



From Our Principal

Dear Parents,

On January 16 the Virginia Beach City Public Schools released the news that sixty-three Beach schools earned awards for excellence. Eight schools were named for receiving the prestigious Governor's Award for Education Excellence and thirty-nine schools received the 2009 Board of Education's Excellence Award, but the schools were not named. It was after Rosemont Forest's leadership team discussed pursuing recognitions and honors that I visited the Virginia Department of Education website and learned Rosemont Forest had earned this award. Congratulations to the students, teachers, and parents for earning this honor. The Board of Education's Excellence Award recognizes schools which meet state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and make significant progress toward state goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by Governor Kaine and the Board. Way to go!

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools will hold it's first-ever Parent Connection Seminar on February 7 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Landstown High School. Dr. Gerald Newmark is the keynote speaker and the seminar is free. The title of the seminar is "Raising Emotionally Healthy Children." Parents will learn that from birth to young adulthood, all children share five critical emotional needs: to feel respected, to feel important, to feel accepted, to feel included, and to feel secure. Dr. Newmark will provide parents with practical tools and concepts to positively interact with their children to help them become emotionally healthy, young people. To learn more about Dr. Newmark's work, visit emotionallyhealthychildren.org.

February 16 will be the make up day for January 20 when schools were closed. Report cards for the second grading period will be sent home February 6. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Respectfully,

David E. Portis
Principal

From Our PTA President

Dear Parents,

Thanks again for all your support. Please make sure you sign in and out of the volunteer book when you come to school to volunteer. Every minute counts! We have the skating party to look forward to on February 8 from 5:30 to 7:30. In support of breast cancer awareness all students that wear pink will get a bag of cotton candy. So come out and wear pink!

We are looking for help with the spring fundraiser! If you are interested in organizing or helping with paperwork please contact me!

Thanks again for your help and I look forward to seeing you around the school.

Joanne Butcher
sbutchman@msn.com

Upcoming Dates

- Feb 5 Theatre IV assembly "Hugs & Kisses, grades K-2
- Feb 6 AR Party
- Feb 7 Parent Connection Workshop, Landstown High School, 8 am - 12 pm
- Feb 8 Skating Party, 5:30-7:30 pm
- Feb 16 Snow make up day
- Feb 19 Reflections Council awards at Landstown High School
- Feb 24 Fundraiser Spirit Night at Ci Ci's Pizza, 3-9 pm
- Mar 3 & 4 5th grade writing SOL
- Mar 13 Spring Fling, 7-9 pm

Announcements

Accelerated Reader Rolling Along

The Accelerated Reader Program here at Rosemont Forest is rolling right along. Look in the foyer and on the board outside the library for our top readers! ROFO students can select from over 2200 AR titles, and there is a list of these books on the PTA's website. After reading the book carefully, they can take a quiz either in the library (from 8:00 – 8:45) or in their classroom. The students earn points to become Book Blasters, Reading Rockets, and Super Stars. They also get to go to a party and pick a prize! Encourage your ROFO student to keep reading!

If you have any questions about the AR program, or if you would like to be a parent volunteer, please see Mrs. Imrich or Mrs. Lotz in the library, or you can email Leah Oberley at 6oberleys@cox.net.

Gifted Education News

A Parent Seminar, TOOLS THAT WORK, is scheduled for parents of bright and gifted students on February 4 at the Advanced Technology Center Forum from 6:30-8:00PM. It is designed to provide parents with strategies to help their children with self-regulation skills. Please contact Sandra Gizzi at 263-1461 to confirm your attendance.

Students who have submitted applications to Old Donation Center or Kemps Landing Middle School will be tested on February 25.

Just a reminder that first grade gifted referrals are due on March 2. Parents will be receiving referrals within a week or so if their child scored at the 90%ile or higher on the screening January 28.

Current 5th Graders

All 5th grade children are required by law to have the Tdap vaccine for entrance to 6th grade. Once the student receives the vaccine please submit the documentation to the school's nurse.



Theatre IV's "Hugs and Kisses" Assembly

Our school will be having an assembly entitled "Hugs and Kisses" on Thursday, February 5th, at 9:00 am for Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2. This award-winning musical program will address good touch, bad touch, and secret touch concepts sensitively in an age-appropriate manner. This program has been seen by over 1.2 million students in every school district in the state. It is proven to teach prevention resources and techniques across all grade levels. It is co-produced by the Virginia Department of Social Services and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia. Parents are welcome to attend.

WANTED – Art Room Helper

A parent/grandparent/aunt/uncle volunteer to help hang, mat, and display student artwork. Will train as needed. One hour or more a week. Fun and rewarding work! Please e-mail or call Mrs. Thompson in room 4 ASAP to begin. Thank you!

SCA

Calendar of Events

- February 13 Jump Rope for Heart, 3-4 pm (permission form is required)
- February 27 Crazy Hat/Crazy Hair Theme Day

Not all school news fits onto this newsletter. Please visit the PTA website, www.rofopta.org, to view the complete Paw Prints newsletter. Thank you.

Counselor Connection

Mark your calendar! Make plans to attend the first-ever Virginia Beach Public Schools Parent Connection workshop on Saturday, February 7 from 8: 00 am – 12:00 pm at Landstown High School. The event is free and open to all parents and families in Virginia Beach. Parents will gain valuable insight and advice on a variety of parenting topics from some of the area's most prominent doctors, financial counselors, child and family development experts, and educators.

Among the “can’t miss” sessions are:

- Understanding Special Education and Advocating for Your Child
- 101 Ways to Stay Connected to Your Child (A Guide to Positive Discipline)
- What’s for Dinner? Tips and Tricks to Keep Your Family Fed and Fit
- Financial Literacy for Families
- Moving Forward After the Diagnosis of Autism – My Parents, My Teachers, My Doctor, My Therapies, Oh, My!
- Less Stress (More Fun) for Your Family
- Operation Transition: Life in a Military Family

Questions about Parent Connection can be sent to parent.connection@vbschools.com.

WANTED - Little Wagon for Our Library

We are looking for the donation of a little “gently used” wagon that could be used to collect our library books from classrooms each morning. If possible, it would be wonderful if we could have one with somewhat-quiet wheels, so as to not disturb classes. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 648-3659 or email Barbara.Imrich@vbschools.com.

Volunteer

The **January Volunteer of the Month** is Kim Lane.

Fundraising

February Skating Party - Think Pink, Skate and Donate To Breast Cancer Research

Sunday, February 8, 5:30-7:30 pm at the Kempsville Family Skate Center. Wear pink and get free cotton candy! The PTA will be taking donations for breast cancer research. 20% of all snack bar sales will be donated as well. Tickets are sold at the door only. \$ 4.50 including roller skates, inline \$2.00 extra. For more information contact Brenda Brooks at 450-0571.

Original Works

Original Works is an art based program that allows you to have your child's own artwork reproduced onto a variety of products. The artwork is done at school and will be sent home with a packet of information. Please keep an eye out for information no later than February 20. Samples will be at the volunteer sign in table during the month of February.

Classroom Happenings

Kindergarten

January was a “cool” month for kindergarten. We read stories about snow, hibernation, Martin Luther King and the Chinese New Year. In math, we are counting to 100 by ones, two's, five's and ten's, solving addition and subtraction stories using white boards, and sorting blocks by their attributes. Our writing is improving daily with the use of our word wall. We have also discussed community helpers and careers. Our “100th Day of School” is quickly approaching and we will celebrate then as well as on Valentine's Day. February also means learning about George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Groundhog's Day. We have much to discover in February!!!



1st Grade

January marked the completion of a great first semester. We have just begun Unit 4 in our reading series...Favorite Things Old

and New and continue to study vowel sounds and word patterns. Reading practice both at home and at school is the key to reading growth, especially with first graders. We are also pleased to see such progress in the children's writing. In math we will continue the spiral and work on addition and subtraction facts, fact families, telling and solving number stories, and introduce the quarter. We will begin to study animals in science, continue to learn about famous Americans and introduce maps and globes in social studies. February will be a month full of learning fun in first grade as we will celebrate Groundhog's Day, the 100th school day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Famous African Americans and dental health. WOW!!

Second Grade

Can you believe we are already half way through the school year?!?!? This month we will be studying several famous Americans and talking about how they have impacted our life today. We are planning many science experiments around magnetism this month also. Please encourage your child to read nightly! Ask your child questions about the events and characters of the story and also ask them to make connections to personal experiences from what they have read. Math is beginning to get harder and harder...please practice basic addition and subtraction facts with your child weekly. From this point forward in writing, we will be expecting detailed sentences that begin with a capital letter and end with the correct punctuation. Thanks for all your support!

Third Grade

It is hard to believe that we are half way through the school year. Third grade has been busy collecting Box-Tops to help support our school. Please continue to bring in Box-Tops throughout the year. Please encourage reading and writing at home. Our goal is to read 25 minutes a day to help build fluency. Encourage your child to retell what they have been reading. We are finishing up our Geography Unit in Social Studies and will begin our Science unit on Investigating Different Environments. Please continue to review daily with your child. In math we are finishing Unit 6 on Geometry and will start Unit 7 on Multiplication and Division. It is important to review the multiplication facts on a daily basis. Reviewing your child's agenda every night will keep you notified of important work and things happening around the school. The students are looking forward to our Young Chef's Academy field trip in February. Please remind your child to pack a lunch and a drink for that day! We are in need of snack baggies. If you are able to pick up a box and send it in, we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you for your continued support with your child's education. You play an important role in the education of your child, and you are beneficial to your child's success in school.

Fourth Grade

It is hard to believe that half of the year is over! We have many fun activities and projects planned for the rest of the year. In science we are finishing up our unit on Force and Motion, and are eager to start learning more about electricity and magnetism. We are planning on conducting more experiments to help prepare for the science fair in April. In social studies we are exploring the western part of the country and will eventually work our way through the south and back to our beautiful home state of Virginia. In math we are learning about the wonderful world of fractions, and looking at probability. All of the students are excited about the new AR period, and we hope our students will continue to read in their spare time. We are looking forward to hearing the Virginia Symphony this month on our field trip. Thank you parents for the great year so far!

Fifth Grade

Matter, matter everywhere and what is its form? Fifth graders are busy answering this question and many more concerning matter, elements, and atoms. Science Fair experimentation is also a major focus of every student. They should be using the due dates provided by their classroom teacher to complete this important project. Plotting along in math we'll learn how to represent data on different graphs, while continuing to dig deeper into fractions with addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers. We're diligently preparing for the Writing SOL as our skills will soon be put to the test. Was slavery the real cause of the Civil War? What are State's Rights and what was worth fighting for? These questions along with many others will be discussed as we begin the American Civil War. Don't make any plans for March 10th because we will be taking a field trip to Pamplin Historical Park to explore the Civil War first hand.

