

River Oaks
Elementary School
Dolphin Gazette

February 2024



Dear River Oaks Families,

We have finished one-half of the 2023-2024 school year, and we are officially in the second semester. Wow, how time flies, and can you believe that Wednesday, February 7, 2024 is the 100th day of school (please see the information below and attachment to see how we will celebrate). February Black History Month, National School Counseling Week (Feb 5-9, 2024), and Random Acts of Kindness Week (Feb. 11-17, 2024). Second quarter report cards will be available for you to view in ParentVue on February 7, 2024.

Some Possible Class Changes in Reading Block

As we carefully analyzed data and reflected on what we can do better to increase academic achievement, we felt it best to really be targeted in the support for students to meet their individual needs. Students will remain with their homeroom teacher for most of the day, but some students will switch for their reading block based on their needs. This switch will officially begin on Monday, February 5, 2024. After report cards are posted to The Hub, the change will be made in The Hub, allowing the teacher to post grades and send out messages. Teachers will send out a welcome message once we officially begin the switch.

National School Counseling Week

February 5-9, 2024 is National School Counseling Week. During this week we take the time to focus public attention and celebrate the unique contributions of school counselors within the U.S. School System. At River Oaks we have two amazing school counselors, Ms. Beauchamp (serves grades K-2nd) and Mrs. Wells (serves grades 3rd-5th). Families please help us celebrate Mrs. Wells and Ms. Beauchamp next week by having your children make cards, gifts, etc. to let Ms. Beauchamp and Mrs. Wells feel loved and appreciated.

100th Day of School

The 100th Day of School is Wednesday, February 7, 2024. To celebrate the 100th Day of School, we would like students to join the staff by dressing up like they are 100 years old or wear a 100th Day of School themed shirt. Please see the flyer attached. You will also find attached some activities you can do at home with your child(ren) to celebrate the 100th Day of School.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place from Monday, February 26–Friday, March 1 at the library. Families are invited to come on Wednesday, February 28 from 5–6pm. Purchases can be made with cash or through eWallet—your child's digital payment account. If you can't make it to the Fair, then shop at our school's Book Fair online. Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/riveroakselementarybookfair>. Please see the attached letter for more specific information.

Black History Month Program

We will have our Black History Program "Honoring the Achievement and Excellence of Black History" on February 28, 2024 at 6:00pm. Families will enter through Door 9. There is an attachment of a form that seeks to get parents' permission for students to participate in the evening performance on February 28, 2024. All students participating in

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or attending the 6:00pm evening program on February 28, 2024 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or other adult

International Day

River Oaks Elementary School will be having an International/Cultural Night on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 5:30pm. We would like to have an event that includes families and staff participation. You will make a dish to share that is a traditional dish from your country/culture and create one page write up about your country. If you are interested in participating please use the link or QR code below to sign-up. Everyone that is interested needs to complete the form to sign up by February 29, 2024. If you have any questions about the event please contact Ms. Jones at jonesr@pwcs.edu.

<https://forms.office.com/r/MS7vXu2fMc> or



Chick-fil-A Valentine Cookie Gram Fundraiser

The River Oaks PTO is hosting their first Valentine's Day Cookie Gram sale! They have partnered with Chick-fil-A to deliver treats to students and staff. Please see the attachment for more specific information. Use the QR code below to order your treats by February 9th for prompt delivery. All proceeds will benefit the school's Earth Day Project.



Chick-fil-A Spirit Night Fundraiser

River Oaks Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is sponsoring a Chick-fil-A Spirit Night. The Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night will be held on February 15th from 5pm -8pm at the Chick-fil-A in Dumfries. River Oaks will receive 20% of the profits on all in-store and mobile orders that use the code "Riveroaks". The PTO will set up a balloon Photo Booth and other activities with prizes to encourage participation. All proceeds will benefit the school's Earth Day Project. Please see the attachment for more specific details.

Prohibited Parking

This is just a friendly that parking is prohibited in the reserved spaces of the Community Club House. If you park there, then they will tow your vehicle. That area is not the school's property, and no one can park in the reserved spots because that is for their employees. There is parking in the Community Club House that is open to the public and not reserved spaces. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Transportation Late Bus Notification Link

Transportation's Late Bus Notification web page is now available for parents and schools. The page will list buses that will be late 15 minutes or more to start their run. Please see the link below,

https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/transportation/bus_delays

Transportation Changes

PWCS has made changes to their policy of when parents/guardians need to inform the school of any student transportation changes. Effective January 5, 2024, parents/guardians must call the front office at 703-441-0050 by 2:00pm to make transportation changes. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) General Body Meeting

The February PTO General Body meeting will be held on February 21, 2024 at 6:30pm via Zoom. Please see the zoom link information below to access the meeting. Any parent/guardian of a River Oaks' student(s) is encouraged to attend the PTO General Body meetings.

Nikisha Gibson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: PTO General Body Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pwcs-zm-edu.zoom.us/j/85880651071?pwd=bjE1aJJOVTFodlPnTUd4MkRtO3JmOT09>

Meeting ID: 858 8065 1071

Passcode: 432024

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,85880651071#,,,,*432024# US

+13017158592,,85880651071#,,,,*432024# US (Washington DC)

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Feb. 5th-9th – National School Counseling Week
- Wed., Feb. 7th- 100th Day of School Celebration- dress like a 100 year old person or wear a 100th Day of School themed shirt
- Feb. 12th-16th- Random Acts of Kindness Week- more specific information will be forthcoming
- Thurs., Feb. 15th- PTO Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A in Dumfries
- Mon., Feb. 19th- Schools and Offices Closed for President's Day
- Wed., Feb. 21st- PTO General Body Meeting @ 6:30pm via Zoom
- Thurs., Feb. 22nd – 2nd Quarter Awards Assembly- Families enter through Door 9- Students who will be receiving awards will get a letter from the teacher that will be sent to families.
 - 9:30am for grades 3rd-5th. Doors will open at 9:00am
 - 1:30pm for grades PreK (pm), 1st, & 2nd. Door will open at 1:00pm

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- Fri., Feb. 23rd – 2nd Quarter Awards Assembly- Families enter through Door 9- Students who will be receiving awards will get a letter from the teacher that will be sent to families.
 - 9:30am for grades PreK(am) & Kindergarten- Doors will open at 9:00am
- Feb. 26th -March 1st – Scholastic Book Fair
- Wed., Feb. 28th – Book Fair & Black History Program
 - 5:00pm-6:00pm- Book Fair in the Library- enter through main entrance
 - 6:00pm- Black History Program- enter through Door 9

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, please contact the front office. During the school day staff members are engaged with students and are not always accessible to their emails or phone.

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 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

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instruction, as well as for safety reasons. All dismissal changes must be made in writing before 2:00PM. If you 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