



GATOR CHRONICLE

March 2018

GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL



Principal's Message



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!

Dear Parents,

The students, teachers and staff at Greenwood Elementary School are having a very successful year. Our primary focus area for this year is reading. Students must be proficient at reading to be successful, and really to even survive in life. Reading interventions are used by teachers and paraprofessionals. The curriculum and teaching strategies give focused instruction at the reading levels where students are currently achieving. Students reading below grade level receive intentional and intensive instruction to help them catch up and keep up. Students performing on or above grade level are challenged by their teachers to show continuous improvement.

We appreciate the support and assistance that we receive from parents and neighborhood businesses. I love to see parents involved in school! Your children are proud when you come to visit. Take advantage of your time to volunteer in the lunchroom or even eat lunch with your child. Remember that when we work together, remarkable things can and will continue to happen at Greenwood.

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.





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

RESOURCE NEWS/PBIS TIPS

Greenwood Gator PBIS

March reward day is scheduled for March 30, 2018

Please continue to remind students to follow the Greenwood Motto

**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!

Since we are in the middle of the Olympics, we are going to look at classrooms earning just 100 tallies as receiving an incentive; 125 tallies will receive an incentive plus an extension; and 150 or more tallies earned in a month will earn incentive plus an extension plus a tangible (for example 10 extra minutes of recess, 15 extra minutes of recess, 15 of extra recess plus a treat), to encourage all classes to strive for good behavior and perfect attendance.

Greenwood Motto

BE KIND

BE SAFE

BE RESPECTFUL

BE PREPARED



Counselor's Corner

March promises to be a busy, but exciting month for our *Greenwood Gators*. Each day, the main focus is to prepare our students to be College, Career, and Citizen Ready! Our boys and girls will continue to learn about growing to be a good citizen with the focused character trait this month, Perseverance. Perseverance means to stick with an activity even if it is difficult or long. Student will be encouraged to keep working hard and not to give up! A reception will be held on **Wednesday, March 28, 2018** at 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. in Greenwood's cafeteria to recognize selected students who have demonstrated Perseverance during the month. Invitations will be issued soon.

Attention parents of rising sixth grade students! It is hard to believe in a few short months your child will be leaving elementary school and moving on to middle school. I have visited all fifth grade classes to help prepare students for a smooth transition. Students are excited and looking forward to exploring new adventures. Parents you will be receiving a post card from NNPS inviting you to attend "**Middle School Welcome Night,**" on **Thursday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity for you to visit your child's zoned middle school/magnet school to learn more about middle school expectations.

As a Professional School Counselor, I'm here to help you and your child with any concerns that you might have.

Gwen Pendergraft
Professional School Counselor
(757)886-7744 ext. 33531
gwen.pendergraft@nn.k12.va.us

MILITARY SUPPORT COUNSELOR

Online Resources

FORT EUSTIS SCHOOL LIAISON

<http://newjbleforcesupport.com/forteustis-school-liaison/>

LANGLEY SCHOOL LIAISON

<http://newjbleforcesupport.com/langley-school-liaison/>

MILITARY INTERSTATE-CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

www.mic3.net/

MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION

www.militarychild.org

SCHOOL RESEARCH

<http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/>

www.schoolquest.com

HOMESCHOOLING

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/families/private_home/index.shtml

<https://heav.org>

www.hsamf.org

KINDERGARTEN

We're ready to SWING into SPRING!! Hopefully the weather will cooperate as we begin to look for signs of spring and observe plants. This might be a great time to go out and take a walking trip around the park or your neighborhood.

In the upcoming month, we will work on dividing things into fair shares. This is a wonderful time to get your Kindergator into the kitchen and have them cut or divide things into fair halves or fourths. Remind them that

halves are two equal pieces and fourths are four equal pieces.

Don't forget to read nightly and record it on the home reading calendar in the front of your agenda. After reading a familiar book, have your child find words with in the text. They can also look for letters or ask them to look for a letter that makes a certain sound. Reading nightly is not only an essential part of your child's literacy practice, but an expectation in the Newport News Public Schools division.

April is the month of the Military Child. Please look for information about activities that celebrate the military children at our school.

Thank you so much for your support.

FIRST GRADE

In the month of March, we continue to learn many exciting things. In reading, we will be comparing fiction and nonfiction pairings, identify character feelings, and determine importance in text, summarizing fiction stories, as well as identifying text features in nonfiction books.

In writing, we will begin our unit on letter writing, specifically opinion letters and giving reasons to support your opinion on a given

topic. Students will begin to edit and revise writings during writer's workshop.

Next, in math, we will identify halves and fourths in fractions, understand equality, and determine the value of a collection of like coins (pennies, nickels, and dimes).

Lastly, in science and social studies, students will investigate weather and seasonal change, animal needs and animal classification as well

as natural resources and recycling. Students will continue to demonstrate good citizenship and learn about patriotism.

The First Grade Teachers ask that students continue to read at home every night. It is so important to future academic success to create students who have a love for reading.

SECOND GRADE

Math: During the next month, the students will be working on geometry, probability and fractions. Geometry will cover plane and solid shapes as well as symmetry. The study of probability includes the possibility of an event happening. The last unit will cover being able to identify and compare fractions. Please continue to work on basic math facts and practice two digit addition and subtraction with regrouping.

Reading and Writing: For the next month and a half, the students will be working on fiction once again. They will be writing fictional stories that include failed solutions similar to fairy tales like Goldilocks and the Three Bears. It is very important for your child to read as much as possible at home. The minimum expectation is 20 minutes per night, but the more the better! Ideally, second graders should be able to read uninterrupted

for 40 minutes by the end of the school year.

THIRD GRADE

Third graders are continuing their learning journey through the month of March!

In math, your children are working on fractions. Third graders will learn to identify fractions of a region and set. They will also compare fractions, and add and subtract with like denominators.

In reading, 3rd grade students will revisit fictional texts. We will focus on identifying the problem of the plot, events and solution. We will also

compare and contrast story elements, and identify author's purpose and theme of a fictional text.

As the SOL season approaches classes will focus to build student stamina and endurance when taking an online test. Classes will begin to focus on test taking strategies. One way you can help your child prepare is to make sure they are reading independently each night for at least 20 minutes.

In writing, we are working on writing narrative fictional stories.

Thank you for your continued support!

FOURTH GRADE

Hello Fourth Grade Families,

For the month of March and April, our focus in math is fractions and measurement. Students will need to work diligently each night to master fraction concepts and equivalent measurements with customary length, mass, weight, and liquid capacity. Please see notes in your child's math notebook for more information. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

In Social Studies, we will be learning about the Civil War and its effects on Virginia. We will cover reasons for the

war, specific people involved, and specific battles fought in Virginia.

Reading instruction will concentrate on the study of common prefixes and suffixes, poetry, and author's purpose. We will also continue to develop our reading comprehension through important skills such as inferring, questioning, and identifying the main idea.

Please remember that Math and VA Studies homework are sent home at the beginning of each week and are due by the end of the week. Both are cumulative reviews of material that has previ-

ously been taught. We encourage your student to use their notebooks to help with completion of these homework assignments.

As always, we thank you for the support you give to your child at home and to us at school.

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth Grade is finishing strong!

In Math, we will be finishing up our Fraction Unit and moving on to Measurement and Probability.

In Reading, we will continue to work on main idea and details, media, messages, and persuasive writing.

In Science, we are finishing up Plants and moving into Matter and then Light and Sound.

Please continue to check your child's agenda every night.

Thank you
Fifth Grade Team!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2/16-3/6—PTA Fundraiser**
- 2/26-3/2—Read Across America Week**
- 3/01—The Lemonade War Family Fun Night 5:30-7:00pm**
- 3/03—Family Festival 2018 at Discovery STEM Academy 10:00am-2:00pm**
- 3/09—Make Up Snow Day (Full Day)**
- 3/12-3/15—Dental Clinic**
- 3/22—Picture Day**
- 3/22—Middle School Welcome Night**
- 3/30—Nine Weeks ends; Student Make Up Snow Day (Full Day)**
- 4/2-4/6—Spring Break**



The READING CORNER

March Madness is upon us! In schools this has nothing to do with basketball, but rather refers to the long stretch until Spring Break. This time without breaks or inclement weather gives us the opportunity to capitalize on established routines, while offering uninterrupted instruction to afford student opportunities to become better readers, writers, spellers! We ask that you partner with us to help your student by reading to and/or with him/her each day and discussing what you have read.

In the classroom this month, Kindergarten students are learning to apply their knowledge of letters and sounds to read and write words. First grade students are learning how to use short vowel patterns to expand the number of words they can read and spell, while doing lots of independent reading to build a large bank of words that are automatically recognized. In second grade, many students are doing this same work, but with long vowel patterns and more challenging text.

In third grade, students are back in a fiction unit. They will be continuing to focus on comprehension this quarter deconstructing narrative poems and text to identify the characters, setting, sequence of events, conflict, resolution and theme. In word study, third graders are continuing to develop proficiency reading and spelling words containing long vowel patterns.

In fourth and fifth grade, students are working in both fiction and non-fiction text, with a focus on close reading for comprehension across both genres. In addition to reading and discussing lots of authentic text, fourth and fifth graders are learning how to read and spell multi-syllabic words, writing and publishing for authentic audiences, and developing vocabulary.

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](tel: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.

Look for the large white collection bins in the school parking lot.