



December

4	Coffee and Connect 9:15 AM
6	Spirit Day
13	PTA Grade K-2 Dance 6:00-7:30 PM
17	Winter Concert 6:30 PM
19	PTA Cookies & Cocoa for Staff 3:45 PM
20	Schools & Offices Close 3-Hours Early
23-31	Winter Break

January

2	School Reopens
3	Spirit Day
8	Coffee and Connect 9:15 AM
9	PTA Meeting 6:30 PM / SIT
16	DEI Meeting 6:00 PM
20	Schools & Offices Closed
	MLK Birthday observed
22	Swag Shop
24	Peacemaker House Party
25	3-Hour Early Dismissal / 2nd Marking Period Ends
29	School Closed for Students
	PD for Teachers
31	College Gear Day



Rodgers Forge Chronicles

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

Principal's Greeting

December 2024

Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

The Maryland State Report Cards were released earlier this month and **Rodgers Forge was ranked NUMBER ONE in the state of MARYLAND!!!** These scores are based on academic proficiency, academic progress, school climate and attendance. I am so proud of our students and staff for achieving this amazing feat! We could not do it alone. We appreciate all of **YOUR** support also! We will be having a school-wide celebration later in January. More details to follow!!

Our students in Grades 3-5 really enjoyed the PTA Glow Party last month! **On December 13th, students in kindergarten to second grade will get the opportunity to attend a Glow Party!** Each student attending will need to have an adult age 18 or over to supervise them. Stay tuned for further communication from the PTA about this event!

This month we also look forward to the **Winter Music Concert on December 17th!** Under the musical direction of Ms. Tierney and Ms. Dickerson, the 5th grade students and Chorus Club have been hard at work preparing musical selections that will reinforce the theme of **"Simple Gifts"**. Despite the weather being very mild this fall, these colder temperatures (and even snow flurries!) that we are now experiencing are a "brisk reminder" that winter is around the corner! Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the colder temperatures. Students continue to go outside for recess whenever possible throughout the winter months. Along with the cold weather is the prospect of early school closings or delayed school openings due to ice, snow, or other emergencies. When BCPS officials make these decisions, they will be announced on local television and radio stations, as well as the BCPS Twitter and website, <https://www.bcps.org/>.

The last day of school prior to winter break will be December 20th. Schools and offices will close 3 hours early on December 20th. **School will reopen after winter break on January 2, 2025.** As we close in on the end of 2024, I want to express my gratitude for having the opportunity to lead such an amazing school. I really appreciate your support!

#RFESstrong,

Michele Rowland



December 2024 Chronicles – Health Suite

Final Reminder – The Hearing and Vision Department of Baltimore County Health Department will be conducting hearing and vision testing at our school on December 16, 17, 18 and 19, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. Grades being tested are KG, 1st and 4th grade students. If for any reason you do not want your child tested, please email me right away at mbeckenholdt@bcps.org. If your child fails either the hearing or vision testing or both, you will receive notification of the same as well as the reason for the failure in a document. VERY IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW-UP with either your pediatrician, audiologist or ophthalmologist and take the failure report with you so they may put their findings on it. After being seen by the specialist, PLEASE return the report to me in the health suite so I may forward to the Hearing and Vision Department. Follow-up is critical.

I am seeing fewer and fewer students with upper respiratory illnesses as time goes by, but am instead starting to see students with GI problems. Please adhere to the County policy. If your child has vomited two times, they should NOT return to school for 24 hours from the last time they vomited and without the use of any medication. This keeps down the spread of germs and also gives students more time to recover by resting and rehydrating.

Please, please, please return used clothing from the health suite if your child has urinated in their clothing at school or had a BM in their clothing at school. I am swiftly running out of underwear and pants for both boys and girls because borrowed clothing is not being washed and returned to me. I pay for some of the provided clothing myself. I had a great supply in the beginning of the school year but it is dwindling down quickly. I will now be sending an email to parents in addition to the little note stapled to the bag the soiled clothing is going home in to try to recover borrowed clothing with each event.

If this is something that happens to your child on a regular basis, please consider sending in a change of their own clothing for them. If you have any medium or large boy's sized sweat pants to donate, they would be greatly appreciated.

Please take a few minutes to read this great article from Healthykids.org on how to help your child remain healthy over the winter months.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/ways-to-keep-kids-safe-and-healthy-during-the-winter-holidays.aspx>

I remain incredibly grateful to be your child's school nurse and love caring for them. I wish every child and their family at our school a peaceful, joyful and safe holiday season!

Nurse Mary 😊

News from the Counselor's Corner



WE ARE PEACEMAKERS!

The virtue for the month of December is determination. "Determination is focusing your energy and efforts on a task and sticking with it until it is finished. Determination is using your willpower to do something when it isn't easy. You are determined to meet your goals even when it is hard, or you are being tested. With determination we make our dreams come true."

DECEMBER LESSONS



During December, classroom lessons will address the topic of personal safety. A letter was sent home prior to Thanksgiving explaining the purpose and content of the lessons that will be taught.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS REFERRAL PROCESS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY



I wanted to provide some information on private school referrals. For those of you who are interested in having your child apply to a private school, I will be responsible for processing records and referrals for our students. The procedures below **must be adhered to** in order for the application process to be most efficient. These steps will also help expedite the application process for you and your child.

- Please submit the Release of Records form giving us permission to release student records and the teacher recommendation form to Mrs. Ludwig for processing (do not give the form directly to your child's teacher). **The Common Referral Form is not to be completed by our staff until after the 1st Quarter of the school year.** This referral form is sent with your student's academic transcript so that the private school receives one complete packet of information. **The Release of Records form is provided by the private schools to which your child is applying to.** Nothing can be completed or processed without this form for each of the schools to which you are applying.
- After the 1st Quarter (after mid-November) your student's teachers will complete the *Common Referral Form*, which is a confidential document used by most private schools. This form requests information about academic ability, classroom performance, school behavior, and personal abilities.
- Please include a \$5.00 check made payable to **Rodgers Forge Elementary**. This fee will cover the cost of duplicating records, the large mailing envelope, and postage to mail the completed application (please do not send stamped envelopes.)
- Please be patient. Allow **at least** two weeks for our staff to process your application package.
- In order to ensure that your application is sent to the private school by the appropriate deadline (for most schools that is January 9th or 15th), please send in your request by December 12th. ***All requests that are turned in after December 12th cannot be guaranteed to be sent out by January 15th.***



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWS

Please check out the following website for a list of upcoming parent workshops. https://cdnsm5-ss3.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_2744/File/FACE/Parent%20U%20Schedule%20of%20Events%20Online.pdf

Lisa Ludwig, NCC



December Green School Minute RFES is Keeping It Green!

Our Green School Council started our initiative for working on reducing waste of paper towels in classrooms and bathrooms. To help students remember, when using pull-down paper towel dispensers, posters remind students, "One, Two, Three, Let's save a Tree!" And at sinks with square paper towels, "One, Two, that will do!" We hope you can find ways to reduce waste with your family at home as well.

With December quickly approaching, it's a great time to think about gifts that will help with reducing, reusing and recycling. One way to reduce waste and reuse is to use a brown paper bag and an empty cracker box to create



wrapping paper. Bags can be decorated by your child to personalize wrapping. Reusing bags in this way can help reduce waste. You can also consider giving gifts that help others on their way towards having reuseable food and drink containers. You can use this link to get even more ideas for eco-friendly ideas for kids. Our Green School kids will be having a make and take in December to reuse recyclable materials to create gifts.

<https://www.theempowerededucatoronline.com/2019/10/christmas-presents-made-by-children.html/>

One final thought, with the weather turning cooler, and more time spent inside, what a great time to add more house plants. Our Green School, with the help of parents and the community, is working to make sure each classroom has at least one plant to help with the air quality in school rooms. Here is a list of some great plants to consider.

<https://www.hgtv.com/design/remodel/interior/remodel/10-best-plants-for-cleaning-indoor-air-pictures>



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/cleangreen15.html>



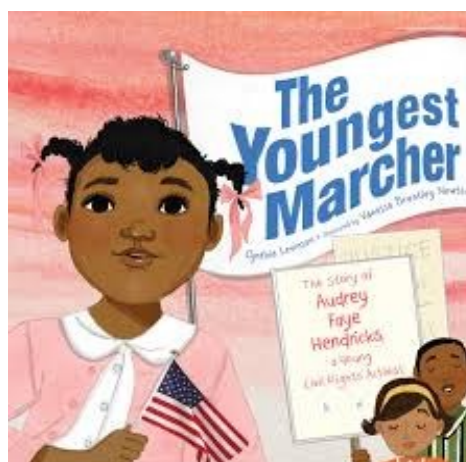
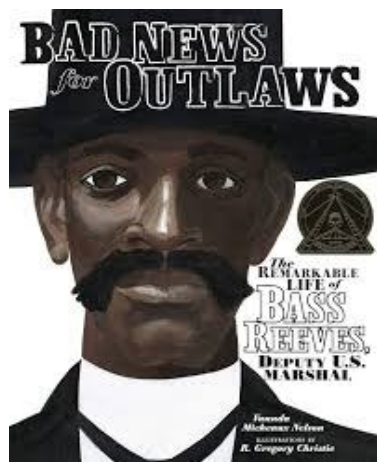
RFES



The RFES Black Excellence Program has been participating in book studies, practicing competition questions, and beginning our research projects.

So far, students have:

- read and discussed Bad News for Outlaws and created a display with timelines and sketch notes for our hallway.
- read and discussed The Youngest Marcher.



- practiced competition questions for the months of October and November.

Students will be researching and creating projects based on the following:

Heroes of History: How will the people and events from the past influence our future?

Everyone is invited to the district-wide presentation of our research projects in February! Save the date - Saturday, Feb. 22nd at Loch Raven High School.



Musical Greetings,

It is already December!! The year is flying by and all RFES students have been busy working on many new music skills.

Kindergarten has been learning about patterns in music as we continue to explore opposites. We have used a variety of rhythm instruments to accompany our songs.

1st grade has been reading and writing quarter notes, quarter rests and eighth notes, and singing folk songs. We have been composing and playing our compositions on rhythm instruments.

2nd grade has been singing many new songs as we have been gaining new music reading skills. We have been reading and writing music using half notes, quarter notes and rests. We have also learned some important musical signposts like repeat signs.

3rd grade has been learning to read musical notation (absolute pitch names) on the treble clef staff in preparation of our Recorder Karate Unit which begins in January. Recorders will be on sale at the school store in January. More information to come.

4th grade has been playing recorders and singing folk songs. Earning belts for our recorders has still been a goal-one piece you may have heard was *Five Fat Turkeys*. In December we will finish our recorder study and learn about famous composers, Peter Tchaikovsky, and Leroy Anderson.

5th grade has been exploring ways to create harmony as we prepare for our concert. We look forward to sharing our music with you at the Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 in the café. Fifth Grade Chorus, Orchestra and Band as well as Chorus Club will be performing. Concert attire will be white shirts and dark pants or skirts.

Remember to scan receipts for **Box Tops**! So far this year we have made \$110.00 for RFES music.

Sing-cerely,

Mrs. Lisa Tierney



ltierney@bcps.org

JOIN US for the WINTER CONCERT

December 17, 2024 @ 6:30 (**FIFTH GRADE** and **Chorus Club** members will be participating in this concert)

SIMPLE GIFTS





This month in...



Exploratory Music

Fourth grade students are starting the PERCUSSION UNIT! For their final project, students are designing and building their own percussion instruments out of recycled materials. Students should collect these materials over their Winter Break and we will build their project in school in January.

I am also accepting donations of extra recycled materials, especially items that can be used as shakers like popcorn kernels or beads.

Instrumental Music

Fifth grade students are practicing music to prepare for the Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 17th.

Day Concert: 2:30PM & Evening Concert: 6:30PM

Please remind your child to practice every day for the Winter Concert and submit sticker songs/karate belt videos on Schoology.

See the next page for the list of music the students should be practicing.

Mrs. Sherman

adickerson3@bcps.org

Concert Songs - RFES

ORCHESTRA:

Song	Page and #
D Major Scale (pizz.) - Pepperoni Pizza	Page 10, #31
Boil Them Cabbage Down (pizz.)	Page 7, #18
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (pizz.)	Page 10, #32
Blizzard Lizard (bow)	Separate piece of paper

FULL BAND:

Scale #1 (first 5 notes up and down)

#18 - Hot Cross Buns

Thin Ice

Song #, Page	Song Title	Group
#24, page 9	Au Claire De La Lune	Flutes
#28, page 9	Good King Wenceslas	Clarinets
#25, page 9	Jingle Bells	Saxophones
#23, page 9	Merrily We Roll Along	Trumpets
#27, page 9	Lightly Row Duet ***Trombones: Line A Tubas/Euphonium: Line B	Trombones/Euphoniums/Tubas
Separate Piece of Paper	Autumn Leaves	Bells

December Library Update!



Hello everyone, from the place where we are warming up with great books, the Rodgers Forge library! Welcome to one of the most heartwarming months of the school year, and one filled with more great library units and lessons in our awesome library! Check out the bookshelves with some great choices for book checkout here at the Forge!



Dear Parents and Families:

Coming up in just a few months - We will be working hard to keep kids reading and raise critical funds for our school with our Scholastic Book Fair from Monday, February 10th through Friday, February 14th; 25% of all sales go directly to the book budget for the Rodgers Forge Library!

The Fair will connect your kids to notable books and inspiring characters—helping them become lifelong readers. And you'll love the experience of being "Together At The Fair"!

Students will have the opportunity to have a 20 minute browsing time with their classmates. During this time they will be given a clipboard and a wish list paper. Then, later in the week, they will get a second trip to the library for a 30 minute buying time! You should see a stapled pamphlet come home with all the highlighted books at this year's fair, as well as the browsing and buying times for your child.

In addition, the Book Fair will be open on Friday, February 14th after school, so you can experience the joy of being together with great books at the 2025 Scholastic Book Fair! Also – Ewallet will give you the opportunity to load up a set amount of money on an account so that our student doesn't have to carry cash!!



BOOK FAIRS

CONVENIENT, CASH-FREE SHOPPING WITH eWALLET!

It's Book Fair Time! This year, say hello to **eWALLET!** Empower students to choose their own books and check out with their very own digital payment account. Book Fair eWallet can be used at the Fair or online. And any leftover funds can be saved for future Fairs! Win-Win!



CREATE ACCOUNT



ADD FUNDS



and/or
SHARE WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS



SHOP

Visit our school's Book Fair homepage to get started.
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/rogersforgeelementarysch1>

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These are some pictures of our “game-themed” library displays as we “put our pieces on the board” for a new year! Each week, your student will attend library media class, as we explore different types of literature and “be a part of the reading game together” in the search for information from books and online sources! They will enjoy read-aloud stories and get a chance to check out books! Kindergarteners and 1st Graders will be able to check out 1 book, 2nd – 4th graders take home 2, and 5th graders can check out 3!

December Lesson Focus – Black-Eyed Susan Award Winners, Story Sequencing and Prediction, Tangram Animal Stories, and Advertising Techniques



In December, our library units are full of excitement! 5th Graders will be learning about connections with literature through point of view, theme, and tone. 4th Graders will create an online advertisement based upon advertising techniques about which they will learn. 2nd graders will make inferences with great picture books, and 3rd Graders will dive into tall tales, and learn about those stories that stretch the truth! 1st Graders will be using tangrams to tell a story about animals solving a problem, and Kindergarteners will learn about story prediction, as well as the beginning, middle, and end of the story!

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

STAYING IN TOUCH

Remember, if you have any questions, or need to contact me for any reason, you can email me at pholden@bcps.org!

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA

Hello, RFES Community!

We hope you have enjoyed all the events we've had this year. It's been so exciting to watch all the fun. Including the brand new glow parties!

Looking ahead to the new year we will have several board positions open, we will have two meetings ahead of nominations to give a brief overview of the roles. We hope to see you there!

Keep an eye out for ongoing volunteer opportunities and as always you can reach out to volunteerVP@rogersforgepta.org for more information.

Looking ahead:

Dec

13- PTA Grade K-2 Dance 6-7:30 pm

19- PTA Cookies and Cocoa

Jan

9- PTA Meeting 6:30 pm

16- DEI Meeting 6 pm

Drop-Off, Pick-up and Parking Lot Safety Reminders

- Please do not make U-turns on Dumbarton Rd.
- Please do not pull out of the drop off lane once you have dropped your child off; stay in the drop off lane through the crosswalk.
- Please drive slowly and be cautious of our students and neighbors when driving on and near campus.
- Please do not remove the partition from the service area; cars are not allowed beyond the partition.
- Please do not block cross walks
- When crossing the street on foot, please use the crosswalk.
- Do not stop on the opposite side of the street to drop students off. Cars must use the drop off lane.
- Most importantly, please be mindful when driving on or near campus, as safety for all is our number one priority at RFES!





In the Art Room!

Grade 5 artists are beginning their Grafitti Thumbnail Sketches. They are working on their lettering unit involving different styles of graffiti lettering including TAG, THROW, and PIECE. Grade 5 students will be learning several techniques for creating both 2D and 3D letters to write their names.



Grades 4 artists are finishing up with their Colorwheel Silhouettes. These artists will begin creating their Optical Art Drawings using a variety of artistic techniques, such as different values, shapes, and and sizes, to create the illusion of 3D objects and space.



Grade 3 artists are continuing to learn some art techniques (such as using a viewfinder and drawing thumbnail sketches), to finish creating their Realistic Flower Drawing using oil pastels. They are inspired by artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Ambrosius Bosschaert, Rachel Ruysch, and Utagawa Hiroshige. Next, grade 3 artists will be using a line, color, and value to begin creating an imaginary drawing.



Grade 2 have just finishing their Birch Tree Landscape paintings that show the illusion of space by using over/underlapping, size variation, and placement on the paper. The 2nd grade artists are beginning to learn about several famous Optical Artists as they begin to create their OP Art paper weaving using contrasting colors.



Grade 1 artists are including Language Arts into their artwork as they begin creating their Alphabet Soup Compositions. They are also learning all about parallel and intersecting lines, and how to create these lines using a ruler, as they create their plaid patterned table cloth/placemat for their Alphabet Soup art.

Kindergarten artists will begin creating their Symmetrical Vase Compositions as they explore the art element of LINE to create four different patterns (also found in math) for their vase!

Ms. Kotapish kkotapish@bcps.org



Thank you !!!

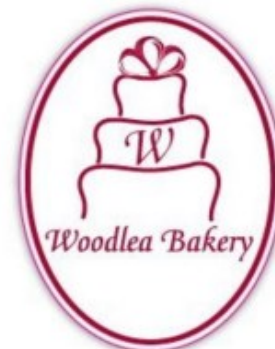
Wow, thank you for the tremendous support of our 3rd Annual Pie Run! Through the generous donations of our PTA, R.F.E.S Families and friends in our community, we were able prize 168 students with a pie! As you can see in the pictures below, fun was had by all!



An extra special THANK YOU to our community sponsors and the DMS Cross Country team serving as Pacers and Guides for our runners!



Cold Stone Creamery on The Avenue
8137-C Honeygo Blvd.
Nottingham, MD 21236
(410) 931-2104



(410) 488-7717



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LANGUAGE

- English
- Italian

Wegmans

Hunt Valley Grocery Store

122 Shawan Road
Hunt Valley, MD 21030



Underground Pizza

Towson - Text us @ (410) 618-1228*



(443)
495-7688



*Cathy Morgan-
Dendrin*

MS, REALTOR®, GRI, SRS, ASP,
SRES

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[CONTACT ME](#)



Gravel's

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