

Feature Stories

National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7 – May 11

As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, Suffolk Public Schools is supporting the 2018 “Thank a Teacher” campaign, led by the Virginia PTA and the Virginia Lottery. The campaign encourages students, parents and members of the community to send thank-you notes to teachers across the Commonwealth to recognize their hard work and dedication. Last year, more than 30,000 thank-you notes were sent to Virginia’s public school teachers. We hope you will join us and take part in “Thank a Teacher” by recognizing even more teachers this year. [Visit Virginia Lottery's Thank a Teacher website](http://www.valottery.com/thankateacher) (www.valottery.com/thankateacher) to send an electronic thank-you note to a deserving teacher in your life or check with your individual schools to see what they have planned – many PTAs are hosting thank-you note-writing stations and events!



Teacher Appreciation Week

- Throughout the week, schools will be honoring classroom teachers with a variety of events.
- The division’s Teacher of the Year Banquet is Tuesday, May 1. This invitation-only celebration recognizes each school’s Teacher of the Year, as well as the City-Wide Teachers of the Year, the City-Wide Middle School Teacher of the Year, and the City-Wide Elementary School Teacher of the Year.
- **Thursday, May 10 is Teacher Assistant Day:** Please take a moment on this day to show the teacher assistants at your school how much they mean to you.

Video Feature

Superintendent’s Two-Minute Drill for April 25th ... We’re on location at the new Florence Bowser Elementary School. Hear the latest from Superintendent Deran Whitney! Don’t miss this episode of [Two-Minute Drill!](https://goo.gl/YjjAXz) (https://goo.gl/YjjAXz)

News

NOTE – Meeting at Nansemond River High School

The Suffolk School Board will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, May 10** in the **Nansemond River High School auditorium**

- This month’s meeting will begin early – **at 6 p.m.** – as the board meets the honor graduates from Nansemond River High School, followed by the regular School Board meeting at 7 p.m.
- The [agenda and board materials](http://pesb.spsk12.net/) (http://pesb.spsk12.net/) will be available to the public online early in that week.

The voluntary Majority to Minority transfer option currently in place at Booker T. Washington, Elephant’s Fork Elementary, Mack Benn, Jr. and Pioneer Elementary Schools will continue for the 2018-19 school year.

Because of a long-standing federal court order requiring desegregation of Suffolk Public Schools, the U.S. Department of Justice was required to review and approve the zoning plan. The district can further desegregation by adopting a volun-

tary Majority to Minority transfer option at Pioneer, Booker T. Washington, Mack Benn, Jr., and Elephant's Fork Elementary Schools. The schools will be holding informational meetings to explain the optional transfer in more detail on:

- **Tuesday, May 15** ... 5:00 p.m. at **Booker T. Washington Elementary**
- **Tuesday, May 15** ... 6:00 p.m. at **Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary**
- **Thursday, May 17** ... 5:00 p.m. at **Pioneer Elementary**
- **Thursday, May 17** ... 6:00 p.m. at **Elephant's Fork Elementary**

Here are a few facts about the voluntary Majority to Minority transfer option:

- A majority is defined by the largest percentage of students by race. For example, a school with 60 percent white students would be considered a "majority white" school, and a school with 60 percent black students would be considered a "majority black" school.
 - Students attending a majority school will be allowed the opportunity to attend a school where they will be in the minority.
 - For example, black students assigned to Booker T. Washington, Mack Benn, Jr., or Elephant's Fork Elementary will be given the opportunity to attend Pioneer Elementary, and white students assigned to Pioneer Elementary will be given the opportunity to attend Booker T. Washington, Mack Benn, Jr., or Elephant's Fork Elementary.
- The division will make space available at Pioneer, Booker T. Washington, Mack Benn, Jr., and Elephant's Fork Elementary Schools for students who choose to participate in the voluntary Majority to Minority transfer.
- The division will provide free transportation and ensure reasonable travel time on a school bus for those students participating in the voluntary Majority to Minority transfer option.
- Students will be allowed to complete their elementary education at the school they started under the Majority to Minority transfer option.
- Students who choose to attend Pioneer Elementary under the transfer option will be allowed to attend middle school at Forest Glen Middle School. Students who choose to attend Booker T. Washington, Mack Benn, Jr., or Elephant's Fork Elementary under the transfer option will be allowed to attend middle school at John F. Kennedy Middle School. These students could also choose to attend the middle school which they are zoned to attend.
- Siblings will be given preference in the event there is a waiting list.

Completed forms should be submitted to your child's principal by **Friday, May 18**. Questions may be directed to either your school principal or to Pamela Connor, Director of Elementary Leadership, at 925-6760.

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 www.spsk12.net/parents/parent-workshops/](http://www.spsk12.net/parents/parent-workshops/). For more information, contact Brenda O'Donnell with the Early Childhood Development Commission at 514-7457.

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

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.

King's Fork Middle School, as part of their commitment to the community, is sponsoring an event to make a difference in the lives of Suffolk's homeless citizens. On Wednesday, May 9, faculty and community members will gather at the school to learn about **Operation Bed Roll: Conserve, Crochet, Care**. Attendees will begin making plarn (plastic yarn). The plarn will then be used to crochet bed rolls, which will be distributed to homeless citizens through various community outreach programs. Anyone interested in this project is welcome to attend the event from 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. in

the King's Fork Middle School cafeteria. If attending, please bring a pair of scissors, plastic grocery bags, and a willingness to help others. This workshop welcomes experienced crocheters but unfortunately will not be able to teach how to crochet at this event. If you plan to crochet, please bring a size Q crochet hook. Written crochet directions will be provided. The essential ingredient to the success of this program is **you!** Bring a friend! For more information, contact the school at 923-5246.

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

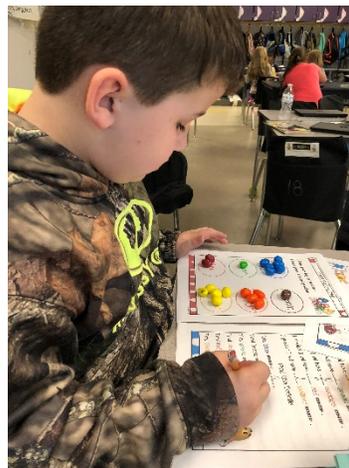
Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School's fourth-graders recently welcomed guests from BASF The Chemical Company, a long-time SPS Partner-In-Education. Students learned science lessons to make slime. Students learned about how different ingredients interact with one another to create slime. For more information contact the school at 934-6224.



Second-graders at Pioneer Elementary School recently held a butterfly release in the school's outdoor learning garden. The students grew butterflies in their classroom while learning about and watching the life cycle of the butterfly. When the transformation was complete, they released the butterflies into the garden. For more information, contact the school at 925-5782.



Pioneer Elementary School second-graders recently used M&M's candies to learn and practice probability. The students made predictions prior to opening their bags. Then, they sorted the colors and determined the likelihood of selecting various colors from the bag. Of course, they enjoyed their educational snack when they were finished with the project. For more information, contact the school at 925-5782.



Creekside Elementary School's Special Education and Title 1 departments recently collaborated to host a Family Math Night at their local Food Lion. The activity was planned to offer students a way to make connections between their math lessons and real-world uses. Activity sheets were given that asked various math questions that could only be solved by finding items in the store. For more information, contact the school at 923-4251.



Shining Stars

Congratulations to two students and one teacher who have been selected to participate in the 2018 Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. The students will learn about rocket history, astronaut training, and more while teachers will experience astronaut training simulators and activities developed to promote learning in a classroom setting. The Northrop Grumman Foundation is sponsoring the trips for the students and teachers. "We strive to inspire and excite student interest in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines- this is particularly important for middle school students. We are thrilled to be able to provide these students and teacher the opportunity to attend the Space Camp program to experience firsthand the importance of science and math principles when it comes to space exploration." For more information, contact Timothy Kubinak, Supervisor of Science Instruction, at 925-6759.

- Lily Backus, a 7th-grader at King's Fork Middle
- Avey Shaw, a 6th-grader at King's Fork Middle
- Eliese DeGroff, an 8th-grade science teacher, John F. Kennedy Middle

Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School staff, parents and students recently worked together to beautify both the interior and exterior of their school on a Saturday. Flowers were planted, weeds were pulled, and shrubbery were trimmed. Girls on the Run was present to serve donuts, water, and juice to all who participated. For more information, contact the school at 934-6224.



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