

River Oaks
Elementary School
Dolphin Gazette

March 2024



Dear River Oaks Families,

We have had a decrease in our chronic absenteeism. We have gone from 23% down to 21%, so thank you for having the students in school everyday. A part of River Oaks Continuous Improvement Plan for the 2023-2024 school year is to decrease chronic absenteeism down to 16%. A student is considered chronically absent when they have 18 or more missing days from school whether it be excused or unexcused for the school year. In March we celebrate Women's History Month, National Reading Month, and Social Emotional Learning Week. Also, just a friendly reminder that school will be closed for students and there will be no AlphaBest before or after care for students on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Preschool Opportunity

Our Integrated Program at River Oaks Elementary School will serve children ages three and four years old with developmental delays, along with their **appropriate peer models**. There will be six openings for children ages three and four years of age to serve as peer models during the 2024-25 school year. Children must be at least 36 months old by September 30, 2024, and live in the River Oaks Elementary school attendance area. Please see the attached letter for more specific information.

Social Emotional Learning Week

The week of March 4-8, 2024 is Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Week in PWCS. Teachers will be engaged in some SEL activities during the week and please see the attached flyer to see how students can participate.

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 March 6, 2024. If you have any questions about the event please contact Ms. Jones at jonesr@pwcs.edu.

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



Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) Kick-off

Watch D.O.G.S. is an opportunity for Fathers and Father Figures of River Oaks Elementary School students to volunteer at the school. Come out on Thursday, March 14, 2024 from 5:30pm-6:30 pm to learn more about Watch D.O.G.S. We will be serving pizza and drinks during the event. If you plan on attending, please use the link in the attached flyer to sign-up by March 12, 2024.

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Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) General Body Meeting

The February PTO General Body meeting will be held on March 13, 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.

Topic: PTO General Body Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pwcs-zm-edu.zoom.us/j/85880651071?pwd=bjE1aJJOVTFodlpnTUd4MkRtQ3JmQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 8065 1071

Passcode: 432024

One tap mobile

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

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

PTO Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser

The PTO is sponsoring a Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser on March 29, 2024 from 3:00pm-9:00pm. The school will receive 20% of the proceeds. The fundraiser will be located at the Dale City Chuck E. Cheese- 140835 Shoppers Best Way Dale City, VA 22192. Please see the attached flyer for more information and coupons for the event.

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- March 4th-8th – Social Emotional Learning Week
- Tues., March 5th- Election Day- Schools Closed for Students
- Thurs., March 7th- PWCS Career Fair @ Woodbridge High School- 5pm-7pm
- Wed., March 13th- PTO General Body Meeting @6:30pm via Zoom
- Thurs., March 14th – Watch D.O.G.S. Parent Kick-off Event- 5:30pm-6:30pm. Families please enter through Door 9.
- Tues., March 19th- International Cultural Night @ 5:30pm. Families please enter through Door 9.
- March 25th-29th – Spring Break- Schools & Offices Closed

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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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.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to utilize the established Kiss and Ride line for student drop-off and pick-up. By doing so, we can maintain a smooth flow of traffic and minimize risks.
- While we understand that some parents may choose to use the community association lot, please be aware that doing so is at your own risk. If you decide to use this lot, please remember to yield to pedestrians.
- Parking in areas marked as fire lanes or no parking zones poses serious safety risks. Violators may be ticketed by law enforcement.
- We kindly request that parents refrain from parking or stopping vehicles in the cul-de-sac area. Such practices lead to additional traffic congestion and make it challenging for school buses to enter and exit the school premises.

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.

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

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- Absences must be reported within 5 days of the student's return to school.

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 2:00PM. 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