

# RICHARD HENRY LEE ELEMENTARY

SOARING TO EXCELLENCE: FRIDAY MARCH 1, 2024

## March 2024:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 6th                | PTA Ice Cream Social and Art Show<br>School Cafeteria 6-7:30 PM              |
| 13th               | PTA Fundraiser Night at Chipotle 5-9 PM                                      |
| 14th               | 5:00 PM Title I Parent Advisory Committee Meeting<br>6:00 PM PTA Meeting     |
| 15th               | Last Day to Register for AACPS Summer Camp and Learning Enhancement Programs |
| 19th               | 12:25 PM 2-hour Early Dismissal - Unity Day                                  |
| 20th               | Spring Individual Student Pictures   |
| 25th-<br>April 1st | Spring Break – All Schools and Central Offices Closed                        |

**Mission:** Richard Henry Lee provides a safe and challenging environment in which all children can learn. We strive to have our school community actively involved in empowering students to become lifelong learners and productive members of society.

**Vision:** We have a safe and open environment for learning that encourages risk-taking among all students and staff. We provide a rigorous environment that fosters diversity while encouraging students to be critical thinkers, communicators, and problem solvers. We collaborate to learn from each other and to strengthen relationships between families and school. We are all engaged in learning, staff, and students alike, finding joy in its constant pursuit.

## School Calendar (AACPS)

| March |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|       |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3     | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10    | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17    | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24    | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

### March

19 | Two-hour early dismissal. No afternoon ECL. Project Unity Day. Professional Development.

25-29 | Schools & Central Offices closed. Easter/Spring Break.

| April |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|       | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7     | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14    | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21    | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28    | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

### April

1 | Schools & Central Offices closed. Easter/Spring Break.

4,5 | Two-hour early dismissal. No afternoon ECL. End of third marking period.

10 | Schools & Central Offices closed. Eid al-Fitr.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe the month of March has begun. Thank you to everyone who attended the Valentine's Day Dance. The PTA does such an outstanding job organizing events for our families. This month the PTA is hosting an Ice Cream Social on March 6th. This month we will also be celebrating Literacy throughout the month. We are excited to have numerous fun events planned for our students to spark their love of reading. It is always wonderful for children to spend time reading nightly with their families.

There is exciting news contained in this newsletter regarding Richard Henry Lee becoming a Community School next year! We are going to have much more in terms of support and community-based services to offer our students and families. We will share more information as it becomes available.

This month we will celebrate Unity Day on March 19th. This will be a two-hour early dismissal day for students. Spring Break begins on March 25th and concludes on April 1st. Students will return to school after break on April 2nd. We hope everyone has an enjoyable break!

Thank you for all that you do every day to support your children.

Respectfully,  
Ms. Koennel

# School Counselor's Corner



Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the school year at:

(410) 553-2200 or [dhorn@aacps.org](mailto:dhorn@aacps.org)

## Anger Management Tips for Kids

It is important to recognize that children's anger can be just as strong as adults'--if not more so--and they need to be given specific instruction regarding effective and acceptable methods of coping with these intense emotions. They might be little, but they have big emotions. The following are some helpful tips for providing your child with safe and effective anger-management techniques.

- **Journaling**

Even for kids, writing in a journal is a great way to express and process their feelings. If you'd like to write a journal together, pick up a blank spiral notebook and take turns writing entries/ notes back and forth to each other. This is especially helpful for kids who worry about hurting a parent's feelings.

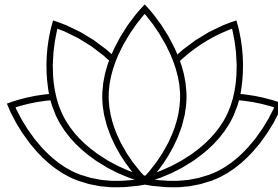
- **Regular Exercise**

Make sure that your children are also getting plenty of exercise. If this is a struggle, consider walking or jogging together several times a week. This will give you a chance to bond while also allowing each of you the opportunity to sort through your emotions while engaging in a physical activity--which can also help you sleep better at night, equip you for handling stress more effectively, and give you more energy for getting through the day.

- **Mindfulness Techniques**

Techniques like five finger breathing – hold hand out and breath in while tracing the outside of your hand starting with your thumb as you go up, breath in and as you go down, breath out – can help to slow down breathing, which will allow children to better communicate their feelings when they calm down.

Additional mindfulness techniques include tensing up your muscles from your toes all the way up to your forehead, then release them one by one. Coloring is used as a calm down tool as well. It's a great way for children to concentrate on something else, which allows them to have time to process those feelings of anger.



AACPS  
SUMMER  
2024



## AACPS SUMMER PROGRAMS

[Click here to access the Summer Program Application Portal and apply today!](#)

The 2024 application window for summer camp and learning enhancement programs is now open through March 15, 2024.

[Click here for step-by-step visual directions on how to use the application portal.](#)

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**Please Note:** Beginning April 15, 2024, you will receive email communication that your child has either been selected into a camp, waitlisted, or not accepted. Once notices are sent, parents will have **five days** to respond **to confirm and accept** their child's seat in the camp. If the seat is not confirmed, then the child will be moved to the waitlist and the seat will be offered to another waitlisted child. Selection of summer seats are not guaranteed for all students and seats are NOT filled on a first come, first serve basis.

**Please make sure to check your email, including your SPAM folder, for email communications. Notifications will be sent electronically to the email address on file.**

\*If you are experiencing difficulty using your child's Student ID Number and Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY) to log in to the summer programs website, please contact the Summer Programming office at [summerprograms@aacps.org](mailto:summerprograms@aacps.org).

# Announcement



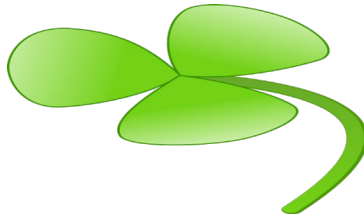
We are very excited to announce that Richard Henry Lee Elementary has been identified by Maryland's Governor Moore as a 2024 – 2025 Community School. Maryland Community Schools are funded through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and the intent is to support schools, students, and families to remove out-of-school barriers to student academic success.

Beginning in August, Richard Henry Lee Elementary will have:

- A fulltime Community School Program Manager who will work with families, staff, and community members to identify the unique needs of our school and to create a plan to transform our school into a Community School.
- A full-time nurse who will be able to provide more supports for students during the day and during any extended day activities.
- A Grade 3 Dental Program that includes an examination, cleaning, fluoride application, and molar sealants for families who opt in to the service.
- Access to an additional vision and hearing screening technician who will be able to identify more students who need vision or hearing support.
- Additional opportunities for family engagement and adult education classes as well as other programs, like field trips and clubs, to support our students.

As our school works to identify our needs next year, we will work to expand what other unique opportunities, resources, and services we can help connect our families and students with. Blueprint Community Schools is a multi-year Blueprint grant, and our programming opportunities will continue to expand over the upcoming years. To see what other AACPS Community Schools are doing, visit: [www.aacps.org/communityschools](http://www.aacps.org/communityschools).

# News from the Literacy Office

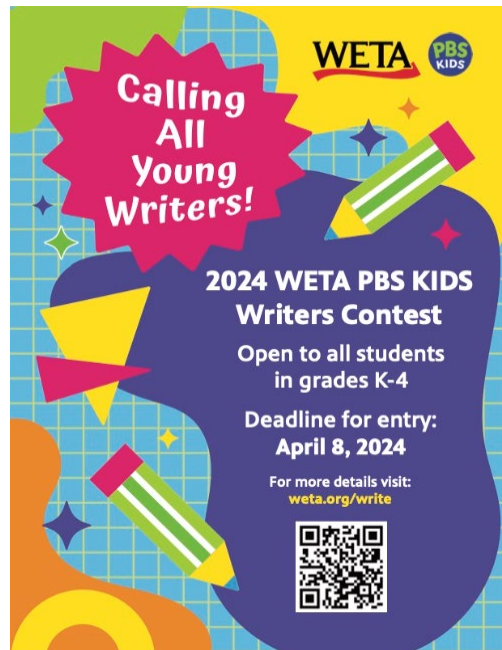


The 2024 WETA PBS Kids Writers Contest is now OPEN! The contest is for students grades K-4 in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, and all who participate will receive an acknowledgment of achievement for their efforts.

This year, WETA PBS Kids Writers Contest submissions must start with the following writing prompt: "A Day at My Favorite Place..."

We encourage you to work with students to submit an original story, poem, or piece of non-fiction to the 2024 Writers Contest. The contest lets their creativity shine and share their unique voices with the world. They will also have an opportunity to gain confidence in their writing, grammar, and literacy skills.

The deadline to submit an entry is **April 8, 2024**. Visit our website at [weta.org/write](https://weta.org/write) for more details about the contest.





# TITLE I MARCH NEWSLETTER

## WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

This month we will begin writing our Title I plan for next school year. We want to hear from our RHLee families to make sure we are supporting the needs of your family. Please take a few minutes to complete our family input survey by scanning the QR code below or clicking on the link on our Title I Website at:

<https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/rhlee/titlei/home?authuser=0>

We would love to hear from every family!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, March 14th -
  - Parent Advisory Committee Meeting - This is our last one, so don't miss it! We will look at how our students are growing through DIBELS and iReady this school year.
- Wednesday, April 3rd 5:30-7:00 OR Thursday, April 4th 2:00-3:00 (virtual)-
  - Spring Input Meeting - Help Us Plan our TI program and events for next school year.
- Thursday, May 23rd 9:00-10:15am -
  - Kindergarten Orientation - Please share this with any families who have a kindergarten student starting in the fall

DATE  
CHANGE








## MARCH IS NATIONAL READING MONTH!

To celebrate National Reading Month, be sure to make time for reading at home! Here are some ideas to try:

- Read and make a recipe together
- Read about a new place or animal you want to learn more about
- Re-read a favorite story
- Read a joke book and pick one joke to tell a friend
- Read to a sibling, stuffed animal, or pet
- Visit the public library and check out a book you have not read

# JOIN US FOR RICHARD HENRY LEE'S READING SPIRIT MONTH!

| Friday,<br>March 1st  | Wednesday,<br>March 6th  | Wednesday,<br>March 13th  | Thursday,<br>March 14th  | Friday,<br>March 22nd  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Reading is Everywhere!</b><br><br>Wear a shirt that shows your favorite place!<br><br> | <b>Reading is Powerful!</b><br><br>Reading gives you special powers. Dress up like a superhero.<br><br> | <b>Reading Builds Your Brain!</b><br><br>Your brain is a muscle that grows stronger as you read! Wear athletic gear today!<br><br> | <b>Reading and Math, Easy as Pi!</b><br><br>Let's celebrate Pi Day! Wear a math shirt, jersey or your favorite number! The student with the most creative shirt in each grade level will pie a teacher.<br><br> | <b>Reading is Fun in the Sun!</b><br><br>Wear your Hawaiian gear, sunglasses, flip flops. Anything that makes you think of summer.<br><br> |

Parents and Families- If you snap any Spirit Month photos of your student(s), please email your pictures to Mrs. Wisotzkey ([awisotzkey@aacps.org](mailto:awisotzkey@aacps.org)) and Mrs. Thompson ([kgthompson@aacps.org](mailto:kgthompson@aacps.org)) for a chance to be featured in this year's RHLee Yearbook. Thank you for your support!