



NORCO ELEMENTARY

News from the Nest

Shannon Diodene - Principal
Jennifer Gonzales, Matthew Chauvin—Assistant Principals

November 2023

As Thanksgiving approaches, I reflect on all of the things that I am thankful for. Thanksgiving is a time of giving and feeling thankful for the incredible experiences and opportunities in our lives. This year we have so many things to be thankful for. We have had a wonderful time celebrating our students at our Eagles Excellence and Student of the Month Programs. It has been wonderful seeing our student's smiles as they experience new opportunities on field trips, watching the generations of love between our students and their grandparents on Grandparent's Day, and seeing our students interact with one another.

I feel so fortunate to be the principal of our outstanding students, faculty, and staff at Norco Elementary School. We are thankful for the incredible families and community that continuously support our school. In addition, we are extremely thankful for the support of the St. Charles Parish School Board, our Central Office staff, our Partner-in-Education, Shell Norco Manufacturing Complex, PTO volunteers, our students, and our extremely dedicated faculty and staff. Everyone's contribution to our students' success is evident on a daily basis.

Our district's motto states to "Expect Excellence" and our school mission is to create a safe, loving environment where all students can learn. We believe that all of our students can achieve excellence and challenge them to be their very best. We will continue to strive to make our school and community proud to be NES Eagles! Please reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, feedback, or compliments for our students, faculty, and/or staff. We hope that you and your family have a wonderful month and a great Thanksgiving holiday break.

Best Wishes,

Shannon Diodene, Principal

N O V E M B E R	1	Fall Break Holiday
	6	NES Fun Run Kick-Off
	7	BETA Club induction ceremony 6:30 pm
	8	Student of the Month Celebration (October SOM) Science, Technology, and Reading Night (STAR)
	9	Picture Retakes -students that were absent or new students only
	13-17	2 nd Quarter Progress Reports sent home
	15	NES Fun Run
	15-16	Talented Theatre Performance at the LPAC (6:30 pm)
	16	Box Top Dress Down Day
	20-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
	27	Classes Resume
	29	Santa Pictures

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6	Student of the Month Breakfast (November SOM)
6-7	2 nd and 3 rd Grades Dibels Testing
7	Teddy Cares Dress Down Day
8	School Level Social Studies and Science Fair
8 & 11	1 st Grades Dibels Testing
12-13	Kindergarten Dibels Testing
11-15	Santa's Secret Shop
19	NES Choir and Band Performance (NES)
21	Box Top Dress Down Day
	Early Release (students released at 12:45pm)
	End of 2 nd Quarter
Dec 22 -Jan 5	Christmas/New Year Holidays



Lost & Found



Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate our 2023-2024 Student of the Year Patia Jones! Patia is a 5th grader in Ms. LeBlanc and Mrs. Lozano's class. We are so proud of you!



Patia celebrated being named NES Student of the Year by taking treats to the local nursing homes.



We have several jackets and sweatshirts on a rack in the cafeteria. If your child has lost or misplaced one of these items, please call the school office. Thank you.



Attendance Requirements:

ELEMENTARY students shall be in attendance a minimum of 167 days a school year. Students may only be absent 10 days. ELEMENTARY students who accrue more than 10 absences will NOT be eligible for promotion. Extenuating circumstances may apply as well as excused absences for COVID-19 related absences. For more information, please refer to the 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct District Handbook.

Transportation

All notes must be given in writing, brought in with the student or emailed to: norco-bus@stcharles.k12.la.us before 2:30 p.m. each day and by 11:30 a.m. on half days. All notes should be on a full sheet of paper, written with a dark color ink and include your child's full name, the teacher's name, and dates of the changes with clear instructions and your signature. If you email a transportation change, please expect a confirmation. A transportation request form can be obtained from your child's teacher, the office or can be downloaded from our website: (www.stcharles.k12.la.us/norco) *Please note at this time bus changes are not allowed*



@norcoelementaryschool



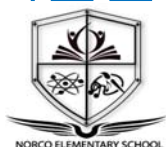
@norcoelementaryschool



@SCPPS_NES

Parents/Guardians/Visitors

Each time you enter the school, you will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID. Everyone needs to check in to the main office once you are on campus. At Car Rider pickup you will be asked for a picture ID as well.





The fact that we are heading into the Holiday Season is unbelievable. We have so many things to be THANKFUL for, such as our super second graders, wonderful parents and parental support, our spectacular school and all its great resources. This is a great time of the year to focus on gratitude. Talk with your child about all the things that they have to be thankful for and why.

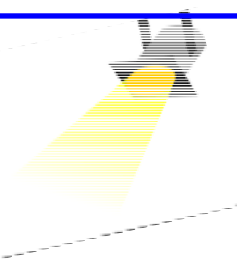
We are continuing with our Core Knowledge Reader titled Kids Excel. This is a fictional reader that consists of profiles of kids who excel at various activities. This unit is devoted to introducing spelling alternatives for vowel sounds.

Our magnificent mathematicians will be learning a variety of addition and subtraction strategies to add and subtract through 1,000. Once they find a strategy or two that they are confident in using and experience consistent success with, those should be the strategies that they rely on to solve word problems. Second graders will also be working on reading, understanding, and solving word problems. Second grade students should have basic facts committed to memory. Knowledge of these basic facts will help them add and subtract larger numbers more effectively.

Phew! There's a lot going on in second grade, so we need all of the super second graders to come to school each day ready to learn!



Grade Level Spotlight!



Happy Fall! It is hard to believe that we are already well into the second quarter! 5th graders have been busy with their learning!

In ELA, the students just finished reading their first novel in 5th grade, The Birchbark House. Focus has been placed on lessons that the main character, Omakayas, learned. We have also worked on writing paragraphs that include a topic sentence, supporting details with text evidence and closing sentences. To enhance the students' writing, focus has been put on using conjunctions to form complex sentences in their writing. These skills will help the students complete the Culminating Task for the Birchbark House.



Also, the fifth graders have participated in reading interventions that included work on fluency, reading comprehension and grammar activities.

In Math, the students wrapped up Module 1- Place Value Concepts for Multiplication and Division with Whole Numbers. Students used multiple strategies to solve multiplication and division problems using whole numbers. Ask your student to show you the strategy they use to solve and compare it to the way you learned as a child. We have moved into Module 2 - Addition and Subtraction of Fractions. Students are learning to make common units in order to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers. After the Thanksgiving break, we will move into Module 3- Multiplying and Dividing with Fractions.

In Science, during Module 1 we investigated "Why the Statue of Liberty has changed over time?" We completed many investigations of physical and chemical changes of substances. In October, students began Module 2 - Ecosystems. Our essential question focuses on "How can trees support so much life?" Students will conduct many investigations to learn more about the importance of the sun (energy) and the living things of our ecosystem.



With Thanksgiving right around the corner, it is a great time to highlight gratitude. Did you know giving thanks can actually make you happier? Research has proven that gratitude can increase positive emotions, improve health and sleep, help you deal with adversity, and improve relationships. We have some ideas on how to practice gratitude that would work for kids as well as adults.

- * At the end of the day, name two things that you are thankful for or that went well that day.
- * Write a thank you note to someone.
- * Keep a gratitude journal and jot down (or draw) one thing each day.
- * Start your day off by thinking about something you are looking forward to today.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier#:~:text=In%20positive%20psychology%20research%2C%20gratitude,adversity%2C%20and%20build%20strong%20relationships.>



October Students of the Month

The following students were chosen for showing the character trait “Friendship”:

Brooks Bourgeois, Carson Landry, Carter Williams, Ella Terrell, Ava Terrell, Aria Perry, Maddux Beck, Jake Andersen, Paisley Davis, Blythe Bourgeois, Mila Rodriguez, River Rodriguez, Scarlett Leblanc, Hunter Murray, Evangeline Turner, Margaret Mire, Emilee Elizabeth, Reese Hall, Dakota St. Germain, Robert Metcalfe, Carter Stein, Kinzie Stein, Reiley Brayard, Paisley Bivona, Elijah Fritsche, Savannah Creasy, Demi Castro, Collin Armand, Carson Villeret

November Band Buzz

Parents, with our Christmas concert quickly approaching, please make sure your band student performs (without stopping) for you throughout the weeks. This will help them get a better feel for the performance aspect as well as give you the opportunity to hear their improvements. I also ask that all students attend the before-school practices starting at 7:25 AM; 5th grade on Tuesday and 4th grade on Thursday. Have them practice their instrument at home no matter how short the time. Daily practice is far more valuable than fewer times at long periods. Don't forget to sign those weekly 100 minute practice reports to be turned in at beginning of each week.





How to earn a Box Top Dress Down Pass

All that is needed to earn a BOX TOP DRESS DOWN PASS is 20 Bboxtops and/or Community

Coffee Labels PER FAMILY. If you scan your receipts in the BOX TOP App, then \$2.00 is the amount needed. Please remember, in order to receive credit towards a DRESS DOWN PASS, the physical "Bboxtop" and/or Community

Coffee Proof of Purchase labels MUST NOT be expired at the time of submission. Also, the dress down passes are for turning in bboxtops for the previous month.



Grade 4 Project Lead The way

Our class is going to experience the Project Lead The Way module, Input/Output: Computer Systems. In this module, students become computer scientists as they explore computing systems. Students learn about computing systems and how the systems process input to produce output. After they build an understanding of computing systems, students create programs using a block-based coding language. Applying skills and knowledge learned from the activities and project, students work together to design and program a digital game that keeps children busy while they are waiting. Suggestions for ways that you can build upon the concepts in this module include:

- Ask your child to explain the Engineering Design Process.
 - Ask them to share their Activity-Notebook Input_Output Computer Systems.
 - Create family safety guidelines and rules for using the internet. Be sure to include everyone's ideas. Post your family's guidelines and rules in a place where everyone can see them.
- Has your family ever tried coding together? Consider using [Scratch](https://scratch.mit.edu/) on a device to try a coding activity with your child. It is fun and easy to use. Be creative! Write a program together as a family. Then, have your child identify the input(s) and output(s) of the program.
- Play a video game together as a family. Have your child identify the inputs and outputs of the game.

For more information about Project Lead The Way, please visit www.pltw.org.

Sincerely,

Catherine Schexnayder
Elementary Enrichment



Grade 5 Computer Technology

Project One: Students started the school year creating a Stop Motion Animation using Google slides. This is a fun and creative way for students to tell a story or demonstrate their understanding of a concept in any subject area.

Project Two: Students created a Google Slide presentation. The topic was My Dream Vacation. They were allowed to pick any place in the world they wished to visit. The project included: Why they wanted to go, fun things to see, fun places to go, interesting facts, an illustrated scene, and a conclusion. They ended the project creating a Travel Brochure. This project covered numerous skills such as:

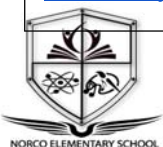
- Create, edit, and format text on a slide
- Organize the slides to present research or convey an idea
- Copy and Paste or import graphics, resize them, and position them on a slide.
- The use of appropriate transitions, animations, and videos to add interest to their slides.
- The use of Google slides Paint and drawing tools

Ask your child to share these projects with you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Schexnayder
Elementary Enrichment

cschexnayder@stcharles.k12.la.us





Norco Elementary Family Center Together We Can Make a Difference

Annie Francioni afrancioni@stcharles.k12.la.us

Phone: (985) 764-8933

Wednesday-Friday Hours: 8:30am – 3:00pm



Balancing Technology and Family Time

Do you struggle with balancing technology and family time? How much gaming should you allow when your child also uses his computer for homework? And when does screen time become a problem? According to an article written by Caroline Knorr, just like every family differs in what they eat, when they eat, and what they like, a healthy media diet is different for every family. Common Sense Media suggests the following five tips for balancing technology and family time.

Find balance. Instead of counting daily screen-time minutes, aim for a balance throughout the week. Get your children to help plan a week that includes stuff they have to do and stuff they like to do, such as schoolwork, activities, chores, reading, family time, and TV or gaming.

Walk the walk. Put your devices away while driving, at mealtimes and during important conversations. Your children will learn habits from you.

Talk about it. Ask questions about your children's favorite games, shows, and characters. Discuss ideas and issues they read about or learn about through a TV show or a game. This is an opportunity for bonding, learning, and sharing your values.

Create tech-free zones. Set rules that fit your family, such as "no devices during dinner," "no social media during homework," or "all screens off before bedtime."

Check ratings. Choose age-appropriate, high-quality media and tech for your kids.



Balanciando la Tecnología y el Tiempo de Familia

¿Ocurren batallas sobre tecnología en su casa? ¿Cuánto tiempo de videojuegos debes de permitirle a tu niño si también usa la computadora para hacer la tarea? ¿Cuánto tiempo en la computadora es problemático? Según el artículo escrito por Caroline Knorr, la verdad es que no hay ninguna fórmula mágica. Y tal como cada familia tiene preferencias distintas de comida, la hora de comer y qué comen, una dieta saludable de medios de comunicación es diferente para cada familia. Common Sense Media sugiere los consejos a continuación para ayudar en el mantenimiento de actividades tecnológicas y actividades en familia.

Encuentra el equilibrio: en vez de contar los minutos diarios del uso de los aparatos electrónicos, enfócate en que haya un equilibrio toda la semana. Motiva a tus hijos a ayudar a planificar una semana que incluya las cosas que tienen que hacer y cosas que les gusta hacer, como por ejemplo, el trabajo escolar, actividades, tareas, lectura, tiempo familiar, y la televisión o los videojuegos.


Pon un buen ejemplo: guarda los aparatos electrónicos mientras manejas, durante las comidas y en conversaciones importantes. Los niños aprenden sus hábitos.

Habla del tema: hazle preguntas a tus hijos sobre sus juegos, programas y personajes favoritos. Habla de las ideas y temas que ellos han leído o visto en programas de televisión o en un juego. Esta es una oportunidad para aumentar el vínculo afectivo, aprender y compartir tus valores.

Crea áreas en donde no se deben usar los aparatos electrónicos: establece reglas apropiadas para tu familia como "no se deben usar los aparatos durante la cena," "no deben usar las redes sociales durante las tareas," o "apaguen todos los aparatos antes de acostarse."

Verifica las clasificaciones: selecciona tecnologías y medios de comunicación de alta calidad y apropiados para tus hijos.

- 1) Keep medications and any potentially toxic cleaning products/household solutions including detergent pods away and/or locked.**
- 2) Have the poison control number handy and visible in your home and/or saved in your cell phone. Also, teach your children to be aware of the phone number as well.**
- 3) Always read labels and follow directions and warnings on medications and when using household products.**
- 4) Dispose all unneeded or expired medications including over the counter medications and vitamins.**

A logo for Poison Help, featuring the word "POISON" in large, bold, black capital letters above the word "Help" in a smaller, blue, stylized font. To the right of the text is a red and white pill bottle. The entire logo is set against a blue background.

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

A **Food Allergy** is an adverse immune system reaction that occurs soon after exposure to a certain food. Food allergy symptoms can include multiple organ systems including, respiratory, gastrointestinal tract, skin, cardiovascular, and neurological. A severe life-threatening allergic reaction is called **anaphylaxis**.



8% of students are affected by food allergies, and the incidence is increasing.

25% of severe food allergy reactions at school happen to students with no previous known food allergy

In order to maintain the safest environment possible for our students on our campus, especially those with known food allergens, here are a few tips you can review with your child.

Avoid sending food or snacks that contain the more common allergens

Encourage your child to **NOT** share food or snacks at school

Encourage your child to wash hands before and after handling and eating food

Remind your child **NOT** to eat on the bus or handle any type of food while on the bus

Stop an adult and ask for help if another student feels sick

If your child has an allergy that the school is not aware of, please be sure you notify the school nurse.

www.foodallergy.org



The 4H Club will be sponsoring a Pet Supply drive. All items will go to the St. Charles Parish Humane Society. More information to come.



Luke Dufour in Ms. Garrett's class made cup stacks using pattern cards during P.E.

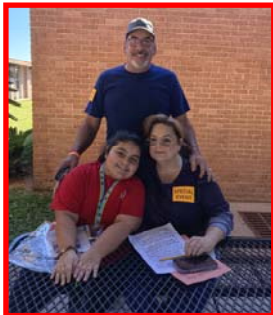




100 Book Club



Grandparents Day



Trunk or Treat

