

River Oaks Elementary School Dolphin Gazette

January 2025



Dear River Oaks Families,

Happy New Year!!!! We have started the 2025 new year with an extended winter break because of the snow and frigid conditions. Since we are in the midst of winter, please be sure to check your emails regularly for School Status messages from PWCS about school closings, delays, and/or early dismissals due to inclement weather. This winter weather is bringing some really cold temperatures, so please be sure that if your student is a walker or you drop students off that they do not arrive before 8:30am. The doors to the school do not open for students until 8:30am and we do not want students outside in the cold weather for long periods of time. This week we are expecting below freezing temperatures and there is still a lot of snow on the streets, so as a precautionary measure for the safety of students, if schools are open on Thursday, January 9, 2025, our extended day tutoring on Thurs., Jan. 9th will be cancelled.

The 2nd Quarter marking period will end on January 17, 2025. If your student has any missed assignments that have not been turned in, they have until January 13, 2025 to turn in any missed assignments into their teachers so that the missed assignments do not turn into a zero. Report cards will be available in ParentVue for you to access on January 31, 2025.

Mid-Year Assessments Administration

- HMH Growth Assessment- Reading assessment for students in grades 2nd-5th will be administered January 14, 2025
- Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA)- Math assessment for students in grades 3rd-5th will be administered January 29, 2025
- Virginia Language and Literacy Screener System (VALLSS)- Early intervention reading assessment for students in grades K-3rd assessment window is January 9-31, 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.

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#

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Thurs., Jan. 16th- PTO General Body Meeting via Zoom at 6:00pm- please see below for Zoom link information
- Mon., Jan. 20th- Martin Luther King Day- Schools and Offices 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
- Mon., Jan. 27th- Standards of Learning (SOL) Information Night for parents of students in grades 3rd-5th at 5:30pm

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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.

The monthly 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=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.

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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.

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