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**For Immediate Release**

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**Norfolk Public Schools and Naval Station Norfolk Celebrate Military Kids**

Norfolk–Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) in collaboration with Naval Station Norfolk and other community partners will debut an exhibit entitled “The Art of Being a Military Child” at 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 6, 2017, at ORIGIN, the Governor's School for the Arts Gallery at MacArthur Center, located at 300 Monticello Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23510.

Students’ artwork for the exhibit was accepted from January 3-27. A panel of judges have reviewed the art pieces, and the winners will be announced at the event. Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong, Executive Director of Interagency Collaboration and Wraparound Services for NPS said of the event, “We are very excited to be partnering with the military on such a fun and meaningful project. We were also thrilled to secure MacArthur Center as an event partner and exhibit host. This means so much to the school division because collaborating on these types of events with our community partners helps us to better provide support services and is a great way to highlight the support provided to military-connected students through our School Liaison Officers (SLOs). Additionally, it’s a wonderful opportunity to nurture the creativity of our students”. California Pizza Kitchen is an event sponsor; the Color Guard from Lake Taylor High School the Granby High School Choir and the Strolling Strings will participate in the affair.

Special invited guests to the opening include: First Lady of Virginia, Dorothy McAuliffe, Commanding Officer Richard C. McDaniel of Naval Station Norfolk and Mayor Kenneth C. Alexander of the City of Norfolk, the exhibit coincides with the Month of the Military Child, which is celebrated during the month of April. If you are interested in seeing the creative and introspective artwork of NPS’ military-connected students, visit the ORIGIN Arts Gallery April 6-8. The display will move to center court next to “Bunnyville” and will remain on display in MacArthur Center from April 10-30.

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**MacArthur Center**



Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) is on a mission to ensure that all students maximize their academic potential, develop skills for lifelong learning and become successful contributors to a global society. We believe Norfolk Public Schools is the cornerstone of a proudly diverse community with highly qualified teachers and staff dedicated to providing diverse teaching and learning opportunities for all students.

MacArthur Center, located on Monticello Avenue in downtown Norfolk, features one million square feet of retail offerings, including Hampton Roads' first Nordstrom and the region's flagship Dillard's department store. Entertainment and dining options occupy approximately 25 percent of the tenant mix. Shopping hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. For holiday hours and information, visit [ShopMacArthur.com](http://ShopMacArthur.com) or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [Pinterest](#).