



From Our Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Rosemont Forest Elementary School. Our faculty and staff are excited to serve you. Please join us in our mission to educate each child for success in a changing world.

We want you to feel welcome at Rosemont Forest. Parents need to be active participants in their child's education. Please join our PTA and be a volunteer in education. If children know that their parents value education, they will value education also.

We are proud to announce that Rosemont Forest is fully accredited for the eighth consecutive year. Our students and faculty worked hard last year to pass all Standards of Learning (SOL) subtests in grades 3, 4, and 5 and to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Please visit Rosemont Forest's website at [www.rosemontforestes.vbschools.com/](http://www.rosemontforestes.vbschools.com/). There is much valuable information presented to parents at our site and many helpful links. Parents can e-mail teachers and staff by clicking on "Contact Us" and then faculty and staff. Simply click on the name of the person you want to e-mail.

I maintain an open door policy. I am always happy to discuss a child's need or a parent's concern. Please do not hesitate to see me if you have a question. Together we will make this a positive and successful school year for our children.

Sincerely,

David E. Portis  
Principal

From Our PTA President

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a wonderful first week of school! There are many exciting PTA activities on the calendar this year and we look forward to bringing our ROFO families together. Please be sure to send your PTA membership in with your child. It is a wonderful and easy way to support our school. We are striving to reach our goal of 100% membership by October 15, so please help fill our honey pot!

Thank you!

Joanne Butcher  
PTA President

Upcoming Dates

September 9 PTA Board Meeting, 6 pm, Library  
September 26 Ice Cream Social, 7-9 pm, \$5 per person

Announcements

**From the PTA Treasurer**

To make things go smoothly this year, I encourage you to write checks rather than send cash in with your child. If you do send cash, please put it in a sealed envelope and please do not send coins. Also, we incurred numerous charges at the bank last year because of bad checks so please do not write a check if you don't have money to cover it in the bank. If a mistake occurs please contact me immediately and we can make sure that I do not process the check. Thank you.

Rebecca Bracknell  
PTA Treasurer

**Gifted Parent Meeting**

Parents of students new to our school, of newly identified gifted 2nd graders, and of students in cluster classrooms are invited to an Informational Presentation: What's Going On In Cluster Classrooms? The meeting will be Wednesday, September 17th from 12-1 pm in Room 30. Bring a bag lunch. Light dessert and soda will be provided. RSVP, if yes, by calling Mrs. Frederick at 648-3640 ext. 50047.

Mrs. Valerie A. Frederick  
Gifted Resource Teacher

**Bear Necessities**

WHAT IS BEAR NECESSITIES? The Bear Necessities Program, sponsored by the PTA, provides standard school supplies for any student in need. Any student is eligible for the program. Since financial background is not always the best indicator of need, we will not let this determine who can or cannot be helped by Bear Necessities. Requests for assistance may only be made by the teachers or staff at ROFO.

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME! Our budget is limited and we want to honor as many requests as possible. Therefore, we are also soliciting donations of surplus school supplies from whomever would like to donate. You may leave the donated items in the school office marked "For Bear Necessities" and just to be sure we get your donation... give us a heads up with a note, in either Lynn Easton's PTA mailbox or Laura Schnuit's office mailbox, that a donation has been made.



Thank You!

Lynn T. Easton & Laura Schnuit  
Co-chairs, Bear Necessities Program 2008-2009

**Art News**

Welcome back! Third, Fourth and fifth grade students who are interested in joining the staff for The Daily Forest newspaper are reminded that their applications are due to Mrs. Thompson by Friday, September 19.

Also, applications for the 4th and 5th grade art clubs are also due to Mrs. Thompson by Friday, September 19.

Don't forget!

Pamela E. Thompson  
Art Specialist & Grade Level Chair



**School Phone Numbers**

Office: 648-3640



Clinic: 648-3647

Cafeteria: 648-3649

Library: 648-3660

Not all school news items are always on this newsletter. Please visit the PTA website, [www.rofopta.org](http://www.rofopta.org), to view the complete Paw Prints newsletter. Thank you.

## Counselor's Corner

### Character Education Suggestions for Parents

#### Responsibility

- Do not make excuses for your child's inappropriate behavior. (Making excuses gives your child your permission to continue to act irresponsibly.)
- Do not cover for your child when he or she has done something inappropriate. (Covering for your child is an invitation for your child not to accept the consequences of a behavior.)
- Limit your child's spending money. (Financial incompetence is a leading cause of social and emotional problems in adulthood. Teaching children to handle money appropriately helps them become responsible adults.)

#### Respect

- Read to your children and keep good literature visible in your home. (Showing your respect for reading and being willing to spend time with good books develops your child's respect for reading.)
- Allow your children to solve appropriate problems. (Letting your child solve appropriate day-to-day problems shows your respect and confidence in his or her ability to make good decisions.)
- Show respect for your spouse, children, and other people. (Your child will learn from your actions.)

Kathy Mercker  
School Counselor



The Bellemy Plantation Civic League requests your cooperation in obeying the posted 25 mph speed limit in the neighborhood. Also please avoid using Grey Friars Chase due to construction work on the sewer line. The sewer line work is projected to be completed by September 18.

## Fundraising

The Fall Fundraiser will run from September 12-October 6. The PTA needs everyone's support as it is our main fundraiser for the year. Keep your eyes out for information in their child's backpack around September 12th.

## Volunteer

Volunteers are needed for the Ice Cream Social on September 26 from 7-9 pm. Please contact Heidi Rosen at 282-6357 or hstratford@aol.com if you can help out. Thank you.

## Classroom Happenings

### **Kindergarten**

Kindergarten is happy to welcome our new kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Claudia McConathy. Mrs. McConathy and her assistant, Mrs. Paula Farley, are in room 7. We are delighted to have them in our school. Drop by and say hello. What a great group of kindergartners!!! The year has started nicely and we are looking forward to a wonderful time of learning and laughing. We are settled into our classes and learning many new things. We are



practicing our names using D'Nealian writing, learning about graphs, patterning and learning new poems. We love going to music, art and library. Kindergarten is a fun place to be!

### **First Grade**

Welcome back to the Forest! We hope everyone had a great summer! Our First Grade Open House was a great success! We enjoyed meeting our students and their families. The first grade teachers are looking forward to an exciting school year filled with many new and rewarding learning experiences. We encourage our parents to join the PTA and join together to make ROFO a great place to learn and grow!

### **Second Grade**

Welcome Back Second Graders! During the month of September we will be drilling basic Math facts 0-20...please practice these daily at home. We will also be writing detailed sentences to get them ready to write their first paragraph later in the semester. We will be traveling back in time to Ancient Egypt and studying about Matter in Science. Please have your child read aloud nightly so that they can be fluent readers. We are looking forward to getting to know your child this school year!

### **Third Grade**

It is the beginning of an exciting third grade year for you and your child. It will be filled with many new and interesting things, from multiplication and division, computer education, working with the Accelerated Reader Program, and much more! One of our goals in school is to encourage the children to become independent readers and writers. We also want the children to develop a love for reading. Our third grade objective is for each child to read a chapter book every two weeks. In Social Studies we are learning how to classify and interpret how contributions of ancient Greece and Rome influenced architecture, government, and sports. The use of map skills to locate places and interpret geography from maps define our world using charts, graphs, and tables. Analyzing and displaying data reviewing Math concepts provide opportunities to find data landmarks and use graphs to draw conclusions to help our children make sense in our wonderful Mathematics program. Communication between home and school is vital to your child's success in the classroom. We will make every effort to keep you well informed of your child's progress throughout the year. We look forward to a Most Successful Year!!!!



### **Fourth Grade**

The fourth graders are off to a fantastic beginning! Students are learning the procedures of their classrooms, as well as many new and interesting topics. In math we are exploring geometry and the world of numbers and their use in the world. It is important for our children to understand that numbers will be a part of their daily lives. The sun, moon, and the earth are being explored in science and it is fascinating to learn about their unique relationships with each other. Map and globe skills are being reviewed in social studies. Soon we will begin our trip traveling through the different regions of the United States. We wish all the fourth graders good luck on the Stanford 10 testing at the end of the month; we know they will do a great job! We are all looking forward to working with our terrific fourth graders this year!

### **Fifth Grade**

Fifth grade is off to a terrific start this year. There are many new challenges awaiting the competent students who are eager to learn in new and exciting ways. Science begins with experimental design and how to think like a scientist. This knowledge will be applied throughout the year as we complete experiments and explore the scientific world. Mapping Virginia is the first step in Social Studies. The geographic regions, waterways, and neighboring states help students understand the state in which they reside. Language Arts is filled with writing and reading. Keeping up with reading journals, creating poetry, book talks, and grammar lessons will help each student become a proficient writer and reader. Number sense is the primary focus in math. Divisibility rules, factors, and exponents are just some of the tools students will find necessary to increase their number sense. Fifth grade is truly looking forward to an exciting successful year!

