

River Oaks Elementary School Dolphin Gazette

November 2024



Dear River Oaks Families,

November is the month of Thanksgiving. At River Oaks we are thankful for our parents and families because you are crucial partners in students' education, significantly impacting their academic success, well-being, and overall school environment through active involvement, support, and communication, which can lead to improved attendance, engagement, and positive behavior. As an administrative team we are thankful to both our families and staff for your partnership with us to help do what is best for children.

Parent access to unit assessments and student results

Throughout the school year, students in some grades (2nd-5th) are given PWCS unit assessments. These assessments and students' results can be viewed or sent home to parents/guardians upon request. If you would like to view the unit assessments and student results, please reach out to your child's teacher to either:

- Request a copy of the assessment and student results be emailed.
- Request a copy of the assessment and student results be sent home.
- Schedule a meeting to review in person or over Zoom.

Parent Right to Know & Opt-Out Information

PARENTAL RIGHT TO INFORMATION ABOUT TEACHERS:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, most recently reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act, states that parents in Title I schools have the right to request certain information about their child's teachers. The information that you have a right to request about your child's teacher is:

- a. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subjects the teacher is teaching.
- b. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing has been waived.
- c. The baccalaureate degree major of certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- d. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

At River Oaks Elementary School, we are extremely proud of our teachers and paraprofessionals, and are happy to provide you with any of the information above pertaining to your child's teacher(s). If you have such a request, please call the school at 703-441-0050 and ask for the information you are interested in.

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Parental Notification of Assessment Opt Out Policies under The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

According to the Virginia Department of Education, "All students in tested grade levels and courses are expected to participate in Virginia's assessment program, unless specifically exempted by state or federal law or by Board of Education regulations." On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not currently have an Opt Out policy for SOL assessments. However, Section 22.1-253.13:3.C of the Code of Virginia states that, "The Board of Education shall not include in its calculation of the passage rate of a Standards of Learning assessment for the purposes of state accountability any student whose parent has decided to not have his child take such Standards of Learning assessment, unless such exclusions would result in the school's not meeting any required state or federal participation rate." Prince William County Public Schools regulations state that, if a parent or guardian decides to not have a student take a state or local assessment, then the person making the request should be informed about the academic consequences that decision could have on the student.

If you would like to receive more information about this topic, please contact Dr. Gibson, principal.

Parent Liaison

If you need help, support, or resources please schedule a time to speak with our parent liaison, Ms. Santos. Use the link below to book a 20-minute time block to speak with her.

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/PhoneCallMeeting@pwcs.edu/bookings/>

Watch D.O.G.S.

Watch D.O.G.S. invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or other father figures to volunteer at River Oaks Elementary at least one day during the school year. Our volunteers perform a variety of tasks during their day. They may read books with a student or play math games with a group. Volunteers may check in library books for the librarian or help the art teacher with an art project. Their tasks can include helping to motivate students in PE or simply playing with students at recess. No matter how they are enlisted to help, Watch D.O.G.S. serve as positive male role models for our students. If you are interested in volunteering, please use the link below to schedule a day that works best for you. If you have more questions about the Watch D.O.G.S. program, please contact Ms. Santos (santoscm1@pwcs.edu) or Mr. Stone (stoneJR@pwcs.edu).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BA5AD22A5F5C07-52887506-watch#/>

Front Office Customer Service

We always want everyone to feel welcomed and invited when they come to River Oaks. So, we are asking for your feedback on customer service in the front office. Please use the link below to complete the short survey.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?prevorigin=shell&origin=NeoPortalPage&subpage=design&id=bZqwF-SVhk2F4xzg1N5_wZlwQ0gkPaJJnhZRpiXeZ35UNkdEUINXSEYzQ05YU0szMEXXSzc3TVhKVy4u

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Movie Theme Curriculum Night

Join us on Tuesday November 19, 2024 at 5:30pm to learn about what your child(ren) will be learning this school year and participate in fun engaging curriculum activities. We also will have Creative Learning (from Amazon Web Services) here on Nov. 19th with some STEM activities. Please rsvp in the link below by November 13, 2024. Please see the attached flyer for more specific information.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?subpage=design&FormId=bZqwF-SVHk2F4xzg1N5_wSBb2rO_3BZlpU1iAVzNt2BUMDc5OUdBVjA4TURBMVA1VFhIWEM4SURYRy4u&Token=2ea328a7135a476ea5ce005d0c4c6394

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Tues., Nov. 5th- Professional Development Day for Staff and No School for Students & Election Day
- Wed., Nov. 6th- Start of 2nd Quarter
- Mon., Nov. 11th- Veterans Day- Schools & Offices Closed
- Wed., Nov. 13th- Fall Picture Day- Packages and Payment Information Coming Soon
- Tues., Nov. 19th- Curriculum Night @5:30pm- Families please enter through Door 1 (main entrance). Please do not park in the bus loop.
- Wed., Nov. 20th- Teacher (Instructional) Assistant Appreciation Day
- Fri., Nov. 22nd – 1st Quarter Awards Assembly for Kindergarten Students @ 1:30pm. Doors will open at 1:00pm, please enter through door 9. If your child will receive an award, you will receive a letter from your child's teacher the week of November 11th.
- Mon., Nov. 25th – 1st Quarter Awards Assembly for 1st-5th Grade Students. Please enter through door 9. If your child will receive an award, you will receive a letter from your child's teacher the week of November 11th.
 - 9:30am for grades 3rd-5th - Doors will open at 9:00am
 - 1:30pm for grades 1st-2nd - Doors will open at 1:00pm
- Tues., Nov. 26th- Attendance Pancake Party for students who have perfect attendance from October 1, 2024 to November 15, 2024
- Wed., Nov. 27th- Fri., Nov. 29th- Thanksgiving Holiday- Schools and Offices Closed
- Mon., Dec. 1st- Special Education Appreciation Day
- Sat., Dec. 7th- River Oaks Step Team Showcase- More information is forthcoming

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.

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- 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.

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 dolphinpto25@gmail.com.

The general body PTO meetings are held virtually monthly at 6:00pm. The next meeting will be held on Thurs., Nov. 21, 2024. Please see the Zoom link below to access the meeting.

Topic: PTO General Body Meeting

Date and Time: November 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pwcs-zm-edu.zoom.us/j/81085982398?pwd=dxdlEugawcRsNPJaK48PlkshhXj0Ao.1>

Meeting ID: 810 8598 2398

Passcode: 222925

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>

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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). When messages are sent after 4:00pm Mon.- Fri., the 24-48 hour times starts the next business day. If there is an emergency, please contact the front office. During the school day staff members are engaged with students and are not always available to receive or respond to messages.

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