

**Flora M. Singer  
Elementary School**

S e a T u r t l e s

# The Sea Turtle Times

Flora M. Singer Elementary School 2600 Hayden Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902 Phone: 240-740-0330
Kyle Heatwole, Principal <a href="mailto:Kyle_J_Heatwole@mcpsmd.org">Kyle_J_Heatwole@mcpsmd.org</a> Aaron McKinley, Assistant Principal <a href="mailto:Aaron_A_Mckinley@mcpsmd.org">Aaron_A_Mckinley@mcpsmd.org</a>

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
This week	1/27	1/28	1/29 <b>Grading and Reporting - Schools Closed for Students</b>	1/30 <a href="#">Ethiopian Eritrean Special Needs Community Information Session</a> at 6:30 in the Media Center	1/31 Spanish-speaking Parent Coffee 9:45 Staff Lounge; Google meet <b>Meeting Link:</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjy">https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjy</a>
Next week	2/3	2/4 PTA Parent Meeting - 7:00 pm online or in person	2/5 Instrumental Music Parent concert - 7:00 pm	2/6 Report Cards Distributed	2/7 Spanish-speaking Parent Coffee 9:45 Staff Lounge; Google meet <b>Meeting Link:</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjy">https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjy</a>

### Table of Contents

<a href="#">International Night: February 22nd!</a> <i>New this Week!</i>	<a href="#">Coat Drive Donations &amp; Requests</a>	<a href="#">New Online Menu</a>	<a href="#">WIDA ACCESS</a>	<a href="#">Ethiopian Eritrean Special Needs Community Info Session</a>
--	---	---------------------------------	-----------------------------	---

<a href="#">NAACP Parents' Council Meeting</a> <i>New this week!</i>	<a href="#">PTA Newsletter!</a>	<a href="#">School Year Extended</a> <i>New this week!</i>	School year extended	
<a href="#">Yearbook Design Winners &amp; Art Contests</a> <i>Updated this week!</i>		<a href="#">After-School Activities</a>	<a href="#">Immunizations and Medications</a>	<a href="#">School Cash Online</a>
<a href="#">Staff Member of the Month!</a>	<a href="#">Volunteering at School</a>	<a href="#">Contact the Department of Transportation</a>	<a href="#">MCPS Calendar:</a>  <a href="#">2024-calendar.pdf</a>  <a href="#">2024-calendar-sp.pdf</a>	<a href="#">Menu:</a> <a href="https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/FloraMSingerES">https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/FloraMSingerES</a>
<a href="#">Take Home Chromebooks</a>	<a href="#">Kids Ride Free with Youth Cruiser SmarTrip</a>	<a href="#">Smart Sacks: Weekend Food Bags</a>	<a href="#">Supply List and Bus Routes</a>	<a href="#">Breakfast and Lunch</a>

### School Year Extended

Due to the abundance of snow days this year, the school year has been extended by one day. The last day of school will now be Monday, June 16th, 2025. It will be a half-day of school. Friday, June 13th is now a full-day of school.

### New Online Menu

Our menu is now available online! Please use this link to see our breakfast and lunch menu:

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/FloraMSingerES>

### Take Home Chromebooks

If your student has an MCPS home chromebook with make and model Acer C720, C740, C738, or C771, these devices have been retired by MCPS and will now display a "locked" screen. Please return these devices to school as they are no longer usable.

If you would like your student to have a newer model at home, please resubmit this form: [Student Home Use Chromebook Request Form](#). Please be patient when waiting for your new device, as it could take a few weeks to make this transition. Thank you and sorry for the inconvenience!

**Ethiopian Eritrean Special Needs Community Info Session: January 30th at 6:30PM**

An in-person information session has been scheduled on January 30th for Amharic-speaking parents with the Ethiopian Eritrean Special Needs Community (EESNC). Please join us in the Media Center at 6:30.

### Winter After-School Activities

**Most after-school activities begin this week - Register today!**

Has your child talked about starting a hot cocoa stand? Do they show magic tricks to their family and friends whenever they get the chance? Are they curious about becoming a veterinarian? Perhaps they're interested in coding and developing video games? And, maybe they enjoy making art - through painting or pottery, or both!

There are after-school activities for each of these kids! (And several more!) There are 19 different offerings available during the winter session! Click the link below to see the program options and register.

New to Kiddo? Check out the [guide](#) as well as [flyers](#) for our vendors.

<https://schools.kiddo.us/s/florasinger-md>

### Coat Drive Donations & Requests

Cold weather is here to stay! If your Singer student is in need of a winter coat, you can request one using the link below. Requests will be fulfilled as coats become available.

<https://forms.gle/JzAJ2kra6YeWNFac9>

If you would like to donate to the coat drive, new and used coats and cold weather gear in [dignity](#) condition can be dropped off in the bin in the main hallway.

### International Night: February 22nd

[Singer International Night](#) is coming soon!! This event is where the Singer community gets to show off its vibrant colors – families set up tables representing different countries with artifacts, books, games, food samples, traditional clothing, language, music, etc., and performers from around the globe provide entertainment. Kids get a 'passport' as they 'travel' around the world, going from table to table to learn about the different cultures and checking off the countries they have visited.

**\*\*\*New this year\*\*\*** The PTA will support each table host with a stipend of up to \$25 to cover expenses for their display. Instructions for reimbursement will be provided when you sign up.

If you would like to show off your heritage, or just a place that is dear to your heart or where you may have lived before, please sign up [here](#).

International Night is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our diversity and teach and learn about the different cultures represented

here!

### **Staff Member of the Month!**

We believe that our school staff plays a crucial role in creating a positive and nurturing environment for our students. To recognize their hard work and dedication, we invite you to nominate an exceptional staff member to be our Staff Member of the Month!

If you've witnessed a teacher, administrator, or support staff member going above and beyond, we want to hear about it! Please share your thoughts on how they have made a difference in your child's education or well-being.

Nominations can be submitted throughout the year using the links below:

English: <https://forms.gle/cRCUCftPF5e1vBMAA>

Spanish: <https://forms.gle/5PvwgZRBcHtmfqgXA>

### **Kids Ride Free with Youth Cruiser SmarTrip**

The Youth Cruiser card is a SmarTrip card that provides free rides, on all MCDOT buses and most Metrobuses within the County, to Montgomery County residents under 19 years old. Value can be added to the card for use on Metrorail, Metrobuses outside the County, and other transit systems in the metropolitan area.

Your Flora M. Singer student can get their SmarTrip card at school! To request a card for your child, ask your child's teacher for a paper application to be sent home, or complete the form below and return it to the main office. Once processed, a card will be sent home with your child. **Allow a week for processing.** Questions can be directed to Ashlea Gray.

[Ashlea\\_L\\_Gray@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Ashlea_L_Gray@mcpsmd.org)

[English Application](#)

[Spanish Application](#)


### **Smart Sacks: Weekend Food Bags**


Would you like extra food for your children on the weekends? Smart Sacks is a free program that gives a bag of food to elementary school children who would benefit from extra food for the weekend when there is no school lunch or breakfast. At the end of each week, children who are participating in this program will receive a bag of food at school to bring home. If you would like your child to participate in the program, please complete the permission form below. More information about the program is provided in the permission form.

[Smart Sack Permission Form](#)

### **Supply List and Bus Routes**

Here is a link to our student supply list:


 FMS ES - School Supply List - FY 24-25 - ENGLISH.pdf


 FMS ES - Lista de Útiles Escolares - FY 24-25 - SPANISH.pdf

***A limited number of supplies and backpacks have been donated by local organizations and the PTA. If your Flora Singer student is in need of school supplies or a backpack, please complete the following form.***


[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoDVIRxsvns60Te4RXEAINQoICpjbEXeM5LHfSOS27cmtaEw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoDVIRxsvns60Te4RXEAINQoICpjbEXeM5LHfSOS27cmtaEw/viewform?usp=sf_link)


Here is a link to the general education bus routes:


 SINGER ES - 770 - REG ARR.pdf


 SINGER ES - 770 - REG DEP.pdf

Other information from the Transportation Department:

 20240801 RAN ElementarySchool English.pdf

 20240801 RAN ElementarySchool SPANISH.pdf

 What You Should Know About Riding the Bus.pdf

 What You Should Know About Riding the Bus SPANISH.pdf

### **Breakfast and Lunch**

Meal prices will be \$2.55 for lunch. **Our breakfast program is free to all students and available in the classroom every morning.**

Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for breakfast or lunch. Families can apply online now so that benefits will be in place when school starts. Families can access the online application by visiting [www.myschoolapps.com/](http://www.myschoolapps.com/). Please remember a new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year.

You can visit the the website to see all the options for paying for a school lunch:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/food-and-nutrition/meal-payments/#How>

You can use My School Bucks to set up payment for school lunch online:

<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain.action?clientKey=&requestAction=home>

### **Immunizations and Medications**

It is very important that your child is up-to-date on his/her immunizations. If you are not sure, please check with your doctor. **The state law mandates that children not be admitted to school without the proper immunizations. Medications must be brought to school in the original container by an adult** along with [MCPS Form 525-13](#) (Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication) completed by your physician. Medication will not be administered without proper authorization. Please contact our Health Technician if you have any questions.

### **School Cash Online**

Montgomery County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online payment system called SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc. SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The new system puts all of the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on SchoolCash Online or at the school.

*Parents/guardians can register now at <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>*

*SchoolCash Online also offers a 24/7 customer support desk that can be reached by online inquiry or by calling 1-866-961-1803.*

### **Volunteering at School**

If you are interested in being a volunteer in any capacity this school year we would love to have you! Please access the link to learn about the requirements of volunteering in MCPS. If you have any questions please contact Mr. McKinley.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-leadership/volunteer>

### **Contact the Department of Transportation**

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding the buses or transportation of students, you may now call their customer service hotline. They can be reached at: 240-740-7790.

### **WIDA ACCESS**

Is your child part of our English Language Development program? If so they will be participating in state wide WIDA ACCESS assessments during the month of January. These assessments are an opportunity for students to show what they have learned in reading, writing, speaking and listening in English. Please reach out to our ELD team leader Mrs. Kim Fisher [Kimberly\\_M\\_Fisher@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kimberly_M_Fisher@mcpsmd.org) or Staff Development Teacher Mrs. Angela Martin [Angela\\_L\\_Martin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Angela_L_Martin@mcpsmd.org) if you have any questions!

### **Yearbook Design Winners & Art Contests**

**Congratulations to our winners of the 2024-2025 Yearbook Cover winners!**

**Front Cover winner is Laura Castleton (5th grade Donovan) and the Back Cover winner is Coraline Cruz Villalta (5<sup>th</sup> grade Labastida).**

**Finalists: Mina P. 5D, Tessa M. 4E, Macky M. 2B, Lilly A. 3W, Eliza M. 2T, Joshua S. 4C, Freida S. 3W, Filippa V. 4M**

**Please share artwork and art contest opportunities with your young artists.**

**SLIDES Presentation:**

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1\\_vldzm8H1oX-Z82wCV0tqpUb3OJSowbSIUYHri5W3WE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_vldzm8H1oX-Z82wCV0tqpUb3OJSowbSIUYHri5W3WE/edit?usp=sharing)

- **2/2 Youth Art Month: Healing through Color**  
<https://www.marylandarted.org/yam>
- **3/3 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Maryland Arbor Day Poster Contest**  
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/Arbor-Day-Poster-Contest.aspx>
- **4/4 Sustainability Poster Contest**  
[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/facilities/sustainability/poster-contest/dsc\\_poster\\_contest\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/facilities/sustainability/poster-contest/dsc_poster_contest_guidelines.pdf)  
[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/facilities/sustainability/poster-contest/dsc\\_poster\\_contest\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/facilities/sustainability/poster-contest/dsc_poster_contest_flyer.pdf)

### **NAACP Parents' Council Meeting**

The NAACP Parents' Council met on January 15, 2025. This month's guest speakers were Dr. Peter Moran, Elizabeth Rogovoy, Catherine Malchodi, Stephanie Sheron, and Tamara Hewlett from MCPS. They presented information about the MSDE Literacy Policy, MCPS literacy data, the proposed budget for FY 2026, and information on how to address hate, bias, and immigration. Below, you will find links to the meeting video, meeting chat, presentations, and a summary of the meeting. Information about the NAACP Freedom Fund Gala is also linked below.

[Meeting Video Link](#)

[Meeting Chat Link](#)

[MCPS Literacy Data](#)

[Addressing Hate, Bias, and Immigration](#)

[Meeting Summary](#)

[NAACP Freedom Fund Gala](#)