



News from the Nest

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

December 2023

It amazes me to think that we only have two and a half weeks until Christmas break! This time is certainly flying by and the weeks between now and the Christmas holidays will be busy ones for everyone at Norco Elementary School. We are excited to announce that PTO will host their 1st annual Holiday Shop the week of December 11-15. Students will be able to select and purchase gifts for their families and experience an authentic shopping opportunity where they both math and real life skills. We will also celebrate our students' hard work with our Boosterthon by having a Christmas Field Day during each students' enrichment on December 20th.

To go along with the Christmas spirit, our character trait for the month of December is "giving". This can be reflected in many of our celebrations and recognitions at NES. A few of these ways include Student of the month, NES Core Value Awards, Eagles Excellence, Band and Choir Performance, and Shout Outs for faculty and staff. One goal at Norco Elementary is to help every student feel important and understand that kindness goes a long way. We understand that the experiences provided at Norco Elementary School are an equal balance between instruction and meeting our students' social and emotional needs. In celebration of the holiday, students will have designated "Holiday Spirit" dress down days beginning on Monday, December 18. A list of dress down days was shared with the weekly memo.

We hope that our Norco Elementary School families have a safe and happy holiday and New Year!

Best Wishes,
Shannon Diodene
Norco Elementary School, Principal

**D
e
c
e
m
b
e
r**



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
11-15	Santa's Secret Shop
19	NES Choir and Band Performance (NES)
21	Early Release (students released at 12:45pm) Box Top Dress Down Day End of 2 nd Quarter
Dec 22 -Jan 5	Christmas/New Year Holidays

**J
a
n
u
a
r
y**



8	Classes Resume for students 3 rd Quarter Begins
10-11	2 nd and 3 rd grade Dibels Testing
12	2 nd Quarter Report Cards sent home
12 & 17	1 st grade Dibels Testing
15	Martin Luther King Holiday
17	Student of the Month Celebration Breakfast (December SOM) @ 9:15
18	Box Top Dress Down Day
18 & 23	Kindergarten Dibels Testing
19	Early Dismissal 2 nd and 3 rd grade Breakfast with a Buddy
24	Eagles Excellence Awards Ceremony





The 4H club collected items for the Humane Society and donated to the St. Charles Parish Animal Shelter. Pictured left: 4H club members, 4H leaders; Stefanie West, Susan Burton, Jennifer Shelton, Dr. Gina and Sadie (a rescue that came to visit).



FunRun



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



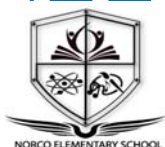
@norcoelementaryschool



@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.





One of the most important skills children need to master is their ability to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. All future learning resides in the ability to break down a problem into manageable parts until a solution is identified. Throughout Theme 4: Choices, students will learn ways to help them think critically when making choices and solving problems.

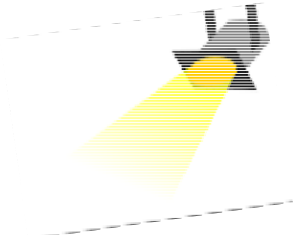
Developing oral language, alphabet knowledge, and phonological awareness are the 3 main literacy goals early childhood focuses on throughout the year.

The following is a list of activities you can do at home to enhance listening and expressive skills:

- ◇ listening to stories and poems
- ◇ rhyming words
- ◇ telling and retelling stories and nursery rhymes
- ◇ singing and chanting rhyming songs and fingerplays plays (including the alphabet song)
- ◇ discussing word meanings, ideas, books, and personal experiences
- ◇ making predictions about words and stories



Grade Level Spotlight!



Third graders are whisking into winter! In English Language Arts (ELA) we have wrapped up our first unit: *Cajun Folktales*. I bet you heard your 3rd grader talking about the big race! The live-action tortoise and hare race truly taught us the theme of “slow and steady wins the race!” We have now begun our second unit: *Because of Winn-Dixie*. Students will read literary and informational texts to understand the value of companionship, the joy of finding friends in unexpected places, and the significance of building a community of different perspectives. Students have read *Charlotte’s Web* and *Owen and Mzee*. We are beginning *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and are focused on the question: How does Edward’s journey and the people he meets teach him about himself? We will then move into the text *Because of Winn-Dixie*. Students will express their understanding by explaining how characters change throughout *Because of Winn-Dixie* based on the relationships formed throughout the book. Students will also engage in independent reading of texts based on similar themes to further develop their understanding.



Math magicians are making great strides! We will finish off Module 3 in Math by the end of the month. We are learning about multiplying and dividing with units of 0 and 1, as well as how to multiply using the multiples of 10. The end of module lessons are going to focus on applying all skills learned in Module 3 as well as solving two-step word problems. Please practice basic multiplication facts to boost your child’s fluency and memorization.

Scientists are going to finish up lessons in Module 2 about survival. Students will model changes in environments and explain possible solutions to help organisms survive after long-term changes are made. We are going to also construct claims that seasonal changes can affect the suitability of animals and plants to their environments. The next summative test will be given on December 8th.

Happy Holidays to all of our third grade families. We are very proud of our third-graders in the first half of the school year.



Can you believe the holidays are here already? While this is the most fun time of year for many, we are all familiar with how the lack of sleep, packed calendar of social events, change of schedule, and overstimulation can lead to difficult moments for some of our kids. We have a few things to keep in mind as you enjoy the holiday break!

1. Hydrate. There is a good chance your child's eating habits will be different around the holidays. Try to keep them well by keeping them hydrated.
2. Keep routines consistent (when possible). Schedules will of course be different with all of your family's upcoming events, but try to keep some consistency if you can.
3. Role-play. Act out difficult situations with kids (particularly younger ones) ahead of time.
 - You get a gift you don't like
 - It's time to open the last present
 - Someone else gets something you like
 - It is time to leave the party
4. Find a quiet space for your child. Some kids get overstimulated and nervous with the influx of social situations that surround the holidays. Find them a quiet place, take them for a walk, or help them to take some deep breaths if they need it.
5. Manage expectations. As you know, things won't always go as planned. Not every moment will be picture-perfect, and that is okay. Have realistic expectations for your kids as well as yourself.

<https://www.pickanytwo.net/tips-for-christmas-with-little-kids/>

<https://messymotherhood.com/parenting-tips-helping-kids-tough-holiday-season/>

November Students of the Month

The following students were chosen for showing the character trait "Gratitude":

Liam Stevens, Luke LaFontaine, Chance Johnson, Don Bourgeois, Angel Mancia, Liam Marse, Morgan Hollister, Rhett Gill, Brynlee Burge, Liam LaFontaine, Lane Hardy, Kinsely Trosclair, Allie Wagner, Gabriel Beaver, Zoey Songy, Ellie St. Germain, Wren Vicknair, Shylar Marshall, Haileigh Walter, Kody Louviere, Atticus Lirette, David Hills, Steven Duhe, Abigail Guirovich, Dalton Guidry, Zayden Bourgeois, Rylie Wilkinson, Melianis Carrasquillo

December Band Buzz

The 4th and 5th grade bands & choirs are in serious preparation for their upcoming Christmas Concert on December 19, 2023. The concert will be held at NES ***Under The Stars***. Start time for the concert is 6:30 PM. Students must report no later than 6:00 PM and be dressed as stated on the concert letter sent home on 12/4/23. Keep in mind that concerts are part of the class curriculum and are required. Students must stay for the entire concert. We are learning performance etiquette as well as audience etiquette. Don't forget to bring your chair and/or blanket.

See you there!





WINTER



A healthy school environment requires the cooperation and effort of us all working together. During this time of year we tend to see a higher incidence of illness in general. There are ways that you can help to protect yourself and your family from many of these illnesses. Follow the Habits for Good Health listed below recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

Habits for Good Health

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze—throw the tissue away after you use it. If you do not have a tissue, cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow. For more information watch the video@ www.coughsafe.com.

Wash your hands often with soap and water especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol based hand cleaner.

Stay away, as much as you can, from people who are sick.

If you or your child gets the flu or Covid, stay home from work or school. Do not go near other people so that you don't make them sick too. Follow up with your doctor for recommendations on when to return to school.

Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.

Dress for the weather. Come to school dressed for the winter. Wear layers of loose fitting clothing. Wear mittens and gloves. Wear a hat. Remember, the air that is trapped inside your clothing, warmed by your body heat, is the best protection from the cold.

Please note: Children who have a fever or who need to take antibiotics for infections such as strep throat, pink eye, ear infections, etc., should stay home until they have taken the medicine for at least 24 hours, and they are fever-free (without fever reducing medicine), and they feel better. Some children and some illnesses take more time to recover from than others. When children return to their normal sleeping and eating habits they are usually well enough to return to school. Please note that your child should come to school feeling well enough to participate fully in all school activities including going outside in the winter.

Your school nurse, Nicole Schulin, RN

Our gifted students took part in the annual district wide Noetic Math Contest. Pictured right: James Baltazar placed third in the district for 4th grade and Cooper Greaud placed third in the district for 3rd grade.

Congratulations!



Thank you to all of our community and the NES Jr. Beta Club for supporting Sacred Heart Food Bank with your donations!



Norco Elementary Family Center

Together We Can Make a Difference

Annie Francioni
afrancioni@stcharles.k12.la.us

985-764-2787
Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 8:30-3:00



How Can You Support Your Child Academically:

Find out how your child is doing.

Ask the teacher how well your child is doing in class compared to other students. If your child is not keeping up, especially when it comes to reading, ask what you or the school can do to help. It's important to act early before your child gets too far behind. Also be sure to review your child's report card each time it comes out.

Make sure that your child gets homework done.

Let your child know that you think education is important and that homework needs to be done each day. You can help your child with homework by setting aside a special place to study, establishing a regular time for homework, and removing distractions such as the television and social phone calls during homework time.

If you are reluctant to help your child with homework because you feel that you don't know the subject well enough or because you don't speak or read English, you can help by showing that you are interested, helping your child get organized, providing the necessary materials, asking your child about daily assignments, monitoring work to make sure that it is completed, and praising all of your child's efforts. Remember that doing your child's homework for him won't help him in the long run.

Find homework help for your child if needed.

If it is difficult for you to help your child with homework or school projects, see if you can find someone else who can help. Contact the school, tutoring groups, after school programs, churches, and libraries. Or see if an older student, neighbor, or friend can help.

Help your child prepare for tests.

Tests play an important role in determining a student's grade. Your child may also take one or more standardized tests during the school year, and your child's teacher may spend class time on test preparation throughout the year. As a parent, there are a number of ways that you can support your child before and after taking a standardized test, as well as a number of ways you can support your child's learning habits on a daily basis that will help her be more prepared when it's time to be tested.



Norco Elementary Family Center

Together We Can Make a Difference

Annie Francioni
afrancioni@stcharles.k12.la.us

985-764-2787
Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 8:30-3:00



APOYE LOS ESFUERZOS ACADÉMICOS DE SU HIJO

Averigüe cómo le está yendo a su hijo en sus cursos. Pregúntele a la maestra cómo le está yendo a su hijo en comparación con los demás estudiantes. Si su hijo se está rezagando, especialmente en la lectura, consulte qué puede hacer usted o la escuela para ayudar. Es importante actuar oportunamente antes de que su hijo se retrase demasiado. Lea los reportes o informes escolares de su rendimiento académico. Para obtener más información, consulte la página Cómo saber si su hijo necesita ayuda adicional.

Supervise la tarea. Haga a su niño comprender que usted piensa que la educación es algo importante y que hay que cumplir con la tarea escolar. Usted le puede ayudar a su niño con la tarea en las maneras siguientes: aparte un lugar especial para que su niño estudie, fije una hora para hacer la tarea, y elimine las distracciones como el televisor y llamadas sociales. También hay muchas maneras en que usted puede ayudar si no conoce la materia a fondo o porque no domina el inglés tan bien como su hijo.

Busque quién le ayude a su hijo con las tareas. Si se le dificulta ayudarlo a su hijo con las tareas o los proyectos escolares, consulte para encontrar a alguien más que pueda ayudarlo. Comuníquese con la escuela, los grupos de tutoría, los programas después de la escuela, las iglesias y las bibliotecas o busque la ayuda de un estudiante mayor, vecino o amigo.

Ayude a su hijo preparar para las pruebas. Las pruebas estandarizadas cumplen en la actualidad un papel fundamental en las escuelas públicas de los Estados Unidos. Su hijo puede dar una o más pruebas estandarizadas durante el año escolar y es posible que el maestro de su hijo dedique tiempo de clase a la preparación para el examen a lo largo del año. Como padre o madre, hay muchas formas de apoyar a su hijo antes y después de dar una prueba estandarizada, así como también hay muchas formas de apoyar los hábitos de estudio de su hijo a diario, que lo ayudará a estar mejor preparado cuando llegue el momento de la prueba.



A cartoon illustration of a jack-o'-lantern with a carved face, wearing a black witch's hat with a yellow buckle. The pumpkin is orange and has a simple, friendly expression.

A single, vibrant orange maple leaf with a serrated edge and a prominent central vein, casting a soft shadow.

A large, ripe orange pumpkin sits on a patch of green grass. To the left of the pumpkin, there are some red flowers. The pumpkin has a short, light-colored stem.

Happy Thanksgiving

By: Reese
Hall

THANKS

Thanksgiving!!!!
Happy!!!!
A turkey!!!!
No candy!!!!
Kind/nice!!!!
Sunny day for football!!!!



Thanks
Happy fall ya'll
Apple pie
Nice
Kind
Scarecrow
Giving
I am family
Very nice
Icing on cake
New clothes
Good people

Thanksgiving fryer safety tips



By:
Kody Louvière

people eat me
I have brown feathers
I gobble
I run around

I am a Turkey!

