

Feature Stories

Congratulations to the Suffolk Public Schools' student winners of the Suffolk Sister Cities Annual Young Artists and Authors Showcase. The showcase encourages youth from around Suffolk to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork and literature. This year's theme for was "Art of Diplomacy." Several students from Suffolk Public Schools participated. For more information, contact Director of Elementary Leadership Pamela Connor at 925-6750.



Best in Show Winning Artwork

Young Artists Award Winners

Best in Show

- "Powerful Woman Around the World" - Alina Liton - Lakeland High School

Sister Cities Choice Award

- Chiara Bargelessi, Lakeland High School

Category: Painting

- 3rd Place: Tatiyahna Blakely - Lakeland High School
- Honorable Mention: Sevastian Karlov, Nansemond River High School
- Honorable Mention: Roy Espinal - Lakeland High School

Category: 2-D Mixed Media

- 1st Place: Alina Liton - Lakeland High School
- 3rd Place: Savannah Stevenson, Forest Glen Middle School
- Honorable Mention: Savastian Karlov, Nansemond River High School
- Honorable Mention: Sierra Martinez, King's Fork High School

Category: Drawing

- 1st Place: Jada Lynch - Nansemond River High School
- 3rd Place: Mariah Pope, Lakeland High School
- Honorable Mention: Lauren Patterson - Lakeland High School

Young Authors Award Winners

Category: Poetry

- 1st Place: Alyssa Goden - King's Fork High School
- Honorable Mention: Kristen Gerton - King's Fork High School

Suffolk Public Schools will celebrate volunteers during Public School Volunteer Week April 16-20. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for dedicating thousands of hours to our students and schools. Through their continued commitment, they help make our schools a great place for students to learn and grow.

- Close to 1,800 volunteers have registered so far this school year
- More than 5,000 volunteer hours have been logged so far this school year

- Value of those volunteer hours if we'd paid for the manpower -- \$135,000 so far this school year

If you know someone who would make a great school volunteer, send them to the [Volunteer Connect page](http://www.spsk12.net/volunteer_connect) (www.spsk12.net/volunteer_connect) on our website.

SPS volunteers generously give their time every school year to improve the academic, cultural, and athletic environments through tutoring, mentoring, and parent involvement programs. Volunteers are called upon to provide their skills and ideas in our learning communities and day-to-day activities as chaperones, club leaders, sponsors, tutors, mentors, classroom aides, coaches, and much more.

SPS celebrates our school volunteers this week for offering their time and encouragement with the ultimate goal of helping all students achieve. Help us celebrate Public School Volunteer Week by thanking your school volunteers for their service.

Video Feature

Superintendent's Two-Minute Drill for April 16th ... Join us as Dr. Deran Whitney shares information about Suffolk Public Schools' Strategic Plan, the recently approved 2018-19 calendar, and our new division and school websites. He also talks about School Volunteer Appreciation Week.

- Don't miss this episode of the [2-Minute Drill!](https://goo.gl/MFM7mf) (<https://goo.gl/MFM7mf>)

News



Suffolk Public Schools Saved 972 Trees with Digital Flyer Delivery

In celebration of Earth Day and its message of environmental citizenship, Suffolk Public Schools is proud to share one measure of its commitment to conservation.

In an effort to better serve its community while saving trees, the division switched to digital flyer delivery with Peachjar in late 2015. Since its inception, the division has saved 8.1 million sheets of paper and 972 trees!

In addition to reducing waste and promoting sustainability, the switch to Peachjar has also saved valuable time and money by eliminating the need to copy and distribute thousands of sheets of paper annually.

Through Peachjar e-flyer delivery, families receive flyers electronically as images right on their smartphone or computer screen. With one click, families can register children for school events and community enrichment programs.

Families who have email addresses in the SPS student information system automatically receive e-flyers pertinent to their child's school or geographic area.

Anyone can [sign up to receive Peachjar e-flyers](http://www.peachjar.com) at its website (www.peachjar.com)

Programs offered by the library, parks and recreation, the health department, tutoring providers, and scouts are shared, after review by the school division. Sharing a flyer is a public service, not an endorsement by SPS. While free programs are posted at no cost, organizations charging for programs pay a fee to use Peachjar. This income is how Peachjar provides the service at no cost to the school division.

Interested organizations can learn more about [guidelines set by Suffolk Public Schools](https://www.spsk12.net/community/outside_organizations_flyer_distribution_process) on the school division's website at (https://www.spsk12.net/community/outside_organizations_flyer_distribution_process)

Student Mental Wellness Outreach Expanding ...

Suffolk Public Schools is expanding the same student mental wellness outreach offered at high schools to include all 8th grade students in middle schools. The division is actively bolstering its student mental wellness curriculum and building a stronger safety net for Suffolk teens by engaging parents and caring adults in a new, division-wide initiative. Partnering with The Sarah Michelle Peterson Foundation, Suffolk Public Schools is starting conversations around a video created by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to educate staff, teens and the community about teen depression. These discussions are the latest phase of an initiative the school division is undertaking to enhance support for students' behavioral and mental well-being.

"More than Sad: Teen Depression" is a video designed to help students recognize the signs of depression in themselves or others, to challenge the stigma surrounding depression, and learn how to ask for help. All Suffolk 8th-graders will see the video in their geography class. A trained mental health facilitator along with school guidance counselors will then lead a discussion about depression. A companion version of the video and adult discussion will be shown to middle school teachers and support staff, and to parents and the community before the student discussion at each school. Adults will learn about warning signs, what to say, and how to guide teens to help.

Anyone who works with teens such as coaches, community sports directors, youth pastors, activity directors, and scout leaders is invited and encouraged to attend any of the parent and community discussions.

Schedule of Upcoming Parent & Community Presentations:

- Wednesday, April 18 at 6 p.m. - John Yeates Middle School
- Wednesday, April 25 at 6 p.m. - King's Fork Middle School
- Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. - Forest Glen Middle School

NOTE: This parent/community presentation is an adult discussion covering the information students will receive in their classroom. It is not intended for young audiences as sensitive content is discussed. For more information, please contact Cheri Hinshelwood, communications specialist, at (757) 925-6752.

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

Tickets Selling Out Fast 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 fourth 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.) Semi-formal attire is encouraged, as well as dressing as your favorite movie character.

Proceeds will directly benefit the fine arts programs in Suffolk Public Schools. Last year, close to \$8,000 was returned directly to each art, chorus, band and orchestra program that participated.

The evening will feature live entertainment performed by Suffolk Public Schools' middle school and high school student musicians and singers. Here's the line-up:

- King's Fork High School Orchestra
- King's Fork Middle School Chorus
- Starlight Strings
- Lakeland High School Chorus
- Nansemond River High School Jazz Band
- King's Fork High School Chorus
- Forest Glen Middle & Lakeland High combined Orchestra
- John F. Kennedy Middle School Orchestra

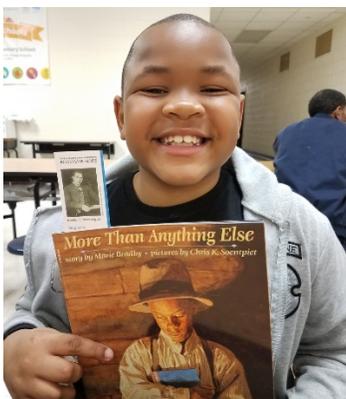
- John F. Kennedy Middle School Chorus
- John Yeates Middle School Jazz Band
- John Yeates Middle School Chorus

Music will include such hits as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*, "Pure Imagination" from *Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, and "Seasons of Love" from *Rent*, as well as feature songs from *The Godfather*, *Pitch Perfect 2*, and *Shrek*.

The "Night at the Movies" theme continues beyond music to showcase the visual arts with a display of 50 original works created by elementary and secondary student artists. Art teachers will also be donate their own work to be raffled and raise money for the arts programs.

Tickets are \$35 a person. A table for 10 is \$300. For [online ticket purchases](http://www.suffolkeducationfoundation.org/events/), visit www.suffolkeducationfoundation.org/events/

Booker T. Washington Elementary School recently celebrated the birthday of the school's namesake – combining history lessons and some fun. Students learned facts about Booker T. Washington, who was born a slave and worked to improve the lives of African-Americans in the United States. He believed that education, black-owned businesses, and hard work were the keys to African-American success. One day focused on his impact on agriculture -- Booker T. Washington got the famous plant scientist, George Washington Carver, to come and teach at his agricultural school. BTWES students celebrated by planting a seed. On Wednesday, students learned how reading was so important to Booker T. Washington that he started teaching himself and then walked 500 miles to Hampton Institute. An extended "book in" reading time was held, including guest readers from the community. On Thursday, students and staff wore college shirts to recognize Washington's connection to higher learning. Booker T. Washington is best known for opening the Tuskegee Institute for African Americans who wanted to learn. It is now known as Tuskegee University. Parents and the community were invited to an evening celebration on Wednesday, April 11 with guest speaker was Dr. Joan McMillan Wickham from Hampton University. She portrayed Booker T. Washington and told about his life. A fact-filled scavenger hunt was completed by parents and students dealing with questions about Booker T. Washington. Birdsong Peanuts donated more than 200 cupcakes for the celebration. Call the school at 934-6226 for more information.



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 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 (757) 925-6760.

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](http://www.spsk12.net/community/scholarship-hub/) at www.spsk12.net/community/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 (757) 925-6752.

Mark Your Calendars

Booker T. Washington Elementary School PTA will meet **Tuesday, April 17** at 6 p.m. For more information, contact the school at 934-6226.

Creekside Elementary School PTA will meet on **Tuesday, April 17** at 6 p.m. The third-graders will be performing for attendees. For more information, contact the school at 923-4251.

Nansemond Parkway Elementary School will host a Math and Science Extravaganza Night on **Tuesday, April 17** at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the school at 923-4167.

Northern Shores Elementary School PTA will meet on **Tuesday, April 17** at 6 p.m. The kindergarten students will be performing. For more information, contact the school at 923-4169.

Pioneer Elementary School PTA will meet on **Tuesday, April 17** at 6 p.m. Kindergarten through second grade students will be performing for attendees. For more information, contact the school at 925-5782.

John Yeates Middle School will host a **Ready, Set, Prep** night for students and families on **Thursday, April 19** at 6 p.m. in the school gym. This night will give parents and students all the tips they need to navigate the SOL race. For more information, contact the school at 923-4105.

John Yeates Middle school will hold a **transition information session** for Driver, Creekside, Nansemond Parkway and Northern Shores Elementary fifth-graders and their families at 6 p.m. **Thursday, April 19** in the school auditorium. Families will receive information about what to expect in middle school. For more information, contact the school at 923-4105.

Kilby Shores Elementary School PTA will meet on **Thursday, April 19** at 6 p.m. The kindergarten students will be performing a play for attendees. For more information, contact the school at 934-6214.

Nansemond River High School Crime Stoppers will hold a **community yard sale** at the school on **Saturday, April 21** from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spaces are available for \$10 per person. All proceeds will benefit Nansemond river High School Crime Stoppers & Suffolk Crime Line Board. For more information, please contact Renee Parker, Crime Stopper Advisor at reneeparker@spsk12.net

Nansemond River High School Proudly Presents The Lion King! ... Nansemond River High School is proud to present its Annual Spring Musical, THE LION KING. This inspirational, family oriented, and music-filled production showcases the much-loved Broadway version of the classic Disney film. Audiences' favorite songs, such as "Hakuna Matata," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," and "Circle of Life" are all featured by the amazing talents at Nansemond River High School, bringing them to life for Suffolk and Hampton Roads crowds. Directed by Dr. Joleen Neighbours, THE LION KING is a new addition, sure to be a favorite, in the repertoire of productions at Nansemond River. Performances will be held **Thursday through Saturday, April 19-21**, and **Thursday through Saturday, April 26-28** at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students ages 4 and up. There are also special student matinees on April 20, 26, and 27 at 10:45 a.m.; call Dr. Neighbours directly at the school for information and reservations about school matinees (757-923-4101).

Lakeland High School's American Sign Language Club will present **Bedtime Stories with a Twist**, five fairy tale classics presented all in sign language with a voice overlay. There will be drama, music, and detective work as you guess "who done it." The play will be **Friday and Saturday April 20-21** beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Featured

stories include Cinderella, Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, Mary Had a Little Lamb, Jack & the Beanstalk, and Goldilocks & the Three Bears. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students with children under 6 being free. For more information, contact the school at 925-5790.

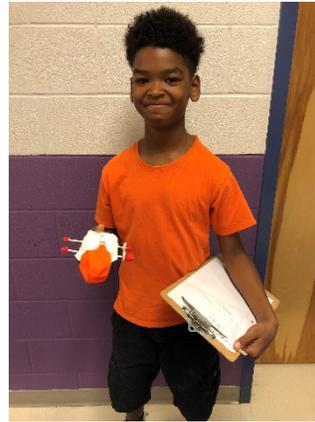
Hillpoint Elementary School PTA will meet **Tuesday, April 24** at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be combined with Hillpoint's SOL Comic-Con Review Night. For more information, contact the school at 923-5252.

Hillpoint Elementary School PTA will host a **Spring Fling Bazaar** on **Saturday, May 5** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spaces are available for rent for businesses and individuals. Costs are \$25 for businesses which includes one half of a bus slot on the blacktop. Costs for individuals is \$10 and includes a 12 x 12 space in the grass bordering the bus ramp. For more information, contact the PTA at HillpointElemPTA@gmail.com.

Suffolk Public Schools will sponsor a **Teacher Recruitment Fair** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Saturday, May 19** at King's Fork Middle School. Applicants will have the opportunity to meet school officials from Suffolk Public Schools. Check our [website](#) for updated information or call the Human Resources department at 925-6758.

Hands-On Learning

Fifth-graders at Pioneer Elementary School recently **became engineers** as they designed, built, and tested cars. Students used milk cartons, balloons and straws to build their homemade cars. Students then reviewed what they had learned about force, motion, speed and resistance. For more information, contact the school at 925-5782.



Students at Mack Benn Jr Elementary School recently **participated in Google's** Augmented Reality Expedition. Teachers guided students through lessons on the moon phases, dinosaurs, bees, plant pollination, and weather, just to name a few. Students were engaged using the technology that enhanced what they already know and previously learned in their classrooms. For more information contact the school at 934-6224.



Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School recently held their **STEAM** (science, technology, engineering, art and math) Night. Students participated in different STEAM activities throughout the evening. Activities included potential vs kinetic energy, using measurement skills to "cook up" slime with students from Norfolk State University, a Breakout Box with math and science review questions, pizza menu math, and other STEAM activities in each grade level. Virginia Air and Space Center came with two presentations on robotics and liquid nitrogen. For more information, contact the school at 934-6224.



Shining Stars

King's Fork High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) recently raised \$525 for March of Dimes. The cadets set a goal at the beginning of the school year to have a fundraiser and donate part of their earnings to a charity. The fourth-year cadets had the honor of selecting the charity and they decided to donate the funds raised to the March of Dimes. For more information, contact the school at 923-5240.



####