



MARCH 94L Newsletter APRIL


Hello Employers for Learning Liaisons


Blustery March winds have been with us since January it seems. Cherry trees and daffodils began to bloom in February. Trees have been budding already. As today's weather becomes more and more unpredictable, dressing in layers is the key to staying healthy. Make the best of the warm, windy days. Take your family to the park and fly a kite or start your Spring garden. When it is cold outside, enjoy a day at the museum, do your spring cleaning inside the house, play a board game with your family or go to the gym and play basketball.


Spring is almost here and we are quickly approaching the middle of the second semester. Students have taken the PSAT exams and everyone is busy working to master the SOLs and AYP requirements. Is your child ready for the SOLs?


R-E-F-R-E-S-H your child


It's time to take the SOLs. Does your child try to "cram" before taking tests? Some kids do. Teachers actually help children prepare for these tests throughout the school year. Here are a few tips (not exactly in this order) to help your child feel confident, prepared and ahead of the game for these tests.

 **Review** with your child items of specific subjects they may have difficulty understanding


 **Eat.** Make sure our child is in the habit of taking the time for a nutritious breakfast every day. Even toast and a piece of fruit will provide the needed body and brain energy.


 **Familiarize** your child with the test format and how the test will be administered. Even though their teachers provide this information, you can minimize the opportunity for surprises and show your children you are involved and care about their educational success. To become familiar with the format you may go to www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Assessment/releasedtests.html

 **Read.** Explain the importance of reading the directions carefully before starting the test. To get the right answer it is important to understand what is being asked.

 **Encourage** your child to look over the test quickly. Before answering any question skim quickly through the test. This will help them get use to the format and prepare the student for the types of questions they will encounter.



 **Sleep.** Make sure your child establishes a regular sleep routine. Most children need at least eight hours of sleep each night, especially the nights before tests.

 **Help** your child be successful in taking test by following the suggestions above. He/she will be happy you did.

Kindergarten Registration

Children who turn five years old before September 30 can begin kindergarten next fall. Kindergarten registration is now open. Parents are encouraged to register their child at their neighborhood elementary school as early as possible so the district has plenty of time to prepare.

Children who turn five after September 30 but before January 2009 may be eligible for First Step, a pre-kindergarten program.

Parents will need to bring an original birth certificate and proof of legal residence to registration. Medical records showing immunization and physical exam are also needed. The child's social security number is requested but not required. [View more information on kindergarten registration.](#)

Be A School Volunteer!

April 20-26 is Public School Volunteer Week. Whether your child is just starting kindergarten, entering the final year of high school, or is somewhere in between, there are many good reasons and opportunities for you to volunteer at school. It's a great way to show your child that you take an interest in his or her education, and it sends a positive message that you consider school a worthwhile cause. To find out to <http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/positive/learning/school.html>.

Newport News Public Schools 11th Annual Diversity Conference

As part of its annual Diversity Conference, NNPS sponsored a cultural fair at Heritage High School on February 2. Local performers appeared, including The Crusaders Male Chorus of Hampton, The Scottish Highland Dancers, The Rhythm of Ireland Performing Troupe, and bagpiper Mark Potts. Over 50 countries were featured with displays. Also as part of the conference, NNPS teachers attended workshops and a general session with Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D. author of "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" on January 31.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day is April 24, 2008. This program encourages parents and boys to work with them and show available to them. For additional Foundation for Women, 120 Wall 10005. Phone (800) 676-7789. Fax tods@ms.foundation.org. Web: www.daughtersandsonstowork.org.



other adults to bring girls and them a wide range of jobs information, contact Ms. Street, 33rd Floor, New York, NY (212) 742-1653. E-mail:

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Planning ahead and applying early are crucial when looking for funds to help cover the cost of college or post-secondary education. The earlier applications are made, the better chance your student has to attain resources or loans that ease and often may cover the expenses associated with more schooling. Types of scholarships include: non-profit, commercial funding, merit and need based scholarships. Links to financial aid and scholarships may be found on the Newport News Public Schools Guidance and Counseling Services Financial Aide and Scholarship Page: [Financial Aid / Scholarships](#). Colleges and universities will often list scholarships on their web sites. Please contact your child's guidance counselor for additional assistance.



Family Fun

Celebrate Youth Art Month will be held at the Downing Gross Cultural Art Center, 2410 Wickham Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607, from March 2 through March 31, 2008. Art featured from students enrolled in Newport News Public Schools is the first art show in the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center. The Opening Reception will be held on March 2 at 2 p.m. For additional information please call Mrs. Pat Franklin, Newport News Public Schools (757) 591-4561 or Ms. Michelle Gilliam, Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (757) 247- 2429. Celebrate Youth Art Month is hosted by Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, Newport News Parks, Recreation and Tourism and The City of Newport News.

"Cultural Threads" at the [Newsome House Museum & Cultural Center](#), Now through March 31. This exhibit by Dr. Florence Farley features her skillfully created needlework art pieces which create a breathtaking cultural experience. Dr. Farley is a past professor at Virginia State University and also served as Mayor of Petersburg, Virginia. \$2.00 suggested donation for adults.

Workshop

Keeping our Kids Safe: Neighborhood Leadership Institute will be held 6-7:30 p.m. Monday evenings for 8 weeks beginning March 1 through April 21, 2008 at the Virgil I. Grissom Library, 366 DeShazor Drive, Newport News, VA 23608. The program is sponsored by the Newport News Office on Children, Youth and Families. For more information, phone 597-2801.

Mark your calendars:

- March 9** – Daylight Saving Time (clocks advance 1 hour)
- March 20** – First day of Spring
- March 23** – Easter
- April 13-19** – National Student Leadership Week
- April 14-20** – Young People's Poetry Week
- April 20-26** – Public School Volunteer Week

Testing in March & April

District	Closings	Testing	Early Dismissal	Report Cards
Gloucester	March 24 April 7-11, 14	End of Course Writing SOLs March 3-4, Multiple Choice March 5 Direct Writing 5 th and 8 th grades Quarterly English Mar 3-11 4 th -11 th grades March 25-28, Science 2 nd grade – Chemistry March 31-April 4, Math 4 th grade – Algebra II	March 21	April 21
Hampton	March 24 April 7-11, 14	March 3 or 4, Grades 5, 8, 11 First time and retakes March 5 Multiple Choice March 6 Direct Writing March 13-19 ES MS Year Round March 27-28 April 1-3 ES MS Traditional March 27-28, 31 April 1-3 HS Benchmark Testing	March 21 April 4 ES, MS	April 23
Isle of Wight	March 17, 24-28	March 1 SAT March 3-4 Multiple Choice 5 th , 8 th , 11 th March 5 Direct Writing March 6 Writing Prompt 2 Writing SOL March 19 Alternate Assessments Special Ed 3-8, 11 March 31-April 11 Reading CES/WES 5 th , WSES 6 th , SMS/	March 12 ES April 10-11	April 18

		WMS 8 th MS & HS Remediation Class April 12 ACT 11-12 th grades April 14-30 ESL April 28-May 23 PALS Early Intervention Assessment K-3		
Newport News	March 24 April 7-11	March 1 SAT March 3 or 4, 5-6 SOL English 5 th , 8 th grades SOL English EOC 11 th grade March 10-21 Reading PreK-K March 17-28 (Year Round), March 20-April 3 (Traditional) Reading Certain Grades 1-2 March 21-April 1 (Year Round), March 27-April 4 (Traditional) Third Quarter Assessments Grades 2-12 March 27-April 4 (Traditional) Midterm Science/Social Studies Grades 6, 7, 8 – 1 st Sem April 14-25 (tentative) Stanford English Language Proficiency Selected K-12 Students May 3 SAT I & II Registration Deadline April 1 May 5-16 AP Certain High School Students May 5-16 (paper) , May 5-23 (online) EOC SOLs Certain MS & HS	March 21, April 4 - ½ day	April 23
Poquoson	March 24 April 7-11	Contact your child's school for information	March 21, April 4 ½ day	April 23
Williamsburg /JCC	March 21, April 4, 7-11	SOL Writing Grade 8 only March 4 Multiple Choice March 5 Writing Prompt March 6 Alternate Writing Prompt March 7 Alternate Multiple Choice SOL Writing High School March 3-6 Math Benchmarks March 31-April 3, K-5 Read & Retells March 17-31 1 st & 2 nd Reading Benchmark March 31-April 3, 2 nd – 5 th grades Writing to a Prompt March 5, K-5 SELP March 24-April 30, K-5 NNAT March 17-26, K CogAt March 17-26 2 nd grade SOL Writing Multiple Choice March 4 SOL Writing Prompt March 5 5 th grade	March 20, April 17 K-12	April 17
York County	March 21, 24 April 7-11		April 4	April 17

Legend: ES = Elementary School MS= Middle School HS = High School
All students are included unless designated as shown above.



As part of the Career Pathways program in Newport News Public Schools, students are learning about the world of work in a variety of ways. We'll highlight

these programs on an occasional basis in the Employers for Learning newsletter. If you would like to know more about Career Pathways, please visit our website at www.nnschools.org.

Soaring to Success

Passage Middle School recently celebrated their students' rising achievement in attendance, reading and math. Speaking from a hot air balloon above the school, Nik Long of Channel 47 said, "Things are really taking off here at Passage Middle School – the new home of the International Baccalaureate program. Students and staff are flying high with excitement."

Realtor Lynn Grimsley agreed to bring the REMAX balloon to coordinate with the school's annual theme of "Around the World in 80 Days." Grimsley said, "Any time we have an opportunity to get the balloon to a school we always try to take it." The balloon theme and how it works, explained Principal Kipp Rogers, was tied into the everyday instruction at Passage. A few students earned the opportunity to ride in the balloon, with selection based on reading an advanced book and being tested on it, perfect attendance and math grades.



“Education is the way for kids to achieve. To reward the kids for their reading and educational achievements is over the top for me,” said Grimsley.

Rogers said he “was sure that the balloon would be the source of discussion around the dinner table. That’s what we want—kids to be excited about coming to school.”

Perfect Attendance at Dozier

Felicia Barnett, Principal at Dozier, said “the students with perfect attendance are always recognized in a special ceremony, but this year we wanted to step it up a notch and do something extra special.” All 432 students who achieved perfect attendance for the first marking period, had their names placed in a hat, she explained. Five names were chosen from each grade level so that 15 students received a special lunch.

The community was eager to get involved to celebrate with the students. Math teacher Mike Bussey spoke with Luigi’s co-owner, Sonny Chiarello, who was glad to help.

Chiarello said, “A person being in business knows not every employee has perfect attendance. But, these kids have gone to school every day and have done the work. So, as a business owner in the area, I want to be sure that these kids get recognized, so they are getting to have lunch here at Luigi’s.”

Barnett said that she is excited to have another venture with the school’s business partners. “Luigi’s donated the lunches and Hall Ford donated the transportation with courtesy vans. Seeing the community partnering with our schools to do what is right for kids really makes a difference.”

Students show their appreciation

Last December Northrop Grumman’s AMSEC division spread some cheer by assisting some families at Carver Elementary with gifts for the holidays. Students received dolls, bikes, clothes, cars, radios, footballs and jackets.

To Thank the AMSEC employees for their generosity, music Teacher Mary Merritt took the Carver Carolers to their place of business for a special concert.


Carol Davis, AMSEC’s business contact, said “Mary Merritt and her team did a great job coordinating the music performance.”

According to Davis, “The crowd was large and the employees were incredibly appreciative of the effort made and talent of the kids.” Several “AMSEC employees said that Carver’s presentation was the best elementary performance that they had ever seen.

Good News for Newport News Public Schools

Newport News Public Schools 11th Annual Diversity Conference. As part of its annual Diversity Conference, NNPS sponsored a cultural fair at Heritage High School on February 2. Local performers appeared, including The Crusaders Male Chorus of Hampton, The Scottish Highland Dancers, The Rhythm of Ireland Performing Troupe, and bagpiper Mark Potts. Over 50 countries were featured with displays. Also as part of the conference, NNPS teachers attended workshops and a general session with Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D. author of “A Framework for Understanding Poverty” on January 31.

Newport News Selected as One of 100 Best Communities for Youth.

 Newport News was chosen by the America’s Promise alliance for the third year in a row as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People. The America’s Promise Alliance is a large collaborative dedicated to the well-being of children and youth.

“The City of Newport News is excited about being named one of America’s 100 Best Communities for Young People for the third consecutive year,” said Mayor Joe S. Frank. “This award is reflective of our commitment to providing a positive environment for young people in our community and giving them the support and opportunities they need to be successful in school and in life.” To learn more, go to: [NN is one of 100 Best Communities for Young People.](#)

I hope these monthly memos are beneficial. I urge you to share the suggestions and ideas with your parent employees, and keep us apprised of your successful events or activities so that we can share them with your fellow liaisons. And as always, thank you for supporting Employers for Learning.

Kristen McRee Milholen

Kristen Milholen
Business Education Partnership Liaison
Community Relations



