Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

Can you believe that it is JUNE already!! As we close out the 2022-2023 school year, I have some good-byes to share. Ms. Daffron, in the front office, will be retiring from BCPS this year. She is excited to spend more time with all her grandchildren! Ms. Dippel, who has taught kindergarten, first, second and third grade at the Forge will be starting a new adventure at Hampton Elementary. Ms. Menzies, in special education, will be increasing to full-time and transferring to Summit Park Elementary School and Ms. Rosenberg will be moving to Padonia Elementary School to be a math resource teacher. Additionally, Ms. Bilcheck is moving to Columbia where she will be teaching Spanish to students in first through sixth grade. We will miss all these amazing staff members that have touched the lives of many over the years!

We are also saying good-bye to some of our PTA Board members. Thank you to Ms. Mumford, Ms. Seidel, Ms. Hill and Ms. Dobbs for ALL of your work and support of the PTA! We welcome new PTA Board members Ms. Roosth, Ms. Pederson, Ms. Burgoyne. Ms. Haslam and Ms. Besold for the 2023-24 school year.

We would like to CONGRATULATE our amazing fifth grade students as they prepare to move on to MIDDLE SCHOOL!! On June 13th, we will celebrate the end of their elementary career. We will miss each of these amazing students and look forward to hearing about the wonderful things that they accomplish in middle school. We hope that they come back to visit!

It has been an honor and a blessing to have the opportunity to lead such an amazing school as Rodgers Forge this year. I could not have done it without the support of our incredible staff and school community. I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing summer! I look forward to seeing everyone in August!

RFESstrong,

Michele Rowland, Principal
LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023-24

MISSING THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: Report cards and school materials for those students absent on the last day of school, June 13th, can be picked up in the front office over the summer. Report cards cannot be given to students prior to June 13th and will not be mailed home.

YEARBOOKS: The 2022-2023 Yearbook will be distributed in the fall. Many thanks to Yearbook Advisors, Ms. Krafft and Ms. Piunti and the student Yearbook Crew that took pictures, did editing and layouts to put together memories of such an amazing year. We plan to invite 5th graders moving on to middle school next year back to RFES in the fall to receive their books at a special autograph session after school with teachers and fellow classmates.

HOMEROOM ASSIGNMENTS: As we have learned over the years, things can change over the summer. Therefore, homeroom assignments will not be placed on the final report card. This information will be shared over the summer.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: The school supply list can be found in your child’s report card envelope. The lists will also be posted on our school’s website.

DEVICES: Students will keep their devices at home over the summer if they continue to stay at RFES or another Baltimore County Public School. If moving, devices and chargers will be collected the last week of school.

SUMMER HOURS: Rodgers Forge will be open throughout the summer months, except for June 19 and July 4. Office hours will be 8:00-3:30, Monday through Friday.

SUMMER REGISTRATION: If you have new neighbors moving in during the summer months, please encourage them to contact the school to register their child(ren) as soon as they possibly can!

HAVE A SAFE, RESTFUL, AND FUN-FILLED SUMMER!
Nurse Mary Messages

Almost at the end of another school year! I am sure everyone has lots of plans for their summer. Please include LOTS of sunscreen on both your child’s skin and their lips, try to get them to wear a hat when outdoors as well as sunglasses. Our climate is getting warmer and warmer all the time and the long-term predictions for this summer in our area are HOT, HOT, HOT! So please protect your children and yourself!

I found a great article about helping your child succeed in elementary school. https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/school-help-elementary.html I thought it was very well thought out. Hope it is of some help to some parents/families.

I also wanted to share a terrific kid friendly pizza recipe, https://www.superhealthykids.com/healthy-homemade-pizza/

I made this with my very picky twin granddaughters, and they love it!

As spring unfolds and summer approaches, please be safety conscious. Ask your children to buckle up every single time they are in your car. Make sure they wear helmets when riding bikes or scooters, keep an eye out for bees who seem to find the most interesting places to build their nests! I once found a wasp’s nest that had been built inside the rubberized handle of tree trimmers. They got in through a tiny hole in the handle! Glad I had gloves on that day!

If you are looking for an interesting day trip, try the website, Only In Maryland. I subscribed to their website and they send me articles about every other day on fascinating places in our beautiful State of Maryland, some close by, some farther away, but usually places that can be visited in a day. So much to explore and see, almost right in your own backyard!

On a different topic, I have noticed an uptick in conjunctivitis cases lately. Conjunctivitis, or as it is commonly referred to as pink eye, can affect a child in several different ways. Bacterial conjunctivitis has been the one I have seen the most of. It is highly contagious. It can be caused by several common types of bacteria such as Staph and Strep, among others. It usually requires an antibiotic eye drop to clear it up. Please encourage your child to wash their hands frequently. A telltale sign is any kind of white or yellow drainage you see in their eyes, usually in the corners, especially in the morning, that coats their eyelashes and almost makes the eyelashes stick together. Thankfully it is usually a quick and easy fix with doctor prescribed antibiotic eye drops! Please get your pediatrician to write a note of some kind you can bring to the school nurse stating when they can return to school that is dated and signed.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer.

Nurse Mary 😊
Directions for online registration

Go to www.bcps.org

Click on “Register your child”
Click on “Focus Parent 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.

- Proof of residency such a deed/mortgage statement or updated rental agreement if you rent your home
- Three (3) pieces of legal mail, such as BGE, phone, water bill etc.
- Parent photo ID, must match current address or current Passport
- Child’s birth certificate or Passport
- Copy of immunizations.
Summer Reading Challenge

All Together Now

June 3 through August 26

Celebrate kindness, friendship and unity with this year’s Summer Reading Challenge, “All Together Now.” Children of all ages can join the challenge and log their reading on Beanstack or a paper game board. Read for 10 hours to pick up a completion prize and enter in prize drawings!

Visit the library this summer for fun and engaging programs where you can connect with others through science, art, culture, music and dance. Programs include:

- Japanese Drumming with Mark H. Rooney
- Intro to West African Culture with Kofi Dennis
- Mexican Folk Dance with Bailes de Mi Tierra
- Art Workshop with Arturo Ho
- Classical Indian Dance with Prakriti Dance and more
Virtue of the Month
The virtue for the month of June is moderation. "Moderation is creating a healthy balance in your life between work and play, rest and exercise. You don't overdo or get swept away by the things you like. You use your self-discipline to take charge of your life and your time. You practice moderation when you:

- Get enough of what you need, no more no less
- Use self-discipline to stop yourself from overdoing
- Balance work and play in your life
- Know your own limits and set boundaries for yourself
- Are content with enough"

I can't believe the school year is rapidly coming to a close!

May was a busy month where students persevered through standardized testing and classwork. As always, I appreciate all of the support you have provided to the counseling program this year. I look forward to your feedback and input as we work together for the best interests of the students at RFES. Have a safe and happy summer!

Here are some fun summer road trip games to play taken from the Scholastic article Creative Summer Learning Ideas By Samantha Cleaver:

For grades K–3:
Car bingo: Create a car bingo card with words, shapes, colors, and items that children will likely see during a trip (stop signs, billboards, railroad signs, etc.) to reinforce reading skills, math, and sight words.

The number game: Look out the window and call out when you see one, two, three, or four of something, and so on.

The alphabet game: One person chooses the right side of the road, and the other chooses the left. Call out objects that you see in alphabetical order (you can use a sign only for one letter). The first person to get to the letter "z" wins.

For grades 4–8:
Capital game: Take note of each license plate you see, not by state, but by state capital.
Animals galore: Decide on a number of points for each animal that you see (cow = 1 point, horse = 1 point, pig = 2 points, etc.). As you drive, add up the points. Play until one person gets 10 points, or for a set time.

Math with license plates: Use the numbers on license plates to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and number patterns and see just how creative kids can get!

See you in August!

Lisa Ludwig, NCC
School Counselor
(Lludwig2@bcps.org)

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YEARBOOK NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Dear Families,
Below are the links that you can access to submit pictures for the yearbook. Any pictures from the following events would be greatly appreciated! If for whatever reason the links are not working, please email your pictures to Ms. Krafft at lkraft@bcps.org.

First Day of School Pictures: https://forms.gle/dnm67zBTNeyNES9U6
Sports Day Pictures: https://forms.gle/5a59YuFmg9po2or37
Kona Ice Pictures: https://forms.gle/RAsdAttr9gw8TqJE6
Last Day of School Pictures: https://forms.gle/4CRmHv9td1byPfa8A
Stoneleigh Lanes Pictures: https://forms.gle/1Z1nEJdigAohpwYi7
Fifth Grade Farewell Pictures: https://forms.gle/1LH5RTJhaTpGrYsN7
O's Night Pictures: https://forms.gle/fgyNjCqoxjnM2byd9

Thanks for your help!
I want to thank all the parent volunteers who helped to make our 3 day- **Sports Day Event** a huge success!!
I would not be able to host these fun-filled days without parent volunteers.

The students did an amazing job working together and displaying sportsmanship throughout the entire event.

Hip hip hooray to our P.T.A. for providing popsicles and water balloons for the event.

DON’T FORGET!!! Please continue to submit the Coke Rewards Points from product like Dasani Water, POWERADE and other Coke products at [https://us.coca-cola.com/give/schools/](https://us.coca-cola.com/give/schools/). These points will allow our Physical Education Department to earn new equipment. Thanks for your support!
Looking for a way to keep your children moving this summer. I will be teaming up with 2 P.E. teacher friends this summer to run a 3-week Sports and Games Camp.

Stay active! Recharge your mind and body over the summer!

Thanks, Mrs. Celenza
June Library Update!

Battle Of The Books

Congratulations

The Rodgers Forge Chobani Readers did a great job at the Battle Of The Books regional final at Lutherville ES on May 4th. This team answered game show style questions about 10 award-winning books! They answered an amazing 19 of 20 correctly and took 2nd place in their bracket – Way to go!!!
SUMMER READING TIME!!!!!!

We are super excited for the BCPL Summer Reading Challenge!

Go to www.bcpl.info - Click on the “Youth” tab at the top, then click on Summer Reading Challenge!

All Together Now

June 3 through August 26

Celebrate kindness, friendship and unity with this year’s Summer Reading Challenge, “All Together Now.” Children of all ages can join the challenge and log their reading on Beanstack or a paper game board. Read for 10 hours to pick up a completion prize and enter in prize drawings!

Visit the library this summer for fun and engaging programs where you can connect with others through science, art, culture, music and dance. Programs include:

- Japanese Drumming with Mark H. Rooney
- Intro to West African Culture with Kofi Dennis
- Mexican Folk Dance with Bailes de Mi Tierra
  - Art Workshop with Arturo Ho
- Classical Indian Dance with Prakriti Dance and more

View a list of summer programs.
Register and Play
There are two ways to play.

Play Online with Beanstack
This interactive game board tracks your activity to earn badges for points. Pre-registration is available now; begin earning points on June 3.

Complete a Paper Game Board
Summer Reading Challenge game boards will be available at branches beginning June 3, or download a game board in English (PDF) or download a game board in Spanish (PDF).

Kickoff Event
Join us for the start of Summer Reading on Saturday, June 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arbutus Branch, with a fun day of performances, activities and giveaways. Pick up a game board so you can have fun and learn all summer long!

Prizes and Drawings

Completion Prizes
Complete the challenge by reading for 10 hours and logging your reading on Beanstack or a paper game board.

- Stretchy fidget flower
- Sunshine squeezy toy
  - Slap bracelet
- Book of your choice

Visit any branch by Saturday, August 26 to pick up your completion prize. If you played on a paper game board, bring your completed game board with you.
Prize Drawing

Complete the Summer Reading Challenge to earn five tickets to the prize drawing!

Prizes include:

- Family membership to one of the following:
  - Maryland Science Center
  - Maryland Zoo
  - Port Discovery Children’s Museum
  - National Aquarium
- Nintendo Switch video game system

Choose which prizes your tickets go toward on Beanstack or by filling out the completion form on your paper game board and returning it to any branch.

Drawings will take place on **Monday, August 28**. Winners will be contacted by phone or email by Friday, September 1 and asked to select a branch location to pick up their prize. Please be sure to provide an email address or phone number when registering on Beanstack.

All Together Now T-Shirts

Your commemorative Summer Reading Challenge T-shirt is available for purchase in branches while supplies last. Proceeds benefit the Summer Reading Challenge.

The cost is $7.50 for kids and $8.75 for adults (tax included).

Take-Home Craft Kits

Stop by any branch to pick up a Summer Reading take-home craft kit. Kits will be given out on the following dates on a first-come, first-served basis to customers by request. Kits cannot be reserved ahead of time.

- Saturday, June 3: Rainbow Heart Hanging
- Saturday, July 1: Paper Flower Craft
- Saturday, August 5: Color-Your-Own Puzzle
Summer Meals

Provided by Baltimore County Public Schools and USDA Summer Food Service Program, meals will be available Monday through Friday, from June 26 to August 18.

- Arbutus Branch: Noon
- Essex Branch: 12:30 p.m.
- Lansdowne Branch: 12:30 p.m.
- Loch Raven Branch: 12:30 p.m.
- North Point Branch: 12:30 p.m.
  - Parkville Branch: Noon
- Randallstown Branch: Noon
- Reisterstown Branch: Noon
  - Rosedale Branch: Noon
- White Marsh Branch: Noon
- Woodlawn Branch: 12:30 p.m.

**Important Note:** The lunch program is for youth 18 years old and under and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Meals must be eaten at the branch. The lunch program cannot accommodate groups, such as camps, childcare centers, etc.

Book Fair Wrap-Up!
Dear Parents and Families:

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, May 8th through Friday, May 12th. 25% of all sales go directly to the book budget for the Rodgers Forge Library!! We earned over $2,000 which will go directly to next Fall’s library book order!

Thanks so much to all of our volunteers who helped to make the 2023 Spring Scholastic Book Fair a true success!!!!

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You!

I want to close by saying thanks to all of you who have helped to make the library program a true success story. That story can’t happen without you supporting your students at home, helping them to remember their library books, and reinforcing the joy of exploring great stories and valuable research. I am grateful to you beyond words! Here’s hoping that you have a wonderful summer, enjoy lots of family time, and join the summer reading challenge at BCPL! See you next year!!!
Musical Greetings,

As another year is drawing to a close it is good to take a moment for reflection. Students have grown so much this year. Not just in stature and knowledge but also as musicians. Each class grew together as a caring community when they sang, danced, and played instruments together.

Congratulations to the fifth graders on their spring concert performances. Sharing our music with the entire school this year was a highlight!

This summer take time to continue music experiences-singing, dancing, listening, and creating. Keep practicing your instrument or learn a new one. Third graders will need their recorders again in the fall so don’t lose them.

Baltimore is a musically rich community. I hope you get to take advantage of the many cultural opportunities and make music a part of your summer.

Sing-cerely,

Mrs. Tierney

Vocal Music Teacher

ltierney@bcps.org

Remember to download the free Box Top app and scan your receipts.

Thank you to everyone who downloaded the app and is scanning their receipts for Box Tops. They benefit our music department. So far this year we have earned $194.

Box Tops fund our music program!

Please keep on scanning receipts for box tops. They do add up!
If you are cleaning out closets this summer and come across any instruments that you won’t be using in the future, the RFES music department is happy to accept them.

Please join us for the final PTA meeting on June 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

We are working on an RFES cookbook that will be sold next year as part of a PTA fundraiser. Please send your recipes (up to 5) in the body of an email to lindsay.dorrance@gmail.com. Please include your children’s names and grades next year. We need as many submissions as possible to make this a success!

Congratulations to all our PTA officers for next year!

President: Jessica Roosth  
Executive Vice President: Brittany Pedersen  
Vice President, Volunteers: Laura Burgoyne  
Treasurer: Jeneffer Haslam  
Recording Secretary: Lindsay Dorrance  
Communications Secretary: Brittany Besold

Thank you to everyone for being a part of the PTA and for being so generous with your time and support!
June Events from your Equity Committee

Our Equity Committee would like to remind our community that June is a busy month for Equity!

June is LGBTQ Pride month, Caribbean American Heritage Month, and Juneteenth.

Check out this website if you would like more information about the fun parades and celebrations that are happening around town!

https://www.baltimorepride.org/

Celebrate Juneteenth by coming out to support Baltimore County’s amazing student poets at Carver High School and enjoy music and special guest appearances as well.

Another great way to celebrate Juneteenth is to appreciate some amazing jazz music by attending, Jazz on the Rails at the B & O Railroad Museum Outdoor Pavilion!

Finally, don’t forget about the Caribbean American Heritage month activities. In Washington, DC they will host a Film Festival to celebrate the work of actors, directors, and producers of Caribbean descent. Also, Wheaton, MD will host an outdoor festival on June 24th from 12-6pm. Buy your tickets on Eventbrite.
Lastly, you can visit the Baltimore County Library to celebrate Caribbean Heritage month. The Baltimore County Public Library is showcasing these books from Caribbean Authors!

We hope you will be able to experience some of the great cultural and educational activities that our great city of Baltimore has to offer in the month of June.

Remember to Be Kind,

Your Rodgers Forge Elementary School Equity Committee
This month in...

Exploratory Music

Fourth grade students are choosing what instrument they want to play next year!

All Instrumental Music Sign-Up Forms are due by Friday, June 9th.

Link to Sign-Up Form: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u4KBXvGuDFZkZUfnLFXxepSFb9ocJhWS/view?usp=sharing

Here are the instrument options for next year:

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass

Band: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion

If you have any questions or concerns about the instrumental music program for next year, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Ms. Annemarie Dickerson adickerson3@bcps.org
Here come the Art Portfolios!

Your child can’t wait to show you their art portfolio! Their creations are part of who they are, and you are one of the most important people in your child’s life. Your opinion and support matter a great deal to your child. 😊 Looking at your child’s artwork can give you a glimpse into their heart and mind. If you want your child to think critically and creatively about their art, you could use this opportunity to ask some questions. Taking the time to talk about their work also can help build confidence. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

**DO**

ASK them to tell you about their artwork. Below are some questions that could be asked when discussing your child’s art.

- **COMMENT** on the lines, shapes or colors, etc. that they are using (I see that you are making lots of purple dots. I like how the red paint is mixing with the yellow paint here.)

- **ACKNOWLEDGE** how hard (carefully, enthusiastically, long) they worked on their artwork

**DON’T:**

- Ask “What is that?”
- Say an automatic “That’s pretty” (cool, beautiful)

Other Great Questions to Ask your Child about their Artwork.

- **What can you tell me about your picture/artwork?** This open-ended question is a great way to get kids talking about their art. It is especially good if you cannot tell what the picture is. Nothing worse than saying, “What a lovely horse.” only to have the child tell you it is supposed to be a dog.
• **How did you get the idea for this picture?** By explaining the inspiration, the child recognizes his own creative spark and makes the connection from real-life events to artistic creation. Some students may remember the featured artist or art movement that was introduced with the art unit.

• **What do you like about your picture?** Encourages the child to look carefully at his art and make a judgment. More importantly, this question teaches your child to value his own internal validation rather than performing in hopes of gaining the approval of others.

• **What title would you give this work?** Titles can offer a new dimension to a piece of art. Also, a title encourages your child to think about the main idea or concept of her work.

• **Why did you.....use brown for the sky? Make the girl so much larger than the boy? Use only the bottom of the paper?** Basically ask why the child decided to draw or color a specific element of the work in a particular way. Make sure your tone is neutral – you are asking for clarity, not judging or criticizing the work.

• **How were you feeling when you made this picture?** Connecting emotions with creative expression.

• **How do you hope other people will feel when they look at your picture?** This question allows your child to put himself/herself in another’s position and imagine how his work affects that person. You could also make this question more specific by naming a particular person: How do you think grandma will feel when she looks at your picture? This question is a great question to ask your child if he/she is older.

• **If you could make this picture again, what would you do differently?** Professional artists often make many versions of the same image, trying new things, tweaking, experimenting. Encourage your young artist to do the same.

• **Do ask your child which art compositions they would like to hang up?** Displaying your child’s creations helps to promote confidence. A great place to store the rest of the 2-dimensional portfolio is between the mattress and box spring of your child’s bed. It is out of the way, safe, dry, and flat. It can also be fun time capsule when they re-discovers their portfolio at a later date.

**Have a Great Summer!**
Camp Invention®

MAKE NEW DISCOVERIES THIS SUMMER

This year's all-new program inspires confidence as campers collaborate in creative problem-solving challenges led by qualified educators to bring their biggest ideas to life!

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FOR 2 SIBLINGS
SAVE $40 WITH CODE SIBLOVE40
FOR 3 OR MORE SIBLINGS

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!
Register at INVENT.ORG/CAMP or 800-968-4332

Grades: K - 6th
Location: Rodgers Forge Elementary School
250 Dunbaron Road, Baltimore, MD 21212
Date: June 26 – 30, 2023
Time & Cost: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM | $295 (before discount)
Extended Day Hours Available: 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM | Additional $100
Camp Director: Gregory Rowland | growland@bcps.org

Exciting news for this location: We are offering an Extended Day experience, making our program schedule more convenient for busy families. With Extended Day, your program will run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with an additional cost of $100 per week. To sign up for this program schedule, please select the Extended Day option during checkout.

This organization and its materials are not affiliated with, sponsored by, or endorsed by Baltimore County Public Schools, the Superintendent, or this Baltimore County Public School or office.

REGISTER HERE!

Camp Invention is a nonprofit program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

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**Who?** Current 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students enrolled at RFES

**What?** Summer STEM Camp (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

**Where?** Rodgers Forge Elementary School

**When?** July 10 – August 4

  Monday-Thursday, 8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Why?** To explore exciting science topics through reading, writing, technology, engineering design, math, and hands-on experiences.

**How much?** FREE!

**Questions?** Please contact Melinda Osgood at mosgood@bcps.org

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**RFES Stem Camp Registration Form**

Please return this registration form to your child’s homeroom teacher.

Student Name: __________________________

Parent Name: ___________________________ Parent Email: ___________________________

Current Grade Level: ____________

Homeroom Teacher: _______________________