

**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	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26	9/27 Hispanic Heritage Parade  Early Release-dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m.
Next week	9/30	10/1 PTA Parent Meeting-7:00 pm	10/2	10/3 No School for students	10/4

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**TREX Plastic Recycling Update**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our TREX Plastic Recycling Challenge last year. We surpassed our goal and collected 1012.6 pounds of plastic! We earned a TREX bench for our school from our recycling efforts. Learn more: <https://nextrex.com/view/programs>

Our TREX plastic recycling bins are open this year in the main entrance. Please drop off clean recyclable plastic film without contamination. 5<sup>th</sup> grade eARTH helpers collect and weigh our data on Tuesday afternoons.

Contact Mrs. Gracias to help volunteer to move and drop off our weekly collection to local plastic recycling centers like your neighborhood grocery store on Tuesday afternoons - email: [natalie\\_ramirez@mcpsmd.org](mailto:natalie_ramirez@mcpsmd.org)

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**Wheaton Arts Parade - 9/27 10 am**

Join the Flora Singer Elementary School Community at the Wheaton Arts Parade! Students have been creating art from recycled materials to share in the parade. Artist Jessica Muniz Witmer has been working with our community to build masks and create our float after school in art room #114. 5th graders have volunteered recess time to help build our float.

**8th ANNUAL WHEATON ARTS PARADE & FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 29, 2024  
 10am - 5pm**

**If walking in the parade with the school - join our group between 8-9:30 to assemble by the Wheaton Clock Tower, near Ennalls Ave & Grandview Ave.**

**(Ennalls Ave Parking Lot - 2510 Ennalls Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20902)**

**We will be wearing Purple Singer clothing, traditional cultural folk clothing, and/or dressed as animals.**

**<https://www.wheatonartsparade.org/faqs>**

**Contact Mrs. Gracias to volunteer in the Float Art Club - email: [Natalie\\_Ramirez@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Natalie_Ramirez@mcpsmd.org)**

**Mondays & Wednesdays 4-5 pm, Art Room #114**

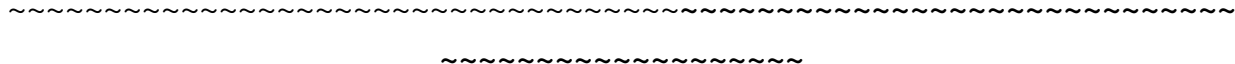
Remaining Float Club Dates: September 23, 25

In School Hispanic Heritage Parade: September 27

Middle School & High School artists can earn SSL hours, parents welcome to join with your kids to participate.

Sign in the Volunteer Binder in the Main Office to track SSL hours.

EXTRA SSL event opportunity through the Wheaton Arts Parade - <https://www.wheatonartsparade.org/volunteer>



**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

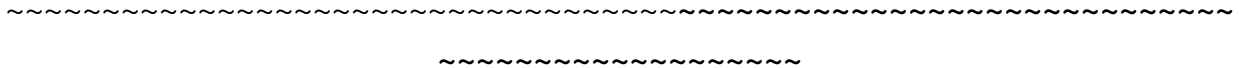
You can find information on this unit in the links below.

[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.

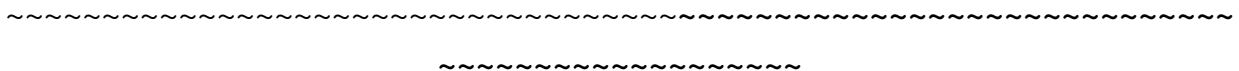
Thank you for supporting Harmony at Singer. If you have any questions about what we are doing, please feel free to ask. You can also find more information at [harmony-academy.org](http://harmony-academy.org).



**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](#)

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### **PTA Membership Drive**

We have ALMOST reached our goal for the PTA membership drive – we have just \$800 to go to meet our goal of \$6500! Thanks, as always, for supporting the Singer community with your PTA membership.

We'll have a table at back to school nights next week for you to join, but don't wait! Join via the website [here](#).

- Just as a reminder, the three classes with the highest percentage of membership signups by 30 September will win either Singer t-shirts, a pizza party, or an ice cream party. Here's an update on our classroom leaders for the September membership drive contest:
  - Wirth (3rd): 47%
  - Flemming (K): 44%
  - Graves (K): 44%
  - Mooney (K): 44%
  - Yuan (2nd): 43%
  - Labastida (1st): 41%
  - Wilhite (3rd): 41%

- Bennett (3rd): 40%
- Abersold (K): 38%
- Browne (2nd): 37%
- There are many classes close behind. Remember, tie breaks are determined by the earliest signup date, so don't delay!
- Those who sign up at the Bronze level or higher by September 30th will be automatically entered into a raffle for a Singer Swag gift basket that includes a custom Singer water bottle, t-shirt, car magnet and cinch bag. PTA members at any level are automatically entered into a monthly raffle for Singer swag.

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### **PTA Volunteer Opportunities**

Parent volunteers are the heart and soul of our efforts to provide Singer students and families with enriching and fun programs all year long! We know it can be intimidating to take on a new role, but we have options for everyone. If you want to shadow someone to learn the job for next year, we've got many opportunities to do so. If you want to take on more responsibility with more influence and engagement with the school administration, we have those opportunities too. And if you're a K-2nd parent, we really need your help! Many in our current volunteer group are graduating in the next two years, and we are in danger of losing our #singermagic without your help now!

Please sign up [here](#) to volunteer (or learn more about volunteer opportunities).

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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](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/](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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**Communication**

We maintain open lines of communication with parents and community members throughout the school year. The phone number for the school is 240-740-0330. Please call us at any time. You may also email Mr. Heatwole at [kyle\\_j\\_heatwole@mcpsmd.org](mailto:kyle_j_heatwole@mcpsmd.org) or Mr. McKinley at [aaron\\_a\\_mckinley@mcpsmd.org](mailto:aaron_a_mckinley@mcpsmd.org). We also email this weekly newsletter every Friday to keep you informed of school events and announcements.

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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



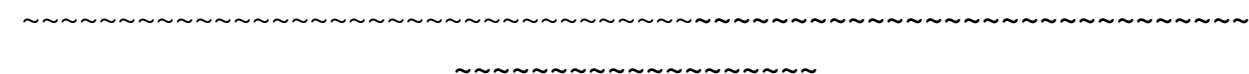
called SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc.

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.schoolcashonline.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.*



**Important First Quarter Dates:**

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|---|--|
| ● Tuesday, August 20<br>pm on Zoom                                    | Virtual Town Hall for Kindergarten Parents-7:00              |
| ● Friday, August 23<br>am for 1st-5th                                 | Open House 9:00 am for Kindergarten, 10:00                   |
| ● Monday, August 26   | First Day of School for students (9:25 a.m. to<br>3:50 p.m.) |
| ● Monday, September 2   | Labor Day – No school for students                           |
| ● Tuesday, September 3<br>7:00pm)                                     | PTA Meeting (Food at 6:30, meeting starts at                 |
| ○ Don't forget that you must be a <a href="#">PTA member</a> to vote! |  |
| ● Tuesday, September 10<br>6:30 to 8:00 p.m.                          | Primary (K, 1, and 2) Back-to-School Night                   |
| ● Tuesday, September 17<br>6:30 to 8:00 p.m.                          | Intermediate (3, 4, and 5) Back-to-School Night              |
| ● Friday, September 27  | Early Release-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m.                  |
| ● Tuesday, October 01   | PTA Meeting, 7:00pm  |
| ● 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
- 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

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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 concerning 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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**MAP assessments**

MAP assessments are given three times a year in the fall, winter and spring to help monitor a student's growth in math in grades K-5 and reading comprehension in grades 3-5.

These assessments are administered on the computer in your child's class by their teacher during their normal math and reading blocks.

Results are posted in ParentVUE about a month after the assessment or can be shared with you by your child's teacher.

We are currently in our fall testing window. It runs from 9/3-10/4. If you have any questions about the assessments feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or our Staff Development Teacher Mrs. Angela Martin at [Angela\\_L\\_Martin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Angela_L_Martin@mcpsmd.org).

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