Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

Although you were unable to visit Rodgers Forge Elementary in person during American Education Week, we hope the posts on social media and videos on our RFES You Tube gave you a virtual opportunity to see all of the great things happening at school! Many thanks for sending in notes to “Jaw” some students! The kids have enjoyed reading the display outside of the office.

It has been great having parents assist during lunch, both inside and out! We really got lucky with warm temperatures up until Thanksgiving. We are looking forward to resuming outdoor dining in the spring. Many thanks again to our volunteers, your time has really made a huge difference in supervising the multiple areas for lunch and we are very appreciative!

This month we look forward to the Winter Music Concert, that will be prerecorded and uploaded for all to enjoy on our You Tube channel by December 14th. Under the musical direction of Ms. Tierney and Ms. Dickerson, the 5th grade students and Chorus Club have been hard at work preparing musical selections to ring in the holidays and celebrate this wintery time of year. I suggest some "Hot... Hot... Hot... Chocolate" while you enjoy the show!

Winter is quickly approaching with the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the colder temperatures. Students continue to go outside for recess whenever possible throughout the winter months. Along with the cold weather comes the prospect of early closings or delayed school openings due to ice, snow, or other emergencies. When the BCPS officials make these decisions, they will be announced on local television and radio stations, as well as the BCPS Twitter and website, http://www.bcps.org

The last day of school before winter break is now a half day, closing at 12:45 pm, on Thursday, December 23rd. We will celebrate the virtue of the month, TRUST, that morning during Peacemaker Houses! Below are two pictures of the student made displays from last Peacemaker House Parties when students discussed responsibility and friendliness.

Schools will reopen on January 3, 2022.

Missy Fanshaw, Principal
Happy Holidays!
CENTRAL AREA EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Serving the Board of Education and the Central Area Community

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Dumbarton Middle School
300 Dumbarton Rd, Baltimore, MD 21212

Topic: BCPS Transportation Matters

Speaker:
Dr. Jess Grim, Director, Office of Transportation
After the presentation, there will be time for questions.
Bring a parent or a friend.

If you live in the Central Area of Baltimore County and are interested in becoming a member of the Central Area Education Advisory Council, please contact Dr. Bash Pharoan, Chair at CentralAreaEAC@gmail.com. Zoom is available.

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89434143722?pwd=MElneGxMccC8wdm5WQzNNUDhVeW9ldz09
WE ARE PEACEMAKERS!
Our virtue for the month of December is trust. Trust is “having faith in someone or something. It is a positive attitude about life. You are confident that the right thing will happen without trying to control it or make it happen. Even when difficult things happen, trust helps us to find the gift or lesson in it.”

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

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

- Please submit the application and the permission to release information forms 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 December 1st. This referral form is sent with your student’s academic transcript so that the private school receives one complete packet of information.
- After December 1st, your student’s teachers will complete the Common Referral Form, which is a confidential document used by most private schools. This form requests information about academic ability, classroom performance, school behavior, and personal abilities.
- Please include a $5.00 check made payable to Rodgers Forge Elementary. This fee will cover the cost of duplicating records, the large mailing envelope, and postage to mail the completed application (please do not send stamped envelopes).
- Please be patient. Allow at least two weeks for our staff to process your application package.
- In order to ensure that your application is to the private school by the appropriate deadline (for most schools that is January 9th or 15th), please send in your request by December 16th. All requests that are turned in after December 16th cannot be guaranteed to be sent out by January 15th.

Lisa Ludwig, NCC
December Green School Minute

Our RFES Green School Council started meeting in September. This year we had 42 students apply to be part of our club, so we divided our group into two cohorts. Cohort A meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, and Cohort B meets the second and fourth Tuesday, from 8:00 – 8:45am.

Our club came up with student goals, and we are working on these goals each week. One of our first projects for this year includes working on increasing recycling in our school by making informational videos, posters, and advocating in our classrooms. We also had the opportunity to survey and plan for spring tree planting, after about 30 trees had to be removed due to trees dying and being diseased. We looked for places where new trees would provide the most shade and enjoyment without being a hazard while at recess and playing sports.

Our Green School Council works to promote green thinking at school, at home, and in our community. There are a couple of ways you can help too! We encourage you to recycle at home, compost if you can, and look for ways to be green in your home.

This year, we are participating in Baltimore County’s “Clean Green 15 Challenge”. If you collect trash in our neighborhood, and record it on the website, it goes toward our school total. Schools who collect the most trash can win grants this spring to go toward more green projects at our school. Click on the following link for more information, and to report any trash clean-ups you and your family may do.

https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/environment/cleangreen/clean_green15.html

Another way you can participate with our efforts is by helping us recycle markers. RFES is part of the Crayola Color Cycle program. If you have any markers that are no longer working, send them to school with your child. There is a recycling box available in the front lobby. As it fills, we will be weighing and sending in markers to Crayola for recycling. You can use this link to learn more information about the program.

https://www.crayola.com/colorcycle

Thanks for helping us Keep It Green at RFES!
We are continuing to move and groove in PE! We are beginning our unit on bowling during the month of December. Students K-2nd grade will work on improving their accuracy and rolling technique through a variety of lead up games and different score keeping styles. Lastly, the use of teamwork and responsibility to fulfill “job” expectations when working in teams to bowl. Grades 3, 4, and 5 will identify and experience the difference between 10-pin and duck pin bowling. These grade levels will also be challenged to a variety of spare combinations to defeat. We will also learn how to keep score using the traditional bowling rules for scoring, no computers to help us, just teamwork 😊

A reminder students should 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.

**Upcoming Events**

- Dancing through the Decades (5th grade) - Jan. 31, 2022-Feb. 4
- R.F.E.S. Winter Olympics - February 4, 2022
- Jump Rope for Heart February 25, 2022
  
  To register visit: [www.heart.org/KHC](http://www.heart.org/KHC)

- Movement Education Equipment
  April 2022
- Sports Day
  June 2, 2022 - grades K,1,2
  June 3, 2022 - grades 3,4,5

**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!

Have a healthy and an active holiday season! Mrs. Celenza
Musical Greetings,

It is already December!! The Chorus Club will be welcoming students to school by singing during arrival on December 21st. I will miss our Tuesday mornings together.

Many thanks to Therese Ku and Emily Iannuzzelli for their help in repairing and refreshing our Orff instruments and bell sets.

All the students at RFES have been busy working on many new music skills.

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

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

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

**3rd grade** has been learning to read musical notation (absolute pitch names) on the treble clef staff. We are using our new reading skills by performing melodies on the bells.

**4th grade** has been singing folk songs and practicing sixteenth note patterns in our songs. In December we learn about famous composers-Tchaikovsky and Leroy Anderson.

**5th grade** has been exploring ways to create harmony as we prepare for our concert. We look forward to sharing our music with you on the RFES YouTube channel Tuesday, December 14. Fifth Grade Chorus, Orchestra and Band as well as Chorus Club will be performing. Recording will take place during the week of December 6.

Remember to scan receipts for **Box Tops**!

Sing-cerely,

Mrs. Lisa Tierney 🎃

ltierney@bcps.org
Create a family concert night on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

Enjoy concert music brought to you by the RFES Chorus Club and Fifth Grade Band, Orchestra and Chorus!

Pop some popcorn, make some hot chocolate and enjoy the hard work of our very musical students.

Songs will be available for viewing on the RFES YouTube channel.

Any day can be a Box Tops day!

Our music department and all Rodgers Forge students benefit from the Box Tops program. This year we will be using our funds for new xylophones, bell sets, and ukulele music!

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 below for more information!

https://www.boxtops4education.com/en/How%20To%20Earn
Hello everyone, from the place where we are warming up with great books, the Rodgers Forge library! Welcome to one of the most heartwarming months of the school year, and one filled with more great library units and lessons in our awesome library! Check out the bookshelves with some of the new books that arrived these last few months!
These are some pictures of our “ocean-themed” library displays as we “swim together” into a new year! Each week, your student will attend library media class, as we explore different types of literature and do a “deep dive” into 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 are able to check out 1 book, 2nd – 4th graders take home 2, and 5th graders have the ability to check out 3!

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

In December, our library units are full of excitement! 5th Graders will be learning about the Black-Eyed Susan nominees – books nominated as the best chapter books and graphic novels in the state of Maryland. 4th Graders will create an online advertisement based upon advertising techniques about which they will learn. 2nd and 3rd Graders will learn about the Black-Eyed Susan nominees for best picture book in the state of Maryland. 1st Graders will be using tangrams to tell a story about animals solving a problem, and Kindergarteners will learn about sequencing a story as well as story prediction!
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. Thanks to the generosity of the Follett Corporation, we have been gifted $935 for an ebook online order! Here are 2 videos to help you get started with how to check out and enjoy the features of ebooks!

Here is a direct link to the Library site!
https://baltimore.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas007_1993744

Here is a video showing you how to navigate from clicking the above link to get to Ebooks and how to use the features!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZ1RU2SFNBE&t=30s
From the Health Suite:

It is hard to believe that it is already December!! As we celebrate the holiday season with family and friends, I want to extend my gratitude to each of you. It is my privilege and my joy to take care of your children. They have been so excited to tell me about their holiday traditions! I wish you a wonderful break and a healthy start to 2022!

COVID-19 Vaccine Records:

If your child has received both doses of the covid vaccine, please email or send in a copy of their vaccine card. I will enter this information into their electronic health record. It is important that I have this on file, as it will determine whether quarantining related to exposure is required.

BCPS Quarantine guidelines for vaccinated children:

If your child is identified as a close contact to a positive case (whether in school or in the community), and it has been at least two weeks since their second covid shot, they will NOT have to quarantine. Per protocol, vaccinated close contacts can remain in school, wearing their mask. Families are asked to monitor for symptoms of illness and follow-up with testing if indicated.

Baltimore County Health Department continues to offer vaccine appointments. [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/vaccine](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/vaccine)

We ask that you screen your children for any signs/symptoms of illness prior to the return from winter break. If they are feeling ill, please keep them home until feeling better and follow up with your pediatrician if necessary. Working together, we can continue to keep RFES safe and healthy!

Stay well,

Leah House, RN

School Nurse
SWAG SHOP!!! On November 3rd, students participated in our first Swag shop of 2021. It was awesome!! Students got to exchange their hard-earned Rodger bucks for all sorts of goodies. They chose from a wide range of items, like pencils, squishes, bouncy balls, and breakfast or lunches with teachers. It was a great day for all! A big thank you to our parent volunteers! Remind your child to keep earning and saving their Rodger bucks. Swag shop will be back at the end of quarter 2!
Congratulations to GREEN house for earning the most points in quarter 1!! Green house celebrated with a dance party, popsicles, and playtime outside. The house points start over for quarter 2! Looking forward to seeing which house comes out on top next time!

Our next Peacemaker house party will be on Thursday, December 23rd and we will be focusing on the virtue of trust. Trust is a feeling that somebody or something can be relied upon or will turn out to be good. It is the feeling of being sure about something. Ask your child what they think it means to be trustworthy? How can we earn each other’s trust?

We are all peacemakers at RFES and we all belong! #rfesstrong
The Reading Corner

It’s getting cold and the hours of playing outdoors are slowly dwindling. Here are a few of my favorite games that will reinforce letter identification, phonics, word building, and vocabulary at the same time. These games will keep kids busy while making learning fun!

**Zingo:** This game is played very much like the game Bingo. There are a few different versions of Zingo and finding the right game will depend on the age of the player. One version matches basic vocabulary with pictures, another focuses on sight words, and word building Zingo. The game requires concentration, memory and quick thinking to claim tiles before other players have the chance. The dealer “shuffles” the 72 tiles and places them in the Zinger. Each playing card has 2 different sides which indicate an easier and more challenging level. The first to fill the Zingo card is the winner. While the game was created for 4-8 year olds, adults can have just as much fun playing with their kids!

**Boggle:** This is one of my personal favorite word games. Players shake up a set of 16 letter cubes in order to construct words from cubes that are horizontally, vertically, or diagonally neighboring. Words must be longer than three letters and may only use the same letter cube one time per word. During the three minutes of play time, each person gathers a list of the words they find and then scores their words when time is up. Need to adapt for a younger child? Allow players to find 3 letter words and still collect points.

**Bananagrams:** This game is great if you like silliness, wordplay, competing with other players, but also working independently to build a word grid. Each player tries to be the first to use all of their letter tiles by creating an intersecting word grid that can be added to or rearranged at any time. Words can be built both horizontally and vertically and must be spelled correctly. Like many word games, there are variations like Banana Café and Banana Solitaire.

Playing games can be a great way to provide young readers with additional practice of early reading skills while promoting their sense of competence and success.

~ Molly Day, Reading Specialist
Math Committee

Students are filling up the Math Masters golf holes.

Check out our Facts Practice Bulletin Board to support with basic fact practice at home.

Write your facts in sidewalk chalk - Dance or sing your facts
Grades 5 is working hard to create some Winter-themed art for their Winter Music Concert. Some of the art they are working on includes cut snowflakes and an “Ugly Winter Sweater.”

Grade 4 is learning about several portrait artists such as Chuck Close and Kehinde Wyle as inspiration for their own Self Portraits which they are using both photographs as well as observation to draw.
Grade 3 artists are learning all about Ceramic Sculpting hand-building techniques to create their Character Pinch Pot Sculptures.

Grade 2 artists are learning all about Cityscapes, silhouettes, and some printmaking techniques to create their Cityscapes.

Grade 1 students are learning all about artist, Faith Ringgold and her amazing Quilts as inspiration to create their Fabric Collage is the style of Story (Narrative) Quilts.
The Kindergarten students are inspired by the artist Yayoi Kusama as they use curvy lines to draw a 3D-looking pumpkin. They are using complex patterns of repeated colored polka dots to adorn their compositions.

Ms. Kotapish
kkotapish@bcps.org
**Equity Committee: Multicultural Spotlight!**

Wow! Times flies when you are having fun…It is hard to believe it is already December! The Equity Committee is excited to share our Multicultural Spotlight for this month. We will be shining some light onto Kwanzaa!

Did you know that Kwanzaa is the world’s fastest growing holiday? This year, millions of people around the United States will be celebrating Kwanzaa by honoring African American culture and community. Habari Gani? Is Swahili for What’s the News?... You may hear this phrase used as a cheerful greeting among participants of Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa will be celebrated from December 26- January 1st. The holiday was invented and promoted by an African American scholar named, Maulana Karenga in 1966 as a way to empower and unify African Americans in the United States, as well as foster a sense of pride in their African cultural heritage. Africans of all faiths can and do celebrate Kwanzaa because it is a non-religious holiday. Muslims, Christians, Hebrews, Jews, Buddhists, and Hindus, with African heritage, as well as those who follow the ancient traditions of Maat, Yoruba, and Ashanti from African descent, celebrate Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa is a non-religious family-oriented festival that lasts for 7 days. Each day participants focus their energy on a specific virtue. The 7 virtues are: unity (umoja), self-determination (kujichagulia), collective work and responsibility (ujima), cooperative economics (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba), and faith (imani).

The most important symbols of Kwanzaa are: the mishumaa - seven candles (3 red, 3 green, 1 black), standing for Kwanzaa's seven principles, the kinara - a candleholder, representing the stalk of corn from which the family grows, the mkeka - a straw placemat, recalling...
tradition and history, the **mazao** - a variety of fruit, symbolizing the harvest, **the vibunzi** - an ear of corn for each child, celebrating the child's potential, **the kikombe cha umoja** - a cup of unity, commemorating one's ancestors, **the zawadi** – modest educational and handmade gifts that encourage creativity, achievement, and success.

**Kwanzaa Symbols**

Educational Videos for Kids to learn about Kwanzaa!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7fM5yjmVRY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUIdFiOMX5k
A fun way to celebrate Kwanzaa is to make your own Kwanzaa Mat with strips of red, green, and black paper!

Weave A Kwanzaa Mat

Click on this link for instructions for how to weave a Kwanzaa mat!

https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/kwanzaa-mkeka-mat-craft/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIZAooD9ANc

Also, students may enjoy reading Kaden’s Kwanzaa on Raz-Plus!