

The Dolphin Digest

Oceanair Elementary School Monthly Newsletter



600 Dudley Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23503

"Home of the Dolphins"

February 2025

Celebrating
Black History Month

Mrs. Rountree-Price,
Principal

A Message From Principal Rountree-Price's Desk

Happy February! As we start this new month, I want to thank everyone for their hard work so far this school year. January was a wonderful month filled with learning, laughter, and growth, and I'm excited to see what February will bring!

This month, we have many fun and meaningful activities planned. We will be celebrating **Black History Month**, learning about important figures and events that have shaped our history. It's a great time to reflect on the power of kindness, respect, and understanding. We also have a special focus on **heart health** this month, which ties into our upcoming **Valentine's Day activities**, where we'll talk about the importance of caring for our hearts, both physically and emotionally.

I encourage all of our students to keep showing their best efforts and to continue working hard, whether they are reading, doing math, or exploring Science and History objectives.

Please continue to check in with your child about their learning and share in the excitement of their progress. We are so proud of all the growth we've seen, and we're looking forward to an even more successful second half of the school year.

Koonce's Corner-News from OUR Assistant Principal

We are in homestretch now. Only two quarters left and so much more to learn! Please review with your child our PBIS expectations about what it means to be safe, responsible, and respectful. PBIS expectations can be found on Oceanair Elementary's Website. For additional information on student conduct, behavior, and consequences please visit NPS's [Code of Conduct](https://www.npsk12.com/Page/1349). <https://www.npsk12.com/Page/1349>

Attendance – If your child is out of school or going to miss school, please remember to let the teacher know so that your child will be marked excused. We are seeing an increase in letters having to be sent home and the number of attendance plans being developed because of the increase in the number of unexcused absences. There are multiple ways to let the teacher know. You can send a note with your child, send a message via email or class dojo, call the teacher, and/or call the main office. If you have received a letter pertaining to unexcused absences, contact the school immediately so we can quickly resolve unexcused absences.

Arrival – Reminder: Spring is almost here and the weather is changing. If the weather is nasty outside, please avoid having your child stand outside waiting for the doors to open. Helps us maintain a safe and secure environment by arriving at 8:45 am. Doors do not open until 8:40 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.

Pictures – Spring Picture Day will be Wednesday, April 2, 2025. We will do Class Pictures, Make-Ups, and Club Pictures.

February 14

HAPPY VALENTINE'S
DAY

Father/Daughter Dance



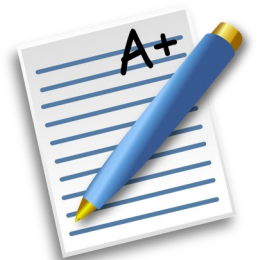
February 17

No School-
President's Day



February 19

End of the Interim



PreK

Welcome to February PreK families. This month our topics will be on our Creative Curriculum Study: Clothes, friendship, counting (100th Day of School), letter sounds and beginning sounds. Mid-year assessments are also taking place. 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. Keep up the good work!



KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school on February 6th! We now have more than 100 days of practice doing things the kindergarten way!

We have finished the Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System (VALLSS) assessments. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you would like to go over the results.

In math we are working on numbers from 0-50. Your child should be able to recognize, read and count out items from 0-30. We are learning that our teen numbers are made of tens and extra ones (i.e., 17 is 1 group of ten and 7 extra ones). We are describing sets of objects and comparing them with other sets. And of course, we do a lot of counting each day! We count up to 100 by ones and by 10s.

We are working hard on using our sounds (consonants, vowels and diagraphs) to read and write CVC words every day. We are also learning new sight words (now called heart words) each week. We use these words to read and write daily. Here are the words we have taught so far: I, a, like, am, the, we, go, see, can, she, he, at, is, has, little, play, in, and, you, big, with, for, no, get.

In science we are finishing up learning about living and non-living things and are talking about the life cycles of various plants and animals. In social studies we are learning about all about maps and globes.

Math Highlights

Math fact fluency, or the ability for students to recall basic math facts quickly, accurately, and effortlessly, is an essential component of students' math knowledge. Fact fluency is one important component of our math curriculum this year! Here are some different ways you can practice math facts with your student at home:

- **Math War Card Game:** Split the deck between two players. The players each flip over the top card in their deck at the same time. The first one to find the correct sum (answer to addition-2) or product (answer to multiplication 3-5) wins both cards. The goal is to win all the cards on the deck.
- **Dice:** Get two dice, roll both, and add or multiply them by each other. [_____](#)

News You Can Use...



- **Use Timers:** Give 1, 2, or 3 minutes to answer as many math facts as possible and chart the number to celebrate increasing automaticity.
- **Flashcards:** Use flashcards to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- **Patterns:** When adding and multiplying, find patterns. For example, when multiplying by 0, you always get 0.

Students in grades K-2 should practice adding and subtracting.

Students in grades 3-5 should practice with multiplication.

1st Grade

Happy February! We are excited to share the wonderful things your child is working on in reading this month. Below are the highlights of what we're focusing on in the classroom:

- **In February, we will continue to develop fluency in reading by practicing heart words and phonics. This will help your child build confidence in reading both at home and in class.**
 - **We will also focus on comprehension skills, encouraging students to make predictions about what might happen next in a story and to retell events in their own words.**
 - **Encourage your child to read aloud daily. This helps build confidence and fluency.**
- You can also ask questions about the story to help develop their comprehension skills. Try asking, "What happened first?" or "How did the character feel?"**

2nd Grade

We hope the students enjoyed Camp Young and the Virginia Living Museum. We are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day and President's Day.

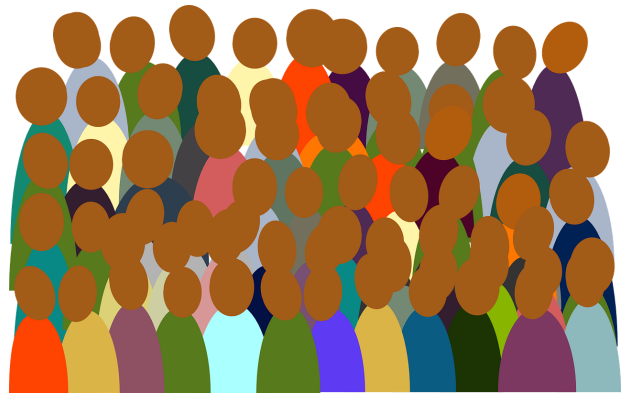
Remember to have your child dress warmly! If the temperature is above 40 and there is not a lot of wind, we will be going outside.

The second graders are adding and subtracting two digit numbers with and without regrouping. The students will also need to know how to estimate a sum or difference. Have the students help you round as you go shopping. Ask them ABOUT how much would these two items cost? We will be counting mixed coins up to \$1.00. They need to know both ways to write money. (98¢ or \$0.98)

In Science we will be learning about animal life cycles. They will focus on insect and mammal life cycles. Now would be a great time to read animal books and watch nature shows.

3rd Grade

3rd Grade students are gearing up and preparing for their first ever SOL test. We are reviewing daily and ensuring students understand different test taking strategies and ways to prepare themselves for the test. In Math, we are entering our Measurement unit. Have students measure things around the house with rules, measuring cups and scales. Science it is all about soil. Students will understand different types of soil impact the growing process. Ancient Greece is our next unit of study in History. Students will learn where the Olympics originated and how we in America adapted their contributions to make our own. Keep reading nightly and studying those multiplication facts.



4th Grade

This month our scientists will learn about Virginia's natural resources, including water, watersheds, plants, animals, minerals, rocks, ores, forests, soil, and land. We will also learn more about how plants survive and make their own food through photosynthesis. We are planning trips to the Virginia Aquarium and Virginia Living Museum!

In reading, our students will complete their STAR Assessment to see the progress they have made thus far. In writing, students will be focused on opinion writing.

We are moving ahead at full speed in mathematics! Scholars will begin identifying elapsed time which determines the time passed between events. Allow your scholar to use an analog clock to tell time to assist at home. Then, we will move into adding and subtracting fractions. Eventually moving into measurement. Continue to practice your multiplication facts nightly. As students become fluent, they will be able to solve problems with accuracy.

5th Grade

We are working hard in 5th grade right now as we head through the 3rd quarter.

In Reading students are working on Nonfiction. They are also preparing for the integrated reading and writing test.













Math is finishing up measurement and the metric system, and will soon be working with fractions again. Please be sure they are practicing their multiplication facts at home.

In Science we are finishing up the unit on sound. Ask about the instruments they have made in class. Once we are done with sound we will be moving on to Virginia during the Civil War in social studies.

As always feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.



Note: Please make sure if you wear jeans, to please pay your \$\$\$, the money collected is going to our OES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Unity Black Out Day 3 Celebrating the beginning of Black History Month by wearing all black! 	100th Day of School 4 Students and Staff dress like they are 100 years old or 100 items on their clothes. 	5	6	Pre- Superbowl 7 Wear NFL Gear  
Comfy Cozy 10 Wear your favorite pajamas! 	Valentine's Day Head Gear Day! 11 	Heart's Day 12 Wear your heart attire! 	Warm Fuzzy Sock Day 13 Wear your comfy socks!	Valentine's Day 14 Wear Valentine's themed attire with jeans!  
Presidents' Day 17 No School	Black Love Day 18 Wear Pan African Colors (Red, Black, Green or African attire) 	19	National Muffin Day 20 	21 Jeans Day Wear jeans if you have your jeans pass!
24	25	26	Throwback Thursday 27 Dress in your best 80s/90s gear! 	28 Jeans Day Wear jeans if you have your jeans pass!