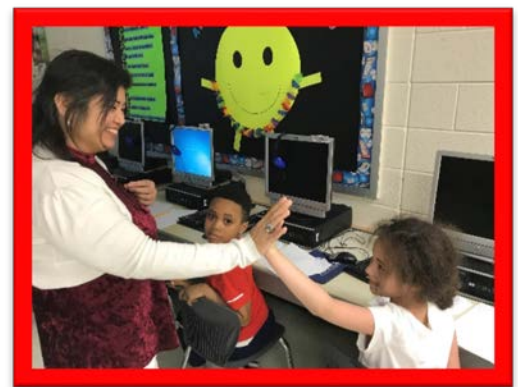


Feature Stories

The Computer Lab at Elephant's Fork Elementary School recently hosted PBS KIDS Scratch Jr., Coding Camp. Rosalie Rodriguez, a WHRO Education Specialist, introduced the students to block coding with PBS Scratch Jr., a program they have developed that incorporates fun and learning. Students had a blast learning how to create story strips, being able to control their characters' movements, making them go in different directions, jump up and down, turn and toss, and more. While having fun, they also learned about the elements of a story, parts of a story and pollution prevention in the oceans, since Virginia SOLs are incorporated into the activities. For more information, contact the school at 923-5250.



Congratulations to the student winners of the Suffolk Reading Council's Young Writers contest. Every year students throughout Suffolk Public Schools are encouraged to submit a sample of their creative writing for a city-wide contest called Young Writers. The categories include fiction, nonfiction, poetry and autobiography. These creations are written and illustrated as a classroom learning activity. The following winners were recently recognized at a City-Wide Young Writers Reception:

Kindergarten Class Books

- Honorable Mention – Mrs. Patterson's Class – BTW- Our Favorite Animal
- 3rd Place – Mrs. Johnson's Class- HES – If I Were a Super Hero...
- 2nd Place- Mrs. Wise's Class- CES – Our Zoo Animals!
- 1st Place- Mrs. Yunker's Class- DES – The Ninja Pig & the Princess

Kindergarten

- **Fiction** - 1st Place, Corbin Greene, Kilby Shores Elementary, "The Chain Chomp Shark" 2nd Place, Morgan Goodman, Hillpoint Elementary, "The Princess and the Shark" 3rd Place, Joseph Poole, Creekside Elementary, "A Robot" Honorable Mention, Demi Torrence, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, "My Butterfly"
- **Nonfiction** - 1st Place, Ava Pacitto, Kilby Shores Elementary, "The Awesome Pacitto Family" 2nd Place, Elise Harris, Creekside Elementary, "I Love Books" 3rd Place, Darrius Thompson, Booker T. Washington Elementary, "The Brain Book"
- **Autobiography** - 1st Place Hannah Parker, Kilby Shores Elementary, "A Girl Named Hannah" 2nd Place, Thomas Gulilat, Creekside Elementary, "I Like to Play"
- **Poetry** - 1st Place, Charlotte White, Kilby Shores Elementary, "Summer"

1st Grade

- **Fiction** - 1st Place, Harper Gray, Kilby Shores Elementary, "If I had a Dragon!" 2nd Place, Ashton Howard, Driver Elementary, "Ashton the Skelton Knight vs. Cosmo the Evil Zombie" 3rd Place, Mason Carter, Oakland Elementary, "The Far Away Land" Honorable Mention, Robie Walton, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, Danny and Rose

- **Nonfiction** - 1st Place, David Jenkins, Kilby Shores Elementary, "PawPaw and Me!" 2nd Place, Natalie Petruzalek, Creekside Elementary, "All About Horses" 3rd Place, Jacob Thompson, Hillpoint Elementary, "How to Behave in School" Honorable Mention, Brylee Prillaman, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, "A Horse named Blackie"
- **Autobiography** - 1st Place, Chloe Lebire, Kilby Shores Elementary, "All About Me" 2nd Place, Tylia Rhodes, Creekside Elementary, "My Life!" 3rd Place, Susan Fears, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, "All About Susan" Honorable Mention, Deborah Pierre, Hillpoint Elementary, "All About me and My Family"
- **Poetry** - 1st Place, Mariyah D'Addio-Brown, Creekside Elementary, "Book Of Poems" 2nd Place, Taylor Wright, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, "My Poem Book" 3rd Place, Tailik Burke, Pioneer Elementary, "Tailik's Book of Poetry"

2nd Grade

- **Fiction** - 1st Place, Kevin Williams, Creekside Elementary, "Super Ninja Ghost" 2nd Place, Haley Gray, Kilby Shores Elementary, "The Magic Steed" 3rd Place, Mikaylah Allen, Creekside Elementary, "The Day the World was Under Attack" Honorable Mention, Peyton Rossler, Driver Elementary, "If you Give a Lion Lemonade"
- **Nonfiction** - 1st Place, Taylor Branch, Creekside Elementary, "The Life of Coretta Scott King" 2nd Place, Brooke Hanks, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, "How to Make Slime" 3rd Place, Maleah Ashburn, Kilby Shores Elementary, "My Best Friend Arianna" Honorable Mention, Willow Hamlin, Oakland Elementary, "My Special Person"
- **Autobiography** - 1st Place, Molly Winslow, Pioneer Elementary, "An Autobiography of Molly Winslow" 2nd Place, Reginald Evans, Kilby Shores Elementary, "My Life" 3rd Place, Lainey Laud, Driver Elementary, "All About My Life" Honorable Mention, Madelynn Adams, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, "All About Me"
- **Poetry** - 1st Place, Kylee Wilson, Pioneer Elementary, "My Poetry Booklet (Diamante poem about Jesus)" 2nd Place, Kavya Rajaram, Creekside Elementary, "My Book of Poems" 3rd Place, Mateo Rocha, Driver Elementary, "Poems" Honorable Mention, Abigail Powell, Oakland Elementary, "Book of Poems"

3rd Grade

- **Fiction** - 1st Place, Lexie White, Driver Elementary, "Olivia's Wings" 2nd Place, Malakhi Haynes, Creekside Elementary, "The Lost Unicorn" 3rd Place, Parker Evans, Pioneer Elementary, "The Power of the Sword!"
- **Nonfiction** - 1st Place, Katie Kincheloe, Driver Elementary, "Killer Whales" 2nd Place, Logan Powell, Pioneer Elementary, "My Beach Trip Vacation" 3rd Place, Cinthia Saenz, Creekside Elementary, "My Brother & I"
- **Autobiography** - 1st Place, Haley Johnson, Pioneer Elementary, "My Life" 2nd Place, Josiah Joyner, Kilby Shores Elementary, "My Life" 3rd Place, Caitlin Outlaw, Driver Elementary, "My Wonderful Life"
- **Poetry** - 1st Place, Saiera Derry, Creekside Elementary, "Love Poems" 2nd Place, Abigail Maynard, Pioneer Elementary, "Abigail's Book of Poems" 3rd Place, Grayson Day, Driver Elementary, "Sports Poems" Honorable Mention, Jayleen Colon-Reyes, Kilby Shores Elementary, "All About Blue"

4th Grade

- **Fiction** - 1st Place Fiction- Ethan Welton & Aiden Pate, Creekside Elementary, "Finding Max" 2nd Place, Emma Aberle, Driver Elementary, The Magical Fish 3rd Place, Ryleigh Moore, Kilby Shores Elementary, "Kallik & Taqqiq: This is Their Story" Honorable Mention, Gabby Seneca, Nansemond Parkway Elementary, "The Diamond Heist"
- **Nonfiction** – 1st Place, Leila Ertekin, Kilby Shores Elementary, "Amazing Animals Sharks" 2nd Place, Madisen Jones, Driver Elementary, "How to Take Care of Chinchillas" 3rd Place, Christina Baker, Hillpoint Elementary, "All About Lemurs" Honorable Mention, Colin Cirilli, Pioneer Elementary, "Fact About Salt Water Crocodiles"
- **Autobiography** - 1st Place, Caia Davis, Kilby Shores Elementary, "All About Me" 2nd Place, Marissa Johnson, Pioneer Elementary School, "Autobiography of Marissa O. Johnson" 3rd Place, Maria Webb, Northern Shores Elementary, "My World" Honorable Mention, Alexis Morrison, Driver Elementary, "All About Me!"
- **Poetry** – 1st Place, Caroline Ferguson, Pioneer Elementary, "My Poetry Collection" 2nd Place, Demetria Burton, Creekside Elementary, "My Book of Poems" 3rd Place, Christian Drames, Kilby Shores Elementary, "A Book of Diamante Poems" Honorable Mention, Audrina Chew, Northern Shores Elementary, "Poems of my Favorites"

5th Grade

- **Fiction** - 1st Place, Henry Reeves, Pioneer Elementary, "Traveler" 2nd Place, Ava Waldo, Creekside Elementary, "The Unicorn Queen" 3rd Place, Dani Nieves, Northern Shores Elementary, "Magical Day" Honorable Mention, Kaia Monell, Driver Elementary, "Cats of the Beyond"
- **Nonfiction** - 1st Place, Sarena Vann, Pioneer Elementary, "A Brother Like No Other" 2nd Place, Louis Overton, Creekside Elementary, "Domesticated Bunnies" 3rd Place, Andrew Perkins, Nansemond Parkway, "Bowling" Honorable Mention, Zion Eason-Massenburg, Driver Elementary, "Lions"

- **Autobiography** – 1st Place, Kalie Howard, Creekside Elementary, “Growing Up as a Military Child” 2nd Place, Cameron Worrell, Pioneer Elementary, untitled, 3rd Place, Alina Zheng, Driver Elementary, “Alina Zheng’s Autobiography” Honorable Mention, Janae Truman, Nansemond Parkway, “Janae’s Story”
- **Poetry** - 1st Place, David Davenport, Driver Elementary, “The Things around Me: A Book of Poetry” 2nd Place, Shea Wilkerson, Pioneer Elementary, “My Poetry Booklet: All About Spring” 3rd Place, Jordan McGee & Ethan Zang, Creekside Elementary, “Riddles, Comics, n Jokes”

6th Grade

- **Fiction** - 1st Place, Savannah Stephens, John Yeates Middle, “The Opposite Realm: A Liza Monroe Story

7th Grade

- **Fiction** - 1st Place, Quinn Whitworth, John Yeates Middle, “The Academy: A Story from the 3000 Series” 2nd Place, Kylee Newberry, Forest Glen Middle, “Amber Alert”
- **Nonfiction** - 1st Place, Armani Milteer, Forest Glen Middle, “The Strong Black Woman: The Pivotal Roles of Black Women in the Black Panther Party”
- **Poetry** - 1st Place, Emma Rotzler, Forest Glen Middle, “Poetry”

8th Grade

- **Fiction** - 1st Place, Salma Amrou, John Yeates Middle, “A Pitch Black House”
- **Nonfiction** - 1st Place, Alexis Olsen, John Yeates Middle, “Heart of a Champion”
- **Poetry** - 1st Place, James Poole, John Yeates Middle, “This Was a Blank Page”

High School

- Fiction 1st Place, 9th Grade, Brendan Old, Nansemond River High, “The Darkest Season”

Video Feature

News Bites – Youth Art Festival ... Art brings joy. Watch as students and the community create art together at Suffolk Public Schools' Youth Art Festival.

Don't miss this episode of [News Bites!](https://goo.gl/uhgMPC) (<https://goo.gl/uhgMPC>)

News

The second Kindergarten Registration date for the 2018-19 school year will be Wednesday, May 9. The hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at all elementary schools. Rising kindergarten students can be registered at any time, but two special dates are scheduled each year to benefit parents who may need the choice for the sake of convenience. Details about [what to bring to registration](https://www.spsk12.net/families/kindergarten_registration) (https://www.spsk12.net/families/kindergarten_registration) can be found on the SPS website. Call the Parent Resource Center at 934-6202 for more information.

There will be a Back-to-School Immunization Clinic at the Suffolk Health Department (135 Hall Avenue, Suffolk) also on Wednesday, May 9. Immunizations will be given on a walk-in basis from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please bring a copy of your child’s immunization record, a parent’s picture ID and insurance card if available. If you have a rising sixth-grader, please bring them for their required sixth grade shot (Tdap), along with a copy of your child’s immunization record, a parent’s picture ID and insurance card if available. For more information, contact the Suffolk Health Department at 514-4783.

KINDERGARTEN VIDEO SERIES ... The start of a school career can be a stressful time for students and parents alike. The Suffolk Early Childhood Development Commission and Suffolk Public Schools have partnered to create a unique tool to help with the transition into kindergarten. The Suffolk Kindergarten Kickoff Video Series was created to prepare children and their parents for that first day of Kindergarten. The series includes ***The Year Before Kindergarten: For Parents***. This video gives practical tips on how to prepare your child for their first day of school. Kindergarten teachers give helpful advice on simple activities to promote math, science, reading, and much more during the year before your child enters school. The series also includes ***A Day in Kindergarten: For Children***. This video will walk children through an entire day of school so they know exactly what to expect on their first day. From getting dropped off at school or riding the bus to leaving in the afternoon, children have a better understanding of the places and people they will encounter on their first

day. You can find links to the [kindergarten videos at](http://www.spsk12.net/parents/parent-workshops/) www.spsk12.net/parents/parent-workshops/. For more information, contact Brenda O'Donnell with the Early Childhood Development Commission at 514-7457.

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 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](#), visit www.suffolkeeducationfoundation.org/events/

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](#) 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

The Superintendent's Art Show will be held on **Tuesday, April 24, beginning at 5 p.m.** in the School Administrative Offices, located at 100 North Main Street. This event will showcase artwork from a student artist selected to represent each school in the main administrative offices for the next year. Call Pamela Connor, Director of Elementary Leadership, at 925-6760 for more information.

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.

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 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).

Pioneer Elementary School third through fifth grade students will have a special visitor on Friday, April 27! Steven Smith, a children's book author will visit the school to share his books with the students. Students are able to order a signed copy of his books prior to his visit. For more information, contact the school at 925-5782.

The Booker T. Washington Elementary School PTA will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 1. For more information, contact the school at 934-6226.

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.

Driver Elementary School will host a Final Farewell Celebration on Tuesday, May 8 at 6 p.m. on the front lawn of the school. Please join us as we celebrate the history of the school and prepare to say a final farewell. There will be a special cake cutting ceremony at 5:45 p.m. All present and past students, faculty, principals, other staff members, and community are welcomed to join us for our closing celebration. Please RSVP to driverpta@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

Fourth-graders at Hillpoint Elementary School are going green this month! While learning about the positive and negative impacts that humans can have upon the environment, their teacher presented them with a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) project. They had to construct a sculpture or robot from reused or recycled items. Their creations had to be no taller than 18 inches and include moving parts. For more information, contact the school at 923-5252.



Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School students recently took Accelerated Reader (AR) tests while competing in an Olympic Reading Challenge to reach their reading level goals. Guests from the community read to students included representatives from WAVY-TV 10, Suffolk News-Herald, Suffolk Public Library, Suffolk Police, attorneys, sororities, School Board members, SPS district administrators and more. For more information, contact the school at 934-6224.



Kindergarteners from Hillpoint Elementary School recently had the opportunity to watch the Nansemond River High School Fine Arts Department perform *The Lion King*. After the performance, the students were allowed to meet the cast and ask questions. For more information, contact the school at 923-5252.



Shining Stars

Superintendent Deran Whitney recently visited Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School to participate in their Olympic Reading Challenge Read-a-Thon. Dr. Whitney read *Caps for Sale* to first-graders. For more information, contact the school at 934-6224.



Congratulations to Nansemond River High School for their recent win at the 2018 Governor's Challenge Champions in Economics and Personal Finance. The team consisted of Ryan Abraham, Shanice Mills, Oliver Rice and McKenzie West. After winning the Region 2 competition, they went on to win first place for the state. The team will go on to compete at the national competition in Lincoln, Nebraska on May 11. For more information, contact the school at 923-4101. *Pictured with his students is NRHS teacher Shane Bartholomew (far left).*



Join us in congratulating Nansemond River High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) for their recent wins at the State Leadership and Recognition Conference.

- Kamaria Smith, 12th grader, won a bronze medal for her Decorated Cakes entry.
- Roniah Cabbler, 11th grader, won third in state, a gold medal, and a \$7,000 scholarship, for her Patisseries entry.
- Jessyca Barnes, 12th grader, won a silver medal for the Life Event Planning event.
- The NRHS FCCLA Chapter was awarded the highest platinum level honors for chapter activities.
- Deborah Creekmur was honored with a lifetime honorary, Ruby Circle membership, on her retirement from being an active advisor and teacher.

In addition to the awards won at the FCCLA State Recognition conference, the staff and students worked very hard to win certificates for the following national programs: Student Body, Community Service, Families First, Stop the Violence, and Career Connection. For more information, contact the school at 923-4101.



Guiding Lights

International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Recognizes Outstanding Educators at 80th Annual Conference... Congratulations to Debra Shapiro, Forest Glen Middle School's technology education teacher, for being selected by ITEEA as a Distinguished Technology and Engineering Professional at its 80th Annual Conference held recently in Atlanta, GA. The Distinguished Technology and Engineering designation is a coveted mark of distinction in technology and engineering education that recognizes educators who have demonstrated a high level of competence and conscientiousness in the field.

Shapiro was also asked to present a STEM Showcase at the conference with correlating activities from her technology classes at Forest Glen Middle School. Her presentation was titled "Connecting from Here to the Stars." On April 14 at the Awards Brunch, she was installed on the ITEEA Board of Directors as the Region 1 Director. This will be the second year of her two-year

term working with affiliate representatives from the East Coast States, provinces, and territories of the United States and Canada along with those from the Caribbean Islands. For more information, contact the school at 925-5780.



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