



GATOR CHRONICLE

GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

May/June 2017

Important Numbers

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

Clinic: 886-7744, press 3

Cafeteria: 886-7744, press 4



Principal's Message



I can't believe how quickly this year is going by. Teachers and students are working hard every minute of every day. I am looking forward to a May and June full of lots of learning! I have included information concerning placement for next year, Virginia SOL Testing, updating student contact information, appropriate dress, volunteers and dismissal information.

Thank you for your continued support,
Camisha Davis

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Placement for next

Each year it is unclear how many teachers we will have at each grade level. Because of this uncertainty, it is unfeasible for parents to request specific teachers. However if you have a particular concern about your child and his or her needs for next year, please send a letter to me prior to May 31, 2017. I will personally read each letter and take the information into account when placing students into classrooms.

Virginia SOL

We are quickly approaching our "SOL Season". This is the time of year when our 3rd-5th grade students are administered the **Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)**. Our teachers have been working very hard all school year to prepare our students for success on these very important assessments. Students will have the opportunity to "show what they know" by demonstrating their proficiency in the content areas of reading, math, science and social studies. We know our students will come to school and do their very best, but we need your support in ensuring that your child is present each day of testing. Also, be sure your child get a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast! Students will be rewarded for doing their persona best, passing at least one test and passing all tests.

SOL Testing

- May 16—Grade 5 Reading
- May 17—Grade 3 Reading Part 1
- May 18—Grade 3 Reading Part 2
- May 19—Grade 4 Reading
- May 23—Grade 5 Math
- May 24—Grade 3 Math
- May 25—Grade 4 Math
- May31— Grade 5 Science
- June 1— Grade 4 VA Studies

Student Phone Numbers

Parents and guardians are reminded to notify the school when numbers change so that we are able to make contact with parents when necessary. This includes home, work and cell phone numbers.

What's Appropriate to wear

Spring is here and the weather is warming. With these changes, we are beginning to see shorts and other warm weather clothing. Please help us remind your children that clothing must adhere to the dress code. Shorts and/or skirts should be long enough to reach past the fingertips when arms are straight by a student's sides. Spaghettis straps, one shoulder and cutaway/keyhole tops are not appropriate for classroom environments. Flip flops, swim footwear, and other beach sandals without straps on the back can cause accidents and injuries. Please continue to use care in clothing for school so that learning time is not lost sending students to the clinic to call home for a change of clothes.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an important part of Greenwood Elementary's success. Without them, we work alone and less efficiently. Volunteers help us with programs and events that make our school great. Thank you to all who have volunteered time already. If you would like to volunteer, it is never too late! Please contact us if you are interested in helping out.

Dismissal

We need your child at school until the end of the instructional day. Please minimize early pick up so that your child can complete the full day. They often miss vital review and preparation for the next day if they leave early.

*****For the safety of your child, all changes to dismissal procedures must be in writing.*****



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!

PTA/OTHER NEWS



PTA wants to remind parents to use GREENWOODES when ordering from Papa John's!

Contact us with your PTA questions, comments, ideas and interest in volunteering by emailing dtcgreenwood@gmail.com

MUSIC/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT/LIBRARY NEWS

The Mentoring Works Program is sponsoring a Vocational Education Tour of the Food Lion Distribution Center in Petersburg, VA on Wednesday, April 26. They will leave school the school at 9:15am and return by 4:15pm. Parents will need to pick their child up from school at 4:30pm.

Counselors' Corner

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year and we thank you for helping us to make this school year one of our best. We have presented many guidance lessons, and focused on character education to ensure that we are preparing our students to be "College, Career, and Citizen Ready."

During the months of May and June, students in grades third, fourth, and fifth will participate in the state's Standards of Learning. Below, are a few tips to help make this time easier for you and your child.

Make sure your child:

1. gets a good night's sleep.
2. eats breakfast each morning.
3. comes to school on time.
4. gets encouragement to do their best each day.

We know that parents are busy planning vacations, signing up their child /children for summer activities, and figuring out how to keep them busy and safe for the summer. It is important to make sure you have some ideas planned that will keep your child's mind thinking and learning. Here are a few ideas:

Definitely join the summer reading program at the public library! They plan lots of fun activities and reward kids for reading books.
Make sure you set aside time to read each day.
Visit museums or zoos with your children.
Play games that require children to count (board and card games)
Go camping! There is so much to learn from nature.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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



MILITARY SUPPORT

Our military families are an integral part of our school community.
I hope you felt supported and received assistance and resources when needed.

Thank you for an amazing year at Greenwood Elementary and please do something fun and enjoy your summer.

Good luck to you and your family!
Thank you for all the sacrifices you make daily!

Dana C. Madison, Ed.S
Military Support Counselor
dana.madison@nn.k12.va.us

KINDERGARTEN

Our wonderful year is winding down. Please be sure to refer to the ABC Countdown Calendar for special activities happening up until the very last day of school! While we've learned so much this year, we want to be sure that the learning continues throughout the summer. Here are a few ideas that can help you and your Kindergator do just that!

Summer Writing Ideas

It's very important to continue to practice writing skills over the summer just like reading and math. Here are some ways to help your child practice over the summer!

Book ideas:

- *Make a book about a trip you went on
- *Make a book about something fun you did
- *Make a book to tell about something funny, sad, scary, exciting that happened to you
- *Make a book about something you know a lot about
- *Make a book about whatever you want!

Journal ideas:

- *Write a note to your child before you go to work or leave for the day. Have them write back while you are away.
- *If they are asking to do something, or

- for you to buy them something have them tell why they should be able to go or get the thing they wanted.
- *Make a list of things they want to do or places they'd like to go.

Other writing ideas:

- *Write letters to relatives
- *Write a grocery list before heading to the store.

FIRST GRADE

First grade will be going to the Virginia Living museum on May 4th! Here we will be exploring the habitats of various animals and get to experience a day and night program at the planetarium. In reading and writing, we are working on poetry. Students are learning about the different types of poetry and are beginning to create their own anthology of poems.

In math, the students are learning about fractions and will be moving into a unit on place value.

Throughout the day we integrate content and they will be reading and learning about recycling, natural resources, matter and water interactions.

Please continue to read each night.

Our Spring PALS testing will begin mid-May.

Thank you for a great year 😊

First Grade Team

SECOND GRADE

Our second graders are now working on time. Provide them with multiple opportunities to tell you the time using both analog and digital clocks. We are working on knowing time to the nearest 5 minute, to the quarter and half hour. Continue working on addition and subtraction with your child at home. This will be very helpful with our next unit on money.

In Reading, we are working on characters feelings and traits and how they change throughout a story. We are also working on cause and effect relationship and how they relate to the sequence of events in a story. Don't forget to have your child read every night for at least 30 minutes.

Our authors have just begun their Fiction Book Reviews. They are really having a lot of fun with recommending books that they really enjoyed to their classmates and even to students throughout the school. Ask your child if they have been on the morning show lately!

Our Scientists are busy learning all about matter. Over the next couple of weeks, they will be learning about the properties of matter, how matter changes states and the different tools to measure weight, volume and capacity.

In Social Studies we will be learning about Famous Americans and different Holidays as they occur.

THIRD GRADE

Happy Spring Third Grade Families! SOL testing is almost here. Beginning mid- May all third graders will take the Reading and Math SOL tests. These are cumulative tests, meaning that students will be tested on all material taught this school year. Now is the time to start reviewing skills taught from September to now. Students will also be reviewing at school with their teachers in targeted and purposeful groups, however it is extremely beneficial for students to review at home as well, proving they have mastery and recall of the infor-

mation and skills. In addition, we are still teaching new information that will be on the test. So it is extremely important that each student comes to school every day with a good attitude.

Please talk to your child about the importance of coming to school ready to learn, listen, follow directions, and always try their best. When students aren't following directions, it inhibits both them and others from learning. With so little time before the SOL, these behaviors cannot be tolerated. Please also ensure that your child is getting at least 8 uninterrupted hours of sleep a night.

See your child's teacher with any questions.

FOURTH GRADE

Hello Fourth Grade Families,

For the months of May and June, our focus in math is geometry, probability, and statistics. Students will need to work diligently each night to master geometry vocabulary, as well as be able to identify and categorize different types of polygons. They will also need to be able to find the probability using coins and number cubes. Please see notes in your child's math notebook for more in-

formation. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

In Social Studies we will be reviewing previous units in preparation for the upcoming SOL test in VA Studies.

Reading instruction will continue to concentrate on character analysis, making inferences and predictions, asking questions, summarizing and drawing conclusions.

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

FIFTH GRADE

We've made it to the last marking period of 5th grade! As we finish up this last marking period, we will be reviewing for the 5th grade SOLs.

Students have been getting homework each week. Please make sure that your child is completing their homework and studying their science notes, as it is great preparation for the tests.

Information about the 5th grade promotion ceremony will be coming home this month. As of right now, the date is set for the evening of June 14, 2017 at Woodside High School.

Fifth Grade Team

From the Desk of the Reading Specialist

Hello Parents,

Even if your child is motivated to read, supporting her with a variety of ways and options will keep her momentum going. Here are 2 tips to open up the wonderful world of reading for your child.

1. **What's "Just Right"?** Children feel confident and competent when they read books that are "just right." But how do you find a "just right" book? Have your child read the back and front cover, and first page of the book. If there are more than five words that he cannot pronounce or understand in context, the book may be too challenging. Be supportive about finding a more perfect fit. Choosing the right book will help your little reader feel successful.

2. **Labels of Love:** Word recognition and vocabulary are important parts of reading. On a rainy day, get some paper and tape and start labeling everything in your home -- from furniture to small knick-knacks. Reading these labels repeatedly will build your child's mental word bank. If your family is bilingual, create labels in both languages.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 15-June 1 SOL Testing 3rd-5th grade

May 29 Memorial Day Holiday (Schools and Offices Closed)

June 12 Field Day

June 13-14 Early Dismissal—2:10 pm

June 14 Kindergarten Promotion; 5th Grade Promotion

June 15 Last Day of School —2:10 pm dismissal

GREENWOOD NOTES AND REMINDERS

Parents please remember that you cannot drop off your student(s) in the morning before 8:45 unless they are enrolled in the Before School Program sponsored by Parks and Recreation. Dropping them off before 8:45am leaves them unsupervised and unsafe!

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 with the most up-to-date information about our school!!