



# March

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

# APRIL

- 2 Swag Shop
- 3 Individual & Class Pictures
- 4 Peacemaker House Party
- 4 Spirit Day
- 4 3rd Marking Period Ends 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

# Rodgers Forge Chronicles

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

## Principal's Greeting

March 2025

Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

We survived the month of February!!! Both of our students and staff did an amazing job with our one day of virtual learning. Let's hope that virtual learning was "one and done" for this year!! As the weather continues to look more promising and "spring-like", we will be able to keep devices at school again!

**Consistent school attendance is essential for student success!** The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) sets a goal of 95% attendance for schools, and Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) requires schools to regularly monitor attendance and support students who are chronically absent (missing 10% or more of the school year).

While winter illnesses have certainly been a challenge, we've also noticed that many students with high absence rates have taken extended vacations beyond the breaks provided by BCPS. To support student learning, we strongly encourage families to plan travel during scheduled breaks and long weekends whenever possible. Thank you for your partnership in prioritizing attendance and helping our students stay on track for success!

Our students in the **Black Excellence Club** have been hard at work over the past few months! They've participated in a book club, explored important Black history facts, and researched inspiring individuals who were "barrier breakers." Their incredible presentations were showcased at our Black Excellence celebration and are now proudly displayed in the main lobby and hallway for all RFES students to enjoy. All their dedication and effort paid off—they were honored with the **EXCELLENCE Award for the Black Excellence** program! 🌟 I couldn't be prouder of their hard work and achievement!

March is packed with exciting activities for our RFES community! We kicked off the month with a **Read Across America** celebration, where students paired up with buddies from different houses to enjoy reading together. This week, each homeroom will also welcome a **mystery reader** for a special storytime experience!

Here's what's coming up:

📅 **March 11 - STEAM Night:** Students and their adults can explore hands-on activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Plus, enjoy live performances at the **Coffeehouse!**

📅 **March 15 - PTA BINGO:** Get ready for a fun-filled afternoon organized by our amazing PTA!

📅 **March 21 - School Play:** Our talented fourth and fifth graders have written, produced, and will perform an original play at **Dumbarton Middle School** in the evening. Don't miss it!

📅 **March 31 - Professional Development Day** (No school for students)

With so much happening, March is sure to be a fantastic month! We look forward to seeing you at these wonderful events! Thank you for all of your support! We could not do all these things without it!

*Michele Rowland*  
*Principal*



## Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

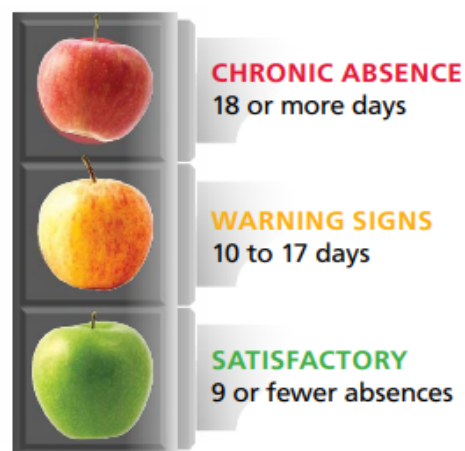
Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

Revised October 2021

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

*Used with permission from Attendance Works*



## 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.



## **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.





#### HEALTH SUITE NEWS.....

Spring is almost here!!! Yeah!!! Bulbs are popping up in my garden, snowbells are blooming, trees are full of buds! Little patches of green grass showing up in the lawn! Can you tell I am excited!!!!

Heads up everyone, Earth Day, April 22, is just around the corner. I am part of the Green Team and we will be holding an Earth Day Fair after school that day, outside if the weather permits and if not, inside the school. FYI, I will be manning the Sunflower Station! Our wonderful mom, Kate McGivern (sometime school nurse substitute for me) will be helping me. Kate and I will have a peat pot, organic soil and a sunflower seed with growing instructions for anyone interested. A great event is planned by our Mrs. Paris, the Green Team Coordinator! Hope many will stop by. We need to love our Mother Earth!

Speaking of the spring, it is never too soon to begin prevention measures for children with seasonal allergies. I found a great article from Kids Health I wanted to share with you,

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/seasonal-allergies.html>

Lots of good information in it! Please take a few minutes to read over!

Also in the works, our school has a great community partnership with Dr. Dina Sanchez of Roland Park Orthodontics, who recently came to our school to give a presentation about oral health to all of our students. I am in the process of finding a board-certified dermatologist to come to our school and talk to the student body about skin care. Most skin cancers are basal cell cancers, which are easy to treat, and take many years to develop. They begin, however, in childhood with repeated exposure to the sun without sunscreen or shade or covering the skin with clothing that covers our skin and hats that cover our face.

Protection from the harmful rays of the sun is the best defense in preserving the health and wellbeing of our biggest organ, our skin, and the time to start protecting our skin is when your child is 6 months of age or more. I want to share a great article about sun protection and when to start from the Skin Cancer Foundation.

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

PLEASE take the time to read this article. Skin damage in childhood will often rear its ugly head as a young adult or in middle age. Basal cell skin cancers are easily cured, most of the time, but more advanced skin cancers like squamous cell and melanomas are not.

Just as we as parents protect our children from childhood diseases by having them immunized, we can protect them from being susceptible to skin damage and skin cancers as they age by protecting their skin in early childhood.

Happy Almost Spring!!!!






Nurse Mary :)

# GET PROTECTED AGAINST MEASLES

Let's keep measles **OUT** of Baltimore County!

Talk to your provider or visit our health centers to receive the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine.

## SYMPTOMS

-  Cough
-  Runny nose
-  Rash breaks out 3 - 5 days after symptoms begin
-  Red, watery eyes
-  High fever (may spike to more than 104° F)

Baltimore County Health Centers are able to vaccinate both adults and children with the MMR vaccine (measles, mumps and rubella).

- Children should receive their first dose at 1 year and their second dose at 4 - 6 years.
- Adults who have never been vaccinated with MMR should have their first dose as soon as they can.

## MEASLES CAN BE SERIOUS



About 1 out of 5 people who get measles will be hospitalized.



1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling due to infection (encephalitis), which may lead to brain damage.



1 to 3 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/parent-infographic.html>

**Appointments preferred. Call your local health center to schedule an appointment.**

## HEALTH CENTER LOCATIONS

**Baltimore Highlands - Lansdowne**  
3902 Annapolis Road, Lansdowne, MD 21227  
410-887-1003

**Dundalk Health Center**  
7700 Dunmanway, Baltimore, MD 21222  
410-887-7182

**Eastern Family Resource Center**  
9150 Franklin Square Drive, Rosedale, MD 21237  
410-887-6452

**Essex Health Center**  
201 Back River Neck Road, Ste 100, Essex, MD 21221  
410-887-0246

**Hannah More Health Center**  
12035 Reisterstown Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136  
410-887-1152

**Woodlawn Health Center**  
6901 Security Boulevard, Ste 100, Baltimore, MD 21244  
410-887-1332



**Baltimore County Department of Health**  
Healthy people, living, working, and playing in Baltimore County  
Lucy E. Wilson, M.D., Sc.M., Health Officer  
County Executive Katherine A. Klausmeier and the Baltimore County Council



## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be evaluating books so they can choose the Black-Eyed Susan award winner in the Picture Books category, 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been on a genre tour of the fiction section – looking at Science Fiction, Fantasy, Realistic, and Historical Fiction books. 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Grade! In addition, African-American authors and illustrators will be highlighted as well!

## 2025 SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We want to thank you for helping us to raise critical funds for our school with our Scholastic Book Fair, which took place from Monday, February 10th through Friday, February 14th. 25% of all sales go directly to the book budget for the Rodgers Forge Library!! We earned \$2,750 which will go directly to our library book order!

Thanks so much to all of our volunteers who helped to make the 2025 Scholastic Book Fair a true success!!!!

Connect with me via email at [pholden@bcps.org](mailto:pholden@bcps.org), and follow the Rodgers Forge Library on Twitter at PetePHolden! Happy March to you all!





Please join the RFES Community for  
**March Madness STEAM Night**

**When:** Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00

**Where:** Rodgers Forge Elementary

**What:** Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math activities with a basketball twist

Featured activities include a Coffeehouse “Half-Time”, “Nothing But Net” in the gym, “Game On” Bridges Math Workplaces, and “Hoop it Up” engineering design!

\*Please consider donating the following recycled items **by 3/10** for this event: clean plastic bottle lids, cardboard cylinders (paper towel, toilet paper rolls), and/or empty cardboard rectangular boxes (Kleenex, cereal etc.)

\*This event is for RFES students. An adult family member **must attend** with their child/children.

# News from the Counselor's Corner



## Virtue for March

Our virtue for the month of March is **HELPFULNESS**. "Helpfulness is being of service to others, doing thoughtful things that make a difference in their lives. Offer your help without waiting to be asked. Ask for help when you need it. When we help each other we get more done. We make our lives easier."



## Theme for March Lessons

School counseling lessons for the month of March will be focused on Career. Students will engage in a variety of career exploration activities. At the end of the month, students will participate in Career Day where they will have the opportunity to listen to a variety of speakers talk about their careers. An email with links to sign up for career day was sent.

## Family and Community Engagement News

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

**March 5 – 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Special Education Family Resource Fair**

Northwest Academy of Health Sciences  
4627 Old Court Rd., Baltimore, MD 21208

**March 15, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM**

**Mind Over Matters – Annual Youth Mental Health Fair for students, parents, and caregivers**

G.W. Carver Center for Arts and Technology  
938 York Rd, Towson, MD 21204

**March 7 – 12:30 PM**

**Lunch & Learn – Stress-Be-Gone: Techniques, Tips, & Tricks for Destressing**

**Virtual**

Presented by the Center for Family Success

In this discussion, we'll discover:

- Definition of stress
- Ways to manage stress

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This schedule is updated frequently so please visit our Parent University website for the latest event info!



[For registration click here!](#)

**March 19 – 12:30 PM**

**Lunch & Learn – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

**Virtual**

Presented by Wendy Carver, FACE

2.7 million children in the US are being raised by grandparents! Learn about the challenges faced by grandparents raising grandchildren, discuss strategies for building a home-school partnership and access resources to support learning at home.

[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)



RFES









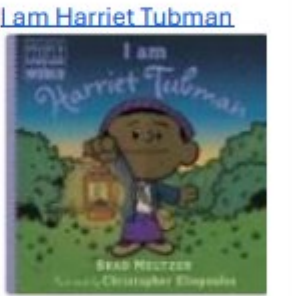





Congratulations to our students in the Black Excellence Club! They earned the Excellence Award for the competition, answering questions about important people and events in Black History, as well as questions about the books we studied this year.

Students also presented projects at the BCPS Black Excellence event at Loch Raven High School. Projects can be viewed in our RFES lobby.





## Celebrate Black History Month by Exploring these Great Digital Resources!

 <p>Visit:</p> <p>Reading Rockets to engage in Black History Month Activities</p> <p><a href="https://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/black-history">https://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/black-history</a></p>	 <p>Watch this short video to answer:</p> <p>What is Black History Month?</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j6dp3QA6M4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j6dp3QA6M4</a></p>	 <p>Sing a Song!</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW1--OBNhYY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW1--OBNhYY</a></p>	 <p><a href="https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/black-history-month/">https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/black-history-month/</a></p> <p>Visit: National Geographic Kids!</p>
 <p>Make a Your Own Musical Instrument- African Shaker</p> <p><a href="https://makingmulticulturalmusic.wordpress.com/2013/12/04/bead-your-own-african-shaker/">https://makingmulticulturalmusic.wordpress.com/2013/12/04/bead-your-own-african-shaker/</a></p>	 <p>Read Aloud about the Greensboro Sit-Ins and segregation</p>	 <p>Read Aloud: <u>I Am Harriet Tubman</u> with the author, Brad Meltzer</p>	 <p><a href="https://www.crmvet.org/images/posters.htm">https://www.crmvet.org/images/posters.htm</a></p> <p>View these Posters from the 1960's Civil Rights Movement.</p> <p>Then Create your own Poster for Equity.</p>
 <p><a href="#">Make a Martin Luther King Jr. Timeline   Education.com</a></p> <p><a href="#">Martin Luther King Jr for Kids   Biography Video - YouTube</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.   BrainPOP - YouTube</a></p> <p>Make a timeline of Martin Luther King's important life events.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Make Your Own Kente Cloth   Education.com</a></p> <p>Create your own colorful Kente Cloth!</p>	 <p><a href="#">Civil Rights Leaders - PebbleGo</a></p> <p>Go to Pebble Go and learn about Civil Rights Leaders!</p> <p>Then write a letter to a family member or a friend telling them about their important contributions.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Fun Facts about Dr Mae C Jemison (Celebrating Black History for Students) - YouTube</a></p> <p><a href="#">mae-jemison-mini-book.pdf (education.com)</a></p> <p><a href="#">the-star-mae-jemison.pdf (education.com)</a> Watch a video and make a mini book!</p>



Our Kids Heart Challenge program has come to a close and we are so grateful for your support and dedication!

A heartfelt thank you to our Rodgers Forge Elementary School families for your engagement and involvement in any way you were able! We are so grateful for what you have helped our community achieve. We are thrilled announce that our school had:

**106** Families engaged in Kids Heart Challenge

**25** Families completing Finn's Lifesaving Mission

**\$11,648.11** was raised to support the American Heart Association

**We are proud of our partnership with the American Heart Association and their impact in our local community including:**

- The tobacco buying age
- Nutrition access
- CPR Trainings

Thank you for being a Heart Hero and helping our school and the American Heart Association create longer healthier lives!



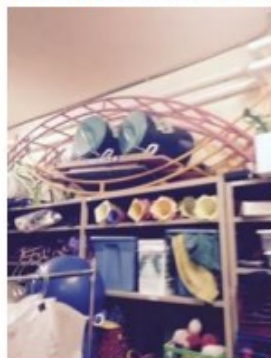
During the week of **March 10<sup>th</sup> - March 14<sup>th</sup>**, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in a very special and exciting program, "5<sup>th</sup> Grade Ballroom Stars." Dr. Caryn Lutz, a professional ballroom dancer, will be at Rodgers Forge to teach our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students a variety of dances including the Merengue, Tango, Swing, and Cha-Cha. This program aligns with the Physical Education curriculum and will count towards each student's Physical Education grade.



All 5<sup>th</sup> graders will attend the dance program each day during special area time. Students will receive 4 lessons then on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a culminating event for parents to attend and participate with the entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade that will begin approximately at 9:10 am in the R.F.E.S Gym.

## HELP NEEDED!!!

I will be setting up the Movement Education Equipment on April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00pm until 4pm . 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 [bcelenza@bcps.org](mailto:bcelenza@bcps.org)



## Sports Day

(Volunteers Needed-Info will be in April Chronicles)

May 29, 2025- grades K-2 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

May 30, 2025- grades 3-5 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Tug of War- 2:30 pm

Best, Mrs. Celenza



# March Is Music In Our Schools Month!

This year the theme is....



For 40 years, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) has 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 we are **"United Through Music"**. This is the theme of the 2025 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.*

## 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



**March 11, 2025, 6:30-8**, will be our school **STEAM Night**. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade performers will be sharing their talents at the **COFFEEHOUSE**. Stop by to check out the artwork, listen and enjoy performances as you 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 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 \$191 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/>





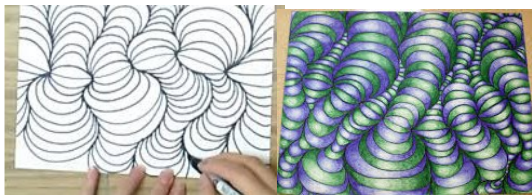
**Look for your child's exciting artwork up on display in the school as you come visit during STEAM night!**

**Grade 5 artists will be finishing their Graffiti Name Compositions during the month of March. Students are 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 will be finishing their Optical Art Drawing Unit. They 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade artists are continuing to learn all about the art element of value, as they learn how to use chalk pastel to create the illusion of 3 dimensional snow spheres for their Snow People Chalk Pastel Drawing. These artists will be adding hats, scarves, and other objects to their drawings.**



**Grade 1 artists are beginning to create their Fish Prints. First grade students are etching their fish drawings into styrofoam print blocks. After completing their print blocks, students will be using a brayer and ink to create a series of prints.**

**Kindergarten artists were creating Snow Flake Prints with Radial Symmetry as they used found-objects to create their prints.**



**Ms. Kotapish [kkotapish@bcps.org](mailto:kkotapish@bcps.org)**

## March Green School Minute

### RFES is Keeping It Green!



In February, our Green School Council started planning for Earth Week, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, with our Green School Earth Day Fair on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 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 [mparis3@bcps.org](mailto:mparis3@bcps.org) and we will work with you to see how you can help present on this special day.

Green School is also working with our STEAM Night team to have an engineering challenge using recyclable materials. We could use cardboard boxes, small, like tissue size, cereal boxes, or cracker boxes as donations for the night. We would also use cylinders, such as cardboard tubes, bottles, or cups that would be easy to cut and transform. Look for more information from our STEAM Night team.

With Spring around the corner, here are some ideas to do with your family as we start having a little warmer weather.

<https://childsplayabc.wordpress.com/2025/01/20/spring-activity-ideas/>



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>

In March we will begin a new plastic bag recycling program, sponsored through the Trex company. Bags will be collected, weighed, and submitted. If we can collect 1000 pounds in a year, we can earn a free Trex garden bench! Be looking for more information once we receive our plastic recycling bins. Thanks!



## ***Special Education Tip and Resources for March 2025***

### **Extended School Year Services (ESY)**

#### **What are Extended School Year Services?**

Extended School Year is specialized instruction or related services in a child's IEP. If your child receives ESY services, they're free of charge to you. ESY services are not the same thing as summer school. ESY services are provided when school is not typically in session. The services are individualized to help each child maintain skills and not lose the progress made toward goals.

#### **Who is eligible for ESY?**

Extended School Year (ESY) isn't guaranteed for all students who have IEPs because not all students with IEPs need ESY services.

#### **What does an IEP team consider to determine ESY services?**

If your child is eligible, the IEP team may talk about ESY services. The main issues the team looks at are regression (losing skills) and recoupment (the time needed to relearn skills). Some questions the team considers are:

- Will your child lose critical skills without continued support and teaching?
- Will it take a long time for your child to regain those skills — longer than it would take a child without a learning difference?

#### **How can kids get help during the summer?**

Not all students will qualify for Extended School Year (ESY) services. It's important to remember that ESY is not the only option for helping your child continue their learning. You can also reinforce your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals at home or explore various summer camps and programs.

#### **[Reinforcing your child's IEP goals over the summer | GreatSchools](#)**

Check out these community resources:

**[Balto Co Parks and Rec Summer Program Catalog](#)**

**[Baltimore Fishbowl | Baltimore Fishbowl's 2025 Guide to Summer Camps - Register for Y Camp | The Y in Central Maryland](#)**

**Please take the MD Special Education Survey linked below:**

**[Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey](#)**

## Upcoming Events for Families of Special Education

### **SECAC Virtual Meeting**

March 3rd, 7:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

[SECAC](#)

### **Special Education Resource Fair**

March 5th, 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

Northwest Academy of Health Sciences

4627 Old Court Road

Pikesville, Maryland 21208

### **Autism Caregiver Support Group**

Guest presenter: Family Support Services

March 7th, 12:00 p.m. -1:30

[Google Link](#)

### **Understanding Your Child's IEP Workshop**

March 14th, 11:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

[Register by emailing](#)



# MARCH

**Towson Branch**  
320 York Road Towson, MD 21204  
410-887-6166

**SAT  
1**

## INSTRUMENT TRIAL DAY

**10-12 p.m. • All Ages**

Engage in hands-on discovery where professional music educators from The Music Space provide various musical instruments to explore in a fun, supportive environment.

**THU  
6**

## MEET WITH BCPS BIRTH TO FIVE SERVICES

**11-11:30 a.m. • Birth - 5 years old**

Learn about early intervention and special education programs provided by Baltimore County Public Schools Birth to Five Services. A bilingual representative is available at this program for Spanish-speaking families.

**SAT  
15**

## SELF DEFENSE FOR TEENS

**10:30-11:30 a.m. • Tween & Teen**

Join Rob Sullivan of Baltimore Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and learn basic self-defense skills. Teens can use these tactics to build confidence, awareness, and decision-making skills.



**ALL  
AGES**

## PAWS TO READ

**Friday, March 14th • 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 22nd • 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Stop in and read to one of our therapy dogs. Call the Towson Branch to reserve your spot.



**EVERY  
WEEK**

## WEDNESDAY FUN DAYS

**10:30-11:30 a.m. • All Ages**

Join us every Wednesday for a fun and engaging program! All ages welcome.

1st Wednesday: Playful Pals

2nd Wednesday: Music and Movement

3rd Wednesday: Build With Us

4th Wednesday: Early Literacy

**EVERY  
WEEK**

## STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY

**10:30-11 a.m.**

Every Tuesday: Baby Story Time • Birth -12 months

Every Thursday: Family Story Time • Birth - 5 years

# MARCH

**Towson Branch**  
320 York Road Towson, MD 21204  
410-887-6166

**TUE  
4**

## B.Y.O.C. - BRING YOUR OWN CRAFT

**6:30-7:30 p.m. • Adult**

Do you sew, knit, bead, scrapbook or do another handicraft? Join a community of fellow crafters. Chat and make friends while you work on your latest project. All levels of experience welcome.



**SAT  
8**

## CRAFTING AT THE MOVIES - MATILDA (1996)

**2-3:30 p.m. • Teen & Adult**

Join us for a cozy, lights-on screening of Matilda. Feel free to bring your own project and craft in comfort with Matilda Wormwood and Miss Honey. Light refreshments available.

**SUN  
9**

## AN AFTERNOON WITH THE BALTIMORE FLUTE CHOIR

**3-4:30 p.m. • All Ages**

Hear several selections from the flute choir's repertoire during this afternoon of musical entertainment.



**BALTIMORE COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**WED  
5**

## BE SPICY - RACY ROMANCE BOOK CLUB

**6:30-8 p.m. • Adult**

Are you a spicy romance reader who wants to connect with other romance fans? Each month, discuss a new spicy read. This month's selection is *Neon Gods* by Katee Robert.

**WED  
12**

## TRIVIA NIGHT

**6:30-7:30 p.m. • Adult**

Have fun and compete to win prizes with other trivia fans.

**SAT  
29**

## JIGSAW PUZZLE AND BOARD GAME SWAP

**2-3 p.m. • Adult**

Tired of your old jigsaw puzzles and board games? Looking for something new for those rainy days at home? Bring your gently used puzzles and board games to the branch for a community exchange. Board games and puzzles should contain all pieces.



**bcpl.info**



**Towson Branch**

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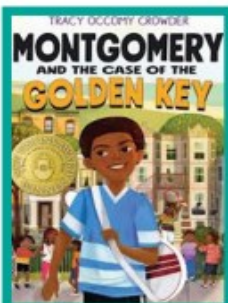
**BALTIMORE COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

    [bcpl.info](http://bcpl.info)



# Elementary and Middle Battle of the Books Meet the Author

## Tracy Ocomy Crowder



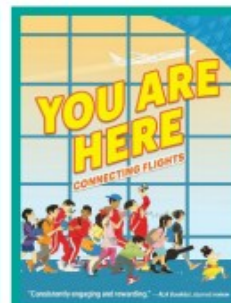
### **Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key**

Saturday, March 8

Catonsville Branch • 10 a.m.\*

Rosedale Branch • 2 p.m.\*

## Ellen Oh



### **You Are Here: Connecting Flights**

Saturday, March 15

Perry Hall Branch • 11 a.m.

Towson Branch • 2 p.m.\*

## Misty Wilson



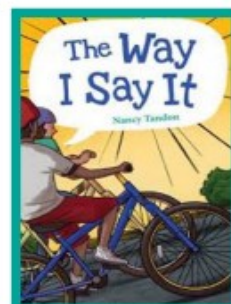
### **Play Like a Girl: A Graphic Memoir**

Saturday, April 12

Loch Raven Branch • 11 a.m.

Towson Branch • 2 p.m.

## Nancy Tandon



### **The Way I Say It**

Saturday, April 26

Woodlawn Branch • 11 a.m.\*

Cockeysville Branch • 2 p.m.

*\*Please note dates, times and locations of author appearances have been updated.*