



March 2022

Timothy Edwards, Principal

Rhonda Perkins, Assistant Principal

Dear Yates Parents & Families,

Yates students in grades 3-5 are busy in their classrooms as they build toward the SOL tests coming in May. Students in all grade levels have worked hard all year and shown much progress in all subject areas, especially in reading. We're very proud of our students and want to commend them for their continued hard work and dedication. There will be a Virtual Independent Learning Day for students on April 1st and Spring Break will be April 4th-8th.

Please be sure to help get your children to school regularly and on time. We want the best for your children and strongly believe that they gain the most from being at school on a consistent (if not daily) basis. In addition, we discourage students from being picked up early whenever possible in order for the students to get the maximum results from the instructional day. Thank you for your help and support in this regard.

As always, please let me know if I can help or support you in any way.

Timothy Edwards

Yates Elementary School Principal

Important Dates:

March 2022

- 3/2 Read Across America
Ash Wednesday
- 3/4 Students Dismissed 1/2 Day-12:30pm
- 3/6-12 National Foreign Language Week
National School Social Work Week
- 3/7-11 National School Breakfast Week
Custodial Services Week
Plant Services Week
- 3/8 PTA Board Meeting-5:30pm
School Board Meeting-6:30pm
- 3/13 Day Light Savings Time Begins-
Move clocks ahead 1 hour
- 3/15 School Board Meeting-6:30pm
- 3/16 Students Dismissed 1/2 Day-12:30pm
- 3/20 First Day of Spring
- 3/22 School Board Meeting-6:30pm

Looking ahead:

*Third Marking Period Ends April 1st
Independent Virtual Learning Day for
students April 1st*

Spring Break April 4th-8th

*Report Cards available in Parent/Student
Vue April 19th*

KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten students are being challenged to their highest ability to be first grade ready!! In reading we expand our vocabulary through reading aloud and shared reading. We enjoy listening and reading non-fiction stories to learn facts. We enjoy listening and reading Fairy Tales to comprehend story structure. We retell these stories with flannel boards and props to enhance our ability to communicate effectively. During lunch we look at all the milk, ice cream and snacks that are laid out for us. Wonder how much the school needs to order? That really adds up! After we all eat our snacks, wonder how many are left? We use real life problems every day to add and subtract! It is fun using manipulatives and to add and subtract numbers! We use number bonds to compose and decompose numbers. We love looking at google maps to see our Earth from a bird's eye view! Exploring with maps in our provocations, we learn about our community! Many kindergarteners bring in water bottles to have during the day. It is important to recycle plastic bottles to conserve our Earth's resources! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...it's easy to do! J We love to learn about the world around us and how we can make a positive difference by our actions! Kindergarten strives daily to become college, career and citizenship ready! Thanks for all your support!

FIRST GRADE

We are excited to be starting our month off with a virtual field trip from the VA Zoo. The students have been studying and learning about animals and now they will get to see some interesting animals of their own! We will be learning about plants for much of March and then we will learn about VA history. In math we will be learning about understanding numbers up to 40 then adding and subtracting numbers up to 40. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful growth the students will show in March!

SECOND GRADE

Second Graders are working on hard in reading and math. We have been busy writing fiction stories. In math we have been learning about counting money and measurement. You can help your child at home by giving them some coins to sort and count. In Science we have learned about matter, and we will be experimenting and discussing force, motion, and energy this month. Please pay attention to the weather each day and make sure your child has an appropriate coat each day for the playground. Please continue to read and sign the reading calendar. We also love donations such as hand sanitizer, pencils, and Lysol wipes! Thank you for all your support!

THIRD GRADE

In March, 3rd graders will be working on Force, Motion, and Energy. This includes our study on simple machines and how they are used in the world around us. We will then move into our study of plants, animals, and ecosystems. Our Math topics include wrapping up our study of area, to include larger rectangles which has us revisit multiplication of larger numbers. The end of the month has us move into our study with fractions. We begin by breaking a whole into equal parts and unit fractions (with a numerator of 1) and their relation to the whole. In Reading, our fictional stories include fairy tales and folktales. We will also read and identify the theme of narrative poetry. We continue to work on writing our own creative fictional stories.

FOURTH GRADE

Our fourth graders have been very busy this past month learning about the American Revolution. We have enjoyed a virtual field trip from the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation and will participate in another virtual field trip in March from Colonial Williamsburg. We will continue our Virginia Studies by learning about the New Nation and Western Expansion. In math, we are currently working with fraction concepts which requires fluency with multiplication and division facts, so please continue to practice your basic facts. Also, please continue reading nightly to build stamina, since we will be reading longer and more complex passages throughout the year.

FIFTH GRADE

Our fifth graders have been learning many things this month. In math, we have been adding and subtracting mixed numbers with renaming and multiplying fractions. We have also been working on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals. In reading, we have been working on theme, drawing conclusions, and poetry. In writing, we are continuing to work on expository writing to explain, give directions, and give reasons to support what we are saying. In science, we have been learning about cells, ecosystems, food chains and the organisms that are in them. Moreover, we have been learning about plants, photosynthesis, and pollination. Whew, we have been busy. The fifth-grade team would like to thank you for having your child read nightly and for having your child review his/her multiplication facts, math skills, and science nightly.

From the School Nurse

Offer a variety of healthy foods and snacks.

- Encourage your children to try new fruits and vegetables.*
- Make it easy to reach for a piece of fruit or raw vegetables at snack time.*
- Limit junk foods. Chips, cookies, and candy are empty calories with little or no nutritional value. Offer them for special occasions only*
(CHKD.org/HealthyYou).

Hello Yates families! The library has been buzzing with class discussions and student conversations during our learning activities. Recently, Kindergarten and 1st graders have learned about the authors and illustrators Christian Robinson and Marc Brown. They've also practiced locating nouns, adjectives, and verbs in books about states of matter and the sun. Recent lesson topics for 2nd and 3rd graders have included determining story themes and learning about the authors and illustrators Mary Pope Osborne and Brian Pinkney. Fourth and 5th graders have practiced making inferences while reading as well as comparing and contrasting facts from informational and literary nonfiction texts.

Yates will have both an in-person and a virtual Scholastic Book Fair this month! The in-person fair is scheduled for March 7th to 11th. Students can visit the book fair during the day, and families can sign up through Sign Up Genius for a 15-minute visit between 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. on Thursday March 10. The virtual book fair runs from March 7th to the 20th. You can access our Yates book fair website with this link: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/yateselementary> where you can view an online book flyer, shop the virtual fair, and create an eWallet. This feature is a great way for your child to purchase book fair items without having to bring cash to school. EWallets can be created through March 11th and teachers can create eWallets if you'd like to provide funds for them to purchase book fair books.

Please feel free to email me at Maurilee.collins@nn.k12.va.us if you have any questions.

Mrs. Collins
School Librarian



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Newport News, VA 23606

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<http://yates.nn.k12.va.us/>

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Getting your Yates Mate to school on time, everyday, helps set the stage for a successful day!

- Students are considered tardy if they are not in their classrooms at 9:25am.
- The front doors are locked at 9:25 am. Please ring buzzer and walk your student to the Main office to sign them in and receive a Tardy pass. Excessive tardiness often lead to academic struggles, so please be sure to have your child at school on time and ready to learn everyday.
- If your child is absent, the absence will be “unexcused” until a note explaining the absence is submitted to the Attendance Secretary. As per Newport News Public Schools policy and the Code of Virginia laws, a note must be submitted within 5 school days of the student returning to school. We now have “Submit Absence” on the Yates Elementary School Website. It is located on the Quick links on our home page.

- Truancy proceedings will take place for excessive tardies and absences.
- Change of address can be done thru Parent Vue.

You may also email attendance notes directly to our Attendance Secretary at: kimberly.reasons@nn.k12.va.us or on the [Yates Main Website](http://yates.nn.k12.va.us) under “Submit and Absence”(yates.nn.k12.va.us).