

# River Oaks Elementary School Dolphin Gazette

October 2024



Dear River Oaks Families,

October brings the start of the Fall season and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We are in the last month of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and our students have been learning a lot. If you were not able to attend September 26<sup>th</sup> Back to School Night, please use this link below for the video presentation.

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGR-XJ4izU/kZdVcsE2HJXPI7gjilep8w/watch?utm\\_content=DAGR-XJ4izU&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=embeds&utm\\_source=link](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGR-XJ4izU/kZdVcsE2HJXPI7gjilep8w/watch?utm_content=DAGR-XJ4izU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=embeds&utm_source=link) .

Just a friendly reminder that schools and offices will be closed Thursday, October 3, 2024.

The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter ends on October 31, 2024. If students have any missed assignments, they need to be turned in one week prior to the end of the quarter so that teachers will have time to review and grade the assignment. So, for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter all missing assignments must be turned into the teacher no later than October 24, 2024 or the grade for the missing assignment will become a zero. Please be sure to go to ParentVue so that you are aware of the grades and assignments for your students.

## Plan for Academic and Career Goals

PWCS is committed to providing the resources and guidance students need to develop a clear plan for academic and career goals. [Virginia Education Wizard](https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/home) - <https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/home> is the platform utilized by PWCS elementary students to explore careers and the [Naviance](https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student_services/college_and_career_planning/naviance_student) - [https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student\\_services/college\\_and\\_career\\_planning/naviance\\_student](https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student_services/college_and_career_planning/naviance_student) platform is available to all middle and high school students to complete self-discovery assessments, post-high school planning, career exploration, and college searching.

## School Library Control for Parents

Our library circulation system provides the option for parents to restrict access to specific titles in circulation in our school library, if they choose that option for their child. While the school shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the student is not provided with access to such materials, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that the student understands the restriction and does not attempt to access the materials. If you are interested in restricting specific library titles for your student(s), please visit the "Parent Library Controls" webpage - [https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/library\\_media\\_programs\\_research/parent\\_library\\_controls](https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/library_media_programs_research/parent_library_controls) for more information. Restriction of library materials using the "Additional User Type" is a parent's responsibility. Librarians and school administrators can provide access to the link but cannot provide support within the system.

## School Custodian Appreciation Day

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 is School Custodian Appreciation Day. Our custodians Ms. Phillips, Ms. Pena, Ms. Gacia, and Mr. Rankin do a great job of keeping River Oaks clean and comfortable (inside and outside of the building). We know that the custodial staff would greatly appreciate any acknowledgement with a card, gift card, and/or small gift,



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## Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Chick-fil-A Night

The PTO will be having a Chick-fil-A fundraiser on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 from 5pm-8pm at the Chick-fil-A located at 3330 Pine Bluff Dr. Dumfries, VA 22026. River Oaks PTO will receive 20% of all sales collected. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

## Watch D.O.G.S.

All father and father-figures of River Oaks students who are interested in volunteering at River Oaks please come to our kick-off event on Tues., Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-6:30pm. Pizza and drinks will be served. You must rsvp if you plan to attend the event. Please see the attached flyer for more specific information and how to rsvp for the event.

## Walk to School Day

The River Oaks Staff will be walking to school with students and families on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. Please look for us the morning of October 9<sup>th</sup> in our River Oaks shirts.

## Doughnuts with Grownups

On Thursday, October 10, 2024 we will be have the Title I Annual Meeting from 8:00am-8:45am. You will be able to bring your child to the meeting and enjoy some doughnuts. You must RSVP for the event, submit rsmps by Monday, October 7, 2024. More specific information and the rsvp link/QR code is in the attached flyer.

## Spirit Week- October 21 - 25, 2024

Spirit week to celebrate Fall and Support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month will be October 21 - 25, 2024. Please see the schedule below.

- Mon., Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>- Wear Orange and/or Black
- Tues., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>- Wear Favorite Pajamas (PJ Day)
- Wed., Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wear Fall Festive Socks
- Thurs., Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>- Wear Pink to Support Breast Cancer Awareness
- Fri., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>- Come dressed as your favorite book character (no masks or toy weapons)

## Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Wed., Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>- School Custodian Appreciation Day & PTO Chick-fil-A Night from 5pm-8pm
- Thurs., Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>- Schools and Offices Closed
- Tues., Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Watch D.O.G.S. Kickoff @ 5:30pm. Please enter through door 9.
- Wed., Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>- Walk to School Day
- Thurs., Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>- Vision & Hearing Screening
- Mon., Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>- Professional Development Day- No School for Students
- Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>- Spirit Week
- Fri., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>- Trunk or Treat- 5:00pm-6:00pm- Students come with their families dressed in costume to receive treats from the staff. A flyer with more specific information will be sent out soon.
- Mon., Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>- Field Day- A flyer with how to volunteer will be sent out soon.
- Thurs., Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>- End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- Fri., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>- Schools and Offices Closed

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## Bringing in Treats to Celebrate Students' Birthdays

Families you may bring in treats (store brought only) to celebrate students' birthdays. You may come to the classroom to participate in the celebration, but please be sure to notify the teacher at least three days prior. The celebration can only occur at the end of the day in the student's classroom to begin no earlier than 2:30pm and must be over by 3:00pm.

## Here Comes the Bus App



Wondering where the bus is? Now you will know. This app has the most accurate and updated location of buses.

- See real-time map locations for your student's buses.
- Get push-notifications when the bus gets close by.
- Get everyone to the stop at the right time, every time.

## How to Sign Up for Here Comes the Bus

1. Go to the [Here Comes the Bus website](https://herecomesthebus.com/) - <https://herecomesthebus.com/>
2. Click Log In (you can change the language to Spanish or French by clicking the links at top of the website)
3. Click the Sign Up Today button
4. Select the I have the code option
5. When creating a new account, use School Code 76348 on the User Profile screen
6. Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID number
7. Once you confirm your information, you're ready to begin using Here Comes the

Bus! Download the Here Comes The Bus mobile app through Apple App Store or Google Play.

If you have questions or want to leave feedback about this service? Please contact [hctb@pwcs.edu](mailto:hctb@pwcs.edu).

## Parent Teacher Organization Website, Email, and Monthly Meetings

To keep up to date with what is going on with River Oaks PTO or volunteer opportunities please be sure to visit their website at <https://roespto.ptboard.com> or log onto the River Oaks website at <https://riveroaks.pwcs.edu/news/index> and look on the top of page and click the PTO tab. If you want to contact the PTO you may contact them via email at [riveroakselementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:riveroakselementarypto@gmail.com),

The general body PTO meetings are held virtually monthly at 6:00pm. The next meeting will be held on Thurs., Oct. 17, 2024. Please see the Zoom link below to access the meeting.

Topic: PTO General Body Meeting

Time: Oct 17, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pwcs-zm-edu.zoom.us/j/81085982398?pwd=dxdlEugawcRsNPJaK48PIkshhXj0Ao.1>

Meeting ID: 810 8598 2398

Passcode: 222925

River Oaks  
Elementary School  
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One tap mobile

+13092053325,,81085982398#,,,,\*222925# US

+13126266799,,81085982398#,,,,\*222925# US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 810 8598 2398

Passcode: 222925

Find your local number: <https://pwcs-zm-edu.zoom.us/j/kh8PJskKr>

### 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. Also, please do not park in homeowner's driveways or in front of their driveways. Thank you for your cooperation.

### 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.
- Do not make illegal u-turns in the middle of the streets.

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## **Transportation Changes**

PWCS has made changes to their policy of when parents/guardians need to inform the school of any student transportation changes. 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

## **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