

River Oaks
Elementary School
Dolphin Gazette

December 2023



Dear River Oaks Families,

We are into December, the last month of 2023. In about three weeks will be the start of the Winter Break, but during these three weeks before the break there is a lot happening at River Oaks.

Help Support Student Academics at Home

We would like to provide some resources for families at home to support students to ensure that we are in partnership together to increase student achievement. One of the goals of PWCS Strategic Priority Commitment 1: Learning and Achievement for All is that at least 80% of elementary students will be reading on grade level by third grade. So attached you will find a Dolch Sight Word list for grade levels prekindergarten through third grade. Please practice the sight word list with your students to ensure that they can identify those words for the perspective grade levels.

Important Upcoming Family Engagement Events

- ❖ **Chorus Concert- Wed., Dec. 6, 2023 at 6:00pm**
All families are welcome!!!
Students participating in concert arrive at 5:45pm.
Please through Door 9
- ❖ **Literacy Family Engagement Night: Winter Wonderland of Words- Thurs., Dec. 14, 2023 at 5:30pm**
All families are welcome!!! Please enter through Door 9.
The first 100 families to arrive will receive a prize.
Please see the attached flyer for more specific information, use the link below to RSVP or the QR on the flyer.
https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=bZqwF-SVHk2F4xzg1N5_wckbGPWWVmJFg-LEljcmhBZURFZOS1dNNDk4V1pXNERHUjVCU1VXVkdSMi4u
- ❖ **4th & 5th Grade Winter Strings Concert- Mon., Dec. 18, 2023 at 6:00pm**
All families are welcome!!! Please enter through Door 9.

Student Device Insurance

All families signed an agreement of responsibility for the devices in the online Back to School Packet. To avoid fees for damaged or broken devices, we are encouraging all families to purchase device insurance for only \$29.95. Please see the link below for more information about the insurance.

English

https://riveroakses.pwcs.edu/news/2023/10/prince_william_county_public_schools_insurance_flyer_securranty_2023_compressed.pdf

Spanish

https://riveroakses.pwcs.edu/news/2023/10/prince_william_county_public_schools_spanish_insurance_flyer_securranty_compressed.pdf

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Update on Cost of Repairs of Student Devices if Do Not Purchase Insurance

The link below provides information about the PWCS regulation about roles and responsibilities for student devices. Also the link includes (and is listed below) the updated cost of repairs and replacements.

<https://pwcps.sharepoint.com/sites/DIIT-IT/SitePages/Stu.aspx>

Digital Device - Laptop

- Up to One Year \$308
- Between One and Two Years \$231
- Between Two and Three Years \$154
- Between Three and Four Years \$77

Digital Device - iPad

- Up to One Year \$245/285
- Between One and Two Years \$184/214
- Between Two and Three Years \$123/143
- Between Three and Four Years \$61/71

For lost or damaged chargers, contact the Ms. Dabu (ITC) or Mr. Pitts (TSPEC) for the year of laptop and/or current replacement cost.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) General Body Meeting & Fundraiser

All River Oaks PTO General Body meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. The first PTO General Body meeting will be held on Wed., Dec, 13, 2023 at 6:30pm in the River Oaks Cafeteria. Families please enter through Door 9. Any parent/guardian of a River Oaks' student(s) is encouraged to attend the PTO General Body meetings.

The PTO is sponsoring it's first fundraiser. The fundraiser is with Little Caesar's Pizza and runs from November 28-2023 through January 5, 2024. We encourage all to participate to support the students at River Oaks. Please see the attached flyer for more specific information and instructions.

River Oaks School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council will meet via Zoom on Monday, December 11, 2023. If you are interested in being a part of the School Advisory Council, please contact the chair of the School Advisory Council, Ms. Andrews at andrewrb@pwcs.edu.

Communication

Effective communication is important for the home-school connection. When contacting a staff member please be aware that staff have 24 - 48 hours (Mon.- Fri.) to respond to all messages (phone, School Status, email). If there is an emergency situation please contact the front office. During the school day staff members are engaged with students and are not always accessible to emails or phone;

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Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Wed., Dec. 6th @ 6:00pm- Chorus Concert
- Mon., Dec. 11th @ 6:00pm- School Advisory Council Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 13th @ 6:30pm- PTO General Body Meeting
- Mon., Dec. 18th @ 6:00pm- 4th & 5th grade Winter String Concert
- Thurs., Dec. 21st- Mon., Jan. 1st- Schools Closed for Winter Break
- Tues., Jan. 2nd- Staff & Students Return to School

Attendance Matters: Every Student, Every Day

Having students in school every day is very important, but we know that things happen such as students getting sick, family emergencies, etc. Please be sure to report the reason for the student's absence to the school. If your child is ever absent from school, please report the absence by using the following:

- ParentVue, for day of and future absences- can only put in one absence at a time through ParentVue
- Provide Doctor's note and/or Parent letter
- Call the front office at 703-441-0050
- Absences must be reported within 5 days of the student's return to school.

Safety First

Safety is our number one priority. Please remember the following for entry into the building, arrival, and dismissal.

- Photo ID (government issued) must be presented to enter the building and dismissal of students. The physical photo ID must be presented to staff and cannot be accepted on a cell phone.
- No cars are permitted in the bus loop from 8:00am-9:00am and from 3:00pm-4:00pm. We have late buses and cars cannot be in the bus loop while students are boarding or exiting the bus. Parents should not pass any buses that have the red lights flashing.
- We know that everyone wants to drop off or pick-up students but please slowdown in the school area and do not go around other vehicles. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Informational Items:

- School Hours – 8:45AM-3:25 PM. Tardy Bell rings at 8:45AM.
- Office Hours- 8:00AM- 4:00PM.
- Doors open for student entry at 8:30am , so please do not drop off your children before 8:30AM.
- A parent or guardian must accompany and sign in children arriving at school after 8:45AM.
- **If you need to pick up your children during school hours, you must present a Government Issued Photo Identification Card and sign them out from the office.** The office staff will call for the children to meet you in the office after your arrival and check out. The purpose of this procedure is to reduce disruptions to classroom instruction, as well as for safety reasons. All dismissal changes must be made in writing before 2:30PM. If yo

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- are picking up students for early dismissal, you must pick them up by 2:30PM. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Warm regards,

Dr. Gibson
Principal

Mrs. Herrera
Assistant Principal

Ms. Burton
Administrative Intern