




October

- 2 Coffee and Connect 9:15 AM
- 3 Schools closed for Students / PD for Teachers
- 4 Spirit Day
- 17 Generations Day 9:15 AM
- 17 Individual Picture Make-up Day 12:00 PM
- 18 Schools Closed for Students and Teachers
- 20 Schools Closed for Students/PD for Teachers
- 21-24 Red Ribbon Week
- 22 Parent Workshop 6:30 PM
- 25 College Gear Day
- 25 PTA Grade 3-5 Dance 6:00-8:00 PM
- 29 SWAG Shop
- 31 PTA Parent Breakfast 8:45-9:15 AM
- 31 Halloween Parade 9:15 AM
- 31 House Party
- 31 3-Hour Early Dismissal / 1st Marking Period Ends
- 1 Schools Closed for Students –
- 
- PD for Teachers
- 5 Election Day – School and Office Closed
- 7 DEI Meeting 6:00 PM
- 13 Coffee and Connect 9:15 AM
- 14 Report Cards Distributed/PTA Meeting 6:30 PM/SIT
- 18-22 American Education Week
- 19 Elementary Schools Closed for students for Conference Day
- 22 College Gear Day
- 27 Pie Run
- 27 Schools & Office Close 3-hours Early
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday

Rodgers Forge Chronicles

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

Principal's Greeting

October 2024

Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

September was full of events that highlighted our amazing Rodgers Forge **"community"**!

I enjoyed connecting with parents from the **community** at our first "Coffee and Connect" of the year. We will continue to host these opportunities to connect with families to gain insights and clarify anything about our wonderful school. **The next "Coffee and Connect" will be October 2nd at 9:15 am.** It will be in a hybrid format, so you can attend in person (and we will provide you with coffee) OR attend virtually (and enjoy your own coffee!).

We had many families from the **community** cheer on our Pinwheels for Peace Parade and welcome our kindergarten and new students at our first **Peacemaker House Party**. Later that evening, our Ice Cream Social was another exciting event that involved our RFES **community**. It was neat to see families enjoying a picnic dinner and a "sweet treat". The "Sweet Treat" raffle, organized by the RFES staff, was very popular. Congratulations to the winners of each basket! A special thanks to the PTA for organizing everything and the Towson University volleyball team for being our "celebrity scoopers"!

On October 17th we will be opening our doors to "special guests" of our RFES community for Generations Day! This RFES tradition is a very special day for our students, as well as our teachers. Please see the flyer that is in *The Chronicles* for additional information.

On October 22nd at 6:30 pm, we will be hosting several informational workshops for our parent community. Parents will be able to choose 3 workshops to attend. While parents are attending the workshops, students are welcome to join RFES staff members in doing some fun, collaborative CORE activities.

And.....it would not be October in Rodgers Forge without the **Halloween Parade!!!!** We hope to see many **community** members along our parade route on the morning of October 31st. **The fun begins for parents at 8:45 with a PTA parent breakfast in the back of the school.** This event will include coffee and sweet treats for those who arrive early to watch the parade. Students will line up on the hard court at 9:15 to begin the parade. We will walk across the fields to Stevenson Lane and then turn right onto Old Trail, then right onto Heathfield and finish walking down Dumbarton Road. Please remember to submit the permission slip for the Halloween Parade so your child can participate. A hard copy of the permission slip will go home with students and there is also a copy in *The Chronicles*. If you do not want your child to participate in the parade, we will have fun, alternative activities available to them in the building during the parade. *I wonder what the teachers will dress up as this year??*

#RFESStrong

Michele Rowland, Principal

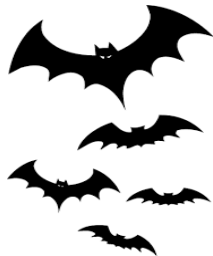
Drop-Off, Pick-up and Parking Lot Safety Reminders

- 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!



October Wicked Writing Contest

Write if you DARE...



The RFES Literacy Committee is excited to announce that we will be hosting our favorite fall writing contest again this year!

Students in ALL grades have the option to write a spooky story OR a mystery.

Submit your *school appropriate*, bone-chilling story by Friday, October 25th.

Entries should be placed in the cauldron outside of Ms. Day's room. Submissions may be typed or handwritten.

Please **include your name, grade level and homeroom teacher** on the submission.

The Literacy Committee will announce the winners on announcements on Halloween morning.

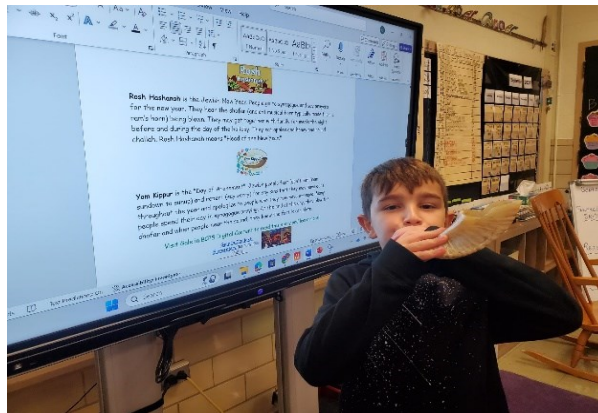
Happy Writing ~ Ms. Day



RFES



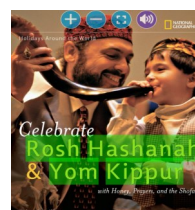
Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. People go to synagogue and say prayers for the new year. They hear the shofar (ancient musical horn typically made from a ram's horn) being blown. They may get together with family for meals the night before and during the day of the holiday. They eat apples and honey and round challah. Rosh Hashanah means "Head of the New Year."



4th grader, Griffin, shared his family's shofar in class. He demonstrated the different ways to blow the shofar.

Yom Kippur is the "Day of Atonement". Jewish people fast (don't eat from sundown to sunup) and repent (say sorry) for any sins that they may have done throughout the year and apologize to people who they may have wronged. Many people spend their day in synagogue praying. At the end of the day, they blow the shofar and when people hear the sound, they know the fast is complete.

Visit [Gale in BCPS Digital Content](#) to read this story and learn more!



News from the Counselor's Corner



WE ARE PEACEMAKERS!

OCTOBER VIRTUE

The virtue for the month of October is COOPERATION. "Cooperation is working together and sharing the load. When we cooperate, we join with others to do things that cannot be done alone. We are willing to follow the rules which keep everyone safe and happy. Together we can accomplish great things."

MAGNET SCHOOLS

Below you will find information dates pertaining to applying to the middle school's magnet programs for our current fifth grade students.

- **Magnet Application Information Meetings and Showcase Events** – Details on online Magnet Brochure
- **November 1st** – Online application DEADLINE at 1 p.m.



OCTOBER LESSONS



During October, classroom lessons will address the topic of bullying and the importance of being an upstander. We will explore the definition of bullying and discuss how it differs from peer conflict.

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 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. Sometimes schools send the teacher referral form electronically. *If this is the case, please provide the classroom teacher's e-mail address and not mine.*
- 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 to the private school by the appropriate deadline (for most schools that is January 9th or 15th), please send in your request by December 9th. ***All requests that are turned in after December 9th cannot be guaranteed to be sent out by January 15th.***

Lisa Ludwig, NCC

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA

We hope everyone had a great first month of school! We loved seeing all the smiling faces at the Ice Cream Social last month.

Winter Greens will go on sale late October/early November. Keep an eye out for email communication about the annual sale.

We're looking forward to the annual PTA Parent Breakfast ahead of the Halloween Parade this year! We hope you'll join us behind the school from 8:45-9:15 for a quick bite before we see all our favorite kiddos in their costumes. Keep an eye out for ongoing volunteer opportunities and as always you can reach out to volunteerVP@rogersforgepta.org for more information.

Looking ahead:

Oct.

3- No School

17- Generations Day 9:15 am

25- 3rd-5th Grade Dance

31- PTA Parent Breakfast 8:45-9:15 am

Nov.

7- DEI Meeting 6 pm

October 2024 Chronicles – Health Suite

Heads Up – 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, 2024, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., each day. They will be testing all 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.

Know your child's number! Please take a few minutes to read an excellent article, CDC Updates Blood Lead Reference Value, <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/php/news-features/updates-blood-lead-reference-value.html>. Helpful and important information for parents and your children!

I recently sent home an information sheet to help parents decide when to keep their child home and when they are ready to go back to school. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY! This helps our school community stay healthy and reduces the risk of spreading illness. Thank you!

Fall is upon us.....which means time for RSV, COVID and this year's strain of flu vaccines. Please consult with your child's care provider about timing and administration of these vaccines to help your child get through the late fall and winter without contracting any of these illnesses. These particular illnesses can cause lots of sickness, absences from school and are easily spread to other family members. If you have a very young baby or toddler or a family member over age 65, residing in your household, getting your student's vaccines taken care of can help stop the spread of illnesses to these most vulnerable in our population.

A reminder – the newest information from Health Services states masks for illness are no longer mandated, however; I wanted to let all parents know I have child sized masks in the health suite should you or your child need one.

Now for a fun and healthy recipe from my favorite children's recipes website, HealthyChildren.Org - Baked Honey Mustard Chicken Fingers, <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/nutrition/chop-chop-magazine/Pages/Recipe-Baked-Honey-Mustard-Chicken-Fingers.aspx> Hope you enjoy them!

HAPPY ALMOST HALLOWEEN! PLEASE DON'T OVERDO IT ON THE CANDY! Good advice for Nurse Mary too, who loves Milky Ways.....

Nurse Mary



October Library Update!

Hello everyone, from the place filled with the best spooky books in all the land, the Rodgers Forge library! Welcome to one of the most fun and exciting months of the school year, and one filled with more great library units and lessons in our awesome library! We are super-excited as we wait for the arrival of some great books from the year's first book order!



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!

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://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/1966>

October Lesson Focus – Digital Citizenship




In October, our library units are in the middle of a focus on Digital Citizenship! These are the skills your student will need to navigate the online world in which we live. Topics like balancing your time with media, the digital footprint you leave behind when you go online, and proper digital behavior and etiquette are just a few of the topics we are covering!






STAYING IN TOUCH

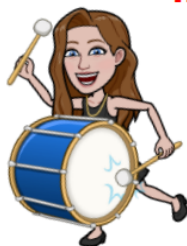



Remember, if you have any questions, or need to contact me for any reason, you can email me at pholden@bcps.org! Let's enjoy the trip across the game board and have a great school year together!!!!



Instrumental lessons for 5th graders have begun! This month, students are learning how to assemble their instruments, sit in “Musician Position,” and make their first sounds! They are taking their first steps in the lifelong process of music-making.



In 4th grade Exploratory Music Class, students have been exploring “The Science of Sound” by learning about vibration, soundwaves, frequency, and pitch. Students have created their very own pan flutes! In our next unit, we will be learning about the family of instruments called “Brass.”





**- Mrs. Sherman
Instrumental Music**



Donations of Recyclable Materials

Fourth graders will be participating in a project in January that involves building instruments from recycled materials. Please start saving recyclable materials! If you can donate some to exploratory music, please send them in with your child. Thank you! adickerson3@bcps.org





Musical Greetings,

We have been busy singing and making music. We are exploring vibration, beat, rhythm, meter and opposites in our music.

We celebrated *Pinwheels For Peace* with the whole school singing our **Teaching Peace** song. A student from each house shared thoughts about being respectful and responsible and we sorted our kindergarten students. It was a great event.

Fourth graders are reviewing note reading and are starting our recorder unit, so bring recorders to school. **Chorus Club**, for those who signed up, will be starting on October 15th.

If you have not done so yet, consider downloading the free **Box Tops for Education** app and scan your receipts to earn money for the RFES music program. So far this year we have earned \$72.00.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sing-cerely,

Mrs. Lisa Tierney ltierney@bcps.org

Save these Date: Concert Connections

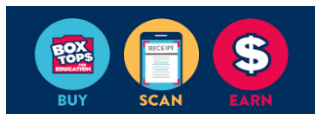
Fifth graders will participate in our Winter and Spring Concerts. The chorus, band and orchestra will be featured at both events. Concert attire will be white shirts and dark pants or skirts. More information will be sent home before the concert dates.

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

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 and comfortable shoes.



Any day can be a Box Top Day!



Our music department and all Rodgers Forge students benefit from the Box Tops For Education Program.

Please download the free **Box Tops** app and scan your receipts from the grocery store, Target, and Walmart...wherever you buy Box Tops products!

Use the link or QR code for more information! <https://www.boxtops4education.com/>

Wow, we are off and running in P.E. this school year. As we enter October, we will be outside if the weather cooperates. Please have your child wear **tennis shoes** and **bring water bottle**, hair pulled back/up to not interfere with vision, and wear comfortable clothing for climbing, tumbling, and moving each day they have P.E. Also, please make sure that shoes fit properly and have good traction. During recess wearing **flips flops, Crocs and open-toed shoes** are **not recommended** for the playground equipment or P.E. Class. Wearing this type of footwear may impact your child's ability to participate in some activities.

Upcoming Events

- 3rd Annual Pie Run Nov. 27th
- Jump Rope for Heart February 28, 2025
- Ballroom Dancing (5th grade)-March 10, 2025-March 14, 2025
- Movement Education Equipment March 2025
- Sports Day
May 30, 2024- grades K, 1, and 2
May 31, 2024- grades 3, 4, and 5



R.F.E.S. 3rd Annual Pie Run



November 27th
Time/Grade Level TBD



Mrs. Celenza and R.F.E.S. staff are seeking monetary or pie donations to hold a lottery style prize drawing for any students who participate in the pie run!

The administration, teachers, and PTA of RFES are fully committed to increasing the physical health of each child attending Rodgers Forge Elementary School. This school year the teachers and administration are continuing to plan events that promote togetherness and living a healthy lifestyle. We have solicited the help of the PTA to assist with the support of prizes for students who participate as runner or event coordinator.

If you know of or have a **local business** that would be interested in donating, we will make sure our school community families know of their support. We will include the business sponsor with signs at the event (if a monetary donation or commitment for a pie donation is received by 11/15) which will also be showcased on social media and our school website in addition to our monthly school newsletter.

Also, if an R.F.E.S. family is interested in donating a store baked pie or a pizza pie gift certificate, that would be amazing support of this 3rd annual event.

Donation Sign Up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094FAAAA2CA31-45549739-pierun>

Donations can be dropped off at school on **11/26**.

Any questions please reach out to Mrs. Celenza at bcelenza@bcps.org.

Thanks for your support as the students are super excited for this ANNUAL event at R.F.E.S.!



Thanks for your support!
Mrs. Celenza



October Green School Minute

RFES is Keeping It Green!

We are excited to start up our Green School Council this month. So far, we have about 30 interested students. It is so encouraging to have so many students who want to learn and do more to help our earth! We will begin meeting this month and collect ideas from members about upcoming projects.

If you are new to RFES, we are a Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education certified school. You can read more about this association here: <https://www.maeoe.org/what-we-do/maryland-green-schools-program/> Although we have a club with students who are actively involved in "green" projects throughout the year, we encourage all RFES students and families to help our community be "Green" through recycling, reducing waste, and helping our environment be the best it can be!

Community is an important part of our Green School. We are hoping to have involved community members share their expertise with our group to encourage and teach us more about sustainability and healthy choices for the earth. If you have an expertise you would like to share, please email me at mparis3@bcps.org and I will reach out to see how we can work together. Be watching for more information once our Green School Council starts meeting in October, with ideas from the students.



As the fall weather moves in, be sure to enjoy time out in nature with your family. Here are some ideas to do with your children at home while spending family time outside. <https://www.kidscreativechaos.com/2018/09/go-green-with-6-eco-friendly-kid.html>



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. At recess this week, we collected three pounds of trash after Movie Night. What a great way to have students feel empowered to keep our school grounds clean!

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/environment/cleangreen/cleangreen15.html>



Art Room News!



RFES students participated in their Pinwheels for Peace Parade. What an amazing event! This is an annual tradition here at RFES in which the students get the opportunity to share with their friends, family and community what “peace” means to them.

As we continue into October, young artists are beginning their next exciting Art Units!

Grade 5 artists have started creating their 3-dimensional donut sculpture using an armature and paper mache as their art medium. Students are inspired by artists; Claes Oldenberg, Peter Anton, Lisa Friedman and Brenda Chapman. Fifth grade artists are using observation to try to create their Donut Sculpture as realistically as possible.

Grades 4 artists are beginning their 12-color Color Wheel Self Portrait Silhouette composition. Forth grade students will be using only the three primary colors to create all the colors in their color wheels.

Grade 3 students will be selecting a flower to render from observation. Grade 3 artists have just begun to learn some art techniques (such as using a viewfinder), to begin 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.



Grade 2 artists are exploring how artists show and create the illusion of space by using over/underlapping, size variation, and placement on the paper. These young artists will be creating a landscape painting of Birch Trees.



Grades 1 is learning to use rulers to create the straight lines in their compositions. Ask your first grade child to explain the difference between a straight horizontal and straight

vertical line. Throughout the month, students will be learning painting techniques as they create their wonderful Nonobjective Primary-colored Art Paintings.



Kindergarten students are inspired by the works of Japanes Yayoi Kusama, as they explore a variety of art media to 3D-looking Polka Dot Pumpkin Compositions.

Also happening at school:

The Art Helper Club will be working on some amazing after-school compositions.

All children are off to a Wonderful Start here in the RFES ART ROOM! 😊

Ms. Kotapish kkotapish@bcps.org



**artists,
create their**



The 2024 Halloween Parade



The Halloween Parade, a treasured tradition in the Rodgers Forge community, will take place this year on Thursday, October 31st beginning at 9:15. Students should **WEAR** their costume to school that day since the parade will take place in the morning, right after the announcements. Since school will be open for a half day, students are encouraged to bring a change of clothes to be more comfortable after the parade.

The parade route will start at the hard court; then, students will walk to Stevenson Lane, turn right onto Old Trail, right on Heathfield, another right onto Dumbarton, and end in front of the school. We hope many parents/guardians will line the parade route to "cheer" on our students.

Since we are leaving the school grounds, parent permission is necessary. **Students may not participate in the parade without a permission slip.** Classroom teachers, parents, administrators, and staff members will join the parade to supervise the students. If parents do not want their children to participate in the Halloween Parade, they will remain at school for a fun fall activity with a teacher.

Please review the following guidelines when choosing a costume with your child for the school Halloween Parade:



"Look- alike" weapons will **not** be allowed, since this would violate BCPS Behavior Policy. **Non-violent** characters would be more suitable to the elementary age child.



Heavy make-up should be saved for trick or treating in the evening and is not appropriate for the school parade.



Make sure that your child is able to walk safely in their costume. Re-consider using Halloween masks that may hinder your child's ability to see when walking along the parade route. Scary masks may frighten young children and are not appropriate for a school parade.

CHECK, SIGN AND RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Student: _____

Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

_____ My child may participate in the Halloween Parade on October 31st.

_____ I would prefer that my child remain at school and participate in a fun fall activity with a teacher.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

