

River Oaks
Elementary School
Dolphin Gazette

October 2023



Dear River Oaks Families,

In this month of October we are coming to the end of the celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month as well as bringing awareness to Breast Cancer. As a school since September 15th we have been recognizing extraordinary Hispanic individuals and country/regions. This has been done during the morning announcements and currently every grade level has been researching and doing projects about certain Hispanic countries or regions that most of our student population is from. To bring recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness month we are asking staff and students to wear something pink every Friday in the month of October.

Monday, October 9, 2023- School closed for Students

October 9, 2023 is a Professional Development Day for staff, so school will be closed for students.

Walk to School Day

On Tuesday, October 4, 2023, we had a successful Walk to School Day. We, the staff, enjoyed walking to the school with the students and from the smiles on the students' faces they enjoyed it too.



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Student Devices

All student devices (iPads or laptops) will be sent home with students on Monday, October 16, 2023. The students must bring the devices back and forth to school everyday because they are used during the instructional day daily and for assessments. 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://riveroakes.pwcs.edu/news/2023/10/prince_william_county_public_schools_insurance_flyer_securranty_2023_compressed.pdf

Spanish

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

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October Events

The month of October is packed with events and activities for River Oaks families to participate in.

- October 2nd-18th- Safety Patrols Sponsors Operation Turkey- please bring in non-perishable food items that will be donated to ACTS to be distributed to families in need for Thanksgiving. See attached flyer for more specific information.
- October 12th- Hispanic Heritage Fun Night and Title I Annual Meeting at 5:30pm. Please come dressed in your culture's attire. See attached flyer for more specific information.
- October 19th- ParentVue and School Status Workshop at 5:30pm. Sign-up for ParentVue, learn how ParentVue and School Status, see grades in real time, how to connect with teachers, and much more. See attached flyer for more specific information.
- October 27th- Trunk or Treat 5:30pm-6:30pm- Students come with their families dressed in costume to receive treats from the staff. See attached flyer for more specific information.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Officers Elected

You voted and the following officers listed below have been elected. They will be reaching out soon for a membership drive, monthly meetings, and opportunities to participate and support River Oaks. If you need to get in contact with the River Oaks PTO you may email them at rivoakselementarypto@gmail.com

- ❖ President- Belinda Brown
- ❖ Vice President- Alicia Young
- ❖ Treasurer- Chandra Broadnax
- ❖ Secretary- Shamina Akther
- ❖ Event Coordinator- Angela Butler

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.

PWCS Attendance Policies and Regulations

Types of Excused Absences:

- personal illness of the student;
- death in the student's immediate family or household;
- required court appearance; and
- preapproved absence for certain reasons pertaining to a parent's military deployment

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Types of Unexcused Absences:

- missing a ride, or a bus, or car trouble;
- failure to produce an appropriate explanation or requested documentation for an absence; and
- traveling (within the country or out of the country)

Types of Excused Tardies:

- dental note;
- doctor's note; and
- other types of physician notes

Types of Unexcused Tardies:

- woke up late; and
- missed the bus, or ride, or car trouble;

Tardiness:

Promptness to class is very important. Students are to be in their seats and ready to work when the bell sounds. Repeated or habitual tardiness encourages the formation of undesirable personal habits and disrupts the orderly instructional process of the school. This requires corrective action. Each principal, in consultation with his/her stakeholders, and in conformance with Regulation 724-1, "Attendance, Absences, Excuses, and Tardies," shall develop a plan to foster student promptness to class.

Chronic Absenteeism

A part of River Oaks Continuous Improvement Plan for the 2023-2024 school year is to decrease chronic absenteeism. 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.

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CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM VS. TRUANCY AUSENTISMO CRÓNICO VERSUS AUSENTISMO ESCOLAR

Chronic Absenteeism

- Missing 10% or more of school for **any reason** (18 or more days) (*excused, unexcused, & suspensions*)
- It is an indication that a student is academically at risk due to missing too much school starting in Kindergarten.
- Uses community -based, positive strategies

Ausentismo crónico

- Faltar al 10% o más de la escuela por cualquier motivo (18 o más días) (*justificadas, injustificadas y suspensiones*)
- Es una indicación de que un estudiante está en riesgo académico debido a que falta demasiado a la escuela desde el jardín de infantes.
- Utiliza estrategias positivas basadas en la comunidad

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM VS. TRUANCY AUSENTISMO CRÓNICO VERSUS AUSENTISMO ESCOLAR

Truancy

- Counts only unexcused absences
- Emphasizes compliance with school rules
- Relies on legal & administrative solutions

Ausentismo Escolar

- Sólo cuenta las ausencias injustificadas
- Enfatiza el cumplimiento de las reglas escolares
- Se basa en soluciones legales y administrativas

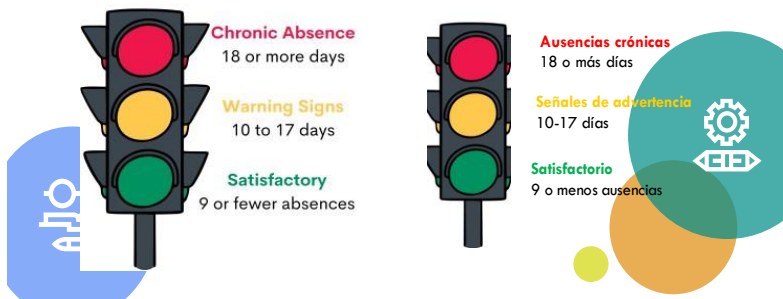
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WHEN DO ABSENCES BECOME A PROBLEM?

¿CUÁNDO LAS AUSENCIAS SE CONVIERTEN EN UN PROBLEMA?



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.
- Children may not be dropped off 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 you are picking up students for early dismissal, you must pick them up by 2:30PM. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Fri., Nov. 3rd- End of 1st Marking Period
- Mon., Nov. 6th- Parent-Teacher Conference Day- No School for Students
- Tues., Nov. 7th- Staff Work Day- No School for Students
- Fri., Nov. 10th- Veteran's Day- Schools and Offices Closed
- Nov-22nd-24th- Thanksgiving Break- Schools and Offices Closed

Warm regards,

Dr. Gibson
Principal

Mrs. Herrera
Assistant Principal

Ms. Burton
Administrative Intern