

**Flora M. Singer
Elementary School**

S e a T u r t l e s

The Sea Turtle Times

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
This week	11/4 No School-Professional Day	11/5 No School-Election Day	11/6	11/7 Flora M. Singer Day	11/8 Spanish-speaking Parent Coffee 9:45 APR; Google meet Meeting Link: https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjv
Next week	11/11	11/12	11/13 Report Cards Distributed	11/14	11/15

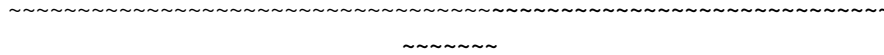
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Supply List and Bus Routes	Volunteering at School	Contact the Department of Transportation	MCPS Calendar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2024-calendar.pdf ■ 2024-calendar-sp.pdf 	Menu: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ November Menu....

Flora M. Singer Day

This Thursday, November 7th, is Flora M. Singer Day! This is an annual event where students learn about the life and legacy of Flora M. Singer. We also complete activities that help teach core principles of cooperation, collaboration and kindness. Students will be working with different staff throughout the day. They should dress to be outside. We encourage everyone to wear Singer Gear. It will be a great day!



American Heart Association-Kids Heart Challenge

We are very excited to be partnering with the American Heart Association again this year for the Kids Heart Challenge! We had a kick-off celebration at Town Hall on Monday. The Kids Heart Challenge starts today and continues until Thursday, November 7th.

Students and families can participate in multiple ways. We are encouraging all families to register online. That will enable your child to complete learning activities online, including completing Finn's Mission where they learn Hands-Only CPR.

Families may choose to also engage in fundraising. **However, everyone can register and participate in the learning online whether they fundraise or not.**

Please see this flier for more information on how to register and participate:

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Singer Needs Meeting

11/20 at 7pm: In coordination with our PTA Singer Needs Team, we will be hosting an informational meeting for parents/guardians hosted by xMinds on November 20, 2024 at 7:00pm. The meeting will be virtual.

xMinds is a collaborative partnership of parents, educators, and service providers working together to improve the educational experience and outcomes for autistic students in Pre-K–12 education in Montgomery County, MD.

This session will focus on the services and resources xMinds provide to the community and how parents can access them within Montgomery County. Please note that Executive Director Melanie Carlos & Sue Keisler President of xMinds will be present as our guest speakers and will be very happy to answer any questions you may have. Please email Kara_T_Tymon@mcpsmd.org with your questions.

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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>

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Yearbook Cover Contest - Due December 5th

Calling all Artists!

Do you want your artwork on the cover of the yearbook?
We are looking for designs for the 2024-2025 yearbook cover!

Yearbook Cover Design Deadline - Due December 5th
Submit your design to Mrs. Gracias, Folders hanging outside Room #114

Make sure you have your name and classroom teacher name on the back of your artwork.

DESIGN RULES

- What size should it be? 8.5 x 11 in.
- Keep words or images $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch away from the edges of the paper.
- What materials can you use? Pens, Markers, Crayons, etc...
- Think creatively, create a fun cover that is colorful and expresses what makes our school unique.
- Must include name of the school: Flora M. Singer Elementary School and the year 2024-2025 in the design

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Harmony SEL

As a school we just finished a special piece of our Harmony Curriculum called Building Community. Students participated in activities to get to know each other, make friends, and create a happy space for learning. They also learned about three important practices we use to build relationships and help our learning: Meet Up, Buddy Up, and Harmony Goals.

Key strategies from this unit included:

- Meet Up: This is when we gather as a class and share our experiences, solve problems together, and get to know each other better.
- Buddy Up: This is when we get to buddy with another student each week. We will get to better know our buddies, work together, and learn together.
- Class Harmony Goals: These are agreements we make as a class on how we want to treat each other and learn together.

- Personal Harmony Goals: Each student will decide on their own goals for what they want to learn and how they want to support the Class Harmony Goals.
- Get-to-Know-You Activities: Four short lessons will help us find things we have in common, build a good community in our classroom, and see how important each of us is to this community.
- We are now beginning Unit 1: Being My Best Self

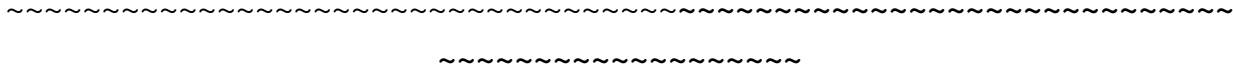
You can find information on this unit in the links below.

[K-2 Home Connection Letter English & Spanish](#)

[3-5 Home Connection Letter English & Spanish](#)

Remember, it is important to talk about and practice these skills at home too. You can find several ideas for this in the "Home-to-School Connections: Home Activities" in the links.

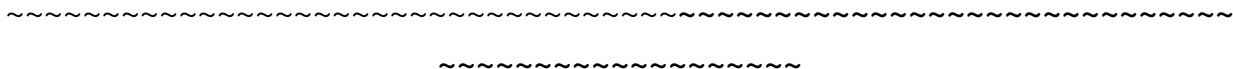
Thank you for supporting Harmony at Singer. If you have any questions about what we are doing, please feel free to ask. You can also find more information at harmony-academy.org.



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](#)



Holiday Help for Families: Holiday Giving Project of Montgomery County

If your family is in need and would like to be referred for possible assistance for the holiday season (November and December Holidays) , please complete this referral form to provide the required information. Resources are limited: please apply only if you and your family are truly in need. While a referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many families in need as donations allow.

The Holiday Giving Project has provided Thanksgiving and December holiday assistance to

low-income households for over 30 years. A network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies serve Holiday Giving recipients, as donations are available.

This form is for Flora Singer Families ONLY. Families at other schools must ask their school for a referral.

For the best chance of receiving resources, please complete the request form as soon as possible.

If you need help completing the request, contact Veronica Gonzalez at 240-550-3254 or veronica_gonzalez@mcpsmd.org

[Holiday Giving Project of Montgomery County Referral Request](#)

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Fall Family Photo Fundraiser!

[Shoott](#) is holding a Flora Singer PTA fundraiser at McKenney Hills Park.

- **What To Expect:**
 - BOOK a 30 minute photo session - no sitting fee!
 - RECEIVE a digital gallery of 40+ photos in 3-5 business days
 - PAY only for the photos you love
 - RAISE \$20 when you make a purchase. Raise a BONUS \$20 if you buy the full gallery!
- **When:** Sunday, November 10, 2024
- **Where:** McKenney Hills Park
- **How to Book:** <https://qrco.de/FLORAPTA>

Can't make the fundraiser? Book a standard Shoot session at the date and location of your choice with code FLORAPTA to raise \$20 when you make a purchase!

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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/1FAIpQLSeoDVIRxsvns60Te4RXEAINQolCpjbEXeM5LHfSOS27cmtaEw/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

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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/. 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>

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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.

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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.

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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>

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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.

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Middle School Consortium Lottery and Criteria Based Programs

5th grade students have the opportunity to join the lottery for a spot at one of the Magnet Consortium Middle Schools. Below is the information that was sent centrally to all 5th grade parents about the timeline.

Middle School Magnet Consortium Timeline

- **October 15, 2024**- Open House at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School 6 pm - PERFORMANCE ART PROGRAM
- **October 22, 2024**- Open House at Argyle Middle School 6 pm - DIGITAL DESIGN PROGRAM
- **October 29, 2024**- Open House at Parkland Middle School 6 pm- AEROSPACE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM
- **November 1, 2024**- MSMC Choice Form Deadline
- **Mid January 2025**- Notification of Round 1 results

- **February 7, 2025**- MSMC Round 2 Choice Form Deadline
- **Mid March 2025**- Notification of Round 2 results

Takoma Park and Eastern Middle school house Criteria Based Magnet Programs. There is no lottery or application for these programs and students are centrally selected. A virtual presentation about these programas will be **October 21, 2024** streamed on the [MCPS Homepage](#) **English** 5:00 pm* **español** 6:00 pm*