

River Oaks Elementary School Dolphin Gazette

December 2024



Dear River Oaks Families,

Holiday greetings to each one of you this amazing month of December, a time of year when celebrations of kindness, generosity, and goodwill. In the month of December, we have three weeks in school before the start of the 2025 New Year. The Winter Break is from December 23, 2024- January 3, 2025 and school reopens on January 6, 2025.

Character Counts!

In mid- January 2025 we will be doing a school wide program called Character Counts. Character Counts! promotes six "pillars of character"--caring, citizenship, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness--to reinforce a safe and positive school environment conducive to teaching and learning.

Winter Concert

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 6:00pm, please come out to see our 4th and 5th grade students perform in the Winter Concert. Doors open at 5:45pm, families please enter through door 9. All students must be accompanied by an adult. Please see the attached flyer.

Step Into the Holidays Showcase

River Oaks Elementary School's Step Team Presents: Step Into the Holidays Showcase. The Step Showcase will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 11:00am (doors open at 10:30am) in River Oaks Cafeteria. You may enter through door 9. The cost for the showcase is \$5.00 (cash only). You will enjoy River Oaks Step Team and other local elementary, middle, and high school step teams. Concessions with refreshments will be sold at the show. Please see the attached flyer for more specific details.

Parent Volunteers Needed

The Dolphin PTO will be selling refreshments at the Step into the Holidays Step Show. We would like your help! Please visit our website (dolphinpto.ptboard.com) sign up to donate or volunteer with us on Saturday, December 7, 2024.

Holidays Around the World Program

Come see the River Oaks students do various performances that celebrate the Holidays from Around the World on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 5:30pm. Please enter through door 9.

River Oaks Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Winter Candy Grams Fundraiser

The Parent Teacher Organization have a Winter Candy Grams. Please see the attached flyers to order your Winter Candy Grams for your student or favorite person! Candy Grams are \$3. Sales will end on 12/18/24 and will be delivered on Friday, 12/20. Unpaid orders will not be delivered. Please visit dolphinpto.ptboard.com for more information and updates.

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Wed., Dec. 4th- Winter Concert @ 5:30pm- Families please enter through door 9.
- Sat., Dec. 7th- Step Team Showcase @ 11:00am (doors open at 10:30am, enter through door 9)- cost \$5.00
- Thurs., Dec. 12th- Holidays Around the World @5:30pm, enter through door 9

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- Dec. 16th-20th- Winter Spirit Week- further information is forthcoming and will be shared soon
- Dec. 23rd-Jan. 3rd- Winter Break- Schools Closed
- Mon., Jan. 6th – Students and Staff return to school
- Mon., Jan. 20th- Martin Luther King Day- Schools Closed
- Tues., Jan., 21st- Teacher Work Day- No School for Students
- Wed., Jan. 22nd- Parent/Teacher Conference & Teacher Professional Development Day- No School for Students

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



Here Comes The Bus

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.

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://riveroakes.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.

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The December meeting is cancelled due to the holiday season. We will resume the monthly meeting in January. The general body PTO meetings are held virtually monthly at 6:00pm. The next meeting will be held on Thurs., Jan. 16, 2025. Please see the Zoom link below to access the meeting.

Topic: PTO General Body Meeting

Date and Time: January 16, 2025 at 6:00 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

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>

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

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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