



COMMUNITY RAMS NEWS

DODGE PARK ELEMENTARY

*We are Resilient Rams **ONE** Team, **ONE** Dream!*

February - April 2024

301-883-4220

3401 Hubbard Road, Landover, MD 20785

Dodge Park Elementary is a Community School that provides wraparound services and resources for our students, staff, families, and community.



From Mrs. Moise's Desk



Dear Dodge Park Family,

Happy New Year 2024! We are now on crunch time. It is the time to put our helping hands together and join forces to continue with our rigorous instruction. We want to encourage our children to put forth effort and discipline to reach their full potential. After diving into our data, we have identified areas of needs for improvement. Students need to submit quality work to demonstrate higher critical thinking in all content areas.

Students have begun to take mandated testing, like the Benchmark, Access, Dibles, and Iready, this month and should be prepared to show what they have been working on during the first quarter of the school year. We welcome your partnership and support and are asking that you motivate students to complete their classwork and homework assignments every day and on time to maximize their learning opportunities. Also, continue to have your child read daily, practice their math facts, and write their reflections in their writing journals at home. Let's invest our all in our children's future. I thank you in advance for your continued partnership.





February 5, 2024

**Community School Committee Meeting (Virtual)
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm**

February 8, 2024

**Literacy Night Parent Workshop (In-Person)
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

February 9, 2024

2nd Quarter Report Cards Released

February 16, 2024

**2nd Quarter Awards Assembly
(More Information will be forthcoming via Class Dojo)**

February 19, 2024

**President's Day
Schools and Offices Closed**

February 20, 2024

**Parent-Teacher Conferences
2-Hours Delayed Opening for Students**

February 20, 2024

**Zumba and Mental Health Parent Night Workshop (In-Person)
4:00 – 6:00 pm**

February 22, 2024

**Community School Food Distribution
3:00 – 4:00 pm (While food boxes last)**

February 23, 2024

3rd Quarter Progress Reports Released Online

February 23, 2024

**Meet and Chat with Principal Moise (Virtual)
2:15 – 3:15 pm**



March 4, 2024
Professional Development for Staff
Schools Closed for Students

March 4, 2024
Community School Committee Meeting (Virtual)
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

March 21, 2024
Community School Food Distribution
3:00 – 4:00 pm (While food boxes last)

March 22, 2024
Meet and Chat with Principal Moise (Virtual)
2:15 – 3:15 pm

March 22, 2024
End of Third Quarter

March TBD, 2024
Parent Workshop

March 25-28, 2024
Spring Break
Schools Closed

March 29 & April 1, 2024
Spring Break/Easter Holidays
Schools and Offices Closed

Monday, April 2, 2024
Professional Development Day for Teachers – ½ Day Asynchronous Learning for Students
Schools Closed



● Did You Know...

- School attendance plays a major part in your child's academic success.
- Too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school and makes it harder to learn how to read.
- Building good habits in prekindergarten/elementary school helps children learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

● What You Can Do To Help

- Ensure that all school-age children in your care are in school and on time daily.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Lay out clothes and pack lunches and backpacks the night before.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments or extended trips during school days.
- Make back-up plans for getting your child to school if something comes up.

● How to Communicate with the School

- First, read the Prince George's County Public Schools Attendance Policy.
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. Make sure teachers and school staff have your up-to-date contact information.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

Adapted from Attendance Works



#PGCPSAttendanceMatters

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • www.pgcps.org

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL): Building Resilient Children by Dr. Gordon, School Psychologist



Managing Overwhelming Feelings: “The Tolerance Cup Analogy!”



Have you ever experienced a time when you felt like you were carrying so many different emotions that you became overwhelmed? The truth is that most of us at some time try to avoid dealing with our emotions, especially difficult emotions like shame, fear, or anger. When we experience events that we are unable to process, we may become so emotionally overwhelmed that we may find ourselves bursting into tears, having a grownup or toddler tantrum, saying things we may regret later, and lashing out at those around us. That is because all of us, adults and children alike, have a limited capacity to hold onto difficult emotions.

As parents, it is then important for us to model for our children how we manage difficult emotions such as frustrations so that they do not build up and overwhelm us. This month, the *Big Life Journal* brings us the “Tolerance Cup Analogy” activity, which will allow you and your children to explore the different events and experiences that fill your “Tolerance cups!” Doing this activity together with your children will allow them to see that we may each have different experiences that cause us to experience feelings of being overwhelmed. Most importantly, they will recognize that the adults in their lives also experience times when they may feel overwhelmed by intense emotions and need to use different healthy coping strategies to manage these emotions.

Go ahead and get a couple of cups, click on the [LINK](#), and use this month’s activity from the *Big Life Journal* to help you and your children continue to build a family toolkit of healthy regulation strategies! Are you surprised by the things that fill your children’s cups? Are they surprised by the things that fill your cup? Add to the list the different things that you can do together to pour water out of their cup.

We all need reminders! No emotions are either good or bad, however intense. Let us continue to guide our children in seeing emotions as information only, and how they may use them as a window to get to know themselves better. Also, the more we practice self-regulation strategies with our children when they are feeling good, the easier it will be for them to use them in times of difficulty!

Special Events!



Parent/Student Science Fair Workshop with Ms. Arquelita and Ms. Howard



**Thanksgiving Basket Donations
Metro Landover Division**



**Thanksgiving Basket Donations
Mil-Net, Inc.**



**Christmas Donations
St. Joseph Catholic Church**



**Christmas Donations
Metro Landover Division**



**Christmas Donations
Mil-Net, Inc.**

A very special THANK YOU to all our Partners for their generous donations to our families and staff during Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays:

First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Shabach Ministries, Metro Landover Division, Mil-Net, Inc., Helping Hands Ministry, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Project Bridges, Dr. Ward, Ms. Ashton, Dr. Gordon, Mrs. Bland, Ms. Farrell, and the staff members who participated in our Toy Drive.



MATH AND READING TIPS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Free Educational Apps, Games, and Websites

You don't always have to pay big bucks for great educational games, apps, and websites: Lots of outstanding free options are only a click away. Since the subjects here range from reading to math skills, kids can find all sorts of fun practice for all kinds of topics. The best part is that kids can check them out and move on if a title isn't a great fit -- and it won't impact your wallet!

1. APP

Daily Vroom

Age 2+

Parents get great brain-building tips for little kids.

Devices: [iPhone](#) , [iPod Touch](#) , [iPad](#) , [Android](#) (2017)

2. Duolingo ABC - Learn to Read

Age 3+

Enjoyable drills thoroughly cover ABC basics, step by step.

Devices: [iPhone](#) , [iPod Touch](#) , [iPad](#) (2020)

3. Prodigy: Kids Math Game

Age 7+

Fantasy game helps kids become math wizards.

Devices: [iPhone](#), [iPod Touch](#), [iPad](#), [Android](#), [Chromebook](#) (2019)3.

4. WEBSITE

Design Squad Global

Age 8+

Fun PBS site introduces kids to engineering.

URL: <http://pbskids.org/designsquad> (2012)

These resources are either completely free or have substantial quality, free content for kids to explore. Next time your kids are looking for fun, try giving them one of the picks above. They'll learn while being entertained! And, you will get the chance to learn with them.



KNOW BLACK HISTORY FACTS

LITERATURE

1. Phillis Wheatley was the first African American to publish a book of poetry, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, in 1773. Born in the Gambia and sold to the Wheatley family in Boston when she was 7 years old, Wheatley was emancipated shortly after her book was released.
2. “Bars Fight,” written by poet and activist Lucy Terry in 1746, was the first known poem written by a Black American. Terry was enslaved in Rhode Island as a toddler but became free at age 26 after marrying a free Black man.

IMPORTANT FIGURES

1. In case you did not already know, the creator of Black History Month was historian Carter G. Woodson. Often referred to as the “Father of Black History,” he was notably the second African American to graduate from Harvard University with a doctorate and is credited with being one of the first scholars to study and research the history of African Americans.
2. James McCune Smith was the first African American person to earn a medical degree. He also started the nation's first pharmacy under Black ownership and was the first African American to have their work published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

MUSIC AND TELEVISION

1. Dubbed “Hip-Hop’s First Godmother” by *Billboard*, singer and music producer Sylvia Robinson produced the first-ever commercially successful rap record: “Rapper’s Delight,” by the Sugar Hill Gang. Along with her husband, she co-owned the first hip-hop label, Sugar Hill Records.
2. In 1940, Hattie McDaniel became the first Black person to win an Oscar, for her supporting role in *Gone With the Wind*. Twenty-four years later, Sidney Poitier became the first Black man to win an Oscar, for his leading role in *Lilies of the Field*.

INVENTORS

1. Madam C.J. Walker created a line of hair care products for African American women, leading her to later become the first female African American self-made millionaire. There is now a Netflix series based on her journey, titled *Self Made*.
2. Computer scientist Lisa Gelobter assisted with the 1995 creation of Shockwave, an essential technology that led to the development of web animation. (So we have her to thank for GIFs.)

KNOW BLACK HISTORY FACTS Cont'd.

SPORTS

1. in 1984, the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo is the only touring African American rodeo in the world.
2. In 1920, Fritz Pollard and Bobby Marshall became the first Black athletes to play in the NFL. Pollard was also the league's first Black coach.

SOCIETY AND LIFE

1. The oldest Black female Greek-letter organization, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA), was founded at Howard University in 1908. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Alpha), the first Black male Greek-letter organization, was founded in 1906 at Cornell University.
2. It is estimated that around 100,000 enslaved people escaped to the North via the Underground Railroad from 1810 to 1850.

BLACK HISTORY TRIVIA

1. What was the name of the landmark Supreme Court case that ruled segregation in public schools unconstitutional?
2. Who was the first Black American to enroll at the University of Mississippi, breaking the color barrier in higher education in the state?
3. Which legendary guitarist is known for his virtuosic skills and played a What Black American artist is often called the "King of Pop" and is famous for his albums "Thriller" and "Off the Wall"?
4. Who was the first Black American to publish a book in the United States, a collection of poetry titled "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral," in 1773?
5. Who became the first Black American to win an Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in the film "Lilies of the Field" in 1963?
6. What 2017 film, directed by Jordan Peele, addresses issues of race in America through a horror-thriller narrative?
7. Who was the first Black American woman in space, flying aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in 1992?
8. What accomplished Black American engineer and inventor was awarded more than 50 patents and is known for his contributions to the development of the Super Soaker water gun?
9. Which Black American President won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 for his efforts in international diplomacy and cooperation?
10. What Black American astronaut became the first person of Black descent in space, flying aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1983?

1. Brown v. Board of Education
2. James Meredith
3. Michael Jackson
4. Phillis Wheatley
5. Sidney Poitier
6. Get Out
7. Mae Jemison
8. Lonnie G. Johnson
9. President Barack Obama
10. Guion S. Bluford Jr.



FASCINATING FACTS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

BY THE NUMBERS

1. **Today, 71% of moms with kids under 18 work. In 1975, fewer than 47% did.** Once upon a time, the idea of women working outside of the home was frowned upon and most women who did so worked as maids, seamstresses, took in laundry or worked in one of the traditionally female fields. Today, more women not only work outside the home, but hold a wider variety of jobs, with some even making it to the top of business, technology and science fields.
2. **Over 60 percent of college degrees awarded in the U.S. every year are earned by women.** In fact, women are more likely than men to get a high school diploma as well, and the numbers are only expected to rise in the coming years.

SPORTS

1. **No women or girls were allowed at the first Olympics, but the Games of Hera, featuring footraces for women, were held every four years.** In fact, women were not even allowed to watch the Olympic games or encouraged to participate in athletics (with the exception of the Spartans) so that the games existed at all is surprising. At their inception, the games only included that one event.
2. **Roberta Gibb was the first woman to run and finish the Boston Marathon in 1966.** Of course, she didn't get official credit for it, as women were not allowed to enter the race until 1972, but her wins, in '66, '67, and '68 seriously challenged long-held beliefs about the athletic prowess of women.

CULTURE

1. **In 1921, American novelist Edith Wharton was the first woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize for fiction.** She won the award for her novel *The Age of Innocence*, a story set in upper-class New York during the 1870s.
2. **In the early years of the blues, from 1910 to 1925, the vast majority of singers were women.** It might go against the common idea of just what the blues are or what they should sound like, but new research has found that some of the biggest players in the form of music were actually women.

AMAZING WOMEN

1. **Upon her husband's death, Cherokee leader Nancy Ward took his place in a 1775 battle against the Creeks, and led the Cherokee to victory.** After the victory, she became head of the Woman's Council and a member of the Council of Chiefs, playing a key role in social and political changes to the Cherokee nation throughout her life.
2. **Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony spent their lives fighting for women's suffrage, but neither lived long enough to see the Amendment granting them the right to vote.** Stanton passed away in 1902, decades before women finally won out, and Anthony in 1906 only a few years later.

FASCINATING FACTS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Cont'd.

FAMOUS FIRSTS

1. **The earliest recorded female physician was Merit Ptah, a doctor in ancient Egypt who lived around 2700 B.C.** Many historians believe she may be the first woman recorded by name in the history of all of the sciences, making her achievement all the more impressive.
2. **In 1756, during America's Colonial period, Lydia Chapin Taft became the first woman to legally vote with the consent of the electorate.** While all women didn't enjoy this privilege until 1920, Taft was allowed to vote because her husband, a powerful local figure, had passed away right before a major town vote. She was allowed to step in in his stead.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

1. **Wyoming was the first state to grant women the right to vote.** It was also the first state to elect a female governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross.
2. **Think that factory work was always done by men? In fact, during the 19th century, factory workers were primarily young, single women.** Men and married women stayed home to work the farm or manage the house.

INNOVATIVE WOMEN

1. **In 1903, Mary Anderson was granted a patent for the windshield wiper.** It would become standard equipment on cars by 1916. She isn't alone in her inventiveness. Women have also invented such things as industrial lathes, white out, bras, non-reflective glass, the dishwasher, disposable diapers, petroleum refining methods and much, much more.
2. **Susan Kare developed most of the interface elements for Apple Macintosh.** You might not think that women have played a huge role in the development of computer technology, but in this case you'd be wrong. Kare helped develop the bulk of those little icons early Mac users clicked on every day. Kare left Apple in the 80's, and is still working with innovating new technologies and improving design.

WOMEN HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Who became the first female Secretary of State of the United States, appointed by President Clinton in 1997?
2. Who was the first woman in modern history to lead a major Native-American tribe, the Cherokee Nation?
3. Who became the first female president of Harvard University when she was named its 28th president in 2007?
4. Who is the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize in physics in 1963 after she discovered the structure of atoms?
5. Who is the longest-serving female U.S. senator, elected in 1986?
6. Who was the astronomer who discovered a comet, named for her, on October 1, 1847, and who was the first woman elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1850), and the first professor of astronomy at Vassar College?
7. Who was the first black prima donna soprano at the Metropolitan Opera, starring from 1961 to 2007, the first black singer to earn the top fee of \$2750 for each performance (second only to Birgit Nilsson who got \$3000), and winner of 19 Grammy awards?
8. Who was the first Native American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963 for her work in decreasing infant mortality and decreasing tuberculosis?
9. Who introduced America to French cooking in her books and television series from 1963 through the 1990's?
10. What woman has won a total of 56 Grand Slam tennis competitions events and 9 Wimbledon women's singles titles?

1. Madeleine Albright (b. 1937)
2. Wilma Mankiller (1945 – 2010)
3. Drew Gilpin Faust (b. 1947)
4. Maria Goeppert Mayer (1906 – 1972)
5. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) (b. 1936)
6. Maria Mitchell (1818 – 1889)
7. Leontyne Price (b. 1927)
8. Anne Dodge Wauneha (1910 – 1997)
9. Julia Child (1912 – 2004)
10. Martina Navratilova (b. 1956)

Parent Resources

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FOOD ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

- SNAP provides low-income individuals and families with grocery money that can be used at most grocery stores and farmers' markets.
- Apply for SNAP online at dhs.maryland.gov/benefits or by calling 1-800-332-6347.
- For application assistance and questions, call Maryland Hunger Solutions at 866-821-5552 or another SNAP Outreach Community Based Organizations listed at: bit.ly/SNAPPpartnersPGC.
- For free legal help accessing SNAP benefits, call the Homeless Persons Representation Project hotline at 1-800-613-2518.

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC):

- WIC is a program that provides healthy food, nutrition education, and health services to new mothers, pregnant women, infants, and children.
- To apply, applicants must set up an appointment with a WIC office located in the county. For information on how to apply, visit MDWIC.org or call the Prince George's County Health Department at 301-856-9600; CCI Health Services Greenbelt at 301-856-9600; or Greater Baden Medical Center at 301-324-1874.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- Free food pantries are available throughout Prince George's County for anyone in need. For weekly updates on charitable food and meal distributions, visit bit.ly/pgcfoodresources.
- You can find information on free & reduced-cost food pantries & resources in your area at findhelp.org.
- The Capital Area Food Bank operates a Hunger Lifeline. For more information on food distribution locations and meal services, visit capitalareafoodbank.org/find-food-assistance or call 202-644-9807.
- You can also call 2-1-1 for distributions near you.

SCHOOL MEALS

- Children from low-income families are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals during the school year. Families must apply. Applications are available at all public schools and can be submitted at any time and turned into any public school. Find more information at pgcps.org/offices/food-and-nutrition/free-and-reduced-meals.
- All children can receive free meals throughout the summer. For more information, meal service locations, and times, visit pgcps.org/offices/food-and-nutrition/summer-meals.
- Pandemic-EBT is a program that helps families purchase food while schooling is impacted due to COVID-19. For more information, visit dhs.maryland.gov/p-ebt/.

HOME FOOD & MEAL DELIVERIES

- Meal delivery services are available for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Meals are provided by the Prince George's County Department of Family Services, Senior Nutrition Program. For more information, visit princegeorgescountymd.gov/1723/Nutrition-Services or call 301-265-8475.
- Meals-on-Wheels provides meals to seniors. For more information or to enroll call 410-558-0827 or apply online at mealsonwheelsmd.org/client-application.
- For more information on other resources, please call 2-1-1.

Do you need emergency food assistance? Call 2-1-1 and ask for a food distribution site near

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- ✓ **The Community Food Distributions** and further food assistance resources are also available on the FEC's website (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)).
- ✓ **In-School Dental Care at NO COST to you.** This service will be provided by Oral Health Impact Project (OHIP). Please contact Ms. Abdulhad at 301-883-4220 for further information and application.
- ✓ **Before and After School Care** is provided to students who do not ride the school bus. For more information, please contact us at 301-883-4220.
- ✓ **Math and Reading After School Tutoring** - To Be Announced, check with your child's homeroom teacher for information.
- ✓ **English Classes for Parents:** For more information, please contact Mr. Huerta at 301-883-4220.
- ✓ **SHABACH! Community Giveaway** for coats, clothing, and surprises. **This event is "BY INVITATION ONLY," so you must register. Those who are in need must call 240-532-7003 to register.** Please help us to spread the word about this event to those who are in need. **REMEMBER YOU MUST REGISTER.**

1. Department of Social Services

425 Brightseat Road, Landover, MD 20785 20737 – 301-909-6300

Summary of Services: Offers provide emergency funds for everything from back rent to water or heating bills. (i.e., Burial Assistance, Child Care Scholarship (CCS), Earned Income Tax Credit, Emergency Assistance, Energy Assistance, Homelessness Prevention Program, Medical Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Cash Assistance, Temporary Disability Assistance, Transportation Assistance, Weathering Tough Times).

2. Community Ministry of Prince George

311 68th Place, Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 – 301-499-2319

Summary of Services: Offers financial assistance for utility bills, free food, information, and education programs to residents of Prince George's County. For example, they can refer people to Maryland pro bono mortgage programs.

3. Financial Empowerment Center

301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774 – 301-546-5296

Summary of Services: Offers direct access to high-quality financial services and guidance in a welcoming, professional environment at no cost.

4. Sowing Empowerment and Economic Development, SEED

6201 Riverdale Road, Suite 200, Riverdale, MD 20737 – 301-458-9808

Summary of Services: SEED offers a bilingual pre-purchase and post-education housing counseling program committed to increasing homeownership and decreasing foreclosures while providing financial education.

5. Salvation Army, Prince George's County

4825 Edmonston Road, Hyattsville, MD 20737 – 301-277-6103

Summary of Services: Offers Fuel fund - Help with heating bills and provide fuel.

Emergency food - Groceries, food, and other household products, utility bills Assistance for water bills, electric, and other energy expenses. School aid - Clothes, shoes, backpacks, and other free supplies for children.



All volunteers must complete a volunteer application, be fingerprinted and background checked and complete Safe School courses. If you are interested or want additional information, please contact Ms. Boston, Parent Engagement Assistant (PEA), at Carolyn.boston@pgcps.org or call 301-883-4220.

Fingerprinting and Background Check Locations

Sasscer Administration Building – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
 14201 School Lane, Room #128
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
 410-707-1657 / 410-962-1188 Ext. 49
Online Scheduler for Prince George's County Public Schools BITHGROUP Technologies Inc.
 (schedulinglist.com)

Fingerprinting and Child Protective Services (CPS) Clearance \$62.25

For all PGCPS employees, volunteers assisting on campus more than once each school year with students and/or chaperoning on field trips, and independent contractors. Fee may be waived if volunteer parent or guardian has a child in the Free and Reduced Meal Program (FARM). Parent or guardian must bring a copy of the FARM letter to the fingerprint office to qualify for the free fingerprint.

Commercial Background Check \$15

(online only at www.myschoolbucks.com) – Only referees, athletic officials and independent contractors who do not have unsupervised access to students may utilize the Commercial Background Check.

Special thanks to all our DPES Community Partners!

- First Baptist Church of Glenarden
- First Good Samaritan Baptist Church
- 100 Black Men of Prince George's
- Project Bridges
- Leveling the Playing Field
- Fort Washington Boating Association
- Love A.M.E. Church
- Giant Foods
- Shabach Ministries
- St. Joseph Catholic Church
- Journey's Inc.
- Evictions Prevention Project
- Solutions in Hometown Connections
- Organization of Hope
- Kappa Alpha Psi – Sandy Spring Alumni
- Mil-Net, Inc.
- Brighter Bites
- Benjamin Moore Paint Company
- Wegmans
- Staples
- Custom Ink
- Positive Promotions
- Metro Landover Bus Division
- Park and Planning
- Fire and EMS Department
- Coalition for Public Safety Training in School, Inc.
- Interdenominational Church Ushers' Association of Washington, DC & Vicinity, Inc.
- Helping Hands Ministry

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING DODGE PARK ES PARENT COUNCIL GROUP, PLEASE CONTACT MS. BOSTON AT 301-883-4220