

**Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

We are off to a GREAT start to school year 2023-2024!! Your student means the world to us, and we enjoy seeing their smiling faces each day as they enter the doors of Jenkins Elementary School. It is our goal to ensure that your students receive the best education possible, and it starts with regular attendance. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing ten percent or more of the academic year for any reason, including excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions. Based on a 180-day school year, that means approximately 18 days (about 2 and a half weeks) per year or 2 to 3 days per month. Missed instruction, regardless of the reason, can have significant academic consequences. Therefore, the broader emphasis is on improving attendance for every student. Children who do not show up for school regularly miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build good attendance habits that will carry them through college and careers. [Help Your Child Succeed in School by Building the Habit of Good Attendance!!!](#)

**PWCS Attendance Guidelines**

[https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student\\_services/student\\_prevention\\_programs\\_family\\_assistance/attendance\\_guidelines](https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student_services/student_prevention_programs_family_assistance/attendance_guidelines)

We look forward to partnering with you to increase student achievement by decreasing student absenteeism.

Your Admin Team,

Mrs. Marlene Coleman, Principal  
Dr. Andria Watkins, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Catherine Trenkelbach, Admin Intern

**COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS**

The Student Leadership program at Gar-Field has put together a “Howl-o-Ween” themed community day to engage with our Dale City/Woodbridge community. The event will take place on Saturday, October 28th, 10am-2pm, at Gar-Field High. The event will have photo opportunities, pumpkin painting, other fall themed activities, and more! The star of the event will be trunks and booths that are decorated and loaded with candy to hand out for the trunk or treat.

In an effort to engage a larger portion of the community, they would like to invite our school to participate in the event. First and foremost, they would love for our students to have the opportunity to come and enjoy the festivities.

Thank you so much for your time and support of this community event. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to their leadership program at [gfh\\_salc@pwcs.edu](mailto:gfh_salc@pwcs.edu) . They look forward to seeing our wonderful students at Howl-O-Ween Trunk or Treat.

**Matthew Mathison**

*Principal  
Gar-Field High School  
703-730-7000*

## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

We are so excited for another year of PTO events! Thank you to those families that have already joined. We appreciate your support. If you'd like to still join, please email us at [pto.jenkins@gmail.com](mailto:pto.jenkins@gmail.com) and we will give you more information. Every PTO member receives perks throughout the year including early notification of events, presale tickets, extra perks at events and much more.

On Tuesday, October 10 we will have our first Advisory Council meeting @ 6:00pm in the Jenkins ES Library and on Zoom. Following the Advisory Meeting we will have our PTO Meeting @ 7:00pm in the Jenkins ES Library and on Zoom. We hope to see you there!

Please check out our current and upcoming events listed below. If you would like to help, please contact us at [pto.jenkins@gmail.com](mailto:pto.jenkins@gmail.com).

Tues. Oct. 10 @ 6:00pm Advisory Council in the Jenkins ES Library and Zoom

Tues. Oct. 10 @ 7:00pm PTO Meeting in the Jenkins Library and Zoom

Thurs. Oct. 12 LAST DAY for Jenkins Spirit Wear Sales!

Oct. 5-27: Candy donations sent in with students to support the Trunk or Treat

Fri. Oct. 27: Trunk or Treat from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the bus loop of Jenkins ES

Wed. Nov. 8: Cherrydale Fundraiser begins

Tues. Nov. 14: PTO Meeting @ 6:00pm in the Jenkins ES Library and on Zoom

Fri. Dec. 1: Family Paint Night

## SCHOOL COUNSELORS' CORNER

As we embark on another academic year, we want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to you for entrusting us with your most precious gift – your child's emotional wellness.

At John D. Jenkins Elementary School, we understand that your child's emotional health is paramount. Our dedicated team of school counselors is committed to providing the support and guidance needed to nurture their well-being. We believe that emotional wellness is the foundation upon which academic success, positive relationships, and personal growth are built.

Upcoming events:

- **Substance Abuse Lessons**
- **Red Ribbon Week** – October 23-31 | Be Kind To Your Mind. Live Drug Free
- **National Bully Prevention Month**

**Bullyanna | Episode 1: No Reason For Teasing** created by Ms. Scott-Bell

<https://youtu.be/QbCxc9YSj9U?si=vAycYMxYJEG46opE>



## LITERACY

At Jenkins ES we believe the best readers and writers make even better leaders! During the next few months, Grades K-5 will be busy working on their narrative writing, reading fiction and nonfiction text, and practicing their phonics/word study skills.

A major focus in every grade level is to find text evidence while we read to help us answer questions or explain our reasoning. After reading with your child, ask them a question about the text and have them go back to find that answer. That simple strategy helps students slow down and check for understanding.

During the October 20th we will celebrate National Writing Day! Buzz, our school mascot, and all classes will help write an adventure story. At this time each student will also receive their very own Buzz Journal and Buzz pencil. They will use these resources to create weekly journal entries.

During the month of November, we will kick off our *One School, One Book* event by having our entire school and their families read the book, *Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliott. More information about the event will be sent home before Thanksgiving Break.

We would like to thank you for supporting your student's language arts education. As they continue to learn at school, we have listed some activities that can help your child continue their learning when at home!

\*Read a variety of genres with your child and have them read to you. Listen to books read on the computer! Your local public library is a wonderful source for different texts.

\*As your child reads or watches tv/movies, ask them about the characters. What traits do the characters have? What does the character say, do, or think that makes you know their traits? Does the character change from the beginning to the end of the story and how?

\*If your child has trouble spelling a word, make sure to have them say the word out loud and listen for sounds they know. If it is a bigger word, have them listen for chunks they know.

\*Encourage your child to share the weekly journal topic with you and what they wrote. If they are stuck, talk about it and brainstorm what they could write about.

Yours in Language Arts,  
Jen **VanZetta** and Nanette Wilson

## **MATH**

Fall is here. As we begin this new season, please encourage your child to see themselves as a mathematician. This can help them learn—and enjoy—math. Here are some tips to improve their confidence and motivation, and they'll be proud to say, "I'm a mathematician!"

### **Stay Involved**

Ask about the math they are doing in class and have them show you. Also, attend school and PWCS division-wide activities to include math or literacy nights, and PTO meetings and conferences. You'll inspire them to take pride in their math work, and they'll see that learning is important to you.

### **Recognize Effort**

Pay attention to your child's math efforts and accomplishments, just as you would their athletic or musical achievements. You might say, "I know you've been working hard on multiplication. Can you double this recipe for me?" Also, display math papers at home on your refrigerator or family bulletin board. Include not only those with high grades, but also ones with good mathematical explanations or positive comments from the teacher.

### **Offer Encouragement**

If your child struggles with a math concept or procedure, remind them of the progress they have made. Say they're learning long division. Point out that they learned to divide smaller numbers, and tell them that they'll conquer bigger ones, too. If they make a mistake on a quiz or on homework, ask them to show you what part they did *right*. Maybe they used the correct formula but put the decimal point in the wrong place, for instance. They'll realize that there's a lot they know how to do, and they'll get a chance to learn from their mistakes.

You can do it and so can they!

Yours Mathematically,

Angela Savage and Karen Lanzetta

## ART

We are off to a great start in art class this year!

- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade artists are creating homemade scratchboards filled with birds, insects, and plant life. We have focused on implied texture and different types of lines and mark-making, and they are beautiful.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade artists chalk "space-dyed" their own printing paper and created a print block collage to stamp designs. We learned about balance, symmetry, and silhouettes.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grader artists learned about the artist Jasper Johns and found creative ways to use numbers to create art. We are using foam print plates to carve and stamp a series of trees and adding tissue paper "leaves" for a 3D take on the seasons.
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade artists created colorful busy cities using overlapping shapes, tempera paint, and oil pastels. We are wrapping up a Wayne Thiebaud-inspired cupcake lesson now.
- Kindergarten artists have learned about lines and shapes with our overlapping shape puzzle paintings, rainbow lines paintings. They have also learned to cut and build a collage of Pop Art-inspired hearts.

\*\*\* We are collecting scrapbook paper, paper towel tubes, and empty cereal boxes in art class, please!

Many thanks,  
Mrs. **Weldner**

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

Students are off to a great start in PE this year! We have begun the year focusing on how to move safely both in the gym and outside on the field. Our goal is to equip children with the lifelong skills and encouragement they need to live active, healthy, and happy lives. Students' skill levels vary greatly, but we expect everyone to try their best, whatever that may look like for each individual.

The Jenkins community celebrated National Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 4. All Jenkins students participated in fun physical activities in the bus loop during their encore time.

Please encourage students to bring water bottles to PE class. We have a lot of fun, but we're working hard, too! Many thanks for welcoming us into the Jenkins community with open arms. We're happy to be here!

Coach Carmina and Coach **Goff**

## LIBRARY

The library is in full swing with checking out books to take home and read. Remind your child to take care of their book and to keep books away from water bottles. Please remind your child to return their library books to the library after they have finished reading them so they can check out more books to read at home. We are excited to help your child find books they love to read from the library this year!

Students will be learning about biographies in the library this month for National Hispanic Heritage Month. We will learn about many Hispanic Americans that made a positive impact in our society. Remind your child that a biography is a true story about a person's life. If your child has a great interest in biographies, remind them to check out more biographies from the library.

**Mark your calendars, the book fair is coming!** The Scholastic book fair will be open from October 27th-November 2nd from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM daily and one evening. More details to come in your child's library canvas page! We will take e-wallets, credit cards, Apple Pay and cash at the book fair. Checks are not accepted.

Please reach out to me if you need any support with reading materials or resources to support your child's love of reading.

Your librarian,  
Mrs. Youngblood  
youngbjc@pwcs.edu

## SEL COACHES



### "Unlocking Your Child's Potential Through Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)"

Dear Families,

As SEL Coaches, we understand that parenting is a journey filled with challenges and rewards. But have you ever wondered about the key to nurturing your child's emotional intelligence and helping them thrive in life? It's all about Social-Emotional Learning (SEL).

SEL, or Social-Emotional Learning, is a powerful approach that equips children with essential life skills. It focuses on teaching them how to recognize and manage their emotions, build healthy relationships, and make responsible decisions. These skills aren't just beneficial now; they lay the foundation for a successful and fulfilling future.

Our team of dedicated SEL Coaches is here to guide you through this transformative journey. We'll provide you with the tools and knowledge to support your child's emotional growth, making them better equipped to handle life's challenges with confidence and resilience.

Join us as we explore the world of SEL and discover how it can empower both you and your child to lead happier, healthier lives. Together, we'll nurture the emotional well-being that is crucial for your child's success and fulfillment.

What is Social Emotional Learning (SEL) | <https://youtu.be/Y-XNp3h3h4A?si=TPnLkSgMJh9km1XJ>

*Katie Rubach 1st Grade Teacher, SEL Coach*

*Beverly McNairy, School Counselor, SEL Coach*