



GATOR CHRONICLE

GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

Important Numbers

Office: 886-7744, press 5
Fax: 989-0231

Clinic: 886-7744, press 3

Cafeteria: 886-7744, press 4



Principal's Message



Dear Greenwood Families,

We are looking forward to an exciting and productive new school year here at Greenwood Elementary School. We are committed to providing your child with the best instructional experiences needed to help his or her growth in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. TO accomplish this, we will need your help. Below are some important things you need to know to help make this a great year of learning.

Get Involved—Get involved with your child's work and work ethic. When parents and student's work together, it makes the learning more meaningful. The entire family will grow in knowledge when you read, complete homework and do projects together. Volunteers are always needed. Parents are encouraged to volunteer during the school year. Contact your child's teacher. Don't forget to follow Greenwood on Facebook.

Stay Involved—Stay involved by monitoring work samples and graded work coming home each Thursday in green folders. Help your child set goals and review progress towards those goals regularly. Discuss these goals with your child's teacher and review his or her process in the classroom. Feel free to set opportunities to visit and review working habits during your child's academic day.

Communication—Your child's agenda is the best way to communicate with the teacher for transportation changes or other questions or concerns during the school year. Please set up appointments with teachers when you need to talk to them. Teachers are expected to engage and interact with all of their students all day. Unfortunately, they do not have the ability to give parent their undivided attention in the morning as students are coming into their classrooms or during the instructional day. Teachers may not have a chance to respond to telephone calls or emails during the instructional day, but they will contact you within 24 hours.

Student-Led Conferences—In order to help you better understand what is going on with your child's learning this year, we are going to hold student-led conferences this fall. Students will be leading the conference and explaining to you what they have been doing in each subject area since the first day of school. Your child has been collecting information throughout the year, and is preparing to present to you these efforts and achievements. Teachers will also be at each conference to offer their perspectives on the work and to answer any questions you have. Student-led conferences will take place October 12 from 4:30pm-7:00pm. Students work really hard preparing for these conferences, so please be sure to attend. It is their chance to show you all the work they have done. Thank you for all the cooperation in this matter, and I look forward to seeing you on October 12.

Working together, I know your child will have a successful year!

Camisha Davis, Principal

Office News

- * Your child must have a note following absences.
- * Tardy students need to be signed in by an adult in the main office.
- * Students must have a written note if their transportation changes, even if it is just for the day.
- * Please avoid absences and picking your child up early when possible. We ask that you schedule appointments after school hours. Our day of learning is from 8:50-3:30! We plan our day to best help your child learn and succeed.
- * If you have a note, please remind your child to show it to the teacher when they arrive.



Inside this issue:

REMIND INFO	2
COUNSELOR'S CORNER	3
MILITARY SUPPORT	3
GRADE LEVEL NEWS	4-5
DATES TO REMEMBER	6
REMINDERS	6
PARKS & REC	6



AGENDA

Use of the GWES agenda is required and serves as the primary method of communication between home and school.

CONNECT 5

Connect 5 is the system that makes computerized phone calls to families about important events.

EMAIL

Email is an efficient way to communicate with your child's teacher. Please allow 24 hours for a return email.

TELEPHONE CALLS

When you call to speak with your child's teacher, you will be transferred to their voicemail. Please allow 24-48 hours for a return call.

PARENTVUE

- Monitor your child's progress
- See calendar & class schedules
- View attendance, grades & more!

GET REMINDERS FROM GREENWOOD

Get information for Oliver C. Greenwood Elementary School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for Greenwood Elementary School:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/63hccb

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @63hccb to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @63hccb to (757) 517-3228.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/63hccb on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Welcome New and Returning Families to Greenwood Elementary!

A new year has begun. Students are coming to school for new experiences and meeting new classmates. Parents, teachers, staff and administrators, at Greenwood are working hand in hand to encourage a positive attitude toward school and learning.



As a professional school counselor, my primary responsibility is to promote the academic, personal/social and career development for all students. Through individual and small group counseling, I help students with any problems that may inhibit their learning experiences. Additionally, I will meet each month with classes to conduct guidance lessons to assist students in acquiring skills essential to their future success.

To encourage our students to act in a positive manner that will benefit them and others, there are eight basic character traits that will be presented this school year. The Character Education Program will focus on the following traits: Responsibility, Respect, Compassion, Honesty, Tolerance, Perseverance, Cooperation and Self-Discipline. At the end of each month, one student from each homeroom will earn a certificate and pencil for the character trait for the month.

If you need to contact me, please feel free to call me or send an email. I am looking forward to working with you in collaboration with the rest of the Greenwood Elementary staff and community members.

Gwen Pendergraft
Professional School Counselor
(757)886-7744 ext. 33531



MILITARY SUPPORT



My name is Dana C. Madison and I am the Military Support Counselor. In my role, I support four schools and they are Greenwood Elementary, Lee Hall Elementary, Passage and Dozier Middle Schools. I am here at Greenwood every Tuesday.

As a Army Veteran, I realized the importance of having support for the Military Family. The many roles and sacrifices by the men and women in uniform is tremendous, but the biggest sacrifice is that of separation from your families. The many milestones that occur daily in the lives of your loved ones that you often may miss are important and can have a cause for concerns. With that said, I would like for you to know that I am available to offer assistance to you and your family in the way of psycho-social and academic support and counseling for your student.

On Thursday, October 25, from 5:00pm-7:00pm there will be a Resource Fair at Dozier Middle School. There will be a variety of vendors on locations with information about the services they offer in the community. It is free to the public and there will also be on a first come first serve basis free pizza, chips and drinks available. Please make sure to tell your friends. Should need arise, please feel to contact me via email. I will also continue to plan activities for your students and families throughout the year. Also feel free to come share and volunteer in our building.

Thank you for all that you do each and every day for our country because we know "Freedom isn't Free."

Dana C. Madison, Ed.S
Military Support Counselor
dana.madison@nn.k12.va.us
(757) 886-7744 Ext. 33570

KINDERGARTEN

We've really started our year off right!!! We're excited to have our new Kindergators with us and look forward to a fantastic year of learning. We're beginning to learn classroom procedures and rules. We encourage each student to use their words with each other and their teachers. They will be working on taking turns and sharing throughout the day. We'll be talking about classroom jobs and being responsible students. This month we will be doing a lot of counting. Please find time to allow your student to count objects around the house. They can also identify numbers written on signs as you drive around town. We are reading a variety of books, stories and rhymes. Make it a daily priority to read with your child. More information will come about our home reading program. Remember to help your child learn

their student ID number. This number is used for lunch, using the computer and checking out library books.

Please have a change of clothes available in your child's backpack. You never know what might happen in our busy day that would require a quick change.

It is an expectation that Kindergators wear their bus tag daily. If you have lost your tag, please send in \$2.00 for a replacement.

Also, please check agenda books daily for notes and upcoming events, and remember to check your child's Thursday folder each week. Our first field trip will be to Pumpkinville in Toano. Please look in your child's green Thursday folder for more infor-

mation during the next few weeks.

Next month, we will be doing quite a bit of assessments. Please make sure your child is well rested and on time each day. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with each of you this year. Thank You!

FIRST GRADE

First grade has been working hard to learn the rules, routines, and procedures for how to be a good citizen. We are learning how to count and write numbers from 1-110, skip count by 2s, 5s, and 10s to 100, and backwards from 30. We have enjoyed reading

nonfiction books, locating and using text features, and determining the most important information from the text. We have also been writing *All About* books about ourselves, animals, and other topics. Please save the date for our first trip to the Belmont

Pumpkin Patch on October 20th, 2017. More information will be coming home soon. Please make sure to have your child read every night.

SECOND GRADE

Math: Our first unit is learning about number patterns, the calendar and ordinal numbers (ex. First, second, third, etc). Even though most teachers are not issuing homework, please practice basic math facts with your child as often as possible.

Reading: In reading, the children will be learning the routines for the reading block. This block will include whole group lessons, reading groups and literacy centers. At the beginning of Octo-

ber, the teachers will be administering the fall PALs assessment. This is a reading assessment which will give us an understanding of each child's reading level.

Writing: In writing, the children have been learning about Writer's Workshop. Next, they will be writing personal narratives. These are stories about themselves that are real and focus on a small moment. They will be writing stories of

their experience while learning how to write with details.

Social Studies: Social studies will include the study of citizenship for the year. Then we will begin a study of famous Americans to include Jackie Robinson and Helen Keller.

Science: We have begun a yearlong weather log which has students recording the daily temperature and weather conditions.

THIRD GRADE

Third Grade Gators are off to a great start! We are reading throughout the day and working hard to build stamina through sustained reading practice. Please ensure your child is reading at least 30 minutes each night to help support this effort. Also in reading, our focus has been on identifying settings (when and where a story takes place) and setting changes as well as summarizing to focus attention on the most important parts of the story—who, where, when, and what happened. Next, students will learn all about character feelings and traits. Vocabulary Alley has begun as students practice using context clues to understand the meanings of

unknown words. There is nothing that needs to be done at home, but your child may want to share words of the week with you.

In math, we have been working hard on understanding place value up to six digit numbers and will move on to patterns soon.

Our focus in Social Studies has been creating a strong classroom community and developing our citizenship skills. Next, we will be establishing a classroom economy system that requires student to make choices and participate in classroom jobs. We all depend on each other for success,

and that includes you at home. Thank you for your continued support.

FOURTH GRADE

Hello Fourth Grade Families,

This first quarter in reading our focus will be many of the familiar elements of fiction and nonfiction. We will be studying how to use context clues to clarify the meaning of unfamiliar words, as well as analyzing character traits, feelings, and motives. We will also dive into author's purpose, problem and solution, conclusions and inferences, as well as cause and effect. In writing, we will first concentrate on creating personal narratives. We will strive to be better story tellers by us-

ing our life experiences, as well as by experimenting with a variety of language and more sophisticated sentences.

In math, we will learn about place value through the millions, comparing and rounding whole numbers, identifying decimals through the thousands, and comparing and rounding decimals. We will also challenge our students to estimate and measure length using the US Customary method as well as the Metric System.

Lastly, in Social Studies this quarter our focus will be on the geography of Virginia. Students will need to locate Virginia on a map and the five bordering states. They will also need to know the products and industries of each region and specific water features of Virginia. We will end out the quarter by studying native people of Virginia, their language groups, adaptations, and their contributions. We look forward to a busy and rewarding first quarter with your students!

FIFTH GRADE

Our 5th graders are adjusting to being the "senior class," while focusing on becoming college, career and citizen ready. In math, we are focusing on developing a solid use of patterning and equivalence as problem solving tools.

In reading, the focus is on the use of language, setting, characters and information which contributes to and helps identify the author's

style. Students will also focus on summarizing supporting details, identifying cause and effect, identifying structural patterns and comparing and contrasting relationships in texts. Students will flip their reading instruction into the practice of writing.

Lastly, our 5th grade scientists will be finishing their unit on weather and beginning their oceanography

unit. Please remember to check your child's agenda daily for homework and/or notes from the teacher.

Thank you,
Fifth Grade Team

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/12—Student-Led Conferences 4:30-7:00

10/13—Half day Dismissal at 12:15

**10/25—Resource Fair at Dozier Middle School
5:00-7:00**

11/6—Nine weeks period ends

11/7—Election Day –Students do not report

11/22-24—School Closed for Thanksgiving Observance



GREENWOOD NOTES AND REMINDERS

Please visit the Greenwood Webpage (<http://greenwood.nn.k12.va.us>) to find additional education resources.

You can also like us on Facebook (@olivercgreenwood) and on Twitter (@nnpsgreenwood) to keep up with the most up-to-date information about our school!!



NEWPORT NEWS PARKS & RECREATION

Newport News Parks and Recreation offers before and after school care at Greenwood Elementary. The hours are 6:00 a.m. until start of school and end of school until 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact (757) 926-1400.