



BAYARD RUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
332 West Edmonston Drive Rockville, MD 20852

March 3, 2023

Good morning Bayard Rustin families,

Happy Friday Red Fox family! I hope this message finds you well as we make our way to the weekend. We're gearing up for a busy week ahead, so please read on to see the many happenings in Red Fox nation in the coming days!

Our 5th grade students will complete two different assessments next week. On Monday, all 5th grade students will complete the Maryland School Survey as a part of Bayard Rustin's MSDE Report Card. Then on Thursday and Friday, they will engage in Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) testing. Please encourage your 5th grader not to stress when engaging in these assessments, but to take their time and give their best effort.

Friday also marks the March dine-out coordinated by our awesome BRES PTA! Why cook when you can take out and enjoy your Friday? Head to Jersey Mike's in Wintergreen plaza for lunch or dinner, and mention BRES. A portion of all proceeds will come back to BRES, and your family will enjoy a delicious meal—win win!

Registration is now open for Prekindergarten and Head Start for the 2023-2024 school year. Children must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2023, and families must be income-eligible to apply. Families can register their children online or in person. For families who want to register in person, weekday and weekend locations are open through March 31. Registration is also still open for the current 2022-2023 school year. For more information about eligibility guidelines, required documents and how to register online, call 240-740-4530 or visit the MCPS website.

There's still time to register for our first BRES STEM Expo on Saturday March 18! Check out the flier [here](#)! Please encourage your children to share their creativity and scientific thinking with us by entering our Science Fair or displaying a STEAM project at our expo. Students will use the scientific method to ask and answer questions, then share their findings on a posterboard (provided by the PTA). All entrants will receive a certificate for their participation. There is now LOTS of info on our website, including requirements and a form to enter the Science Fair or STEAM Expo, as well as resources that can help your students get started! <https://www.brespta.org/steam-day> Contact programs@BRESPTA.org with any questions.

In case you missed Ms. Goldberg's important safety update on Class Dojo, please note a change to arrival and dismissal procedures mandated by our crossing guard. There have been multiple incidents where students were unsafe while crossing, nearly being hit by vehicles or striking pedestrians in the crosswalk. From this point forward, we are asking that during arrival and dismissal anyone on a bike, scooter or skateboard will need to dismount and WALK to and from the intersection of W. Edmonston and the

entrance to the school. After exiting school grounds, students will be able to ride their bikes/scooters/skateboards home. Thank you for your continued support in keeping all students safe.

Volunteers needed! Ever have a spare hour during the week? We could use your help in our library makerspace! No steady commitment required; just sign up to come when you can. Students use the makerspace during their recess to explore and create with our art supplies, crafting materials, and engineering toys. Volunteers monitor the students as they work, and ensure that students clean up the space and leave on time for lunch or class. Volunteers need to have completed the MCPS volunteer training online. If you are interested, email Ms. Raynor at frances_j_raynor@mcpsmd.org for more information.

We have quite a few students with negative lunch account balances. If you have not already done so, please visit www.MySchoolApps.com to complete an application for Free and Reduced Meals, and/or visit www.MySchoolBucks.com to register and add money to your child's lunch account. Pro Tip: Set up automatic payments to ensure your child's lunch account never goes into the negative!

Please take some time to review this newsletter in its entirety, and let me know if you have any questions. Enjoy the weekend and we'll see you soon!

With gratitude,

Mrs. West

Kathryn_C_West@mcpsmd.org

School Calendar, Events and Updates

Click [HERE](#) to access the MCPS School Year Calendar.

Click [HERE](#) to access the BRES website

Click [HERE](#) to access the Lunch Menu

Date	Description
March 6	5th Grade Students complete MD School Survey
March 7	No school wide events on the calendar at this time
March 8	No school wide events on the calendar at this time

March	5th Grade MISA testing
March 10	5th Grade MISA testing Dine-Out for Lunch or Dinner at Jersey Mike's in Wintergreen Plaza

March

Fri 17 Bayard Rustin Day
 Thu 16-Sat 18 Pop-Up Book Shopping
 Sat 18 BRES PTA STEAM Fair and Expo 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Mon 20 Staff Appreciation Snack Bar, Hosted by PTA
 Tues 21 Spring Individual Portraits, Class Portraits & 5th Grade Panoramic Photos
 Thurs 30 3rd Marking Period Ends
 Fri 31 No School for Students, Grading & Planning Day for Teachers

[Full Annual Calendar Linked Here](#)

BRES Bricks Campaign

Looking for a great way to contribute to BRES while commemorating your child's experience at our awesome school?! Buy a brick and etch your school pride in stone! Check out our flyer [here](#), and then place your order online at <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/bayardrustines>

GT Parent Input Forms

All parents of Grade 2 students, and select students in Grade 3 and Grade 5, received a letter in ParentVUE and in the U.S. mail regarding online completion of the Parent Input Form, which asks your opinion about your child's strengths. The information you share is an important part of the gifted and talented identification process and helps MCPS learn more about your child to plan for their instructional program for the upcoming school year. We value your opinion. Please complete and submit the electronic form by **March 16, 2023**. You will need to use your student's MCPS Google log-in credentials to access the form. If you are not able to complete the form online, please contact our GT Liaison, [Candice M Nero@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Candice_M_Nero@mcpsmd.org), to request support with completing and submitting the electronic form. Thank you.

BRES NAACP Parent Council

We had a wonderful gathering for our first BRES NAACP Parents' Council meeting last night in the media center. Thank you so much to all who attended, and to our FABULOUS NAACP rep Calandra Moore for planning and coordinating such a special inaugural event for this important parent group. Along with Ms. Goldberg, PTA leadership and me, parents had an opportunity to connect, discuss the importance of the Council in the education of your children as well as the role of the NAACP Parent Representative and the importance of parent involvement. In small groups, we shared experiences, learned about initiatives going on in our school community, and brainstormed way the council can support both students and parents of color in our community. In case you missed it, check out the meeting agenda [here](#) including a tip sheet on what the council is and how it can support schools. We'd love your feedback! Please take the time to complete the input form [here](#). All are welcome to join, and we'd love to have you at our next meeting on April 27th.

Family Life and Human Sexuality Information Session

In case you missed the optional informational session for 5th Grade Family Life and Human Sexuality, check out the meeting slides [here](#), or view the meeting recording [here](#). (Passcode: bres1234!)

Bowie Baysox Reading Night

This year, BRES is participating in the Read and Hit a Home Run Reading program sponsored by the Bowie Baysox. All students who read 4 books will receive 2 free tickets to our Spring Reading Night - Bowie Baysox game on April 30. Please contact Ms. Nero at Candice_M_Nero@mcpsmd.org if you have any questions. Student Participation is easy! Simply...

1. Read at least 4 books
2. Record the book titles on the Baysox Reading Night log
3. Return the paper log to your teacher or submit Student Google form by Friday, March 24, 2023.
4. Receive 2 free tickets (one for the student/one for accompanying adult**) and Join us at the Baysox Stadium on Sunday, April 30 @ 1:05 for a "Home Run" Reading Night! **Additional tickets will be available for purchase. Details coming soon.

Schoolwide Anti-Racist Campaign

I am humbled and proud to support the amazing work our staff is doing to develop antiracist student leaders who interrupt and dismantle racism when they encounter it. Your children may have come home and shared about reading *A Door Made for Me*, by Tyler Merritt. This emotional and honest picture book explores a racist encounter

from the perspective of a young Black boy, while offering a message of unconditional love and acceptance to soothe the pain of blind prejudice, with the ultimate lesson of the story being to open doors to all and welcome the diversity in. After reading, students are decorating classroom doors to share ways they welcome all in and value the gifts of diversity our school has to offer. As a follow-up to this work, students in 5th grade will be engaged in study circles led by our MCPS equity office and instructional specialists next week. To learn more about this learning, check out the program flyer [here](#).

Maryland School Survey

State law requires that all public schools in Maryland survey students about school climate. The purpose of the survey is to gain valuable information about the quality and character of each school's learning environment so that schools can promote a climate that supports student learning.

Fifth grade students will take the Maryland School Survey during regular school hours March 6, 2023. The survey will ask students about topics such as student engagement, interactions with adults and with other students in the school, the school environment, bullying, and safety. The survey will not ask about a student's personal experiences, and students will not be asked to provide any information that might violate their privacy.

The survey is confidential and school personnel will not have access to the responses of specific students. The responses your child provides will be combined with the responses from other students in the school, and results will be reported for each school and district.

We are eager to receive this very important information about your student's school and about schools across the state.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Mrs. West.

Order a Yearbook Today!

Our amazing yearbook team is curating a beautiful new edition for the 2022-2023 yearbook! Order yours today to take advantage of early bird pricing:
<http://yearbooks.classic-photo.com/BbayardRustin/home3/Bookstore.jsp>

Incoming Kindergarten CI Application Process

Do you have a child who will be 5 on or before September 1, 2023? If so, they will come to Kindergarten next year! Our Kindergarten Orientation is tentatively scheduled for April 27th and 28th, and all non-CI Kindergarten classes will be canceled on those days while teachers engage in the orientation process. Interested in applying to an immersion program in MCPS? The immersion lottery process begins February 1,

2023, and ends April 21, 2023. Parents/guardians interested in participating in the immersion lottery must submit their requests online by, April 21 by completing the following Google form: www.bit.ly/2023MCPSImmersion. A Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) student ID number must be submitted with the immersion request. Incoming kindergarten and non-MCPS students entering Grades 1–5 need to be pre-enrolled to be assigned a student ID number, and Mrs. Reichel our registrar can assist you with this process. Please call the office for more information. To view an information session on the BRES CI program, [click here](#). The Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) will email student placement notifications to parents/guardians and communicate with elementary schools regarding student placement in the middle of May 2023.

Donate Your Old Clothes to Our Bin!

As the weather shifts to colder temperatures, it's time to clean out those closets and bag up clothing that no longer fits your child. Did you know that you can upcycle clothing and textiles by depositing them in our BRES Clothing Bin near our entrance? Our school makes money for every pound of clothing added to the bin each month! You help save the planet, and help our school—win win!

Apply Online Now for Free and Reduced-Price Meals Benefits

Families of students who may qualify for free or reduced-price meals can now apply for assistance for school meals. Eligibility is based on family size and gross income. Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will receive free breakfast and lunch meals.

[Apply here.](#)

[Learn more about the program.](#)

As a reminder, breakfast and lunch have returned to paid/charged status for the 2022-2023 school year. Negative balance reports will begin coming home if your student has accrued a balance with the BRES cafeteria. You may load funds to your child's lunch account by visiting www.myschoolbucks.com. Thank you to all who have completed their FARMS forms already for the school year. If you have not already done this, please do so immediately at www.myschoolapps.com. If you are approved, any negative balance will be cleared automatically.

Sign Up For ParentVUE to Stay in Touch With Our School

Families new to MCPS are encouraged to sign up for a [ParentVUE account](#) at the beginning of the school year. ParentVUE is the online parent portal that serves as the primary communication vehicle for schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling, access to myMCPS Classroom and more.

ParentVUE provides a way to view school-related information and data for students. Register for athletics, special programs, communicate with teachers and verify your student information annually.

ParentVUE also allows access to Canvas/MyMCPSClassroom, a digital learning platform. Parents and guardians can view instructional information and resources, and get alerts about assignments and grades.

School Cash Online

Thank you for your patience and feedback in signing up for School Cash Online. MCPS has been working to iron out all of the kinks, and shared that SCO PIN notifications were sent via email and USPS mailer this week. The email was sent to all parent/guardian email addresses on file and came from SCOPinProcess@mcpsmd.org.

Directions on signing up for SCO are available in English [here](#), and in Spanish [here](#). If this process still does not work, even after receiving the email and directions, please email communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org for assistance.

Join the PTA!

If you have not already done so, please visit the BRES PTA website: www.brespta.org

Here, you will find opportunities to get connected and support our school and your child's class. If you haven't already done so, join the PTA today by clicking [here](#).

By joining the PTA, you can...

- Get and stay connected—find out what's going on at our school and receive a printed directory of family contact information.
- Advocate —speak up on behalf of our children and the school and have your voice heard.
- Enhance education — help fund school assemblies, field trips, and other educational opportunities.
- Make connections—support school-wide and family events.
- Partner—support the teachers and staff to enhance experiences and strengthen the school.

We hope you'll join today to support our school and your child!