



# NORCO ELEMENTARY

## News from the Nest

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

**March 2024**

February was an incredibly busy month packed with wonderful events! We were blown away by the beautiful harmonies of our Parish Honor Band students and thoroughly enjoyed the outstanding performances at our Black History Program. Additionally, we celebrated our December and January students of the month with great pride. The Krewe de' Eagles parade was a highlight, and seeing the smiles on our students' faces was truly heartwarming. Special kudos to the NES 5th-graders, band, and the Harry Hurst Middle School dance team, cheerleaders, and mascot for getting us all in the Mardi Gras spirit!

Our students continued to embody our NES Core Values and shine as they demonstrated positive character traits. At Norco Elementary School, we not only focus on academic growth but also on nurturing strong character. Our students consistently go above and beyond, showing kindness, empathy, respect, and genuine care for others.

As we move forward into the 3rd and 4th quarters, we encourage you to maintain close communication with your child's teacher(s). Time flies, and we want to ensure we're meeting your child's academic and social needs.

There are still plenty of opportunities to celebrate our students before the year concludes. Keep an eye out for our weekly family memos sent home every Sunday afternoon via Connect Ed, which outline upcoming events at NES. You can also stay updated on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, where we showcase the exceptional activities at Norco Elementary School. If you haven't already, we'd love for you to follow us on our social media platforms. And remember, if you have any questions about upcoming events, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or an administrator.

Sincerely,

Shannon Diodene  
Principal, Norco Elementary School



6	Spring/Easter Bunny Pictures
13	Student of the Month Celebration
14	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
15	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Begins
	Early Dismissal Day (students will be released at 12:45pm)
20	Kona Ice Concessions
21	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report Cards sent home
28	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Eagle Excellence Awards
29-April 5	Easter Holidays

To the NES Families & Staff:  
I want to thank you for taking the time to write and send me a note for National School Board Month.  
Your heartfelt words meant the world to me! It is my utmost privilege to serve you and the children of St. Charles Parish Public Schools.

*Becky Weber,  
School Board Member District 6*



# April

8	Students return to school
10	Student of the Month Celebration (March SOM)
16	NES Young Author's Celebration
19	Kona Ice Concessions
22-26	Progress Reports sent home
25	NES Talented Theatre (@ NES)
29	NES Band and Choir Performance (LPAC)



This year's **St. Charles Parish Public Schools (SCPPS) Art Show** grand opening is **Tuesday, March 12** from 5:30 - 7:00 PM in the lobby of the Dr. Rodney R. Lafon Performing Arts Center (LPAC). That evening, we invite families to view the various art displays. Additionally, a special recognition ceremony for students with work in the Superintendent's Gallery will be held at 6:00 PM in the Shell Theatre.

The Art Show will be on display from March 11 to April 9 and available for viewing during regular LPAC Box Office hours, Tuesday - Friday from 12:00-5:00 PM. This culminates with **ArtsFest on Saturday, March 16** at the LPAC from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. Students who are registered for the event are encouraged to attend, checking in outside the building in front of the Box Office to receive a complimentary gift. Food vendors, hands-on activities, artistic displays, and performances will be held throughout the day and available to students, families, and the community.

The SCPPS Bag Protocol will be in effect for both of these events.



At the February 4H club meeting, 4H members enjoyed putting together a healthy snack, talked about bike safety and made hearts for Valentine's Day.



## 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

### 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.

### 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.



NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

[www.stcharles.k12.la.us](http://www.stcharles.k12.la.us)





Literacy begins at home! It's never too early to begin reading to your child. The time spent reading aloud will create feelings of togetherness and closeness. Here are some helpful hints for reading aloud with your child at home:

- \*Make reading aloud part of the daily routine.
- \*Be physically close to your child as you read. Cuddle up!
- \*Get into the characters of the story. Alter your voice to fit each character.
- \*Read and reread the same book. Look for picture clues and details.
- \*Have your child make predictions about the book before you begin reading.
- \*Ask questions during the story: who, what, where, why, and how.
- \*Check to see if your child can retell the story with a beginning, middle, and end.

## Grade Level Spotlight!



Is it really March already? Third grade students just wrapped up our second unit titled Because of Winn-Dixie. We explored why it is important to make an effort to really "see" other people. We celebrated our success with this unit by having a party that mimicked the party that the characters had in the book. It was an unforgettable experience. (pictures below)

Now, we are historians! We are traveling back in time to the 1800s and learning all about the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory. Did you know that it doubled the size of the United States? After the LA Territory was purchased, the real fun began. Through our reading, we will meet several explorers who told their stories from their point of view. We will wrap up our unit by expressing our understanding through writing about

who benefitted the most and the least from the purchase of the Louisiana Territory.

Mathematicians will finish up with Module 5, Fractions, by the end of the month. We're sure everyone is learning a lot about fraction models and how to represent fractions on the number line. In the next few topics, students will learn about fractions greater than 1 and also how to generate and locate equivalent fractions in different ways. The first test on fractions will be Monday, March 11th. Also please remember that all basic multiplication and division facts need to be memorized by the end of the school year for success in grade 4.

In Science we will continue Module 3: Traits. We will discover how traits of an individual organism can provide advantages for its survival and reproduction. In the fourth quarter, we will move on to Module 4: Force, Motion, Magnetism, and Static Electricity. Students will have the opportunity to explore various hands-on experiments to test the movement of objects when forces are applied.



[www.stcharles.k12.la.us](http://www.stcharles.k12.la.us)







March is National Nutrition Month, so we wanted to focus on the importance of attempting to eat as a family. Our afternoons and evenings are very busy with extracurricular activities, homework, and other obligations, making family meals difficult. Surveys show that only 30% of families eat dinner together regularly. Studies show kids who partake in family dinners have lower rates of obesity over their lifetime, as well as decreased rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. It also increases resilience and self-esteem. 80% of teenagers in a study shared that dinner was the time when they are most likely to share and talk with their parents. Over the coming weeks, consider trying to incorporate family dinner more often or even making it a family breakfast or lunch on the weekend.

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/ideas/edcast/20/04/benefit-family-mealtime>

-Jennie Hermann and Stacey Noel, school counselors

We would like to give a special shout out to the faculty and staff members who helped make our fall events at Norco successful. Our Ad Hoc committees worked together to plan special events for our families to enjoy. Our annual Grandparent's Day was a day full of games, laughter and fun with our special guests. The third annual Trunk or Treat was a great way for our students to show off their costumes and allowed our families to decorate their cars and pass out treats! In November, we hosted our STAR night to celebrate Science, Technology And Reading! Families were able to learn strategies to support their kids with literacy skills, participate in science experiments, watch the Destrehan High School Robotics team, and learn about animals with Wetlands Watchers. Our students spread gratitude through our Turkey Treats at Thanksgiving. We celebrated our Students of the Month and our Eagle's Excellence recipients with our monthly ceremonies. The character traits of responsibility, friendship, gratitude, and giving were celebrated as well as many awards for our SOARing Eagles! Shoutout to our Sunshine Team for planning events and treats for the staff to enjoy! Lastly, all of our grade levels were able to invite a special guest for Breakfast with a Buddy. We always love having visitors on our campus to see all of the wonderful things we are doing at Norco! A sincere Thank You to the faculty/staff members below for their help!

**Grandparents Day:** Kami Dufour, Mary Terrell, Kerri Smith, Yvette Surla, Miranda Troxler

**Trunk or Treat:** Katie Fitzsimmons, Meagan Faucheux, Emily Hymel, Ashley McDonner

**STAR Night:** Natalie Jones, Lisa Cain, Toni Dugas, Jessica Thomas, Heather Lozano

**Turkey Treats:** Melissa Billings, Stephanie Becnel, Vickie Hinrichs

**Student of the Month:** Julie Ortego, Katie Vitrano, Ann Francioni, Sandy David

**Eagles' Excellence:** Tiffany Webre, Erika Spengler

**Breakfast with a Buddy:** Erin Robert, Shelly Naquin, Ashley Desselle, Stacey Noel

**Sunshine Team:** Mona Terrebonne, Paula Pfister, Chloe Babineaux, Ann Snakenberg

Thank  
you ❤️

## March Band Buzz

March is National Music In Our Schools Month! Check out some things happening on #MIOSM.

**"The world's most famous and popular language is music."** ~Py

People are always impressed with the ability of a successful child. Parents, the Three D's of Success are a must; Desire, Discipline and Dedication. With this, our potential is limitless.

The March 16th Arts Awareness Fest is quickly approaching. Those that chose to participate have their music and will be practicing with their groups at the before-school practices. See the band web site for more details.

## Krewe De Eagles





### USING AND CHOOSING YOUR BACKPACK PROPERLY

Backpacks are necessary for school, but if not used properly, they can cause muscle and joint strain leading to back pain. The majority of doctors recommend that children carry no more than 10-15% of their body weight in their backpack. If backpacks are not worn correctly on the shoulders and on both shoulders, the weight of the bag can pull the child backwards. This movement will cause the child to arch the back or bend forward at the hips compressing the spine. This unnatural compression may lead to shoulder, neck, and back pain. Children may also develop poor posture as well.

As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics when purchasing a backpack, there are several factor to consider: (1) a lightweight pack [example: canvas is lighter weight than leather] (2) two wide, padded shoulder straps (3) a padded back (4) a waist belt and multiple compartments (to help distribute the weight in the pack evenly)

Other tips to aid in prevention of injury from backpacks: (1) Lighten the load. Encourage kids to bring home only those books necessary for homework and not to fill the bag with unnecessary items. (2) Ensuring that the backpack is picked up correctly can prevent injury. Always bend at the knees and grip the backpack with both hands when lifting it to the shoulders. (3) Make use of all the various compartment in the pack; therefore, all the weight can be distributed as evenly as possible. Heavier items should be placed in the center.

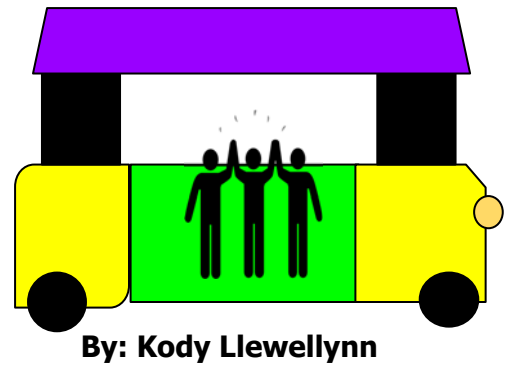
*\*\*information gathered from kidshealth.org*



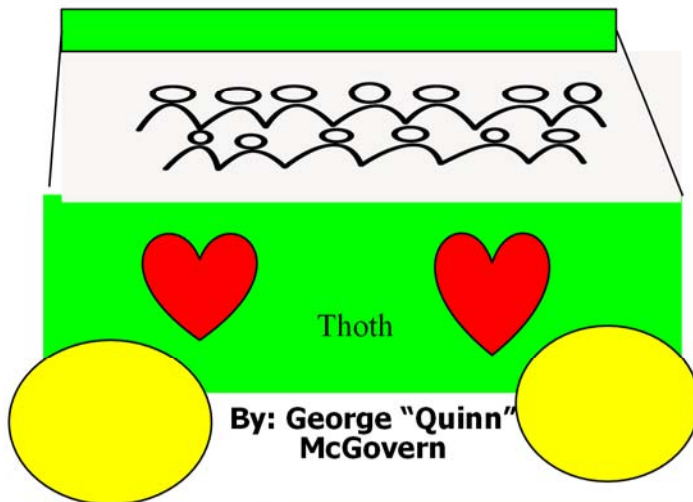
We would like to thank everyone that played a part in our Black History Program. The students, faculty and staff thoroughly enjoyed each performance. A special thank you to ACM drumline, HMS step team and Mrs. Owen's theater students that acted out Mrs. Alberta Dunn's book, "Little Red Meets the Three Little Pigs".



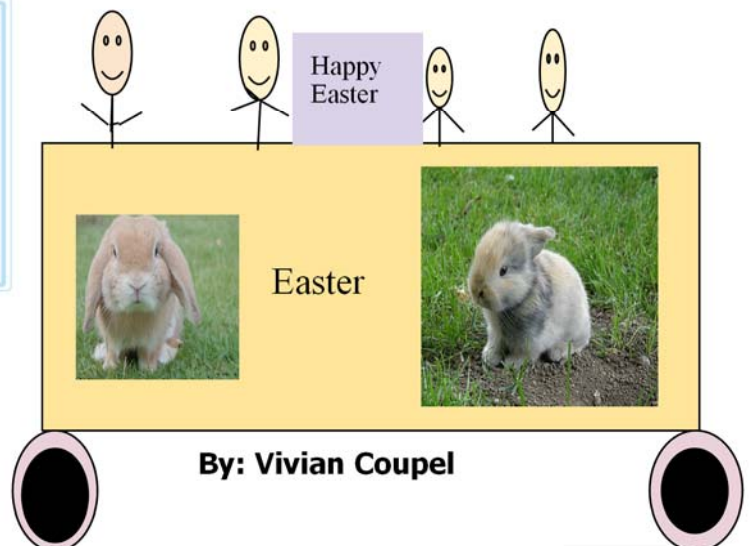




Students in Mrs. Dunn's keyboarding class used the "drawing" and "shapes" tools to make Mardi Gras floats.



Mrs. Dunn's third grade class practiced typing and did one minute typing tests. Pictured are the certificates with their words per minute as well as accuracy.



# 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's Learning at Home:

#### **Demonstrate a positive attitude about education to your children.**

What we say and do in our daily lives can help them to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in themselves as learners. Showing our children that we both value education and use it in our daily lives provides them with powerful models and contributes greatly to their success in school.

In addition, by showing interest in their children's education, parents and families can spark enthusiasm in them and lead them to a very important understanding—that learning can be enjoyable as well as rewarding and is well worth the effort required.

#### **Monitor your child's television, video game, and Internet use.**

American children on average spend far more time watching TV, playing video games and using the Internet than they do completing homework or other school-related activities.

#### **Encourage your child to read.**

Helping your child become a reader is the single most important thing that you can do to help the child to succeed in school-and in life. The importance of reading simply can't be overstated. Reading helps children in all school subjects. More importantly, it is the key to lifelong learning.

#### **Talk with your child.**

Talking and listening play major roles in children's school success. It's through hearing parents and family members talk and through responding to that talk that young children begin to pick up the language skills they will need if they are to do well. For example, children who don't hear a lot of talk and who aren't encouraged to talk themselves often have problems learning to read, which can lead to other school problems. In addition, children who haven't learned to listen carefully often have trouble following directions and paying attention in class. It's also important for you to show your child that you're interested in what he has to say.

#### **Encourage your child to use the library.**

Libraries are places of learning and discovery for everyone. Helping your child find out about libraries will set him on the road to being an independent learner. Remember that libraries also offer a quiet place for students to complete homework, and are often open in the evening.

#### **Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently.**

Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success. You can help your child to develop these qualities by establish reasonable rules that you enforce consistently, making it clear to your child that he has to take responsibility for what he does, both at home and at school, showing your child how to break a job down into small steps, and monitor what your child does after school, in the evenings and on weekends. If you can't be there when your child gets home, give her the responsibility of checking in with you by phone to discuss her plans.

**Encourage active learning.** Children need active learning as well as quiet learning such as reading and doing homework. Active learning involves asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests. Active learning also can take place when your child plays sports, spends time with friends, acts in a school play, plays a musical instrument or visits museums and bookstores. To promote active learning, listen to your child's ideas and respond to them. Let him jump in with questions and opinions when you read books together. When you encourage this type of give-and-take at home, your child's participation and interest in school is likely to increase.



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### Fomente el aprendizaje de su hijo en la casa

- \***Demuestre una actitud positiva con respeto a la educación.** Lo que decimos y hacemos en nuestras vidas diarias les puede ayudar a desarrollar actitudes positivas hacia la escuela y el aprendizaje, y a desarrollar la confianza en sí mismos como estudiantes. Al demostrarles que valoramos la educación y utilizamos nuestro conocimiento en la vida cotidiana, les damos un ejemplo muy poderoso a seguir, lo cual contribuye mucho a su éxito en la escuela.
- \***Aliente a su niño a leer.** Lo más importante que usted puede hacer para ayudarle a su niño a tener éxito en la escuela-y en la vida-es ayudarle a leer. No podemos enfatizar demasiado la importancia de la lectura. La lectura ayuda a los niños a superarse en todas sus materias. Más aún, es la clave para el aprendizaje de toda la vida.
- \***Hable con su niño.** Hablar y escuchar cuidadosamente son dos destrezas que juegan un papel muy importante en el éxito escolar de su niño. Los niños pequeños aprenden las destrezas del lenguaje que necesitarán para tener éxito aprendiendo a leer a través de lo que escuchan a sus padres decir, las charlas entre los miembros de su familia y cómo son alentados a responder. Por ejemplo, los niños que no escuchan mucha conversación o a quienes no se les alienta a hablar y participar, suelen tener problemas al aprender a leer, lo cual puede causar retrasos en su desarrollo escolar. Además, los niños que no han aprendido a escuchar con cuidado frecuentemente tienen problemas siguiendo instrucciones o prestando atención en clase. También es muy importante que usted le demuestre que le interesa lo que el niño dice y piensa.
- \***Anímalo a usar la biblioteca.** Las bibliotecas son lugares de aprendizaje y descubrimiento para todos. Al ayudar a su niño a descubrir la biblioteca usted lo iniciará en un camino seguro hacia el aprendizaje independiente. Las bibliotecas también tienen un gran número de recursos para estudiantes de todas las edades, como material de referencia, computadoras y muchos tipos de libros, ¡sin mencionar que ofrecen un lugar tranquilo para estudiar y hacer la tarea! Servicios de la biblioteca para niños de edad escolar describe los servicios que las bibliotecas ofrecen a los estudiantes.
- \***Aliente a su niño a ser responsable y trabajar independientemente.** Tomar mayor responsabilidad y trabajar independientemente son cualidades importantes para el éxito escolar. Fomenta la responsabilidad, la independencia, y el aprendizaje activo ofrece algunas sugerencias para ayudar a su niño a desarrollar estas cualidades.
- \***Fomente el aprendizaje activo.** Los niños necesitan participar en actividades de aprendizaje activo al igual que en actividades de aprendizaje independiente como leer o hacer tarea. El aprendizaje activo incluye hacer y responder a preguntas, resolver problemas y explorar intereses. El aprendizaje activo también se realiza cuando su niño participa en actividades deportivas, juega con sus amigos, actúa en una obra de teatro de la escuela, toca un instrumento musical o visita museos y librerías. Para promover el aprendizaje activo, pida que su niño comparta sus ideas con usted y respóndele.





# Enrichment Technology: Ms. Schexnayder

**Fifth grade** students have been working hard on Digital Citizenship Lessons.

We have completed: Media Balance and Well-Being-We discussed what makes different media choices healthy and how to make responsible choices. Privacy and Security-We discussed clickbait and how to avoid it and how the internet is full of catchy headlines and outrageous images, all to make us curious and get our attention. Digital Footprint & Identity- We discussed our online tracks and how our online activity affects the digital footprints of ourselves and others. We also discussed Relationships and Communication, and Cyberbullying. In upcoming weeks we will read and discuss The Gossip Monster, and News Media & Literacy.

## All Good Digital Citizens:

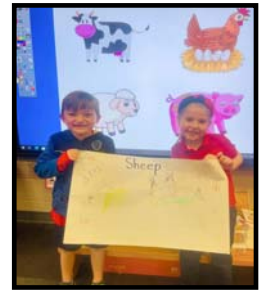


**Fourth Grade** students have been working on the **Project Lead The Way** module, Input/Output: Computer Systems. In this module, students are becoming computer scientists as they explore computing systems. Students learned about computing systems and how the systems process input to produce output. Students are in the process of creating programs using a block-based coding language in [Scratch](#). They will apply the skills and knowledge learned from the activities and projects 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 located in their Google Classroom for Technology.



Ms. Billings first grade class enjoyed a beautiful spring day on the Library deck while reading.



Mrs. Dufour's Class made posters with partners teaching their classmates all about animals you can find on a farm!

