If you should forget to give your child their daily allergy medication, you are always welcome to come to school and give it to them at any time.

There are still a few missing vision or hearing referral reports. If your child had a hearing or vision referral form sent home, please have the recommended follow-up done and the report you were sent completed by your care provider and returned to the health suite. Follow-up is so important!

Just a quick reminder, if your child has a **temperature of 100 degrees or more**, is **vomiting** or has **diarrhea**, they should not be in school. They should not return to school until 24 hours have passed with no further episodes of fever, diarrhea or vomiting without the use of medication. That gives them needed time for recovery as well as keeps them from spreading germs to other students.

Our annual Green School Fair is right around the corner. It will be held rain or shine on Friday, April 25, from 3:45 to 5:00 pm. Everyone will be provided with lots of good ecologically friendly information. Please stop by and see what our wonderful students in the Green School are doing. Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22, and the focus for National Earth Day this year is Our Power – Our Planet. Think of ways your family can harness renewable energy to build a healthy, sustainable, equitable, prosperous future for everyone! A great family topic that can promote stimulating conversations!

Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active! Nurse Mary 😊



## **April Library Update!**

April is School Library Month, a chance to honor school librarians and the essential role they play in the learning process. First celebrated in 1985, School Library Month is sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association. Did you know that the Rodgers Forge library is the largest elementary school library by measure of size in Baltimore County?



Our library units have all been featuring a wide variety of great stories. 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will be looking at amazing stories where real people battle adversity. 4<sup>th</sup> Graders are looking at telling a story with pictures as they investigate wordless books. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are voting for the Black-Eyed Susan picture book of the year, and evaluating the books based upon criteria. 1<sup>st</sup> Graders are learning the elements of cloud research and creating their own clouds, and Kindergarteners are finding out about some Awesome Authors, and their best and most creative works!

### **EBOOKS!!! READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

What are ebooks? They are books you can read and check out on your computer right from BCPSOne!!! They have features like an on-screen reader, electronic bookmarks, and even the ability to take notes.

Here is a direct link to the Library site!

[https://baltimore.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas007\\_1993744](https://baltimore.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas007_1993744)

### **BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TEAM!**

Congratulations to our students who 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 March, our team battled both Jacksonville and Stoneleigh Elementary, in the Battle for York Road, where they placed very well. This month, they will take on Hampton! They use keywords in the question, the elimination strategy, which involves eliminating wrong answers, and finally having book experts for each book! They have been enthusiastic, shown good sportsmanship, and have had fun sharing their books! **Connect with me via email at [pholden@bcps.org](mailto:pholden@bcps.org), and follow the Rodgers Forge Library on Twitter at PetePHolden! Happy April to you all!**





## April Vocal Music Note



Happy Spring to all! It is a busy time in the music department. Everyone is singing, dancing, and playing rhythm instruments!

**Congratulations** to everyone who helped to make our **Coffee House** and **STEAM** Night such a huge success!

**Fifth graders** have begun to learn music for our spring concert which will be in the café on May 20<sup>th</sup>. **Third graders** are putting finishing touches on our Recorder Karate unit as we prepare to present our concert on April 8<sup>th</sup>!

Sing-cerely, Mrs. Tierney

[ltierney@bcps.org](mailto: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 20, 2025 @ 6:30

**Third Graders** have begun playing recorders. As part of our *Recorder Karate* unit, we will celebrate our accomplishments with a concert on **April 8, 2025, at 6:30**. Our concert attire will be casual. School colors, red and/or white shirts, and comfortable shoes.

## Any day can be a Box Top Day!

Our music department and all Rodgers Forge students benefit from the Box Tops program. We have earned \$204 so far this year and will be using our funds for drums and new recorder and ukulele 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 or QR code below for more information!

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/>



## Spring Cleaning??

The Music department is always looking for gently used instruments-including rhythm instruments such as drums, bells, tambourines or small keyboards, ukuleles, and recorders or even a unique one that you are not wanting any more. If you have any that you would like to clean out, please contact Mrs. Tierney at

[ltierney@bcps.org](mailto:ltierney@bcps.org)

# News from the Counselor's Corner



## Virtue for April

Our virtue of the month for April will be **perseverance**. "Perseverance is being steadfast and persistent. You commit to your goals and overcome obstacles no matter how long it takes. When you persevere, you don't give up... you keep going. Like a strong ship in a storm, you don't become battered or blown off course." You are practicing perseverance when you...

- Choose your commitments wisely
- Set goals and stick with them until completed
- Pace yourself and take one step at a time
- Don't let doubts or tests blow you off course
- Stand by your friends and loved ones"



## Guidance Lessons

The theme for April Counseling lessons is "Coping Skills." Students in primary grades will have lessons that focus on understanding and identifying feeling words, facial expressions corresponding to specific emotions, and coping strategies such as breathing techniques. The intermediate grades will continue focusing on specific coping strategies, coping with stress/worries, in addition to learning about how to give proper apologies.

## Family and Community Engagement News

Here are some upcoming events and parent workshops for the month of April.

### **April 4 – 12:30 PM**

**Lunch & Learn – Build a Life Skill, Create a Future: 9 Math Strategies for Successful Learning**

#### **Virtual**

Presented by the Center for Family Success

Investigate strategies that will help parents and children find solutions for issues connecting math and life. Learn effective ways of engaging and developing skills.

[For registration click here!](#)

### **April 24 – 12:30 PM**

**Lunch & Learn – Be SMART (Gun Safety)**

#### **Virtual**

Presented by Beth Jarrett, Be SMART Lead, Baltimore County

The Be SMART presentation is non-political and encourages parents and all adults to take action to prevent child access to guns, promote secure storage and reduce the risk of suicide. S - Secure all guns in your home and vehicles, M - Model responsible behavior around guns, A - Ask about the presence of unsecured firearms in other homes your child visits, R - Recognize the role of guns in suicide, T - Tell your peers to Be SMART.

[For registration click here!](#)

Information and links to register for any of these workshops can be found here: [https://cdns5-ss3.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_2744/File/FACE/Parent%20U%20Schedule%20of%20Events%20Online.pdf](https://cdns5-ss3.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_2744/File/FACE/Parent%20U%20Schedule%20of%20Events%20Online.pdf)

## 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

Fifth grade students in band and orchestra are rehearsing to prepare for the Spring Concert on **Tuesday, May 20th**. Please make sure your child is practicing at home to prepare for this event!

#### **Band Concert Music**

Concert Bb Scale (pg. 43)  
Power Rock  
Shark Attack!  
Heroes and Glory  
Let's Go Band

#### **Orchestra Concert Music**

D Major Scale and G Major Scale  
Supersonic  
Twilight Terror  
Frere Jacques  
First Finger Rock

Ms. Annemarie Dickerson

[adickerson3@bcps.org](mailto:adickerson3@bcps.org)

# HELP NEEDED!!

I will be setting up the Movement Education Equipment on April 4<sup>TH</sup> from 11:00 am until 12:30 pm **DATE CHANGE DUE TO A HOUSE PARTY**. 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 on Monday morning. If you are able and willing to help, it would be greatly appreciated!! Any questions or interested in helping please contact Mrs. Celenza at [bcelenza@bcps.org](mailto:bcelenza@bcps.org)



From 4/7-5/6- Students will be exploring the Movement Education Equipment by traveling over, under, around, and through at high, low, and medium levels. Some students may be anxious as they explore the rainforest themed M.E.E. To assist students in overcoming this fear, I'm looking for parent volunteers to help spot the students as they travel the equipment.

VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE HAD THE **VOLUNTEERING TRAINING**

Sign up to volunteer with k-2 classes during this unit can be found on the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094FAAAA2CA31-movement>

BCPS Volunteer Training and Application, if you need to complete. Upon completing these 2 things, please send a copy of your application and the certificate of completion for the training to [lwilson9@bcps.org](mailto:lwilson9@bcps.org)

<https://www.bcps.org/cos/communications/FACE/b c p s volunteers>



## Spring Cleaning??

The PE department is always looking for gently used outdoor games, yoga mats, old lacrosse sticks (especially girls) 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 [bcelenza@bcps.org](mailto:bcelenza@bcps.org)

### **Sports Day**

(Volunteers Needed-Info will be sent out once we return from Spring Break)

May 30, 2025- K,1, AND 2 grades 9:15 am- 12:30 pm

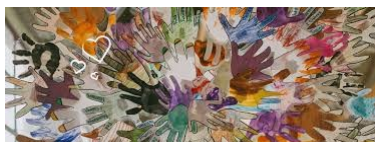
May 31, 2025 - 3,4, and 5 grades 9:15 am- 12:30 pm

Tug of War- 2:30

### Tennis Shoes for P.E Class and Recess!!

Stay Active,

Mrs. Celenza



RFES



## The Story of Norouz

Norouz (the New Day) is the first day of Spring and the Persian New Year. This beloved holiday originated in Persia over 3000 years ago. The exact beginning of the New Year occurs when the season changes from winter to spring and the festivities of Norouz reflect the renewal of the Earth that occurs with the coming of Spring.

In preparation of the New Year, you see people shopping for items of Sofreh Haft Seen (Haft Seen table) and for new clothes to wear on the day of Norouz. Or maybe you'll find them growing Sabzeh (sprouts), making pastries or doing a "Khouneh Tekouni" (shaking the house) or spring cleaning.



## Sofreh Haft Seen

Haft Seen or seven S's represent the main items on the sofreh Haft Seen (Haft Seen table). Each item has a meaning and is a symbol of what we wish for ourselves, our family, and our friends in the new year.

### THE SEVEN SYMBOLS

**Senjed:** Silverberry, symbol of love

**Seeb:** Apple, symbol of beauty

**Sabzeh:** Sprouts, symbol of growth and rebirth

**Seer:** Garlic, symbol of good health

**Samanoo:** Sweet wheat pudding, symbol of affluence

**Serkeh:** Vinegar, symbol of patience and old age

**Somagh:** Sumac (red spice), symbol of sunrise

### OTHER SYMBOLS ON THE SOFREH HAFTSEEN

**Coin:** Wealth

**Hyacinth:** Nice Fragrances

**Mirror:** Clarity and Reflection

**Candles:** Warmth and Happiness

**Painted Eggs:** Fertility

**Water/Rosewater:** Purity

**Bread:** Prosperity

**Goldfish:** New life

**Book of Quran, Hafez or Shahnameh:** Knowledge

**Traditional Iranian Pastries:** Sweetness

**Esfand:** Protecting against the evil eye



4<sup>th</sup> grader, Roham and his mom, Ms. Ellie celebrate Norouz, Persian New Year. They shared some of the traditions with staff and students and taught us more about the special day their culture celebrates.