

The Dolphin Digest

Oceanair Elementary School Monthly Newsletter



600 Dudley Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23503

“Home of the Dolphins”

February 2024

Mrs. Rountree-Price,
Principal

Mr. Koonce, Asst. Principal

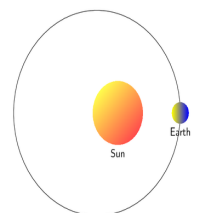
Upcoming Events

February
29
Leap Day

A year, happening
once every four
years, that has
366 days and has
February 29th as
the extra day!

Did You Know

The reason there
are leap days, and
years, is **because**
of the Earth's or-
bit. The amount of
days it takes for
the Earth to com-
plete a full revolu-
tion around the
Sun is not a whole
number.



A Message From Principal Rountree-Price's Desk

Being that February is a month filled with Dolphin love, friendship, and positive energy, I would like to wish our entire Dolphin Nation a Happy Valentine's Day! I feel blessed to be your principal and I am proud of our children, families, staff, and surrounding communities. In fact, I am thoroughly convinced that Oceanair Elementary has the greatest students in the world!

I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher anytime you have concerns, questions, or are curious about what they are experiencing at school. I am super proud of the work that occurs during school hours but also know what an impact it can have when all adults are “in the know” about how a child is doing.

Thank you for being amazing parents who care about their scholars succeeding.



Koonce's Corner-News from OUR Assistant Principal

Parents and Guardians – Please review with your child our PBIS expectations about what it means to be safe, responsible, and respectful. There has been an increase in inappropriate behaviors this past month. 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>.

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.

~Thanks

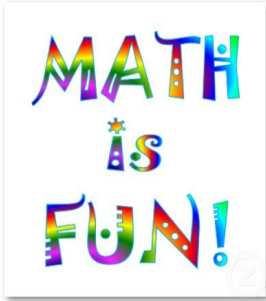
Announcements

Our lost and found bins are accumulating, please have your child to check the bins for items that they may have lost.

Congratulations to the following students who represented Oceanair Elementary at the district-wide Science Fair on February 17, 2024. The event took place at ODU-Mills Godwin Life Science Building!

3rd grade-Lauren McGrath
4th grade-Shermaine Adamos
5th grade-Carrie James

MATH NEWS



How can I help my child at home with Math?

Kindergarten-While driving in the car or walking home, practice counting to 100, backwards from 20 and by 10s. Each night, call out a number from 0-30 and have your student practice writing their numbers.

First Grade-Graphing: Survey members of your household on their favorite sport. Stick to only 4 sports. Tally the data and then create a picture graph to show.

- **Second Grade**-While on a walk or riding in the car, practice counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s to 120. If you need a little challenge, start at 8 and count on by 2s to 120. Try again starting at 20 and count by 5s or 10s to 120.

Third Grade-Go on a fraction hunt! Where can you find fractions around the house? Find a recipe that your child wants to try and let them help you measure the ingredients!

Fourth Grade-Look on the back of any food box and add two of the fractions you see. Now subtract them.

Fifth Grade-While in the grocery store, look at the various prices of an item. Round the item to the nearest whole dollar. Try again, rounding to the nearest tenth.

PreK News

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.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

February is going to be a full month of exciting learning in kindergarten. We will be celebrating the 100th day of kindergarten on February 9th, and doing many different things "the 100 way"! We will be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14th, and we will review how important it is to be kind to each other and to be a good friend. We will be learning about our first president, George Washington, as we get ready for President's Day. This will segue smoothly right into math, as we begin to learn to identify our coins. In science, we will continue to learn about plants and animals, and we will be learning about their life cycles. In social studies we will begin our maps and globes unit!

Please keep reading to and with your kindergartener at home daily---it will help them improve in both their reading and writing. Don't forget to help your child practice reading and writing their heart words (formerly known as sight words). So far we have learned I, a, see, like, the, is, it, in, can, am, and, we, on, at.

News You Can Use...

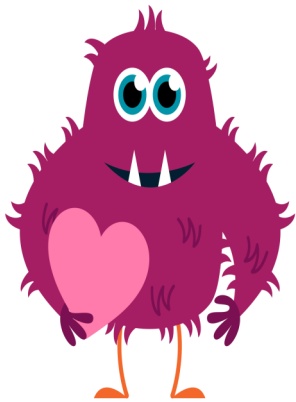


1st Grade

Heart words that we are learning are becoming increasingly more challenging as the year progresses. Please continue to practice daily at home and we will continue to practice daily at school.

Other ways to help your students at home:

- Read with greater fluency and accuracy.
- Retell a familiar story.
- Describe and compare characters and events from different texts.
- Write full sentences using capital letters and ending punctuation.
- Counting to at least 100, from any starting point.
- When reading a story, know the setting, characters, and ask comprehension questions of what important events happen in the story.



2nd Grade

Welcome to the third quarter of second grade. The students will be responsible for reading most of their assignments and tests independently. They should be practicing the vocabulary for each subject.

In science we are learning about severe weather and the tools that are used to record weather data. They will need to know about hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, blizzards, droughts, and floods. The students will need to know how tracking these storms can help people prepare for the storm.

Watch the weather reports on the news with your child.

In history we will be learning about famous Americans who led the civil rights movement. They will focus on Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, and Jackie Robinson. They will need to know the major contribution of each famous American.

In communication skills biographies will be our focus. The students will read about famous Americans. They will decide if information is important or interesting. The students will research the Americans and write a paragraph about them.

Math will focus on skip counting by 5's, 10's, and 2's. Students should be able to count to 120 by 2's, 10's, and 5's. They will be required to start at any point and give the next few numbers. 45,



3rd Grade

Reading: 3rd grade is mastering the genre of non-fiction. We will study the importance of drawing conclusions and identifying the main idea of paragraphs and entire text. Students will also use graphic organizers to display their understanding of main idea.

Writing: As we enter the last 2 quarters of 3rd grade, students are now expected to write 2 paragraphs. Our first writing sample of quarter 3 will be a literary response where students will write a summary and state their opinion of a teacher selected book.

Math: It's ALL about fractions in 3rd grade. Students are learning to add, subtract, create fractions greater than 1 whole and identify them on a number line.

Science: Students are learning about the importance of soil. This includes how it is made, the different soil types and the different layers of soil. To bring it all together, students will engage in a fun activity creating the layers of soil with yummy sweets!

Social Studies: We are getting ready to embark on our next civilization of Ancient Greece. Students will understand the importance of this grand civilization and how it impacted our world today. Did you know the Ancient



4th Grade

In February we will be returning to Fictional text with our unit entitled "Confronting Challenges." Students will read a range of fictional stories, including a legend, folktale, and myth, that feature characters facing and overcoming challenges. We will focus on comprehension skills including: making connections to the text, summarizing, comparing and contrasting plots and themes and describing character.

4th graders will also review and practice word study skills involving adjective suffixes (-ful, -ous, -ible, -able, -some) and negative prefixes ((de-, un-, in-, im-, di

This month, we are all about nature in science. Our fourth graders are learning about Virginia's natural resources and how we benefit from them. We will distinguish between the four major waterways and discuss

5th Grade

In Math we are continuing with Fractions. We will be working on adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. Please continue to work with your child on multiplication facts, as they will need to know them while working with fractions.

In Science, we are moving on to our unit on motion. We will be exploring things like kinetic energy, direction and speed.

In reading, we are moving back to non-fiction and will be working on main idea, summarizing, and text structure. Please make sure your child is reading at home.



Social studies will continue to explore the world of the Virginia Colony, and how people lived in this area in the 1700's.