

# The Dolphin Digest



Mrs. K. Rountree-Price, Principal

Mr. J. Koonce, Assistant Principal

## Principal's Message

Oceanair Parents & Guardians,

Here we are in the month of December! The school year is more than 1/3 of the way through. Holiday decorations are sprouting up everywhere as families begin thinking about holiday shopping, vacation plans, and dinner menus. Looking for a few gift ideas, especially ones that don't cost a lot of money?

This holiday season give your child and family the gift of time. Relax at a park for a day and have a picnic. Take a nature walk at a local preserve. Visit the local library. Enjoy a meal together as a family. Have a night in with the family and play a favorite board game.

Remember that students should continue to read, write and practice their math facts over winter vacation! Reading and writing can be about topics they enjoy and shared with parents and siblings alike.

To all of our Oceanair families, warmest holiday wishes and here's to a prosperous new year for all!!

Mrs. Rountree-Price,  
Principal

## Important Dates:

Dec 8: School Spirit Day!

Dec 11: It's Sweater Weather Day!

Dec 12: Baby It's Cold Outside Day! Wear your favorite scarf!

Dec 13: Winter Wonderland Wednesday!

Dec 14: Mad About Plaid Day!

Dec 15: School Spirit Day!

Dec 18: Merry Monday! Wear holiday t-shirt, sweater, etc.

Dec 19: Candy Cane Day!  
Wear red/white

Dec 19: Winter Program!

Dec 20: Tacky Sweater Day!

Dec 21: Holiday Celebrations!

Dec 21: Dec 22: School Spirit Day!

## Koonce's Korner

### News From Our Assistant Principal

Arrival – Reminder: The school building opens at 8:40 am. Helps us maintain a safe and secure environment by arriving between 8:45-8:55 am. This will help avoid the crowd and will still give your child plenty of time to get breakfast and walk to class. In addition, the bus ramp opens at 8:40 for drop-off only. Keep your child safe by utilizing the bus ramp for drop-off. If you need to park, please park in the parking lot next to the building. There are no stopping and/or no parking signs along the street.

Dismissal – Reminder: On Monday, December 4th, Oceanair's implemented changes to the dismissal times.

Dismissal times are as follows:

o PreK – 3:00 PM

o Kindergarten – 3:10 PM

o 3rd/4th Grade – 3:15 PM

o 2nd/5th Grade – 3:20 PM

In addition, we are seeing an increase with Middle School Students acting inappropriately, fighting, and harassing younger students. If your Middle School Student is picking up a younger student; be sure to have him or her pick-up their sibling and walk straight home. Middle School Students not picking-up a sibling will be considered trespassing.

Inclement Weather Reminder – Please update your contact information! Winter can bring inclement weather. Please be sure to update your contact information with the Main Office. Having updated contact information at school will also ensure we can get a hold of you in case of any emergencies.



# Congratulations

## Mrs. Melissa

## Barnhill

## Math Specialist

# Oceanair's Teacher of the Year 2024-2025

# WooHoo!



### **MAKING MATH COUNT.....MRS. BARNHILL, MATH SPECIALIST**

#### **Kindergarten**

Have some fun as your child shows you all writing their numbers to 20. Collect a variety of items for them to count and then write the correct number. Also, have you students count to 100. Can they start at 47 and count to 100?

#### **First Grade**

Your child has learned all about clocks. Practice having them read the clock to the nearest hour and half hour.

#### **Second Grade**

Students are adding and subtraction two digit numbers. Have them show you how they use their drawings of base 10 blocks to add  $34 + 12$  and subtract  $57 - 42$ .

#### **Third Grade**

Students are learning all about multiplication and what it means to multiply. Ask them what  $5 \times 6$  means (5 groups of 6) and what the product is (30). Try a few others.

#### **Fourth Grade**

Practice solving multiplication problems. Examples are  $43 \times 34$ ,  $123 \times 9$ , and  $89 \times 7$ .

#### **Fifth Grade**

5th graders are working with fractions and decimals. Have them convert  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{5}$ ,  $\frac{2}{10}$ , and  $\frac{89}{100}$  to a decimal number without a calculator.



## December PreK News

We are now in the final few weeks of the Creative Curriculum Study: Buildings. The “Learning at Home” Work Journal: Buildings went home last week. Use this resource to interact with your child and ask questions about the Buildings study. We will also participate in activities about gingerbread and holiday crafts as we approach the Winter Break. Keep using the learning materials/activities we sent home as practice and repetition are keys to early learning.

We want to thank parents for all their support- donating snacks, supplies, keeping sick children home etc.



## Second Grade News

Happy Holidays! Second grade will be completing many hands-on creative activities. We will be designing ornaments, building a snowman, and conducting experiments. If your child misses a day or even an hour, they will miss a lot. Please have your child here every day, they are well.

Remember to turn in a note if they are absent.

The students are learning how to subtract and add two-digit numbers. They will be regrouping over the next few weeks. They will mainly be modeling with their base ten drawings. We will continue to review estimation as well.

In history we will be learning about Benjamin Franklin and Martin Luther King Jr. The students will be learning about our basic principles and their rights.

Matter will be our focus in science. Review solids, liquids, and gasses whenever possible. Point out evaporation, steam, and condensation. Getting into the car, cooking, and taking showers are great examples. When you are doing holiday baking, point out the states of matter.



## 3rd Grade

**Reading:** We're diving back into fiction. We will study imaginative stories and work on summarizing, describing characters, making connections, and asking and answering questions. We will also study synonyms and antonyms.

**Writing:** We are working on writing an imaginative narrative. Students will flex their creative muscles and write a fun story using characters, a setting, a problem, and a solution.

**Math:** We are now learning the basics of multiplication and division! We will learn multiple ways to solve problems (repeated addition/subtraction, arrays, number lines, skip counting). We will also solve word problems with multiplication and division. See if you can find ways to show your students how multiplication is used in everyday life!

**Science:** We are studying animal adaptations and ecosystems!

**Social Studies:** We are studying Ancient Egypt, its many contributions, and how the influence of the Nile River helped it become a great civilization.

## 4th Grade

We are halfway through the 2nd quarter and winter break is rapidly approaching! In Mathematics, scholars are building on skills learned in kindergarten through 3rd grade. We started with place value, moved to addition, subtraction, and then multiplication. Now our scholars are fine tuning our strategy for Division. Partial quotients, rather than the traditional method, is the strategy that our scholars are using to master division. The benefit of using partial quotients is to enhance our scholars understanding of number sense. Ask your scholar to teach you how to solve division problems using partial quotients. Starting in January, scholars will learn strategies to become successful with identifying patterns. Fourth grade scholars continue to keep up the good work in Math!!!

In Reading students will read a variety of fictional stories told from different points of view and perspectives. Students will work to identify differences between 1st person and 3rd person narrative. Comprehension passages and graphic organizers will be used to practice and assess student understanding. Our fourth graders will also review and practice word study skills involving adverb suffixes, root words and -r controlled vowels.

In writing, we are finishing up our expository compositions about the qualities of a good student. We came up with a lot of adjectives to describe good students and it was interesting to see the students' perspectives! Our next writing will be an imaginative narrative and this will give students an opportunity to be creative and develop their own stories.

In science we are taking a DEEP DIVE into the ocean floor. We will examine the geology of the ocean floor, its physical properties, movement of water, and interactions among organisms. We will wrap this unit up by creating our ocean floor diagrams.

Also in science, we are gearing up for the 2024 Science Fair. Start searching for those tri-fold boards because they do sell out quickly. Students will prepare to conduct their own experiments at home by participating in labs at school and looking at the necessary components of a good experiment!



## 5th Grade

As we head toward Winter Break, here are some updates from 5th grade.

Currently in math we are finishing up fractions and decimals. Please practice multiplication facts with your child, this will greatly help out with what we are working on. In reading we just finished up a unit on non-fiction and will begin working on point of view. Please be sure that students are reading at home for at least 20 minutes each night. This will increase their reading skill. In Science the students have began work on forms of energy and are learning about Colonial Virginia in Social Studies.

## SPECIALTY PROGRAMS IN NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Students of every academic interest can explore a universe of learning opportunities with Norfolk Public Schools! These rigorous, challenging programs in all five high schools and in six middle schools appeal to every interest. The application period typically begins in December for enrollment the following school year, with acceptance letters mailed in the spring.

Interested students and their families can learn more at the annual Specialty Programs Showcase, which features displays and demonstrations from each program along with an opportunity to interact with current students and staff. Additionally, each of the host schools conducts an open house event. Watch this page and the division's communications channels including emails, calls, texts and social media for more information.

Academy for Discovery at Lakewood  
January 16, 2024

Project Based Learning Elementary Program begins at 5:00 p.m. for rising Third Grade Students  
International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme begins at 6:30 p.m. for rising Sixth Grade Students  
The Academy for Discovery at Lakewood

Pre-Medical, Health, and Engineering at Blair Middle School  
December 13, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
Blair Middle School

Southside STEM Academy at Campostella  
January 17, 2024  
6:00 p.m.  
Southside STEM Academy at Campostella

Young Scholars at Rosemont  
January 18, 2024  
6:00 p.m.  
Rosemont

Academy of International Studies at Rosemont  
January 18, 2024  
6:00 p.m.  
Rosemont

Compass Academy at Ruffner  
December 12, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
Ruffner

