



**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	11/18	11/19 Fall Portrait Retakes <a href="#">Picture Retake Day</a>	11/20 2nd Grade Field Trip  <a href="#">Singer Needs Virtual Meeting at 7:00</a>	11/21	11/22 Spanish-speaking Parent Coffee 9:45 Staff Lounge; Google meet <b>Meeting Link:</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjv">https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xjv</a>
Next week	11/25 Half Day of School Dismissal Starts at 1:15 pm	11/26 Half Day of School Dismissal Starts at 1:15 pm	11/27 Schools Closed	11/28 Schools Closed	11/29 Schools Closed

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**Coat Drive Donations & Requests**

Cold weather is just around the corner. If your Singer student is in need of a winter coat, you can request one using the link below. Requests will be fulfilled as coats become available.

<https://forms.gle/JzAJ2kra6YeWNFac9>

If you would like to donate to the coat drive, new and used coats and cold weather gear in [dignity](#) condition can be dropped off in the bin in the main hallway.

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**Picture Retake Day**

Picture day retake is Tuesday 11/19, Classic photography will be photographing new students, students who were absent on the original picture day, and any student whose parents are requesting a retake. Parents of the students participating on Retake Day should be aware of the following:

Students should bring the original photo package, including original envelope and all picture products, to turn into the photographer when they come to sit for a new picture. You do not need to fill out a new order form.

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**Thanksgiving Next Week**

Next Thursday is Thanksgiving. Schools will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Monday and Tuesdays are also half-days of school. Dismissal will begin at 1:15 on Monday and Tuesday.



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### **Singer Needs Meeting**

11/20 at 7pm: In coordination with our PTA Singer Needs Team, we will be hosting an informational meeting for parents/guardians hosted by xMinds on November 20, 2024 at 7:00pm. The meeting will be virtual.

xMinds is a collaborative partnership of parents, educators, and service providers working together to improve the educational experience and outcomes for autistic students in Pre-K–12 education in Montgomery County, MD.

This session will focus on the services and resources xMinds provide to the community and how parents can access them within Montgomery County. Please note that Executive Director Melanie Carlos & Sue Keisler President of xMinds will be present as our guest speakers and will be very happy to answer any questions you may have. Please email [Kara\\_T\\_Tymon@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kara_T_Tymon@mcpsmd.org) with your questions.

Link: Singer Needs Hosts xMINDS

Wednesday, November 20 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

Time zone: America/New\_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/iag-djmo-ehw>

Or dial: (US) +1 402-683-0083 PIN: 220 797 561#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/iag-djmo-ehw?pin=8152202743256>

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### **Staff Member of the Month!**

We believe that our school staff plays a crucial role in creating a positive and nurturing environment for our students. To recognize their hard work and dedication, we invite you to nominate an exceptional staff member to be our Staff Member of the Month!

If you've witnessed a teacher, administrator, or support staff member going above and beyond, we want to hear about it! Please share your thoughts on how they have made a difference in your child's education or well-being.

Nominations can be submitted throughout the year using the links below:

English: <https://forms.gle/cRCUCftPF5e1vBMAA>

Spanish: <https://forms.gle/5PvwgZRBcHtmfgqXA>

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### **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

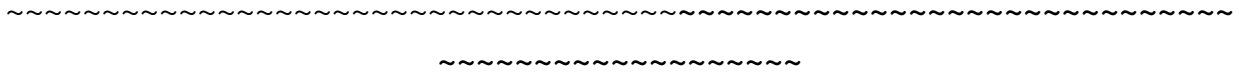
Submit your design to Mrs. Gracias, Folders hanging outside Room #114

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



### **Harmony SEL**

During the second quarter students will Unity 2: Valuing Eachother

Unit 2 explores recognizing and appreciating each other's emotions, perspectives, and contributions, and identifies strategies so everyone feels welcome and included. Students learn about:

- their own and others' diversity and contributions
- their own and others' perspectives to ensure everyone feels included
- breaking stereotypes and creating welcoming environments
- empathy and caring for others' feelings
- supporting and encouraging others in unfair situations.

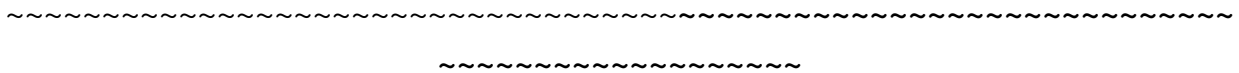
You can find information on this unit in the links below.

[K-2 Home Connection Letter English & Spanish](#)

[3-5 Home Connection Letter English & Spanish](#)

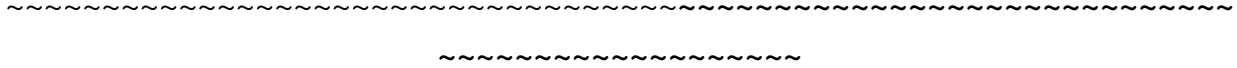
Remember, it is important to talk about and practice these skills at home too. You can find several ideas for this in the "Home-to-School Connections: Home Activities" in the links.

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.



**Holiday Help for Families: Holiday Giving Project of Montgomery County**

**Deadline to apply for December support: Thursday, Nov. 21st**

If your family is in need and would like to be referred for possible assistance for the holiday season (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.

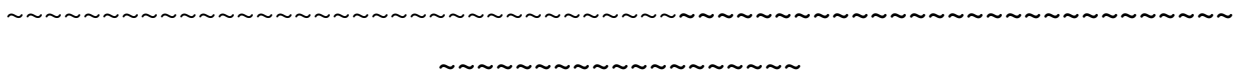
The Holiday Giving Project has provided Thanksgiving and December holiday assistance to low-income households for over 30 years. A network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public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



**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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### **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.schoolcashionline.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.*

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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 concerns 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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**GT screening for SY 24-25**

This year all Montgomery County Public Schools Grade 2 students will be screened as part of the Student Instructional Program Planning and Implementation (SIPPI) process, which is the universal screening for gifted and talented (GT) identification. Additionally, students in Grades 3 and 5 who are new to MCPS, or have not been previously identified as gifted and talented, will participate in the screening process. More information will be shared over the next month about the process with all families who have a student being screened. Please see the letters below for additional information. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to our GT Liaison Ms. Angela Martin at [Angela\\_L\\_Martin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Angela_L_Martin@mcpsmd.org).

[English](#) , [Spanish](#), [French](#)