

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

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[School Website](#)

February 27, 2023
(240) 740-5180



Rockwell Register



Dear Parents,

We want to express our appreciation to our PTA leaders and volunteers for coordinating our *Valentine Candy Gram* activity in February. This was a great way for our students to express their positive thoughts and ideas to staff members and classmates alike. All of the staff enjoyed getting the notes and the chocolate candy. We appreciate the extra effort that this required to make this program work for our students and for the benefit of staff members, too! We are fortunate to have such a caring community! We are also happy to report that we had over 130 parents sign in to either help with or participate in the Valentine parties and celebrations in classrooms. We hope all of our attending parents enjoyed this social time with their children, their classmates and with staff.

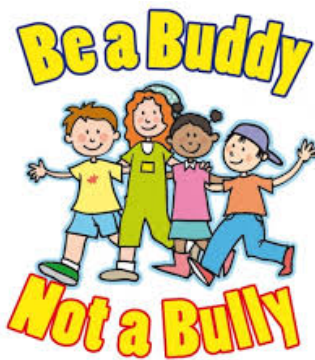
We are well into our second semester of the school year. It is always so much fun to talk with our youngest students about being “halfway to first grade” in kindergarten and “halfway to second grade” in first grade, as examples. Just complimenting our young students about how hard they are working and assuring them that we notice that they will be ready to move on to the next grade level brings on the biggest smiles. The students at Rockwell are visibly achieving learning goals daily in all grade levels. It is a pleasure to see students thrive in an environment where they see clearly that if they work hard, they will make progress and get smarter! When you talk with your children about their work habits and their progress in school, consider focusing on their *effort* and not just their *ability* or how *smart* they are.. Give specific and positive feedback to them on their effort- how hard they are working, their perseverance, and their determination to reach goals and get better in their school work. Praising and giving children attention for their effort helps them to build confidence in their own goal-setting and this helps them understand that they can influence their own success.

SUCCESS is the SUM
of SMALL EFFORTS

Thank you for sending us your best learners each day! It is a pleasure to work with them daily.

Cheryl Clark
Principal





We all must take responsibility to make Rockwell a bully-free environment for our students! As staff members, work together to address bullying complaints made by students and parents. We follow the MCPS protocol for investigating and determining next steps to stop bullying for our students. We encourage you to review the MCPS website dedicated to bullying, harassment or intimidation. Click [here](#) to review this information. You will find details about how to recognize bullying and how to report it.

If you have any questions or concerns about bullying and your children, please reach out to your child's teacher, Mrs. Kane, our counselor, Mr. Isabell, Assistant Principal, or Mrs. Clark, principal. It is important to us that all of our students enjoy coming to school and feel like they belong at Rockwell. If your child needs our assistance, please reach out!



- ★ **Thank you to those students and families who wrote Candy Grams** for our teachers and staff. Their mailboxes were overflowing with sweet notes and candy! A special thank you to the Schneider family for all their help!
- ★ **Science Fair** packets have been sent home and all permission slips need to be returned by **March 10th**. What will your scientist choose to research?! We can't wait to see! Science Fair will be held **Thursday, March 23, 2023** from 6:00-8:00pm.
- ★ **Let's Support Breakfast with Books!** Don't forget to sign up to donate food items for the school's Breakfast with Books:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4FA9A72FAA8-breakfast1>



Reporting Your Child Absent from School

You can report an absence using our online form located on the [Lois P. Rockwell ES website](#) under *Quick Links* -> *Report an Absence* or, you can call or email the office 240-740-5180 shae_j_nelson@mcpsmd.org when you call or email, please state your child's name, grade, and reason for absence.

Since we are required to file written documentation from parents on absences, please follow up with a written note if you call an absence into the office. Click [here](#) for a shell for your use.

About your child's attendance: we are required to inform parents of the attendance status for students. If your child is absent 10% or more, we will notify you in writing. These attendance letters are intended to be informative. If there is further action required, we will follow up with you directly. Please know that we understand that children get sick and must stay home from school. We never expect you to send your child to school if they are ill. In fact, we appreciate you doing your part in keeping the school community healthy by not sending your child to school if they have a fever or other significant symptoms that suggest they are sick and need to rest and recover rather than being in school. If you have questions about your child's health and coming to school, please be in touch with our school health technician, Ann Blanco, Ann_C_Blanco@mcpsmd.org or 240-740-5182 for guidance.

Kindergarten & Pre-school Education Program News



Welcome to
Kindergarten!

Kindergarten Orientation for the Fall 2023 Kindergarten Class will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 4 - 5 2023. *Current kindergarten students will not attend school on these days.* More information about registering your child for kindergarten for Fall, 2023 will be sent home very soon.



Welcome to
PRESCHOOL

We are happy to announce that we will be accepting applications for *Community Student Peers* for our Preschool Education Program (PEP) for the 2023-2024 school year. PEP offers pre kindergarten classes and services for children with disabilities ages 3-5 in an early childhood setting for children with and without disabilities. If you choose to enroll your child, he/she will be in an inclusive class with other students with and without disabilities. Classes are 5 days per week for 2.5 hours per day. The cost is \$150 per semester or \$300 per year. The class is taught by a certified MCPS teacher. There is a para educator in the class to assist. The class follows a PreK Curriculum. **Priority is given to children that reside in the local school boundary.** Your child must be 3 years old on or before the first day of school for PEP (please check the MCPS website for the official start date. It is usually a week after school starts for grades K-5). Due to the anticipated high numbers of applicants, enrollment will be based on a lottery system. Applications will be accepted through the month of March and assignments will be made in late April. You will be contacted in late April or early May if you are awarded placement in the program. **Although a wait list will be created with the names of applicants not originally placed, please have backup plans for Preschool, as there are a limited number of openings.**

Applications are available on the MCPS website by typing "community peers" into the search box or via this link: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/335-47.pdf>



Upcoming Dates & Special Events

**March 3 - Early Release Day- K-5 Students dismissed at 12:55 PM;
No school for PEP students**

**March 3 - 8-8:40 AM in the Cafeteria- Community Engagement
Opportunity: Breakfast with Books (Previous registration/RSVP required)**

**March 15 - Early Release Day- K-5 Students dismissed at 12:55 PM; No school for
PEP students**

March 23- Science Fair 6-8 PM- Co-sponsored with our PTA

March 31- Professional Day- No school for Students

April 3-April 10- Spring Break & Holiday- No school for students

