

Feature Story

Little Feet Meet



Good Chance for a Great Video or News Feature

Little Feet Meet -- Changing the World is a Team Sport...

More than 200 students from 11 elementary schools will participate in Special Olympics Virginia's Little Feet Meet on **Wednesday, March 28**. (Rain date: Friday, March 30) at King's Fork High School.

Special Olympics is building stronger school communities across Virginia this spring, as thousands of elementary, middle and high school students come out to PLAY UNIFIED. The focus is on fun activities that are important to mental and physical growth. The goal of the Little Feet Meet is to bring together children with and without disabilities to promote more inclusive school environments.

"Our athletes face a number of foes and opponents each day but none is more pervasive than low expectations," said Special Olympics Virginia President Rick Jeffrey. "The community's support of UNIFIED

PLAY events like the Little Feet Meets shows a commitment to celebrating what our athletes and communities can achieve together."

The meet, which will begin at 11 a.m., will feature children enrolled in Suffolk's special education programs. From the 25-meter walk/run and the tennis ball throw to the standing long jump, the athletes will compete with the help of non-disabled students from their schools, who will serve as buddies. A special ceremony, featuring remarks from prominent members of the community, the Special Olympics oath and the Special Olympics' torch and cauldron lighting, begins at 11:30 a.m. King's Fork High School students also will serve as the primary volunteers running the Little Feet Meet. A Student Leadership Team will be in charge of the stations and the rest of the student body will help throughout the day.

The event is sponsored by a Project Unify grant through the U.S. Department of Education and Suffolk Public Schools. For more information, or if you plan to attend the Little Feet Meet, please contact Debbie Apperson at dapperson@specialolympicsva.org or 757-962-1575 (office) or 757-672-6012 (cell). For more information on Special Olympics Virginia, visit www.specialolympicsva.org

Video Feature

Superintendent's Two-Minute Drill for March 15th ... Join us as Dr. Whitney updates the status of zoning and schedule changes for next school year. He also shares about an exciting new program at Suffolk Public Schools, the Sea, Air and Land Engineering Challenge. The superintendent has some reminders for seniors and their families. Don't miss this episode of the 2-Minute Drill! <https://goo.gl/djyTDd>

News

Good Chance for Feature Story ...

The 27th Annual Career Expo sponsored by the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council will be held on **Thursday, March 29** at the Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk Riverfront, located at 100 East Constance Road from 9:45 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. The event is open to all high school seniors who have taken a Career and Technical Education course during high school. The seniors will participate in mock interviews where they will present their resumes to the business representatives they select. The students will have the opportunity to meet employers who need people with their skill sets and gain confidence for future job interviews. Representatives from a variety of businesses in Suffolk and the Hampton Roads area will conduct the interview sessions. For more information, contact Andre' Skinner, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, at 925-6759.

Suffolk Public Schools will be closed for Spring Break – Monday, April 2 through Friday, April 6. All schools, offices and departments will be closed. Students and staff will return to school on Monday, April 9.

Gifted Education Program Now Accepting Nominations ... Parents, teachers, administrators, and students may nominate a student for gifted services. Students currently in grades 3-7 who have not been tested for the gifted program in the last 12 months are eligible for nomination. Nomination forms can be accessed from school offices, gifted resource teachers, or the gifted blog at <https://goo.gl/RadZnZ>. For more information, please contact Dr. Maria Lawson-Davenport at marialawson-davenport@spsk12.net or (757) 925-6759.

WANTED: Preschoolers for Integrated/Role Model Program for 2017-18 School Year ...

Suffolk Public Schools is currently looking for parents of children without delays who are interested in exploring the opportunities provided to all children in this classroom following the 2016-17 elementary school schedule at no cost to the parent, with transportation being provided via school bus. Suffolk Public Schools operates classrooms for children who are developmentally delayed (delays in cognitive, motor, communication or perceptual skills), ages 3 to 5. The integrated/role model program at Driver, Kilby Shores, Booker T. Washington, Oakland and Northern Shores elementary schools offers the opportunity for children without developmental delays or disabilities to join the preschool classroom daily to develop friendships and learn together through play. To be considered for enrollment/interview, students must reside in the city of Suffolk and be 3 years old by September 4, 2018. Please be aware that spaces for this program are limited for each preschool site. Please use this link <https://goo.gl/PQK3va> to be directed to our online application. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. **Friday, April 6, 2018**. Those who are selected for an interview will be contact by telephone. Those who do not make it to the interview process will receive a letter by email or mail. Questions may be directed to Jennifer Worrell, Preschool Educational Diagnostician for the Early Childhood Resource Center, at 925-6767.

Early Start Pre-Screening Applications Now Available ...

The Early Start program is for children who turn 4 years old by September 30, 2018 and who need an extra year to prepare for success in kindergarten. Children must be Suffolk residents. Prescreening applications are available on the Suffolk Public Schools website ([LINK here](#)) and in each elementary school. Screenings for both child and parent will take place in June. This screening will allow school officials to select children according to their needs. Appointment cards will be mailed to the home address. Eligibility criteria includes but not limited to these factors: Family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (or below 350% for students with special needs or disabilities), family homelessness, parents/guardians lack high school diploma, and/or language and development assessment of child. Because Early Start classes are not located in each elementary school, school placement will be determined based on Early Start zoning. Transportation is provided. For questions regarding this program, contact Tomika Doleman at 925-6760.

Want FREE personalized SAT practice? Sign up for Khan Academy! The College Board and Khan Academy have partnered together to allow students to receive personalized practice recommendations based on results from the new SAT®, & PSAT® once the accounts have been linked. Suffolk Public Schools also offers free test preparation courses for the ACT®. These virtual courses individualize learning for students by setting personalized paths to be completed at their own pace. These flexible courses allow students an opportunity to prepare for college entrance exams anytime, anywhere, and on any device. Contact your student's guidance counselor or school's graduation/eLearning coach with any questions.

Need money for college? The school division's Scholarship Hub is an online, local resource for high school seniors searching for scholarships. This central site can be searched by criteria, such as career, college major, GPA, and extracurricular activities. You can access Scholarship Hub at www.spsk12.net/scholarship-hub/. High school guidance counselors will continue to distribute scholarships including those linked to specific colleges, athletic opportunities and other focused awards, not listed on the Hub. **Share Your Scholarship** – If your community group has a scholarship suitable for Scholarship Hub, please send information by email to bethannebradshaw@spsk12.net. For more information, call the School Administrative Offices at 925-6752.

Mark Your Calendars

The **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)** will meet on **Wednesday, March 21**, at King's Fork Middle School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. SEAC is a committee approved by the School Board to advise the Superintendent of Schools in identifying ways to make Special Education Programs as effective as possible. The committee meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Chairperson Leslie Schiefer, at (757) 647-8525.

Celebrating Youth Art Month and Music-in-Our-Schools Month ... All programs are free and open to the public.

- The 2017-2018 **All-City Band Showcase** will be **Saturday, March 24** at 2 p.m. at **Kings Fork Middle School**. This event is free and open to the public. Select student instrumentalists in the middle and high school band programs will perform in concert. For more information, contact Joleen Neighbours, division Fine Arts contact at joleenneighbours@spsk12.net
- Suffolk Public Schools will host the **Fifth Annual Youth Art Month Festival** on **Saturday, March 24** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at **Nansemond River High School**. All SPS students and their families as well as SPS staff are invited to this free event! This interactive festival honoring Youth Art Month will include student demonstrations, student artwork displays, activity tables for all levels, and refreshments. For more information, contact Joleen Neighbours, division Fine Arts contact at joleenneighbours@spsk12.net
- Suffolk Public Schools is proud to present the **S.T.A.R.S. Talented Elementary Music Concert** for **Thursday, March 29** at King's Fork High School, beginning at 7 p.m. Fourth- and fifth-graders participating in the talented music programs at 11 elementary schools will perform. For more information, contact Joleen Neighbours, division Fine Arts contact at joleenneighbours@spsk12.net.

The Suffolk Sister Cities Showcase Awards Ceremony, will be held on Tuesday, April 10, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts. The showcase encourages youth from around Suffolk to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork and literature. This year's theme was The Art of Diplomacy. The Suffolk Sister Cities art and writing contest is open to middle and high school students. For more information, contact Director of Elementary Leadership, Pamela Connor at 925-6750.

Celebrating the Arts in SPS: *The Stars Come Out: A Night at the Movies*

Tickets Now on Sale for 4th Annual SEF Gala to be held Friday, April 27th

Here's your opportunity to support the music, theater and visual arts programs in Suffolk Public Schools by attending the Suffolk Education Foundation's third annual Gala in Celebration of the Arts! Buy your Gala tickets now for a dinner and a fabulous night of entertainment by our students. The fourth annual Celebration of the Arts will welcome you on **Friday, April 27**, from **6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at the Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront (100 East Constance Road.) Proceeds will directly benefit the fine arts programs in Suffolk Public Schools.

The evening will feature live entertainment performed by Suffolk Public Schools' middle school and high school student musicians and singers. The Movie theme continues beyond music to showcase the visual arts with a display of 50 original works created by student artists and art teachers from all Suffolk Public Schools' secondary and elementary schools. Tickets are \$35 a person. Proceeds benefit the music and arts programs in Suffolk Public Schools. A table for 10 is \$300. For tickets, contact suffolkgala@gmail.com or call (757) 775-9682 or (757) 650-1792.

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Hands-On Learning

Driver Elementary School recently hosted their annual Career Day celebration. Volunteers from the community visited classrooms to share their experiences in the workplace. Several volunteers brought vehicles for students to explore. The students circulated around the building to learn about different career opportunities available in the local community. For more information, contact the school at 923-4106.





The early childhood students at Driver Elementary School recently learned about St. Patrick's Day and Larry the Leprechaun. Larry can be a bit of a messy visitor, so the children work very hard on following the rules in order to NOT have Larry visit. However each year he does, and he makes a huge mess. This teaches the students how to clean up, and be responsible while sharing a lot of smiles. This is the first year that the students cleaned up every toy in the room without being asked and were proud to say that they "get it" when they have to clean up their own toys. For more information, contact the school at 923-4106.

Shining Stars

Nansemond River High School's Y-Streeters recently celebrated School Breakfast Week. Everyone knows breakfast is important, but did you know that eating breakfast can increase your ability to concentrate by 95%? Y Street members were in the cafeteria during all four lunch shifts to celebrate School Breakfast Week and collect surveys about the students' breakfast habits and preferences. They also had an opportunity to discuss the impact an alternative breakfast model (grab-and-go breakfast, breakfast in the classroom, or second-chance breakfast) had on their school community. For more information, contact the school at 923-4101.



Congratulations to Nansemond River High School junior Jada Ingram for winning a \$500 scholarship by attending a recent college night hosted at Paul D. Camp Community College. For more information, contact the school at 923-4101.

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