

# The Dolphin Digest

Oceanair Elementary School Monthly Newsletter



600 Dudley Avenue  
Norfolk, Virginia 23503

"Home of the Dolphins"

April 2024

Mrs. Rountree-Price,  
Principal

Mr. Koonce, Asst.  
Principal

## April Upcoming Events

April 23rd

STEAM NIGHT-5pm-  
6pm



April 25th

Kindergarten Field Trip



April 26th

College and Career Fair



April 24-29-Camp Young

Second Grade Fieldtrip



You may contact your  
child's 2nd grade teach-  
er for specific dates

## A Message From Principal Rountree-Price's Desk

For the next few weeks, I would like to pose a challenge for our school and asked for assistance in helping us increase our average daily attendance rate. As of today's date, we have over 25% of our students who are chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing ten percent or more of the academic year for any reason, including excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions. Based on a 180-day school year, that means approximately 18 days per year or 2 to 3 days per month. Missed instruction, regardless of the reason, can have significant academic consequences, including remaining in the same grade. (retention) Therefore, the broader emphasis is on improving attendance for every student.

Next month, students will be taking their Standards of Learning tests. All students in grades 3-5 will participate in testing and receive a scaled score. Please review the table below from New York State to understand the meaning of each level. The test will consist of Reading, Writing, and Math Standards using a combination of multiple choice and drop and drag questions, depending on the grade level. Teachers have been working hard in school to prepare students for this assessment. Please talk to your child and encourage them to do their best not only to "show what they know", but to focus on preparing for the state tests. A calendar has been sent home to make parents aware of dates for the assessments. However, I have included them again for your reference. We believe that all our students can achieve greatness and want to ensure that we give them all the tools that they need to be successful.

## Koonce's Corner-News from OUR Assistant Principal

Arrival/Dismissal – Reminder: Spring is here! The weather can be unpredictable. If the weather is nasty outside, please avoid having your child stand outside waiting for the doors to open. Furthermore, helps us maintain a safe and secure environment by arriving at **8:45 AM**. This will help avoid the crowd, the weather, and will still give your child plenty of time to get breakfast and walk to class. At dismissal, if child is a walker, please remind them of the importance of walking straight home after school.

Reminder – Dogs (or any animals) are not allowed on school property. There has been increase in the number of dogs on school property over the past month during arrival and dismissal. The risk is just too high that something unpredictable might happen-the worst being a child getting bitten. But there are other reasons also. Some kids (and adults) are terrified of dogs. Dogs might become frightened and either break free from their owner or act erratically towards another person. A dog might very likely poop on the grounds somewhere after which a child is sure to step in it and smell up the whole classroom. So please, keep your dog(s) at home and away from our children.

## Announcements








### Summer Programs

Parents you can find the summer program link under the "Our District" tab on the NPS Website. Then click on "Summer Programs".

<https://www.npsk12.com/summer-school>

- June 17, 2024 - Summer Program Begins
- ♦ July 18, 2024 - Summer Program ends
- ♦ June 19, 2024 - Juneteenth (No Summer Program)
- July 4, 2024 - Independence Day (No Summer Program)

# April's Spirit Calendar

15	16	17	18	19
Wear a Pattern with Jeans.		National "Purple Up" Day- Wear Purple for Military Children 		School spirit day 
22	23	24	25	26
	STEAM NIGHT	Wear Camo with Jeans to Support Branches of the Military 	Crazy for Math  Wear Crazy Hair!	Wear RED! 
29	30			
Rest for the Test Wear school appropriate pajamas	Spring Program Don't sweat the Test Wear comfy sweatshirt with jeans.			

## PRE-K NEWS

Welcome to April PreK families. This month our topics will be on our Creative Curriculum Study: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, living and nonliving things, fairy tales, counting sets to 10, patterning, letter sounds/beginning sounds, rhyming and re-telling stories using vocabulary. Keep talking and reading with your children to expand vocabulary, letter knowledge and print awareness. Keep observing, describing, counting, and patterning things in the home environment to expand early math knowledge. We will begin end-of-the-year assessments mid-April. Keep up the good work!

# 5THGRADE

We are almost at the end of the year. Last week students should have come home with information about our upcoming state assessments. If you have not received the information let us know and we will get it to you. Currently we are working on our final units for the year, while preparing for the assessments. Math is working on mean, medium, mode and range. Science is finishing up electricity, and reviewing for the SOL. Reading is working on nonfiction and focusing on text structure.

# News You Can Use...



## KINDERGARTEN

In reading, we have been working with both fiction and non-fiction books. With non-fiction, we are learning to identify the different features they have (for example, words in bold, headings, captions and labels). With fiction, we have been practicing identifying the characters in books, the setting in books, and the problem in the book. We have been working on our retelling skills, and working to talk about a story's beginning, middle and ending. You can practice this at home as well!

In math, we worked on identifying our coins and recalling their value. Please practice this at home! We are also now working with numbers up to 100, not only reading and writing those numbers, but identifying the numbers before and after a given number. Can your child start counting at 17? What about 42?

In social studies, we completed our units on maps and globes. We learned about using a map key, a compass rose, and directions. Can your child find Virginia on a map?

In science we have been learning about animals and plants. As spring begins, we are using what we know to observe the changes around us!



Welcome, Spring!

## 1ST Grade

Did you know that heart words consume 80% or more of the words we read? They need to be recognized instantly by our young readers. Heart words are words that everyone needs to be able to recall at 'flash speed' (less than 3 seconds). They are words that **MUST** be memorized. And they must be quickly recognized in order to achieve reading fluency.

Once children have learned and memorized their basic words, they will read more fluently and with greater comprehension. What does it mean to "master" a heart-word? A child should recognize the targeted word three times in a row for three days in a row. The child should be able to identify and say the word quickly, showing that they know the word by sight. With your help at home each evening, your 1st grader will be sure to learn all of the heart words by the end of the school year!

**Please be sure to set aside 5-7 minutes each evening to help your child learn his/her Sight Words. Thank you for taking the time to ensure your child's success!**



## 2ND Grade

Permission slips for a field trip should have come home. The second graders will be attending Camp Young for four days in late April or May. Mrs. Brooks' and Ms. Maxwell's classes will go on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Jones' and Ms. Buckson's classes will go on April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The buses will pull out around 9:30 so don't be late!

In math we will be learning about money. The students need to be able to identify the coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter) and their value. They need to count mixed dollars and coins up to \$2.00. They also must be able to compare two sets of



coins. After money we will begin fractions. The students must identify fractions as a region model (a shape), a set (group), and a measurement model (number line). They will need to compare two fractions.

In science we are learning about plants grown in the various regions of Virginia and the products made from those plants. The students will need to know products that come from tobacco, evergreen trees, peanuts, cabbage, cotton, soybeans, corn and apples. We will then move into the study of plant and animal life cycles.

In social studies we will learn about resources needed to create products. They will need to identify human, natural, and capital resources. The students will identify how communication and transportation have changed over time. They will learn about George Washington

## 3RD Grade

Reading: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is in SOL Prep! We are reviewing everything taught this school year thus far. We are digging deep into understanding the how we can determine the difference between a fiction and non-fiction passage as well as building our comprehension skills. In addition, we are reviewing basic concepts of synonyms, antonyms, homophones, dictionary skills, and so much more.

Writing: As we enter the last quarter, we are ensuring our grammar skills are 4<sup>th</sup> grade ready. We are ensuring students know the proper steps in building a complete sentence as well as writing multiple paragraphs on a given topic.

Math: It's ALL about measurement! Students are digging deep into the different types of measurement such as length, volume, temperature and perimeter/area. Have students test their measurement skills out at home by baking a dessert (volume) or switching to analog clocks around the ho

Science: Students are learning about how we as humans impact the world around us. Whether its through littering, burning fossils fuels or tearing down trees, we as humans impact nature around us. Social Studies: We will be studying Africa and Ancient Mali.

## 4TH GRADE

**Math:** The end of the school year is near. Students will be moving into the measurement and geometry unit in April. Please remember to continue to justify all answers on assignments.

**Reading:** In April we will continue to focus on Nonfiction text with our unit entitled Earth Changes." In this unit, students will read informational texts, such as firsthand accounts of writers' experiences with Earth's natural processes, such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. We will focus on comprehension skills including: structure of text, text features, context clues, cause and effect and author's purpose.

In preparation for upcoming SOL testing in May, students will also practice with weekly independent assignments that have longer passages and questions in the format of the SOL. These will be included as homework assignments as well.

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