



**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	10/21 Bus Evacuation Drill	10/22 5th Grade Field Trip	10/23	10/24	10/25 Spanish-speaking Parent Coffee 9:45 APR; Google meet <b>Meeting Link:</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjy">https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjy</a> <b>PTA Movie Night</b>
Next week	10/28	10/29	10/30	10/31 Fall Festival	11/1 End of Marking Period 1 Spanish-speaking Parent Coffee 9:45 APR; Google meet <b>Meeting Link:</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjy">https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjy</a>

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## Fall Festival



We are very excited to announce the return of the Fall Festival to Singer Elementary School! We will host the Fall Festival on Thursday, October 31st, 2024.

Fall Festival consists of three things:

- A Halloween costume parade
- Halloween-themed classroom parties
- The Fall Fun Fest hosted by KAH

Students participating in the parade and classroom parties may wear their Halloween costumes. There will be time for them to change in the afternoon. **Pretend weapons are not allowed** as part of any costume and particularly frightening masks should be avoided.

Many of our families do not celebrate Halloween. Their students will be invited to the Fall Fun

Fest in the lunchroom hosted by KAH. KAH brings fun games, activities, and snacks. There will be no mention of Halloween. The Fun Fest is going to be great, and kids have certainly enjoyed it in previous years. It is very important that parents who want their children to go to the Fun Fest let their teacher know.

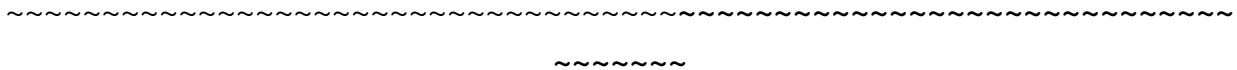
The schedule for the Fall Festival on Tuesday, October 31:

- 1:45 Students can start to prepare for the parade and parents can begin to arrive to watch the parade (parents may be on grounds but not in the building)
- 2:15 Students who will be participating in the Fun Fest will be sent to the APR
- 2:30 Halloween Costume Parade Starts
- 3:00 Classroom Parties-visitors may sign in to attend
- 3:45 Dismissal begins for everyone

Room parents and volunteers may enter the building earlier in the day to set up the classroom parties. This should be done Thursday afternoon or during the lunch and recess hour for each grade level. Those time blocks are:

- Kindergarten: 11:30 to 12:30
- 1st Grade: 11:30 to 12:30
- 2nd Grade: 12:00 to 1:00
- 3rd Grade: 12:30 to 1:30
- 4th Grade: 1:00 to 2:00
- 5th Grade: 1:00 to 2:00

We look forward to everyone enjoying the Fall Festival!




**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:

 [FY25 KHC Parent Letter.pdf](#)

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### **Volunteer at the Book Fair!**

The 2024 [Flora Singer Book Fair](#) is still going strong through October 25th! We need volunteers to help with this wonderful celebration of reading with hundreds of books to discover. Please sign up here using the [SignUpGenius link](#).

It takes \*many\* volunteers to keep the fair running smoothly. There are a variety of jobs to do during the shifts which will be organized by the Shift Leader. Sign up for as many parent helper shifts or as few as you can. If you cannot work the entire shift, that's okay! Please list the times you can be here in the comments section when you sign up.

Volunteering at the fair is a LOT of fun and a great way to get to know other parents, teachers, and students.

Volunteer duties include helping readers complete their wish lists, finding books for kids, working the registers, setting up the fair, organizing inventory, and simply offering a helping hand. The Book Fair is a fun event that students, teachers, and parents greatly enjoy. It takes a lot of volunteers to make sure everything runs smoothly!

Please note that all volunteers at the school must complete the MCPS online training and submit a volunteer form:

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

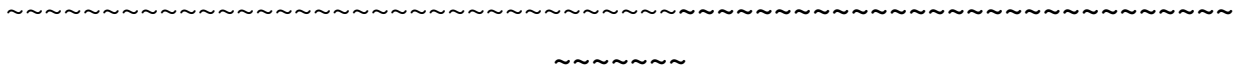
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**Book Fair E-Wallets and Share the Fair!**

**The Flora Singer Book Fair is in full swing in the Media Center! The [full schedule](#) is available here. Please visit our school's [Book Fair website](#) to sign up for eWallet (cash and credit card are also accepted).**

Sign up now for an [eWallet](#), a convenient digital payment account, so your child can shop the Fair cash-free. Watch a helpful [video here](#), and sign up today using our school's [Book Fair page](#)

You can also contribute to **Share the Fair** through the eWallet, which ensures that each student can get a book.



**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 ¼ 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](http://harmony-academy.org).

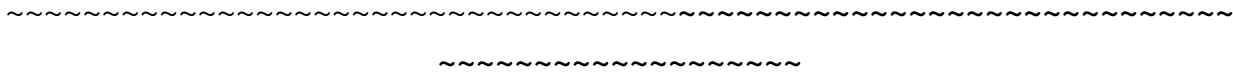
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## **Smart Sacks: Weekend Food Bags**

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.

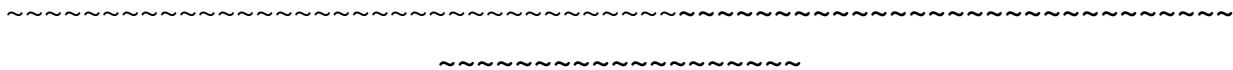
The Holiday Giving Project has provided Thanksgiving and December holiday assistance to low-income households for over 30 years. A network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public 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](mailto:veronica_gonzalez@mcpsmd.org)

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

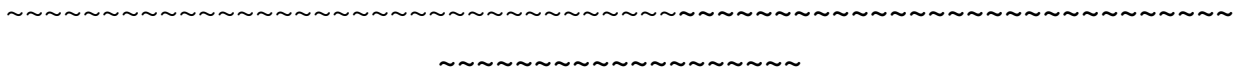


**Fall Family Photo Fundraiser!**

[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:** Saturday, October 26, 2024 **OR** Sunday, November 10, 2024
- **Where:** McKenney Hills Park
- **How to Book:** <https://qrco.de/FLORAPTA>

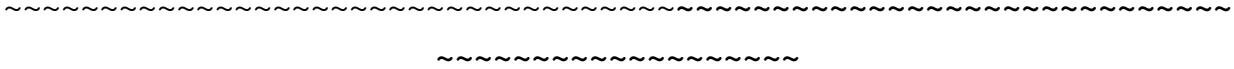
Can't make the fundraiser? Book a standard Shoot session at the date and location of your choice with code FLORAPTA to raise \$20 when you make a purchase!



**PTA Newsletter, 21 October 2024**


We have quite a few events and opportunities in October, including the [book fair](#), [movie night](#), the [Fall Family Photo Fundraiser](#), and a host of other updates.


Click [here](#) for the latest PTA Newsletter!



**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

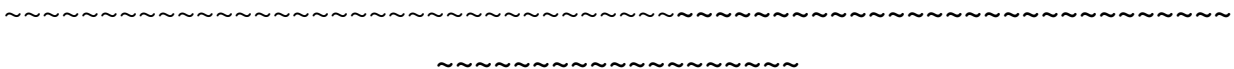
Other information from the Transportation Department:

 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>

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## Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival begins at 9:00 am. Students may enter the building at that time and go to line up. **Do not drop your child off prior to 9:00 a.m. They will be unsupervised.** Dismissal begins at 3:50. You may arrive prior to 3:50 to wait for dismissal. **Parents must contact the main office before 3:00 p.m. with any dismissal changes for the day.**

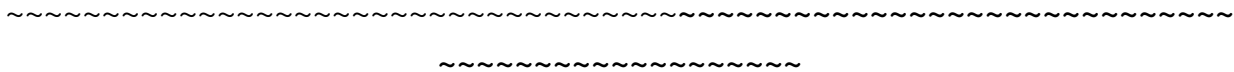
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## Immunizations and Medications

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](#)



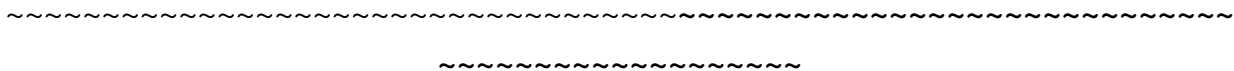
- Don't forget that you must be a [PTA member](#) to vote!
- Tuesday, September 10                      Primary (K, 1, and 2) Back-to-School Night  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 17                      Intermediate (3, 4, and 5) Back-to-School Night  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 27                      Early Release-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 01                      PTA Meeting, 7:00pm (come at 6:45 for  
dinner!)
- Thursday, October 3                      No School for Students
- Tuesday, October 8                      Fall Picture Day – Individual Portraits Only
- Thursday, October 17                      Book Fair Starts
- Friday, October 18                      Professional Day-No school for students
- Friday, October 25                      Singer Movie Night and LAST NIGHT of Book  
Fair
- Saturday, October 26                      [Fall Family Mini Photo Sessions](#) at McKenney  
Hills Park
- Tuesday, October 31                      Fall Festival Parade and Parties starting at  
2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 1                      End of First Marking Period
- Monday, November 4                      No School for Students
- Tuesday, November 5                      Election Day-No School for Students
- Monday, November 25                      Half Day- Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m
- Tuesday, November 26                      Half Day-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m
- November 27, 28 & 29                      Thanksgiving - No School for Students



### Volunteering at School

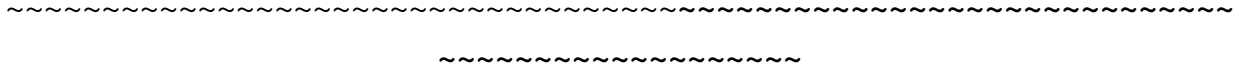
If you are interested in being a volunteer in any capacity this school year we would love to have you! Please access the link to learn about the requirements of volunteering in MCPS. If you have any questions please contact Mr. McKinley.

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



## Contact the Department of Transportation

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



## 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 programmas will be **October 21, 2024** streamed on the

MCPS Homepage **English** 5:00 pm\* **español** 6:00 pm\*