

The Dolphin Digest

Oceanair Elementary School Monthly Newsletter

A Message From Principal Rountree-Price's Desk

March is a time of new beginnings and growth. As we continue our learning journey, I encourage all students to set new goals and embrace new challenges.

Families, we need your help! Currently, we are facing an attendance crisis. Our average daily chronic absenteeism rate is 28.8%. Why does this matter? Students who miss 10% of school (15-18 days during the year) are at increased risk for a number of negative long term consequences. One of the most serious problems with missing school is the impact it has on students' achievement. That means, kids who are chronically absent are less likely to read on grade level or develop foundational Math skills by grade 3, which can affect that child's future success in school. As a building, we see the correlation between attendance and achievement in our own data. For students to be able to access the early interventions we have put in place to increase their success, they must be here.

It is important to realize that when the state measures chronic absenteeism, it counts all lost instructional time—that means, both excused and unexcused absences are included in the total. While we understand that there are a variety of reasons students miss school, including illnesses, it is important to recognize that missing just one or two days of school a month leads to serious negative consequences for students. Which is why we need to partner together to ensure that students are here every day! Thanking you in advance for your assistance.

Koonce's Corner-News from OUR Assistant Principal

Cell Phone Policy – In accordance with Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 33, all of Norfolk Public Schools will be cell phone-free "from bell-to-bell" beginning on January 1, 2025.

[NPS Cell Phone Policy](#)
[Executive Order 33](#)

Lockdown – Just want to remind parents that if we ever have a Lockdown; we cannot release students. There will be signs posted on the front door and a call will be sent out to all our parents, guardians, and community members as soon as possible. Please help us maintain a safe-environment by:

If you see signs posted on the front door, return to your vehicle as soon as possible. Do not ring the front doorbell or knock on the door.

Do not call the school. This will tie up our phone lines for emergency responders. We will call you as soon as possible.

Do not call or have your child call you on his or her cell phones. Cell Phones are not allowed in school. In addition if an intruder is in the building, they may hear the phone.

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

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.



600 Dudley Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23503

"Home of the Dolphins"

March 2025

Celebrating
National Women's History

Mrs. Rountree-Price,
Principal

Mr. Koonce, Asst.
Principal

March 9
Daylight Savings



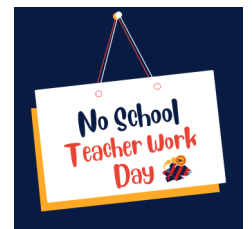
Monday 11
State-wide tornado drill
M.A.P.S.-selected students



March 13
STEAM Night-5pm



March 21
No School-Teacher
Workday



Follow us on social
media:

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X: @153_es

March



Math Highlights



Kindergarten students are back to graphing. At home, collect various items like coins and create an object graph. Record the number of objects in tally marks. Ask your child questions like which is the greatest, least, or the same.

1st Grade is working with fractions to the half and fourths. Draw various shapes at home and have your child name the shape and cut into either halves or fourths.

2nd Grade is finishing collecting and counting a value of coins to \$2.00. Please allow daily opportunities for students to do this at home.



3rd Graders need to practice their math facts for multiplication and division at home daily. They will move into comparing fractions and time. Using an analog clock, have your child practice telling the time.

4th Grade is moving into geometry. Students will need to be able to describe the characteristics of all quadrilaterals and 3D figures. Continue to review nightly on Zearn and/or Edmentum.

5th Grade is classifying angles and triangles. Practice drawing the 3 different angles: obtuse, right, and acute along with the 3 different triangles: isosceles, equilateral, and scalene. Review nightly on Zearn and/or Edmentum.

March PreK News

Welcome to March PreK families. This month our topics will be our Creative Curriculum Study: Balls, Dr. Seuss literature, rainbows, dinosaurs, counting sets to ten, patterning, letter sounds/beginning sounds and rhyming. Some questions we are exploring about balls:

What do we know about balls? What do we want to find out? Do all balls bounce? Do all balls roll? What makes balls move? What are balls made of? 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 excellent work!

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has marched into March! We are busy learning lots of things this month! We are continuing to work on reading and writing cvc words in phonics, but we have also added digraphs and blends to the mix! The more we practice, the better we get at both reading AND writing!

We are in the middle of Unit 7 in our Benchmark Reading Curriculum, which focuses on Holidays and Celebrations. We have been reviewing some of the important people we have already learned about this year: George Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Lincoln. Ask your child about them!

We are finishing up our maps and globes unit in Social Studies, and we are working to use a map key and the compass rose on a map. In Science we began our Light and Shadows unit and will be learning about the impact the sun has on temperature.

In math, we are working on using measurement to compare two objects (taller/shorter, heavier/lighter) and will then begin our data collection unit.

Our kindergartners are busy bees, working hard each day!

News You Can Use...



First Grade

Welcome to a brand-new month of learning in First Grade!

This month, our students will explore exciting topics across all subjects:

Math: We'll dive into the world of **fractions**.

Science: We'll learn about **natural resources** and how to conserve them.

Social Studies: We'll study **famous Black Virginians** and their important contributions to history.

Reading: We'll focus on identifying the **main idea** and understanding **nonfiction text features**.

Writing: We'll work on **expanding sentences** to make our writing more detailed and interesting.

We're looking forward to another month of growth and learning

Third Grade

Students are making headway with our SOL preparation. We are reviewing daily and ensuring students apply different test taking strategies and ways to prepare themselves for the test. In Math, we are traveling back to Multiplication and fractions. Students will need to master their 3s, 4s, 8s, and 9s. Keep practicing those flashcards. Science it is all about the water cycle. Students will understand how the water cycle works and how we as humans impact the waterways around us. Ancient Rome is our next unit of study in History. Students will learn be able to compare Rome's civilization with Greece and understand how these 2 powerful civilisations impacted our world today.

Science: Our 4th graders are hard at work learning about Virginia's natural resources and plant and animal structures. We will also have a few trips to review some concepts we have learned over the past few months. We will visit the Virginia Aquarium to learn more about ocean organisms in the beginning of March. We will review plants, animals, and other natural resources when we visit the Virginia Living Museum at the end of the month.

Math: We are halfway there. During the month of March, scholars will focus on two units: measurement and geometry. Scholars will continue to build their understanding of length, weight, and volume. Students will then understand the difference between area and perimeter of squares and rectangles. During geometry students will increase their lines vocabulary and identify lines within objects. Additionally, scholars will learn and classify **quadrilaterals**.

Reading/Writing: We are starting Unit 7, "The Transcontinental Railroad" and we will focus on narrative writing. Our Unit 7 rubric test will take place March 18th, and our multiple-choice portion will take place March 19th. SOL small group prep will begin March 4th through April 11th.

Second Grade

In March we will be learning about famous Americans who have made discoveries that changed our world. They will need to know the name of the American and their contribution. This would be a good time to read biographies with your child.

In Science we will be learning about plant life cycles. We will be planting plants and observing their growth. We will compare the plant life cycles to animal life cycles.

In math we will be reviewing place value. They will need to know how to model, expand, and read the number word for any 3-digit number. The students will need to know the value of each digit. After place value we will be creating pictographs and bar graphs.

We will be reading nonfiction passages to learn about the past. They should know what the heading, graph, chart, photograph, map, caption, and table of contents are.

The students will be taking water safety lessons in March. The students don't go every day because of the pool schedule. Ms. Rossi and Ms. Maxwell will go on March 5th, 7th, 10th, and 12th. Mrs. Brooks and Ms. Hutcheson will go on March 14th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th. The students will need a towel and a swimsuit.

Hello 5th grade,

We are almost done with the 3rd quarter, and things are moving fast in 5th grade. As we start working on our final units of instruction, we will also be preparing for the SOLs by reviewing everything we have learned this year. In preparation for this we ask that students try to attend school every day.

What we are working on now. In Math, students are back to working with fractions. Please make sure they are practicing their multiplication facts at home. In reading and writing, students are preparing for the Integrated Reading and Writing assessment. This assessment will be coming up soon. In Science, we have started our unit on Light. We have Electricity and Matter left to go. Expect to see study guides and review work coming home soon.

Thank you all and remember if you need anything let us know.

The 5th grade team.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
Reading Jogs the Mind! Wear your favorite workout attire	Let's Be Strategic About Reading! Wear your camouflage or military gear	Reading "Twendnesday" Day! Partner up with a peer, dress like a friend and read a book	The Power of Words! Wear a shirt with a positive message to share with others	Gear Up for Reading! Wear your favorite sports gear
10	11	12	13	14
		Rainbow of Possibilities! PreK-Red K-Orange 1 st -Yellow 2 nd -Green 3 rd -Blue 4 th -Purple 5 th -White Other staff wear black and gold!		Pi Day! Students may purchase pie! See above flyer!
17	18	19	20	21
St. Patrick's Day! Come to school decked out in green			Springing into March! Wear your favorite spring outfit!	No School Teacher Workday
24	25	26	27	28
	Made in the Shade! Wear your favorite sunglasses or sun hat			March Madness! Wear your favorite college shirt and jeans.



MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Kha'miyah A.

Kahle B.

Nielle B.

Nylah B.

Zhariyah B.

Hyrum B.

Lian F.

Jose F.

Demoni G.

Ariana G.

Makai H.

Matthew H.

Kervin H.

Angel H.

Nevaeh H.

Ayah J.

Jaliyah J.

Julian M.

Genesis M.

Natali M.

Isaiah M.

Naomi M.

Erick M.

Garrett M.

Avery N.

Lillian O.

Nevaeh P.

Evangelio R.

Ivon S.

Novah S.

Dieci T.

Kimberly T.

Brian T.

Kaiden W.

Evangel W.

Ms. Downs

Ms. Neblett

Ms. Rollins

Ms. Weston

Ms. Wilson