

# River Oaks Elementary School Dolphin Gazette

February 2025



Dear River Oaks Families,

We are into 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and the snow is finally starting to melt away. February is the month that we celebrate Black History Month. Our Black History Celebration Night will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, please see the attached flyer for specific information. We will be celebrating our students 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter accomplishments on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> awards assemblies, specific information about the awards assemblies is below. If your child is receiving an award during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter awards assembly you should have received a letter from your child's teacher inviting you to attend. River Oaks has two phenomenal school counselors, Ms. Beauchamp and Mrs. Wells. This week, February 3-7, 2025 is School Counselors Appreciation Week, so please join us in appreciating and celebrating Ms. Beauchamp and Mrs. Wells by sending in small tokens of appreciation (i.e. cards, candy, gift cards, treats, etc.) to them.

## **PWCS Presents- Parents as Partners in Special Education Conference: Building Bridges Between Home, School, and Community**

Join us at **Forest Park High School on Saturday, February 22** to gain insights and resources to advocate for your child and navigate Section 504 and special education processes. All parents, educators and community members welcome.

### **Why Attend?**

**Empowerment:** Learn to participate in your child's education, including the Section 504 or IEP process.

**Resources:** Access services and resources from state and local partners.

**Knowledge:** Explore special education topics like reading, behavior strategies, and mental health.

**Networking:** Connect with other parents and build a supportive network.

[Learn more and register](https://web.cvent.com/event/1401124c-2359-4629-9ee0-67ab304f3f60/websitePage:0a6c01a5-f3f5-4247-a03f-4b2d66f66632) - <https://web.cvent.com/event/1401124c-2359-4629-9ee0-67ab304f3f60/websitePage:0a6c01a5-f3f5-4247-a03f-4b2d66f66632>

## **PWCS Wants Your Feedback on the 2025-26 Code of Behavior**

[The PWCS Code of Behavior](#) outlines expectations for student conduct and is reviewed every year. We invite everyone—students, families, staff, and community members—to review the current Code of Behavior and suggest changes for the upcoming school year. Please use the [Code of Behavior Revisions Suggestions form](#) to share your thoughts by Friday, February 14, 2025.

🔗 Link to PWCS Code of Behavior- <https://codeofbehavior.pwcs.edu/>

🔗 Link to Code of Behavior Revisions Suggestions Form- [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bZqwF-SVHk2F4xzg1N5\\_wSaVKs-mV2dGhka0S7J6Sr5UM1RDQURFNjhVMUIYNEgxT01VUFRUN1hHNI4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bZqwF-SVHk2F4xzg1N5_wSaVKs-mV2dGhka0S7J6Sr5UM1RDQURFNjhVMUIYNEgxT01VUFRUN1hHNI4u)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Awards Assemblies**

- February 6, 2025
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades at 9:30am. Doors will open for entry at 9:00am. Please enter through Door 9.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grades at 1:30pm. Doors will open for entry at 1:00pm. Please enter through Door 9.
- February 7, 2025
  - Kindergarten at 1:30pm. Doors will open for entry at 1:00pm. Please enter through Door 10.

## **WIDA Assessments Administration**

The WIDA test, which stands for "World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment," is a suite of English language proficiency assessments used to measure the English language skills of students who are learning English as a second language (ESL) or are considered English Language Learners (ELLs), primarily used to determine if a student needs additional language support

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services in school; it includes assessments like the WIDA Screener (for initial identification) and the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs (for annual progress monitoring) across the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. WIDA testing has begun so please ensure that if your students is an EL students that they come to school everyday, get plenty of rest, and if a student has an appointment that they may have leave early or arrive late, please contact the ESOL teacher prior to scheduling the appointment. Below is the test administration schedule (subject to change due to unexpected school closures).

- Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
  - Listening: February 4-5, 2025
- Grades 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>
  - Reading: February 11-12
  - Writing: February 18-20
  - Speaking: February 24-28
- Kindergarten- February 3- March 28, 2025

## **Join Girls on the Run – Spring 2025 Registration Opens Feb 3! Girls on the Run is for 4th and 5th grade students.**

We are excited to bring Girls on the Run back to our school! This incredible program inspires confidence, builds friendships, and promotes healthy habits through fun activities and running.

Program Details:

- 📅 Registration: February 3 – February 23
- 🏃 Season Dates: Week of March 3 – May 18
- 📅 Practice Days: Mondays & Wednesdays
- 🕒 Time: 3:45 – 5:00 PM
- 🏆 Season Finale: A celebratory 5K event!
- 🚗 Parent pick-up is required (No after-school bus transportation available)

Program Cost & Financial Assistance:

- 💰 Standard fee: \$210 (includes weekly lessons/practices, a t-shirt, a GOTR giveaway, 5K entry, a 5K medal, and more)
- 💰 Financial assistance available: Registration fees can be as low as \$22 for those who need it.
- ❤️ No girl is ever turned away due to financial need!
- 📅 Registration Opens: February 3

🔗 Sign up at: [www.gotrnova.org](http://www.gotrnova.org)

Please see the attached flyers for more details. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Ms. Beauchamp at [beauchjl@pwcs.edu](mailto:beauchjl@pwcs.edu)

## **2025 School Yearbook**

It is that time of the year for you to start placing your orders for the yearbook. Please see the attached flyer for all of the specific information.

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## 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](mailto:santoscm1@pwcs.edu)) or Mr. Stone ([stoneJR@pwcs.edu](mailto:stoneJR@pwcs.edu)).

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

## Free Mental Health Support for Your Students with PWCS and Hazel Health

Mental health challenges can be tough, but no student needs to face them alone. [PWCS has partnered with Hazel Health](#) to offer free mental health telehealth services to all students. These services are designed to provide support and guidance, helping students navigate their difficulties. By utilizing these resources, students can gain the tools they need to manage stress and achieve their full potential. Please use the link below to learn more information about the services.

[https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student\\_services/mental\\_health\\_telehealth/index#](https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student_services/mental_health_telehealth/index#)

## Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>- School Counselors Appreciation Week
- Thurs., Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Awards Assemblies for Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades @ 9:30am
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grades @ 1:30pm
- Fri., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Awards Assemblies for Kindergarten @ 1:30pm
- Mon., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>- Schools & Offices Closed- Presidents Day
- Thurs., Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Books & Blankets @ 6:00pm via Zoom
  - PTO Meeting @ 6:00pm via Zoom
- Wed., Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>- Black History Celebration Program @ 5:30pm

## Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) 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](mailto:dolphinpto25@gmail.com).

The monthly general body PTO meetings are held virtually monthly at 6:00pm. The next meeting will be held on Thurs., Feb. 20, 2025. Please see the Zoom link below to access the meeting.

Topic: PTO General Body Meeting

Date and Time: February 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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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>

## 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).

## 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

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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