



**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	10/14 Open House	10/15	10/16	10/17 Book Fair starts! (click here to volunteer)	10/18 Professional Day - No school for students
Next week	10/21 Bus Evacuation Drill	10/22 5th Grade Field Trip	10/23	10/24	10/25 Spanish-speaking Parent Coffee 9:45 APR; Google meet Meeting Link: https://meet.google.com/nfs-ahhb-xiv PTA Movie Night

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Volunteer at the Book Fair!

The 2024 [Flora Singer Book Fair](#) is coming October 17th through 25th! We need volunteers to help with this wonderful celebration of reading with hundreds of books to discover. Please sign up here using the [SignUpGenius link](#).

It takes *many* volunteers to keep the fair running smoothly. There are a variety of jobs to do during the shifts which will be organized by the Shift Leader. Sign up for as many parent helper shifts or as few as you can. If you cannot work the entire shift, that's okay! Please list the times you can be here in the comments section when you sign up.

We particularly need volunteers to help us set up on Wednesday after school so we can be ready for students on Thursday. Please sign up if you're able to help out.

Volunteering at the fair is a LOT of fun and a great way to get to know other parents, teachers, and students.

Volunteer duties include helping readers complete their wish lists, finding books for kids, working the registers, setting up the fair, organizing inventory, and simply offering a helping hand. The Book Fair is a fun event that students, teachers, and parents greatly enjoy. It takes a lot of volunteers to make sure everything runs smoothly!

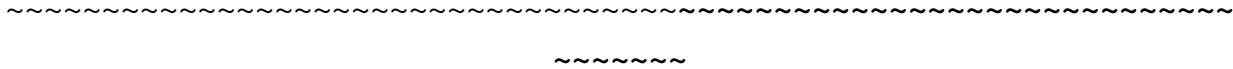
Please note that all volunteers at the school must complete the MCPS online training and submit a volunteer form:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-leadership/volunteer/>

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No School Friday

All MCPS schools will be closed this Friday, October 18th for a professional day. We hope our students enjoy the day off!



Yearbook Cover Contest - Due December 5th

Calling all Artists!

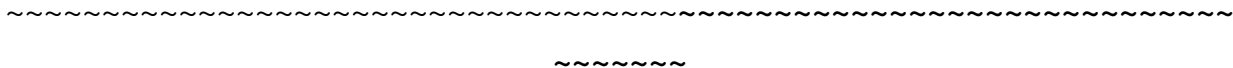
Do you want your artwork on the cover of the yearbook?
We are looking for designs for the 2024-2025 yearbook cover!

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



NaNoWriMo Club

NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) Club is a free extracurricular activity offered to Flora Singer students in **2nd through 5th grade**. NaNoWriMo is a national program in which students are challenged to write an entire novel in just one month! NaNoWriMo Club boosts self-confidence and helps students improve their writing skills (especially creative writing) and practice time management and working toward a goal. Plus it's fun!

Club meetings will be Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:15-9:00 in the media center. **Due to the popularity of this club in previous years, we can only accept the first 75 students.** [Permission slips](#) should have come home with your child Thursday or Friday or can be accepted electronically.

Registration is now full. Please contact Mrs. Whitney with any questions.

Questions? Please contact club sponsor Mrs. Whitney at lauren.e.whitney@mcpsmd.net.

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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.

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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](#)

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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

[Holiday Giving Project of Montgomery County Referral Request](#)

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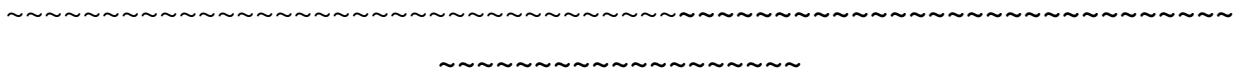
Scholastic Book Fair: Share the Fair

Flora Singer is participating in the Share the Fair coin drive. By donating, you can help ensure

that every Singer student gets a book from the book fair. All money collected goes directly towards purchasing books for students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to do so. A flyer with an attached bag was sent home with students last week. Please put your donation in the bag and send it back to school with your child by Friday, October 4th. Questions? Please contact singercares@singerpta.org. Thank you for your generosity!



Flora Singer esta participando en la colecta de monedas para “Share the Fair.” Su donación puede garantizar que cada estudiante de Singer reciba un libro de la feria del libro. Todo el dinero recaudado se destina directamente a la compra de libros para estudiantes que de otro modo no tendrían la oportunidad de comprar un libro en la feria. Le semana pasada se envió a casa con los estudiantes un folleto con una bolsa. Monedas se pueden poner en la bolsa; por favor envía la bolsa a la escuela con su hijo antes del viernes 4 de octubre. ¿Preguntas? Por favor escribe a singercares@singerpta.org. ¡Gracias por tu generosidad!



Fall Family Photo Fundraiser!

[Shoott](#) is holding a Flora Singer PTA fundraiser at McKenney Hills Park.

- **What To Expect:**
 - BOOK a 30 minute photo session - no sitting fee!
 - RECEIVE a digital gallery of 40+ photos in 3-5 business days
 - PAY only for the photos you love
 - RAISE \$20 when you make a purchase. Raise a BONUS \$20 if you buy the full gallery!

- **When:** Saturday, October 26, 2024 **OR** Sunday, November 10, 2024
- **Where:** McKenney Hills Park
- **How to Book:** <https://qrco.de/FLORAPTA>

Can't make the fundraiser? Book a standard Shoot session at the date and location of your choice with code FLORAPTA to raise \$20 when you make a purchase!

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PTA Newsletter, 15 October 2024


We have quite a few events and opportunities in October, including the [book fair](#), [movie night](#), the [Fall Family Photo Fundraiser](#), and a host of other updates.


Click [here](#) for the PTA Newsletter!

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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

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/. 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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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.

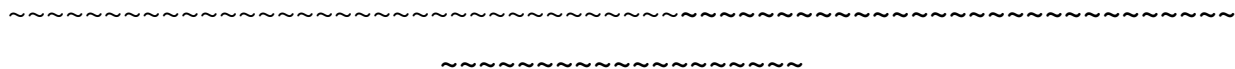
Parents/guardians can register now at - <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>

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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Important First Quarter Dates:

- Tuesday, August 20 pm on Zoom Virtual Town Hall for Kindergarten Parents-7:00
- Friday, August 23 am for 1st-5th Open House 9:00 am for Kindergarten, 10:00
- Monday, August 26 3:50 p.m.) First Day of School for students (9:25 a.m. to
- Monday, September 2 Labor Day – No school for students
- Tuesday, September 3 7:00pm) PTA Meeting (Food at 6:30, meeting starts at
 - Don't forget that you must be a [PTA member](#) to vote!
- Tuesday, September 10 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Primary (K, 1, and 2) Back-to-School Night
- Tuesday, September 17 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 dinner!) PTA Meeting, 7:00pm (come at 6:45 for
- 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 Fair Singer Movie Night and LAST NIGHT of Book
- Saturday, October 26 Hills Park [Fall Family Mini Photo Sessions](#) at McKenney
- Tuesday, October 31 2:30 p.m. Fall Festival Parade and Parties starting at
- 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

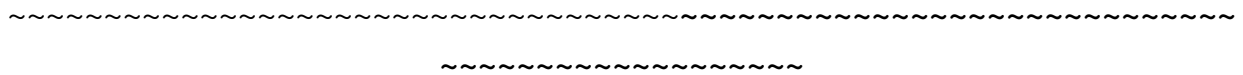


Volunteering at School

If you are interested in being a volunteer in any capacity this school year we would love to have

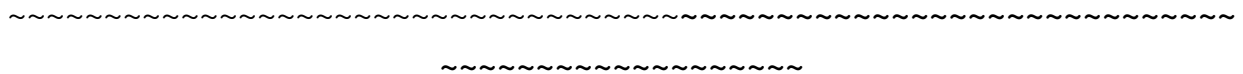
you! Please access the link to learn about the requirements of volunteering in MCPS. If you have any questions please contact Mr. McKinley.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-leadership/volunteer>



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.



Middle School Consortium Lottery and Criteria Based Programs

5th grade students have the opportunity to join the lottery for a spot at one of the Magnet Consortium Middle Schools. Below is the information that was sent centrally to all 5th grade parents about the timeline.

Middle School Magnet Consortium Timeline

- **October 15, 2024-** Open House at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School 6 pm - PERFORMANCE ART PROGRAM
- **October 22, 2024-** Open House at Argyle Middle School 6 pm - DIGITAL DESIGN PROGRAM
- **October 29, 2024-** Open House at Parkland Middle School 6 pm- AEROSPACE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM
- **November 1, 2024-** MSMC Choice Form Deadline
- **Mid January 2025-** Notification of Round 1 results

- **February 7, 2025**- MSMC Round 2 Choice Form Deadline
- **Mid March 2025**- Notification of Round 2 results

Takoma Park and Eastern Middle school house Criteria Based Magnet Programs. There is no lottery or application for these programs and students are centrally selected. A virtual presentation about these programas will be **October 21, 2024** streamed on the [MCPS Homepage](#) **English** 5:00 pm* **español** 6:00 pm*