

# Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

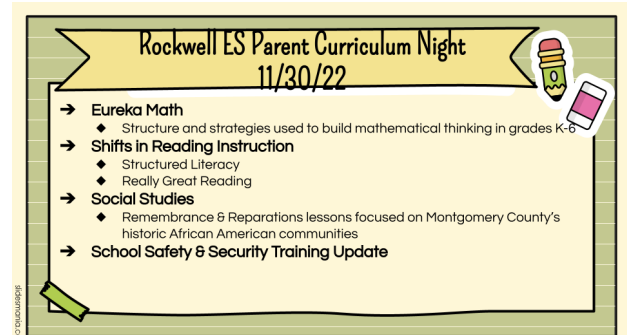
Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal December 5, 2022  
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## Rockwell Register

Dear Parents,

On November 30th, some of our teacher leaders, Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal, and I provided an overview of new and existing curriculum and school information that we believed would be helpful to share with parents. We had a very small crowd, but had a positive dialogue about some of the new and different things we are using in our instructional program with your children. The agenda gives you an overview of what we discussed. In addition to these items, we discussed the status of the LGBTQ text selections that were given to teachers to incorporate for upcoming units in our Benchmark Reading program this school year. At this time, we are waiting on more guidance from our central office before incorporating these books and therefore we have paused on this effort at this time. MCPS will share with the wider community the status of these additional materials available for teachers to use with students as part of the reading curriculum in the near future.



If you want to know more about any items on the agenda above, please contact your child's teacher, members of our core team- Mrs. Jennifer Hinkelman, Reading Specialist, Mrs. Paige Bell, Staff Development Teacher and Math Coach, Mrs. Amy Blache, Grade 3 Teacher/Administrator Intern (social studies lessons) or you can contact Mr. Isabell, Assistant Principal, or myself. We are excited about the progress that your children are making in their academic growth under the guidance of a terrific PreK-Grade 5 collection of teachers and specialists. We are always happy to share our work with our parent community.

We would also like to hear from parents about how best to deliver information like this to reach more families in our community. If you have suggestions for how we might improve attendance at opportunities such as this, please be in touch. We would welcome your perspective and suggestions.

*Cheryl Clark*  
Principal



## *You're Invited! Rockwell will host Music and Art Night on December 7th*

Mark your calendar for Rockwell's Music and Art Night from 6-8 pm on Wednesday December 7th! This evening will feature two events. From 6-8 pm there will be a spectacular Art Gallery in the gym highlighting work from all our talented K-5th grade artists! In addition, Mrs. Smith and friends will be hosting a make and take art project table for those who attend! Make sure to stop by and visit this amazing display by our very own Rockwell students!

The second part of the evening will be our Winter Concert performed by our amazing 4th and 5th grade musicians: The Band and Orchestra led by Mr. Mitchell, and the Chorus directed by Mrs. Looper. Students have been working hard preparing for this performance since September! You won't want to miss this fabulous evening of art and music showcasing the very best of Rockwell Elementary School!

## Indoor or Outdoor

The temperatures lately suggest that winter has arrived. Even though technically, winter begins on December 21st, we have all had to pull out the winter coats as well as other cold weather gear. We encourage you to be certain that your child is dressed appropriately for temperatures. Hats, gloves and heavier coats are helpful when it is cold outside. Here are the guidelines that we use to determine whether students will go outside or stay indoors for recess:

- ❖ We factor in the wind chill to determine the "feels like" temperature in making all decisions about indoor vs. outdoor recess
- ❖ If it "feels like" less than 30 degrees Fahrenheit, we choose to keep students indoors for recess
- ❖ We must be consistent with students for indoor vs. outdoor recess due to adult supervision requirements- all students who have recess together either go out or stay in
- ❖ Indoor recess is held in the classroom and teachers have collected games and activities for students to do with friends in their classroom during the 40 minute recess time

Our teachers continue to take advantage of milder days to take students outside for a walk, to have a quick discussion outdoors, or even to do a short lesson. We will continue to do this as the weather conditions allow. This is a terrific break for students and Rockwell staff members to get fresh air.



## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Congratulations Kindergarten through Grade 5 teachers and parents! We hit the overall 90% parent/teacher conference held in November and early December! This is a true testament to dedicated staff who worked around parent schedules and to committed parents who

made the time to talk with teachers either via telephone or on Zoom meetings about student progress and how they can help at home. Our Rockwell students are the beneficiaries of this attention to building a strong home/school connection. Bravo one and all!

Did you still need to schedule a conference? If so, please email or call your child's teacher. Again, teachers can accommodate by doing a telephone or a Zoom conference with you if you are not available to come in person. We could even hit 100% with just a small number. Call today and office staff will forward a message to your child's teacher 240-740-5180!



## **We are looking forward to our Annual Damascus High School Marching Band Holiday Concert at Rockwell on December 23, 2022!**



Each year, the DHS marching band travels to all of the elementary schools in the cluster to play a selection of holiday themed songs the last day before winter break. They end the concert with the DHS fight song which is a big hit as well. We are planning for an outdoor concert unless the weather requires that we come indoors. This concert is special to our alumni and staff as the band features Rockwell students in the concert when they perform at Rockwell. Also, we believe this is a way for our young students to see how they may want to continue their own love of music as they grow and mature past elementary school. We typically do not invite parents to attend, but if you are in the neighborhood, and we remain outdoors for the concert, there is a place for you outside as well. The concert is scheduled for 10:30 AM on December 23rd.



## **How do you find out about weather emergency closings in schools?**

### **Stay Connected with MCPS During Inclement Weather**

MCPS offers numerous ways to learn about potential school closures, delayed openings and early dismissals when there is inclement weather.

- **ConnectED System Email and Text Messages**  
Please make sure emergency contact information on file at your child's school is up to date.
- **AlertMCPS and MCPS Alerta (Spanish)**  
Receive text messages or emails from MCPS during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Parents can also sign up to receive alerts specific to their child's school.  
[Subscribe to AlertMCPS](#)
- **MCPS homepage**  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)
- **MCPS cable channels**
- **Comcast 34 (1071 HD), Verizon 36 or RCN 89**
- **Recorded information**  
301-279-3673
- **Ask MCPS**  
240-740-3000. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, in English and Spanish.

- **Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in English and Spanish**  
<http://twitter.com/mcps>  
<https://twitter.com/MCPSEspanol>  
<https://www.facebook.com/mcpsmd>  
<https://www.facebook.com/mcpsespanol>  
[https://www.instagram.com/mcps\\_md](https://www.instagram.com/mcps_md)
- **Local radio and TV stations**



**Congratulations to the Damascus High School Football Team who were victorious in the Maryland State 3A Championships on Saturday at Navy Stadium in Annapolis! It was terrific to see our former Rockwell students contributing to an impressive win. Go Hornets!**



**Looking for a lost hat, glove or coat? It could be in Rockwell's Lost and Found!**

Our lost and found rack is located directly beside the doors to the All-Purpose Room. We have a collection of sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets and water bottles unclaimed. Some are new winter coats! Please ask your child to check for any missing items at their lunch and recess time. We will be clearing out the lost and found approximately every six weeks so that it does not build to an unmanageable number of items.



**Have you considered becoming an MCPS Substitute? Check out the MCPS website [here!](#)**

MCPS is seeking substitute teachers! Substitute teaching is an excellent way to learn about our schools while allowing principals and teachers to get to know you.

Substitute teachers are temporary employees and are on an on call basis. An automated substitute calling system helps you manage your work schedule by allowing you to call at any time, day or night, to find jobs. This system is telephone and internet accessible. The system uses your subject area and location preferences to offer you jobs on the days you have selected and allows you to change the days you work.

Apply at: [www.mcpscareers.org](http://www.mcpscareers.org)



## **December Dates:**

**Early Release Day (No PEP classes): December 7**

**Music & Arts Night at Rockwell: December 7, 6-9 PM**

**PEP Professional Day- No PEP Classes: December 14**

**Interim Grades: December 21**

**School Closed for Winter Holidays & Break: December 23-January 2**