



# NORCO ELEMENTARY

## News from the Nest

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

**October 2023**

Can you believe that October is already here? We have many events scheduled for the next few months and cannot wait to see the smiling faces of our students and families! Over the next month, we will have our first Student of the Month celebration, recognize many of our students at our Eagles' Excellence Awards Ceremony, enjoy watching our students' and their grandparents have a wonderful time at Grandparents' Day and share in our student's excitement during our Trunk or Treat event!

As the quarter ends and we reflect on our experiences, a few words consistently come to mind: community, family, and partnership. We extremely appreciative of the togetherness and support that we receive from our community and families. We would like to provide our parents with the opportunity to be part of the learning process. On Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> we will have Parent/Teacher conferences. In an effort to meet our family's needs, you can select to have your conference in-person, virtually through Zoom or via phone conference. Please make every attempt to schedule and attend a conference. Additional information about conferences will be shared within the next week. Our school mission is to create a safe, loving environment in which there are high levels of learning. By partnering together, we can ensure that our children have memorable educational experiences and continue to make our mission statement a reality! We truly appreciate your trust and support. Thank you for taking this journey with us!

Sincerely,  
Shannon Diodene  
Principal, Norco Elementary School

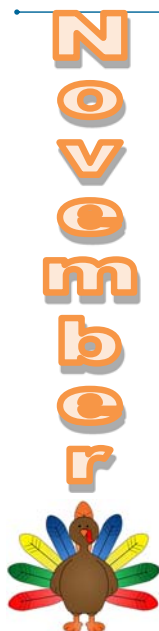
O c t o b e r	4	September Students of the Month Celebration
	10	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
	11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Begins
	13	Early Dismissal (12:45)
	16-17	Fall Break/Weather Make-Up Days
	19	Box Top Dress Down Day
	20	Grandparent's Day
	23	Quarter 1 Report Cards sent home with students
	25	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Eagles Excellence Awards
	26-27	Parent/Teacher Conferences
pumpkin		Early Dismissal (12:45)
	31	Trunk or Treat (students may wear Halloween costumes or shirts- no masks and must be school appropriate)

A special "THANK YOU" for all of the donations that NES received for the PINK LINKS project. As a school we collected \$2379.55 for the American Cancer Society. We collected the most on the Eastbank (feeder schools)!



Thank  
You





1	Fall Break Holiday
6	NES Fun Run Kick-Off
8	Student of the Month Celebration (October SOM)
	Science, Technology, and Reading Night (STAR)
13-17	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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

## Lost & Found

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



## Student of the Year Candidates

Aubrey Alexander, Maci Allday, Collin Armand, Melianis Carrasquillo, Demi Castro, Jayden Clark, Amariah Collins, Savannah Coupel, Elaina Damare, Andrew Donnelly, Darrall Dukes, Caylee Dumbleton, Londyn Fox, Maci Gaubert, Patia Jones, Preston Keller, Kolt Kimble, Kylee Louviere, Laila Martin, Brady McCune, Paisley Molina, Mason Naquin, Marcelene Schaeffer, Jensen Senia, Ashton Stigler, Aubree Tarullo, Grace Templet, Austin Vicknair, Carson Vicknair, Carson Villeret, Ella Wagner, Lucas Wagner, Ava Waguespack, Lana Weber, Yudi Zambrano

### 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](mailto: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](http://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.





Hello, October! We are off to a great start in 4<sup>th</sup> grade! Our eagles are doing a fabulous job becoming experts at procedures and expectations of this year. In ELA, readers and writers are moving along in their Guide-book unit, *The Whipping Boy*. *Their end-of-unit goal is to answer the question: What do Jemmy and Prince Brat learn in The Whipping Boy that communicates a theme of the text? Please discuss with your child our lessons and the chapters we are reading in class.*

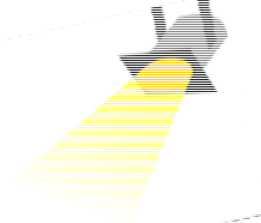
In Social Studies, we are continuing to expose students to background knowledge that will be beneficial once we receive our new curriculum. We are expected to begin Bayou Bridges in October. Our first unit is titled Prehistory and the Agricultural Revolution. Students will learn about how scientists believe the first humans lived in Africa and spread from there around the world.

They have also been marvelous mathematicians learning all about place value to be able to apply it in multiplication and division. Please review math facts nightly. They can use flash cards or find a video or song that helps them to remember them.

In science, we are busy discovering all about weathering and erosion within the Grand Canyon. Please talk with your child about their daily learning! If you have any questions or concerns, please communicate through the planner, email, or School Status. Thank you for your continuous support this year! Always remember to S.O.A.R!



## Grade Level Spotlight!



We cannot believe we are almost to the end of the first quarter! First graders are SOARING through their learning! The first quarter report card essential learning standards include students being able to decode one syllable words, read on-level texts with accuracy and understanding.

First graders are just finishing up the Snap Shots unit in CK Skills, which was a review of phonics learned in Kindergarten, including reviewing sounds and reading short vowel, one-syllable words. We are now beginning a new unit called Gran. Students will learn new tricky words and begin new learning of long vowels, spelled: ee, a\_e, i\_e, o\_e, and u\_e. Reading at home is a great way to help your child. This can be CK

Skills stories sent home, as well as other books you may have at home. Reviewing tricky words is another great way to help your child become more fluent with reading. Looking at completed workbook pages from class is a wonderful way to see what new skills your child is learning.

In math students have learned how to organize, count, and compare numbers. We have been learning how to make numbers in different ways and to show our thinking in different ways. Students have learned to count on from a visible part and to count on using various tools and strategies. Now students are learning about the relationship between addition and subtraction.

In Knowledge students have completed a unit called Fables and Stories, learning about story elements, such as characters, setting, and plot (beginning, middle, and end). Students have also learned about morals in fables. It is important that children understand these components of a story, especially when retelling a story they have read. We are also finishing up a nonfiction unit called The Human Body. Ask your child which body systems he/she has learned about at school. You will be amazed by their interesting new learning!

Students are working hard to be independent in their reading and writing. They are working on effective communication, being both a speaker and a listener. First graders are using SOAR to be the best they can be at school!





### Teaching Kindness

Kindness is the foundation of a safe and inclusive school and community. If you ever wonder exactly how to teach your children about kindness, we have you covered. Here are a few tips to help support you at home.

1. Help them understand what kindness means – talk to your children about the meaning of kindness and ways they can practice kindness throughout the day.
2. Model kindness everywhere you go – Be mindful of your words and actions. Be intentional about showing compassion and expressing empathy.
3. Encourage kind habits – Practice using kind words like “please” and “thank you.”
4. Understand that kindness isn’t always easy – It takes effort to be kind. Our children are still learning to regulate their emotions. Talk to them about different strategies they can use to calm down in difficult situations (deep breathing, taking a break).
5. Pay attention to the effects of kindness – Encourage your children to put themselves in the shoes of others. Practicing kindness can boost confidence levels and lower stress.

Source: <https://www.parents.com/kids/development/social/teaching-kids-to-be-kind/>

## September Students of the Month

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

Emma Southwick, Lindsay Hermann, Cooper Nunez, Jason Hermann, Avery Bonnette, Harper Greaud, Alayna Ducote, Milas Catalanotto, Jameson Doell, Harper Mathews, Jase Gonzalez, Kohen Lucich, Kanon Rich, Gavynn Gerard, Charlotte Long, Elizabeth Guilfou, Kassidy Watkins, Camila Batres, Addison Baker, Bryn Gardere, Zayden Monteleone, Scarlet Carruth, Preston Summers, Brea Tamporello, Drake Cambre, Laila Martin, Haylee Charles, Ava Dufrene

## October Band Buzz

Fourth grade band members should now be playing their mouthpieces daily at home. Reminder to create an EEi account (join teacher’s group) which is included with the book purchase. The Student ID and School Code is found on the *Student Quick Start Guide* form sent home with them. It can also be printed from here <https://www.stcharles.k12.la.us/Page/10747>. The activation code is at the bottom of page 1 in their book. This web site has a wealth of information and will assist students with steady tempo, help guide them to correct notes/pitches and allow them to submit playing tests online. Please let them perform their assigned exercises for you as it helps to build confidence.



Fifth grade band members need to make every effort to attend the Tuesday before-school band rehearsals. Here we are preparing our sheet music. They should also practice their book exercises with/through EEi. As I have explained to the students, the book requirements will not slowed down as we focus more on sheet music. All playing tests must be submitted on EEi through their student account.

**BAND FEES** are past due. If you haven’t paid the band fee as of yet, please do so as soon as possible. If there are questions or concerns, please email at [ddavis@stcharles.k12.la.us](mailto:ddavis@stcharles.k12.la.us). Fifth grade fees are \$30.00 and fourth grade fees are \$45.00. These fees do not include the \$45.00 yearly rental fee, if applicable. Please make checks payable to NES.





Fifth grade students in Ms. LeBlanc's class were learning about the Dewey Decimal System through Bingo & researching books on their chrome books. They also used call numbers to find their books. Lastly they took time to read their books.



Lydia Gordon, a 5th-grade Talented Art Student at Norco Elementary School, was selected as one of the finalists for the St. Charles Parish Public Schools Youth Poster Contest. Here she is pictured with her Alligator Festival poster which will go on to the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Convention in February 2024.



Cheetah  
by: Abdullah Banks

I chose cheetahs because they are fast and strong.

I also like cheetahs because they look cool.

### **Dolphins I love dolphins**

**by: Jacob Whitener**



**I chose dolphins because I know that they can defeat a shark and make it drown. I chose dolphins because they can do tricks. I chose dolphins because they are my favorite animals.**

## Keyboarding with Mrs. Dunn

Butterfly by: Micah Vitano



I chose a butterfly because they're my favorite animal!

Also like it because my grandma died and we call her a butterfly. That is why!



# Norco Elementary Family Center

## Together We Can Make a Difference

Annie Francioni    afrancioni@stcharles.k12.la.us  
Phone: (985) 764-8933



During the school year, teachers will invite you to come to parent-teacher meetings (also called conferences). You can also ask for a conference any time.

### Before the conference

Ask your child if there is anything that he wants you to talk about with his teacher.

Tell your child that you and the teacher are meeting to help her.

Make a list of topics that you want to talk about with the teacher.

Prepare a list of questions such as:

What are my child's strongest and weakest subjects?

Does my child participate in class?

Does my child seem happy at school?

### During the conference

Be on time (or early) for the meeting.

End the meeting on time. Other parents will probably have a conference after yours.

Relax and be yourself.

Stay calm during the conference.

Ask the most important questions first.

Ask for explanations of anything you don't understand

Ask your child's teacher for ways that you can help your child at home.

### After the conference

Talk about the conference with your child.

Talk about the positive points, and be direct about problems.

Tell your child about any plans you and the teacher created.

Durante el año escolar los maestros le invitarán a participar en las reuniones de padres y maestros (también conocidas como conferencias).

### Antes de la conferencia

Pregúntele a su niño si hay algo sobre lo que él quisiera que usted le hable a su maestro.

Haga una lista de los temas sobre los que desea hablar con el maestro.

Prepare una lista de preguntas como las siguientes:

¿Cuáles son las materias en las que mi niño es más fuerte y más débil?

¿Participa mi niño en la clase?

¿Mi niño parece estar feliz en la escuela?

### Durante la conferencia

Llegue a tiempo (o temprano) a la reunión.

Termine la reunión a tiempo. Otros padres probablemente tienen programada su conferencia después de la suya.

Relájese y sea usted mismo.

Mantenga la ecuanimidad durante la conferencia.

Haga las preguntas más importantes primero.

Pida que le expliquen lo que no entiende.

Pídale al maestro que le indique cómo puede ayudar a su niño en casa.

### Después de la conferencia

Hable de la conferencia con su niño.

Hable sobre los puntos positivos y sea directo acerca de los problemas.

Comuníquese a su niño cualquiera de los planes que usted y el maestro hayan hecho.

Manténgase en contacto con el maestro durante el año escolar.





# Nurse's Notes

2022

## More than **2.5 million** U.S. youth are using e-cigarettes!

How much **do you know** about youth vaping?



Youth use of e-cigarettes, also known as vaping, remains a serious public health concern.

E-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco product among both middle and high school students.<sup>17</sup> Disturbingly high rates of frequent and daily e-cigarette use suggest many teens have a strong dependence on nicotine.<sup>1</sup>

Learning more about the different types of e-cigarette products is an important first step in addressing youth vaping.

### DID YOU KNOW:

E-cigarettes come in a variety of shapes and sizes and may not look like a tobacco product, which can make them hard to spot.<sup>2</sup>

Some devices popular among teens are as small as a USB flash drive and even look like one.<sup>2,14</sup>

Certain products emit very low amounts of aerosol, which makes them easier to use discreetly than combustible cigarettes.<sup>9,11</sup>

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, the same highly addictive drug in cigarettes. Some e-cigarettes<sup>5</sup> may contain as much nicotine as a pack of 20 regular cigarettes.<sup>3</sup>

### A Small Device... A BIG PROBLEM

In 2022, approximately

**1 in 7** high school students

— and —

**1 in 30** middle school students currently used e-cigarettes.<sup>1</sup>



#### CENTER FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Source: Cooper, et al. MMWR 2022

Note: All numbers presented here are estimates.

[www.fda.gov/tobacco](http://www.fda.gov/tobacco)



@FDATobacco



[facebook.com/fda](https://facebook.com/fda)



Many teens have  
**dangerous misperceptions**  
 that lead them to believe that vaping is harmless.<sup>9</sup>

### Important facts to share with youth

#### Vape aerosol can contain harmful chemicals

Vaping can expose the user's lungs to harmful chemicals like formaldehyde, acrolein, and acetaldehyde, which are known to cause irreversible lung damage.<sup>4,5</sup>

#### There can be danger behind the flavor

Vapes get their flavors from chemicals. While these flavorings are safe to eat in food, they're not safe to inhale. Inhaling flavor chemicals can harm your lungs.<sup>4</sup>

#### Most vapes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive

Vaping delivers nicotine to the brain in as little as 10 seconds.<sup>7</sup> A teen's brain is still developing, making it more vulnerable to nicotine addiction.<sup>8,11</sup> Nicotine exposure during the teen years can disrupt normal brain development.<sup>8,11</sup>

#### Vapers could be inhaling metal particles into their lungs

Vape aerosol could be delivering metal particles like chromium, nickel, lead, tin and aluminum right into your lungs. Some of these metals are toxic.<sup>18,21</sup>



#### FDA's Efforts to Curb Youth E-Cigarette Use

FDA is committed to protecting youth from the dangers of e-cigarettes, including preventing illegal sales to anyone under 21 and holding retailers and manufacturers accountable for marketing practices. Also, in addition to our national peer-to-peer public education campaign called "The Real Cost," FDA is providing teachers and school administrators with the resources they need to educate their students about e-cigarettes.

We've created **free lesson plans, activities and videos** for teachers to educate their students on the health risks of e-cigarette use. Please visit the Vaping Prevention and Education Resource Center at [www.fda.gov/youthvapingresources](http://www.fda.gov/youthvapingresources) to access these resources.



#### Quitting Help Is Available

There is an urgent need to share quitting resources with teens who are addicted to e-cigarettes. If you identify teens using e-cigarettes at school, it is critical to share resources with them to help them quit.

#### Resources for Teens

- Ask a trusted adult or friend for support
- Talk to a doctor about treatment options
- Visit [smokefree.gov](http://smokefree.gov) and [teen.smokefree.gov/guit-vaping](http://teen.smokefree.gov/guit-vaping)
- Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW
- Text DITCHJUUL to 88709



# References



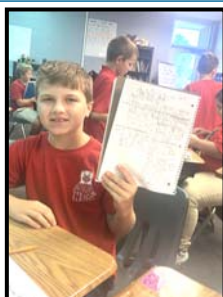
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CTP-230





Fourth grade students in Mrs. Jones class use text evidence to engage in a scholarly discussion in the unit text *The Whipping Boy*.



## 4h Officers

**President(s):** Andrew Donnelly & Demi Castro

**Vice President:** Ava Dufrene

**Secretary:** Brynlee Perez

**Treasurer:** Preston Summers

**Photographer:** Paisley Guidry

**Reporter:** Liam Paz



## Kona Ice

Our students enjoyed snowballs for our first concession day. Each month Kona Ice will be on campus for students to purchase a snowball. The cost is \$3.00 (cash) and NES will receive 20% of the proceeds!

### **Snowball concession dates:**

Friday, October 6th  
Friday, November 17th  
Friday, December 8th  
Friday, January 12th  
Thursday, March 22nd  
Friday, April 12th  
Wednesday, May 15th



### **\*How to earn a Box Top Dress Down Pass\***

All that is needed to earn a BOX TOP DRESS DOWN PASS is 20 Boxtops 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 "Boxtop" 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 boxtops for the previous month.

Pictured below:  
Mrs. Murray's first grade class having fun playing a tricky word game.

