



February

- 5 Coffee and Connect 9:15 AM
- 6 Report Card Distribution
- 7 Spirit Day
- 10-14 Book Fair Week
- 17 Schools & Offices Closed
President's Day observed

March

- 3 Read Across America
- 5 Coffee and Connect 9:15 AM
- 6 PTA Meeting 6:30 PM
- 7 Spirit Day
- 11 STEAM Night / Coffee House 6:30 PM
- 13 DEI Meeting 6:00 PM
- 14 Ballroom Dancing Performance 9:15 AM



Rodgers Forge Chronicles

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

Principal's Greeting

February 2025

Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

The months of January and February have certainly proven to be "BEST in SNOW"! Since BCPS has already used our 3 "snow days", future inclement weather days will be a virtual learning day. **I am so proud of how well our students did with our first virtual learning day yesterday!** Our teachers have done a remarkable job preparing students for virtual learning and preparing engaging lessons for their Google Meet sessions. Thank YOU for your support in ensuring that your student had a designated area at home for virtual learning and "logged in for learning". With the threat of inclement weather still in the future, we will be sending devices and chargers home every night until we can be assured that the winter weather is over. Please make sure that students only use their devices for instructional purposes and bring their devices back to school each day.

February is Black History Month. During this month we pay tribute to the great achievements of generations of African American men and women. Throughout the month, RFES students will learn about their many contributions throughout history. **Our Equity Committee has compiled amazing resources for families to use that are located on our school website and in this issue of the Chronicles.** The PTA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI), which meets bi-monthly, will meet next month on March 13th. They are planning a family field trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC in June. Our school's Black Excellence Club meets weekly to learn about the people, places and events within the Black experience. They have had the opportunity to do a book study and choose a topic to research. **Our students will be joining other BCPS students involved in the Black Excellence Program in presenting their research projects at Loch Raven High School on February 22nd from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.** Family and school community are invited to attend!

BCPS invites students in Grades 3-12, parents/caregivers, staff, and community members to participate in the school system's annual Stakeholder Climate Survey. **This brief online survey is available on the BCPS website from January 27 through February 28.** Please take time to share your voice! For more information, click the following link:

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

Thank you again for ALL of your support!! I am grateful and blessed to lead such an incredible school community!

#RFESstrong

Michele Rowland

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.





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 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 <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.

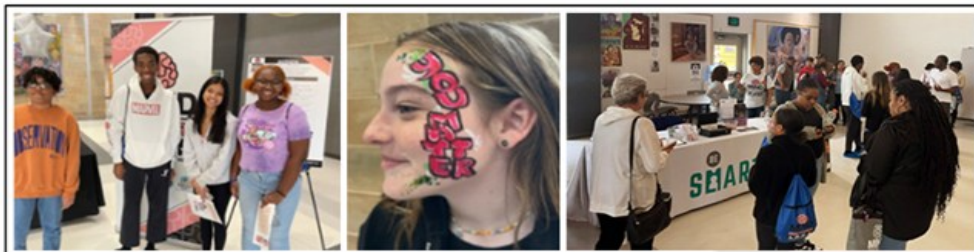
1. Proof of residency such a deed/mortgage statement or Updated rental agreement if you rent your home.
2. Three (3) pieces of legal mail, such as BGE, Phone, Water bill etc.
3. Parent photo ID must match current address or current passport.
4. Child's birth certificate or Passport
5. Copy of immunizations.



Save the Date!



Mental Health Matters Month - Kick Off Event



Students, parents, and caregivers

Please join us for workshops and visit vendors to learn more about children's mental health and substance use prevention.

There will be face painting, yoga, student performances, Chick-fil-a, and more!

March 9, 2024 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology

938 York Rd. | Baltimore, Maryland 21204

BCPS is hosting its annual Mind Over Matter Annual Conference on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology. The goal of this event is to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and substance use prevention. This event is for all BCPS students and their parents/caregivers.

The event will include student performances, a keynote speaker, and breakout sessions. There will also be vendors, free promotional items, giveaways, face painting, and more! Transportation will be provided from every high school. Please click the link to [2024 MOM Conference Bus Schedule \(Spanish\)](#). A guardian is required to accompany a student if using BCPS transportation. Parking is available on site for parents/caregivers and student drivers.

News from the Counselor's Corner



Virtue for February

Our virtue of the month for February will be **tolerance**. "Being tolerant is accepting differences. You don't expect others to think, look, speak, or act just like you. You are free of prejudice knowing that all people have feelings, needs, hopes, and dreams. Tolerance is also accepting things you wish were different with patience and flexibility."

Theme for February Lessons



School counseling lessons for the month of February will focused on *celebrating differences*. We will focus on our individual gifts, talents, and qualities that make us a special and unique individual and demonstrate how beautiful that diversity can be.

National School Counseling Week



National School Counseling Week is Feb. 3-7, 2025. The 2024 theme is "**School Counseling: Helping Students Thrive.**" As outlined by the American School Counseling Association, school counselors provide the following direct and indirect services to students: instruction, appraisal and advisement, individual and group counseling, consultation, collaboration, and referrals.

If you ever have any questions regarding the school counseling program at RFES, please do not hesitate to reach out!

CAREER DAY - SAVE THE DATE!

RFES will be holding a career day on Friday, March 28 in the morning. More information will be forthcoming in February but please save the date if you are interested in sharing information about your career with our students.

Family and Community Engagement News

Links to register for any parent university workshops can be found here: https://cdnsm5-ss3.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_2744/File/FACE/Parent%20U%20Schedule%20of%20Events%20Online.pdf

Lunch & Learn – This is Hard! How to Help Your Child Do Hard Things and Persevere in the Face of Challenges (also offered April 12)
February 16 – 12:30 PM
Virtual
Presented by Mariposa Education

The Reading Corner

Let's talk about reading fluency! Fluency is a critical skill that helps kids understand what they are reading. Kids who are not yet fluent read more slowly and read word by word. They are focused on decoding the words and do not have the attention necessary to understand the meaning of the text. Less fluent readers can struggle with comprehension as well as the motivation to read.

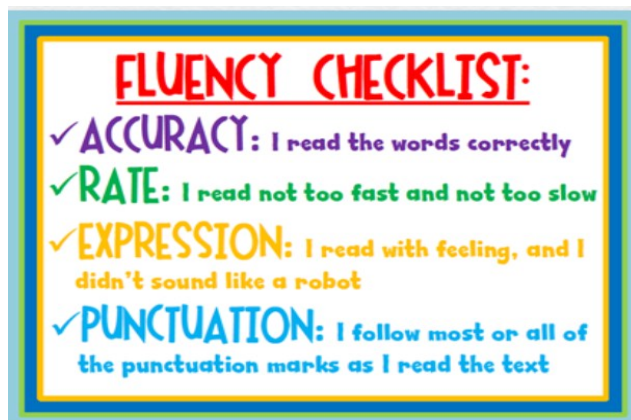
Fluency takes time to develop and requires practice! Fluent readers recognize words automatically and gain meaning from the text. They read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading is so smooth and natural that it sounds as if they are speaking.

Practicing fluency can be a really fun activity! [CLICK HERE](#) for some great ideas on the **Reading Rockets** website. These activities are geared more toward primary grades, but the website is full of great information for all students!

Please reach out if you have any questions! mday@bcps.org

Happy Reading,

~Ms. Day, Reading Specialist



News from the Health Suite

Please read these articles from the CDC about the Norovirus. This time of year and up through April, is when this virus seems to be most prevalent. This virus is easily spread and is not affected by the alcohol in hand sanitizer. Washing hands with antibacterial soap and water helps reduce the spread of this virus. As with most viruses, those most susceptible are infants and very young children and those over 65. The staff at the school reinforces hand washing. I do it in the Health Suite. Please do the same at home.

<https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/about/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/prevention/index.html>

Our students are doing a terrific job of coughing into their sleeve, not into their hands as well as washing their hands after using the bathroom and before and after eating. I feel the incidence and prevalence of the common cold is lower this year than in years past, still present, just not nearly as much as I have seen recently. Please reinforce these practices at home, including throwing away a tissue after using one for sneezing or blowing their noses, then washing hands afterwards. I reinforce this with students seen in the health suite and the teachers and staff reinforce this in the classroom. Well done!

I am sure everyone is looking forward to the warmer weather. Me too! Along with warmer weather comes more exposure to the sun. It is never too early to begin educating your child on ways to protect their skin from some of the harmful rays of the sun, especially with prolonged sun exposure.

Please take a few minutes to read this excellent article on ways to teach sun protection to young children.

<https://www.skincancer.org/blog/teach-your-kids-about-sun-protection/>

I also wanted to share a terrific, nutritious and filling soup with everyone to maybe try on your family. We love it and lots of opportunities for jr. Chef helpers!

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/old-fashioned-turkey-noodle-soup/#RecipeCard>

Hope you love it as much as we do!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Moms who have kindly donated boys and girls clothing to my supply in the Health Suite. I am now fully stocked! Thanks a million!

Wishing everyone lots of hugs and kisses on Valentine's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating love in all its many forms. How wonderful is that!

Nurse Mary :)



Save the Date for March Madness STEAM Night!



March 11th at 6:30



**Students and families are invited for an evening
of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math
activities!**

Hello, RFES Community!

We hope you've enjoyed the school year so far. We've loved the events this year and still have so much fun to continue!

We hope you're looking forward to the upcoming second annual R.F.E.S. PTA Bingo! The link to rsvp will be sent out via email so keep an eye out for that as tickets are expected to go quickly.

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

Looking ahead:

Feb

10-14 Book Fair

28- Jump Rope for Heart

March

6- PTA Meeting 6:30 pm

13- DEI Meeting 6 pm

15- PTA Bingo

Brittany Besold

RFES PTA Communications Secretary



Musical Greetings,

We are busy developing our music skills and knowledge and growing as musicians.

Kindergarten has been singing winter songs about snow, snowmen, mittens, and kittens. We have performed scale songs on bells and even composed on our snowy pieces.

1st grade has been learning rhythm patterns and solfege (so and mi). We have been playing a variety of rhythm instruments. This month we will be comparing lullabies and marches and listening to Sousa, Brahms, and Mozart.

2nd grade is learning about sixteenth notes and musical signposts such as accents, and dynamic markings in our music. We have been singing songs from different countries and playing a variety of rhythm instruments.

3rd grade is off to a great start with recorders. Our Recorder Karate unit will culminate with our concert on April 8, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Students should be practicing at home. Five minutes a day is a good goal. We have learned BAG songs and will be adding new notes over the month.

4th grade has been learning ways that music can tell a story. We have explored a variety of ballads from several countries. This week we begin our Musical Theater unit and will be exploring opera to Broadway!

5th grade has started our Jazz unit. This month we will be learning about major scales and chords with a goal to play the blues progression. We will be exploring a variety of jazz beginning with Spirituals and Blues through Ragtime, Dixie and Boogie Woogie to Swing. Our Spring Concert is planned for May 20, 2025.

It is great to be able to come to school and make music with your children!

"Sing"cerely,
Mrs. Lisa Tierney
ltierney@bcps.org

Save these Date: Concert Connections

Fifth graders will participate in our Winter and Spring Concerts. The chorus, band and orchestra will be featured at both events. Concert attire will be white shirts and dark pants or skirts. More information will be sent home before the concert dates.

Spring Concert: May 20, 2025 @ 6:30

March 11, 2025 @ 6:30 will be our school **STEAM Night**. 4th and 5th graders have the opportunity to share their talents at the **Coffeehouse**.

Third Graders will be learning to play the recorder. As part of our *Recorder Karate* program, we will celebrate our accomplishments with a concert on **April 8, 2025**. Our concert attire will be casual. School colors, red and/or white shirts, with jeans/pants/skirts 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 \$114 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/>



February Green School Minute

RFES is Keeping It Green!

In January, the BCPS Office of Energy and Sustainability came to visit us at lunch and do a waste audit. It was very informative, and information was shared with our faculty to help us support our school-wide Green efforts. We will have a presentation at our Green School meeting coming up February 4th as well. Some interesting facts from the audit included that in one school day, lunch trash included 55 pounds of trash, of which 32 pounds of food waste was included. With help monitoring waste, we were able to reduce waste from 8 bags of lunch trash to 3 bags, with an increase of recycling to 11.2 pounds in one day. Please continue to encourage your child to make lunch choices that will help reduce waste of food. And thanks for all you do to make sure your child is bringing a waste-free lunch by packing things in reuseable containers.

Are your children ready for springtime, but more winter days are ahead of us? Here are some eco-friendly fun things you can try at home. <https://www.forceofnatureclean.com/eco-friendly-winter-activities-for-the-whole-family/>



Our Green School Council is already planning for a week of activities and learning for Earth Week! This year we will celebrate Earth Day with our 3rd annual Earth Day Fair on Friday, April 25th in front of the school, from 3:45 – 5:00pm. Each day of that week, April 21-25, will have a special focus. We are also planning some special events that week to help teach and motivate our school to make Green choices. If you have a business or would like to share your expertise on this day, please email Michele Paris at mparis3@bcps.org and we will work with you to see how you can help present on this special day.



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>

February Library Update!



Coming up this month - 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.

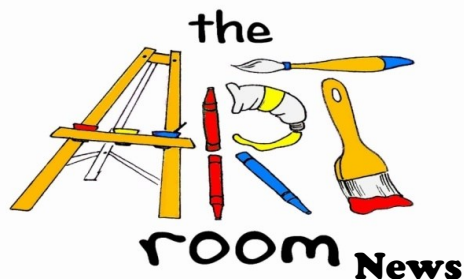
In addition, the Book Fair will be open on Friday, February 14th after school, so you can experience the joy of being together with great books at the 2025 Scholastic Book Fair!

Also – Ewallet will give you the opportunity to load up a set amount of money on an account so that your student doesn't have to carry cash!!



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Connect with me via email at pholden@bcps.org!



In the Art Room!

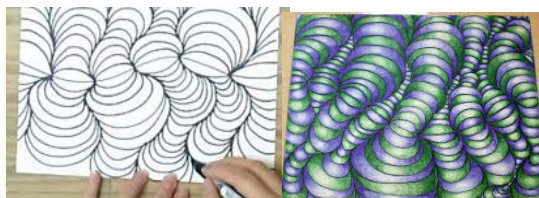


Grade 5 artists are continuing their Graffiti Sketches using the letters of their first name. They are working on their lettering unit involving different styles of graffiti lettering including TAG, THROW, and PIECE. Grade 5 students will be learning several techniques for creating both 2D and 3D letters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

Grades 4 artists are learning all about the art element of VALUE as they begin to add dark and light areas to their Optical Art Drawings. Students are still using a variety of artistic techniques, such as different values, shapes, and and sizes, to create the illusion of 3D spheres & a



vortex.



Grade 3 student artists are continuing to use curvy lines, color, and value to continue creating an imaginary Op Art drawing that shows the Art Principles of Rhythm, Pattern, and Movement.

The 2nd grade artists are beginning to learn all about the art element of value, as well as they begin to use white chalk pastel to create the illusion of 3 dimensional snow spheres for their Snow People Chalk Pastel Drawing,



Grade 1 artists are including Language Arts into their artwork as they continue creating their Alphabet Soup Compositions. They are also learning all about parallel and perpendicular 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 are “staying warm and cozy” in their art class as they continue creating their Patterned Mitten Compositions.



These young artists will be exploring the art elements of SHAPE and COLOR to create different patterns. They will also be painting their work with watercolor paint.



Ms. Kotapish kkotapish@bcps.org