



# GATOR CHRONICLE

GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

December 2017/January 2018

## Important Numbers

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

Clinic: 886-7744, press 3

Cafeteria: 886-7744, press 4

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## 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!

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

The staff at Greenwood Elementary School is working hard to help students succeed in school. But we can't do it alone. Going to school and learning takes effort from parents and students too. We are working together to increase regular school attendance. Regular school attendance means students have missed fewer than 5 days of school.

Did you know:

- \* Regular school attendance begins in kindergarten. Absences in kindergarten and elementary school set the pattern for how often a child will or will not attend school in later years.
- \* Truancy is against the law! State law gives school officials the ability to turn to the courts to help decrease truancy. Check NNPS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for the attendance policy.

**Parents**, you're in the best position to help your children understand the benefits of regular school attendance. You can help by:

- \* Encouraging your children to go to school regularly. Make sure your children understand why its important to go to school.
- \* Making sure your own words and actions send a positive message about school.
- \* Becoming involved with your child's school activities. Students develop positive attitudes about school when their parents take an active interest in their studies and attend school activities.
- \* Making clear that school is the number one priority for young people. Make sure your children's academics receive high priority.

Young people who attend school and study learn more. Most successful people got where they are through hard work. School is the same way! We hope you have a relaxing and safe winter break. Please make sure your child is reading every night, including weekends and breaks.

**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.





## PTA NEWS

### Join the Greenwood Elementary PTA.....Membership Dues \$5.00

Greenwood Elementary is striving for 100% participation from parents and staff in our PTA this 2017-2018 year. Please consider showing your support by becoming a PTA member and giving your financial support. There will also be opportunities to volunteer at events or in classrooms.

Contact us with your PTA questions, comments, ideas and interest in volunteering by emailing [ocgespta@gmail.com](mailto:ocgespta@gmail.com)

## RESOURCE NEWS/PBIS TIPS

The Scholastic Book fair is here! The book fair will be open November 30-December 1. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks including clean up Friday Dec. 1st in the afternoon, helping kids and more. Please contact Mrs. Chambers at [le-sa.chambers@nn.k12.va.us](mailto:le-sa.chambers@nn.k12.va.us) if you can help. Look for an evening family event that week! All purchases have the VA sales tax of 6%. Payments can be made with cash, checks (made out to Greenwood), or credit cards (adults only please). Hope to see you there!

### Greenwood Gator PBIS

December, 2017

**BE KIND**

**BE SAFE**

**BE RESPECTFUL**

**BE PREPARED**

Classrooms are earning Tallies for a joint Monthly reward (November and December)- The reward day is Friday, December 15, 2017 for rooms that earned 100 or more tallies in November and December.

Classrooms earn Tallies throughout the day for being Kind, Safe, Respectful and Prepared.

Students can help their classrooms earn extra rewards by coming to school every day. Your classroom teacher has the ability to provide you up to two additional tallies a day for Perfect attendance (two additional tallies each day of perfect attendance). We want you at school!



## *Counselor's Corner*



Happy Holiday and Happy New Year Greenwood families!

During classroom guidance lessons, students at all levels will be introduced to the character traits: Compassion (December) and Honesty (January).

Compassion is:

- caring about how other's feel.
- doing kind and thoughtful deeds for people in need.
- putting other people needs before your own.

Honesty means to be truthful, and not to lie or steal.

Selected students who have demonstrated the character traits Compassion and Honesty will be recognized at the Citizenship Reception on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

Additionally, I will be visiting fifth grade classes starting in January through March to help prepare students for their smooth transition, from elementary school to middle school. More information will follow,

Wishing you all the season's best,

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



## MILITARY SUPPORT



Thank you for all you have done for our country. My best wishes for a joyful and peaceful holiday season for you and your family. See you in 2018!

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

## KINDERGARTEN

November has been OUTSTANDING in Kindergarten and we are looking forward to a busy December. We are continuing to work on counting. Make sure to give your Kindergator opportunities to count objects and write numbers at home. We will learn many different strategies to solve real life math problems. Investigate this at home by giving your child simple problems to solve. An example might be: We have 4 people in our family. When we set the table I saw two forks. How many more forks will we need to set the table for everyone? A resource we use for our problem solv-

ing activities is [www.BedtimeMath.com](http://www.BedtimeMath.com). You can check it out with your Kindergator for some nightly math activities. Please keep in mind that we go outside everyday unless it is raining or less than 40 degrees. Please be sure your Kindergator is dressed appropriately for outside playground play. Also, if you have not yet sent in a change of clothing, please send in season appropriate clothing in a sealed ziplock bag with your Kindergator's name on the outside. We are enjoying our breakfast in the mornings and we are definitely seeing

the benefits of starting the day with a full belly. Along with enjoying our breakfast, we are also learning the responsibility of cleaning up after ourselves. We would greatly appreciate any donations of disinfecting wipes so students can wipe their tables as they finish eating. Again thank you for all your support of your child's education. We appreciate all that you do!

## FIRST GRADE

In the months of December and January, we have many exciting things to look forward to in First Grade.

In reading, we will be comparing fantasy and realistic fiction stories, as well as practicing visualizing while reading.

In writing, we will be able to explore traditional fairy tales as well as twisted fairy tales. We will create our own twisted fairy tales by changing an event or character in a traditional one.

Lastly, in math, we will create repeating and growing patterns, learn about place value using tens and ones, and

explore measurement using non-standard units.

Please continue to read every night at home!

## SECOND GRADE

**Math:** The second graders just completed the units on place value and rounding. Next up is using place value to compare numbers. Once these units are done, we will be moving on to addition and subtraction including 2 digits.

**Reading:** We are finishing up our fiction unit and moving on to non-fiction. This will include learning

about different text features in non-fiction books. The students will also work on determining the main idea of a non-fiction book/passage.

**Social Studies:** After we finish economics, second grade will move into a unit on Native Americans. This unit studies the Powhatan, the Sioux and the Pueblo.

**Science:** Science instruction doesn't begin until the third marking peri-

od, but the students have been busily filling out their weather logs each day.

**Other:** Remember to send in Box Tops for Education to your child's class. This is one way that our PTA helps support our school!

## THIRD GRADE

Please be sure your child reads every night for at least thirty minutes and then have a conversation about what is happening in the book. We will be reading more non-fiction text in class. This is a good time to visit the school or local library to check out books on topics that your child is especially interested in reading.

In math, we have been working on multiplication with small numbers. To practice, use flash cards and draw equal groups, an array, or a number line to solve. Next in math, we will study multiplication with larger numbers as well as division.

Students will be shifting their focus in writing from personal narratives to research writing about topics that they choose.

In social studies, we will continue studying ancient civilizations, starting with China.

Please ask your child about the work we are doing in class. Each afternoon your child reflects on daily learning in the agenda, so you can begin the discussion. Be sure to check the green folder each week and review the work together.

ParentVue is a great way to stay connected to school by viewing your child's grades

and averages throughout the quarter. You can sign up in the office. I

f there is anything we can do to support you or your child this year, please contact us. Thank you for all that you do at home to help your child grow as a learner!

## FOURTH GRADE

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Fourth Grade Families,

This second quarter, the focus of our reading lessons will be on identifying the main idea of fiction and non-fiction, as well as summarizing these types of texts. We will also learn about a variety of root words and commonly used prefixes and suffixes, as well as learn how to differentiate between facts and opinions. In writing, our concentration has shifted from narrative storytelling to expository writing. We will strive to be better writ-

ers by clearly defining the reasons behind our opinions and using details to support our different positions.

In math, our focus will be on estimating and computing sums, differences, products, and quotients of whole numbers. We will also solve single and multi-step word problems involving all of the operations mentioned above. Please be sure to practice multiplication and division facts with your students nightly as multiplication and division of larger numbers can be tricky for students still struggling to master their basic facts.

Lastly, in Virginia Studies we will learn about the first permanent English settlement, Jamestown, and reasons for colonization. Your student will also be able to describe how geography influenced daily life and decision making during this time. We will also learn about the importance of the General Assembly, the VA Company of London, the arrival of different minorities to the colony and the hardships endured by colonists.

Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to another successful quarter with your students!

## FIFTH GRADE

Our College, Career, and Citizen ready 5<sup>th</sup> graders are getting SMARTER every day. Our authors and writers are continuing to focus on figurative language and characteristics of poetry. Even though their writing instruction is focused on expository writing, they will also be engaged in other forms of writing which correlate with fiction texts they are reading.

Our mathematicians will continue to work on computation and estimation.

They will focus on developing fluency in multiplication and division with whole numbers while being able to model, explain, and develop proficiency with basic facts and algorithms through investigations and opportunities to develop algorithms.

Our scientists will be focusing on the constantly changing nature of the Earth's surface. They will understand why the earth is constantly changing and recognize that the way the Earth

looks today, may not be that way in 100 years and what impact that will have on human lives.

Please continue to check your child's agenda every single day for notes and homework. Also, make sure that they are reading each night. Thank you for your continued support at home.

Thank you,  
Fifth Grade Team

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12/14—Winter Musical @ 6:00pm*
- 12/20—Half Day Dismissal @ 12:15pm*
- 12/21-1/1—Winter Break*
- 1/2—Schools and offices reopen*
- 1/3—Crittendon Middle Magnet Open House @ 10 a.m.*
- 1/4—B.T.Washington Middle Magnet Open House@ 10 a.m.*
- 1/15—M.L. King Holiday (Students do not report)*
- 1/18—Family Fun & Fitness Night @ 5:00pm*
- 1/25—Period 2: 9 weeks period ends*
- 1/26—Teacher workday (Students do not report)*
- 1/29—Regional Professional Development (Students do not report)*
- 1/30—Second semester begins*



## STAY CONNECTED

- ⇒ Visit the Greenwood Webpage (<http://greenwood.nn.k12.va.us>)
- ⇒ Like us on Facebook (@olivercgreenwood)
- ⇒ Follow us on Twitter(@nnpsgreenwood)
- ⇒ Receive text updates by texting @63hccb to 81010



## Clothing to Cash Recycling Program

Our goal is to fill our collection bin weekly with as many plastic bags of clothing, shoes and other textiles as possible to raise funds for our school. EVERY BAG COUNTS!! This is a great way to help save our environment and ensure the future of our planet.