



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

April 12, 2024

Good morning Bayard Rustin families,

Happy Friday Red Fox family! Every single muscle in my body is sore after last night's Family Fitness Night! We had so much fun dancing, basketballing, cheering, posing, deep breathing, and connecting with you! A SUPER shout out to Mr. Lightman and the whole wellness team for planning and executing such a special evening for our fit foxes!

This is also the first Friday update since our STEAM fair, and WOW what a special event! A heartfelt thank you to all who took time to complete science fair exhibits—I learned so much! The BIGGEST shout out to our PTA VP of Programming, Danielle Snowflack, for making this event happen—it took many hours and a deep love of science, and it showed! And a special thanks to Ms. Herman, Ms. Raynor and KAH for setting up at the expo!

We had a wonderfully productive PTA meeting on Tuesday, and we were able to elect a full slate of board members to serve for the 2024-2025 school year. To learn more about how these positions serve you and our PTA's work, click [here](#). Welcome and thank you to our incoming board members, and we hope you'll join us at the May PTA meeting to celebrate our outgoing board members in gratitude for all of their hard work this year.

We're getting pumped for next week's Fun Run event, which is the culmination of our largest fundraiser of the year. So far we've raised just over \$8,000 towards our \$15,000 fundraising goal. Ms. Xia's class is still in the lead, but there's one more week to take that coveted spot from them! The leading class wins a special party, as well as many prizes for individual fundraising like a lunch bunch with Rusty, a pizza party with me, crocs, a Stanley cup and even a Nintendo Switch! Thank you for helping to make this such a successful fundraiser. **Click [here](#) to set up your fundraising page and help our school while elevating health and wellness—win/win!!**

The actual Fun Run will take place this coming Thursday, 4/18, on the BRES field and blacktop. Join us for a pre-run stretch and dance party, set up along the running route to cheer on our fit foxes, and help us elevate a love of fitness for all of our students. The tentative run schedule is as follows:

- ☐ First Grade → 9:40-10:10
- ☐ Kindergarten → 10:20-10:50
- ☐ Second Grade → 11:00-11:30
- ☐ Third Grade → 11:30-12:00
- ☐ Fifth Grade → 12:00-12:30
- ☐ Fourth Grade → 12:30-1:00

Testing has been going well this week as we kick off our Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) assessments (MCAP) testing in grades 3-5 in both Math and Literacy. For more information on these assessments or to access practice tests, please visit the MCAP website [here](#). The full spring testing schedule can be found [here](#). **We'll continue next week with more testing for grades 4 & 5, and makeup testing for students who were out on their test days this week.** Although no preparation is necessary for these assessments, encourage your child to give their best effort and not to stress about the test. Most importantly, please ensure your child arrives at school on time and well rested on testing days (and every day!). Thank you for your support!

Please take some time to review this newsletter in its entirety, and let me know if you have any questions. Have a wonderful weekend, and we'll see you soon for more learning and fun!

In partnership,

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
Monday Apr 15	Grade 5 MCAP Testing LITERACY
Tuesday Apr 16	Grade 5 MCAP Testing LITERACY
Wednesday Apr 17	Grade 4 MCAP Testing LITERACY
Thursday Apr 18	<p>MCAP Make-Up Testing</p> <p>BRES Fun Run– See <i>Tentative Schedule Above</i> Set Up Your Fundraising Page Here!</p> <p>Report Cards Distributed</p>
Friday Apr 19	<p>Grade 4 MCAP Testing LITERACY</p> <p>Deadline to Apply to Immersion Lottery</p>

April

Mon 22 No school for students, Professional Day for Teachers
Asynchronous Learning Day for Students
Tues 23 School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
Thurs 25 Take Your Child to Work Day
Tues 30 Kindergarten Orientation Registration & Visitation Day 1

[Full Semester 2 Calendar Linked Here](#)

[Spring Testing 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.brickrus.com/donorsite/bayardrustines>

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten numbers are growing, but we need your help! Do you have a child, neighbor, or friend you know who will be 5 on or before September 1, 2024? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten! Kindergarten registration is open and welcoming our newest Red Foxes into the family for the 2024-2025 school year. Best of all, BRES will be hosting Kindergarten Orientation at school for incoming Kindergarten students on April 30th and May 1st. The SignUp Genius is live, and slots are open to set up a time to bring your incoming kinder to see a classroom, meet the teachers, ride a school bus and have some fun! Click [here](#) to secure your spot today!!

Fun Run

We're so excited to kick off our largest school & PTA fundraiser, and FUNraiser of the year, our annual BRES Fun Run. You can visit the [Fun Run Website to get registered here](#), and share your child's fundraising page with friends and family. School identifier code if not prompted automatically during registration is: 5d7927bc83bd8. This event is a crowd sourced donation based fundraiser and prize tiers will be provided based on the level each child reaches. [Click here to see the awesome prizes](#) your child can expect, including everything from a trip to the fox box to a Chick-fil-A lunch bunch delivered by Rusty, with a grand prize of Nintendo Switch!

On April 18th, all students will participate in the actual fun run, regardless of fundraising status. At this wonderful school day event, we'll get pumped up to a warm-up dance party, then navigate the running and obstacle course on the BRES field. Families are welcome to come out and cheer on your runner as we elevate the importance of wellness together!

April 22nd Asynchronous Learning Day

Please note that Monday, April 22 is now an asynchronous learning day, which will be used as a make-up instructional day for students. This day will count as a “make-up” day for our last snow day, to avoid extending the calendar into the summer or cutting into the planned spring break. During this day that is scheduled for staff professional learning, students will be given assignments to complete independently. These assignments must be completed and turned in to count toward their attendance for the day. If you foresee any problems with completing the assigned work, please contact your child’s teacher.

Morning Announcement Helpers

School ratings were released earlier this month, and for the second year in a row **BRES was named the #1 most diverse school in all of Maryland. Out of over 900 schools, we are # 1!** I know I say it all the time, but our diversity is our greatest asset, and I am amazingly proud and humbled to serve this beautiful community. Each day we strive to celebrate our diverse backgrounds on the morning announcements, and I’d love your help with this. For Arab American heritage month students have been encouraged to research noteworthy women in history and present day, and to write a blurb to share on the morning announcements each morning. You can help with this at home—[here is the script](#) to frame their research.

Alternatively, if your family is gifted enough to speak more than one language, you can help your child learn the pledge of allegiance in your native language to share on the announcements. We have many multilingual staff members here to help them practice before taking to the microphone on the morning announcements! Thank you for partnering with us in celebrating our beautiful diversity of cultures, languages, family types and lived experiences. Our students are so much better for it!

2024-2025 Calendar

MCPS has finalized the 2024-2025 school year, and you can review it in its entirety [here](#). Some key highlights of the calendar include the first day of school for students set for Monday, August 26, 2024 and the last day of school on Friday, June 13, 2025. The calendar maintains 182 days of instruction, including six built in contingency days within the school year. Please continue to review updates from MCPS on how you can give input on future calendaring opportunities.

Clothing Bin Donations

As the weather shifts from cold back to warm, it’s a great time to clean out your child’s closet and drawers and donate clothing that no longer fits them. Place all those undersized clothes and shoes in a bag and put them in our clothing bin located at the entrance to our school! Every pound donated equals money for our school! Clean house, save the planet by upcycling clothing and shoes, and make money for your child’s school—win/win/win!

Volunteer in the Media Center

We have two volunteer opportunities in the library media center this year:

1. Help us shelve books! Our Red Foxes are huge readers! So far this school year more than 3,000 books have been checked out. Come for 1-2 hours, once a week, and help us reshelve books. [Reshelving volunteer signup](#)
2. Makerspace (The kids love this!) We'd like to reopen our Makerspace for the year, but we need parent volunteers to make that happen. We need coverage every day from 11am to 1pm. You will supervise 10-12 students as they come to the media center during their 30-minute recess block to engage in fun, self-directed activities like origami, drawing, and playing with engineering and building toys like Legos and marble runs. Sign-up for one hour or come the same day every week. Whatever works for you! [Makerspace sign-up!](#)

All Volunteers must complete the mandatory online [Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect Training](#). When the course is completed, a report is created to serve as proof of satisfying the training requirement. Contact our Media Assistant, Mrs. Lund, with any questions. jessica_lund@mcpsmd.org.

School Cash Online

Have you signed up for School Cash online yet? In case you're having trouble getting registered/ready to pay for your child's upcoming field trip, check out the following resources to troubleshoot. Most importantly, be sure you're logged into your ParentVue account to complete the process. Any questions? Call Caitlin Ravida in the main office and she can assist. Resources: [Website](#), Click [here](#) to view the parent guide in English, and [here](#) for Spanish. Watch a video on registering for an account [here](#), and a video on adding a child [here](#).

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.](#)

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!