



**Pembroke Elementary
School**

"Home of the Mustangs"
www.pembrokees.vbschools.com/
(757) 648-3320

October/November 2009

From your Principal, Dr. Hayes

Greetings Parents and Grandparents,

We had a smooth opening and we expect it to be another stellar year. We had our first School Planning Council meeting October 1, 2009 at 7:00pm. We reviewed our SOL scores and discussed our strengths and challenges for this year. One fact was evident as we analyzed the data; we can be very proud of our students. Pembroke Elementary SOL scores were posted among all schools in the Tidewater region, in *The Virginian Pilot*, on September 17, 2009. The paper reported combined 3rd, 4th and 5th grade scores for Language Arts; third grade scores for mathematics, science, and history; and science scores for fifth grade. Pembroke's scores ranged from 92 to 96 percent passing across all subjects! These scores are possible because parents and teachers work together to bring the best to our children. Thank you parents and staff!

There is plenty to do at Pembroke! We have several events planned for October and November so peruse the calendar attached with this newsletter. If you want continual up to the moment information, register for our electronic newsletter that is sent to you via cyber space every Friday! Please go to Pembroke's webpage at

<http://www.pembrokees.vbschools.com/> and click on **MySchool Mail** in the menu list on the left side of your screen. It will take you to the division's site where you can register for Pembroke ES e-newsletter "**Mustang Weekly News**" or any other school in the division.

Guess what? We have a Volunteer In Education Coordinator! **Marilyn Mitchell** volunteered to serve as our coordinator. She will hold a post on the PTA Board. Have you ever submitted your name to help, but was never called? Well Marilyn wants to know you! We will be sending home an interest survey soon asking for your support. Marilyn will be calling you to help with the varied events we will have throughout the year. I want to thank all my parents, who will be completing this interest form, for being there for us! Together, we can make 2009-2010 an awesome year! See you soon!
Sincerely,

Linda S. Hayes

Pembroke Elementary Has New Phone Numbers!

Look for our brand new *Mustang Are Wild About Learning Magnet* that is coming home to you today in your child's book bag. We have new school phone numbers, and this magnet lists our numbers for the school, nurse, and cafeteria. Place it on your refrigerator for quick reference!

From Mrs. O'Meara, Assistant Principal!

Pembroke Has A New Mustang Behavior Plan

At Pembroke ES we are all about learning! Since students must feel safe both mentally and physically in order to learn, we have developed a proactive plan for increasing positive student behavior. In the beginning of the year Dr. Hayes and Mrs. O'Meara met with all students during grade level assemblies to discuss student behaviors including rewards for positive behaviors and consequences for inappropriate behaviors.

When a student consistently demonstrates positive behaviors such as helping a fellow student or adult, making the right choices, acting respectfully toward others, following directions, completing work, improving attendance, etc., he or she may receive a 'Wow in the Corral' award. Students also have an opportunity to be recognized in the cafeteria for positive actions such as helping other students, using proper manners, etc. They may have their names written on a 'Diner-mite' ticket. Tickets are collected for the entire week. Every Friday five to ten student names are drawn, and those students are recognized on the morning announcements. After announcements, they may come to Mrs. O'Meara's office to select an item from the treat box. We begin filling the box again each Monday.

If a student exhibits negative behaviors such as disruption, disobedience, inappropriate language, refusal to do work, etc., teachers will begin keeping a 'Student Information Log' that outlines actions taken to help the student correct the behavior. Strategies may include, but are not limited to, student and/or parent conference, seat change, visit with the guidance counselor, and a student conference with one of the administrators. A teacher may choose to send a student to the office with a pre-referral called 'On Shaky Ground' to discuss how to improve the behavior before it turns into an office referral. Once a referral is written and the child is sent to the office, it becomes part of the student's permanent discipline record that will follow him or her until graduation. Our hope is that we can provide intervention strategies to avoid this last step.

Of course, we need and appreciate all of the academic and behavioral support our parents provide. Together we can help our young Mustangs win the race of life in a positive learning environment.

School Hours

Pembroke Elementary is considered an "A" school. Our school hours are as follows:

7:35 a.m.	Doors Open for Students
7:45-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Program
8:05 a.m.	Morning Announcements
8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Instructional Day
2:30 p.m.	Student Dismissal

Please be sure your child attends school regularly and is on time every day!

Arrival/Dismissal of Students

Daycare and Parent Drop-off/Pick-up is located at the **East Entrance** through the cafeteria doors, as directed by the signs in the **East Entrance** parking lot. Student drop-off time is from **7:35-8:00 a.m.** Student pick-up time begins at **2:30 p.m.** These doors are locked from 8:00-2:15. Those arriving after 8:00 a.m. must enter through the Main Entrance.

Students riding **general education buses** arrive and depart from the **Main Entrance** bus loop. Cars are not permitted in this area while the buses are unloading and loading from 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Students riding **special needs buses** arrive and depart from the **West Entrance** bus loop. Cars are not permitted in this area while buses are unloading and loading from 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Walkers: Students who walk home will meet in the cafeteria foyer at dismissal. They will be escorted from the foyer to the main entrance of the building where they will be met by the crossing guard on Jericho Road after regular education buses have left the parking area.

Late Arrivals: Students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. must enter through the **main entrance** and sign-in at the security desk. **We ask that a parent escort the child into the building when arriving late.**

Early Dismissal: If you need to pick up your child before dismissal, you may enter the main entrance and sign your child out if it is **before 2:00 p.m.** If you need to pick up your child **between 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.**, park in the east parking lot and go to the main office. Your child will be dismissed from the office by a staff member.

Attendance

Please send your child to school every day! Improving attendance is always one of our goals, and with your help we can achieve our goal! Classroom instruction moves very quickly. Studies show that the student, who attends school every day, has a better chance of succeeding!

Should your child be absent from school, please call us at 648-3320 listen for prompt #3 to report the reason for the absence. A note is required upon your child's return to school.

Our Pembroke Mustangs are racing towards having Perfect Attendance every month this school year! The Attendance Committee is so excited about this year's activities. Each month we will announce the top attendance classes on each grade level. Then we will be displaying a picture of all the winning classes for each grade level in the cafeteria. Also, Dr. Hayes and Mrs. O'Meara will be personally presenting each student that earns Perfect Attendance for each quarter a Certificate and an incentive. Please be on the lookout for a school-wide absentee excuse form for you to use when your child is absent.

America's Safe Schools Week and National School Bus Safety Week will be recognized October 18-24.

Proper Identification - Please remember to present your I.D. when it's necessary to sign out your child. Mrs. Kodya, our Security Assistant, is not always the person at the front desk. Help us keep your children safe here at school.

Visitor Passes - We ask that anyone who needs to be in our building wear a Visitor Pass. Please enter using the main entry doors and sign-in at the front desk to obtain your pass. Please wear it at all times while in the building.

National School Lunch Week

National School Lunch Week is **October 12-16, 2009**. Look for flier that will be coming home in your student's Tuesday folder. Sign up and join us for a delicious school lunch!

Oct. 12, 2009 Federal Cards sent Home Parents,

Federal Cards will be sent out Monday, October 12, 2009. According to Fran Thomas of Budget & Finance, many parents aren't aware of the financial gain Virginia Beach City Public Schools receives from the Federal Government. This is how the Federal Government designates a portion of their budget to our schools. It is not a fact finding tour nor do they use your personal information. It is to distinguish which parents work for or on Federal Property. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me, Diana Lord, at 648-3320.

Parents please complete the Federal Card in its entirety, sign, date and return to your child's teacher the next day. The grade level that has the highest return & completion rate, will win a prize. Thanks so much for your attention to this matter. Diana Lord

School Pictures!



Bring your smile to school on **October 12th** for the fall school portraits! These pictures will appear in our yearbook.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports go home on Monday, October 12th.

Join your PTA!

Please join the PTA this year. The cost of membership is only \$5.00 and joining the PTA is just one small way to show your child that you care about our school and his/her education.

You can join the PTA anytime during the year by sending in the PTA membership envelope that is contained in your child's first day packet.

Upcoming Events:

- October 16 - Believe Kids Fund-raiser due

Volunteers are always needed, contact Tanya Davis, PTA President at pembrokepta2008-09@cox.net or 493-8783.

SCA News 2009/2010

Officers:

President: Brittany Flintosh

Secretary: Bridget Roley

Vice-President: Cody West

Treasurer: Alea Gotterup

Representatives:

Third grade: Lourdes McClean, McKenzie Huddle, Megan Wilson, Savannah Smith, Angela Wallace

Fourth grade: Nyashia Johnson, Hunter Batkins, Austin Hampton, Hailey Kubacki

Fifth grade: Mary Sager, Haley Williams, Tyler Gomez

The SCA is off to a great start. We've already had an officer meeting to go over plans for the upcoming year. Three of our officers will also be attending the **Thirtieth Annual Virginia Beach Elementary SCA Leadership Workshop** on Oct. 24 at Corporate Landing Middle School. This is a wonderful opportunity for our officers to bring back information to our student body and learn about leadership.

We will kick off our **food drive** in a few weeks, and hope to collect a record amount of nonperishable food items for our community this year!

We will also be having a **charitable fund-raiser** for United Way and our new SPED Playground fund. Be on the lookout for more information on the Halloween costume contest/parade, story time, and movie to be held after school on Oct. 30th. Donations for tickets will be \$3.00. We are also accepting donations of bags of candy, stickers, and other Halloween related trinkets to make up treat bags for the event. If you'd like to donate, please drop off your item at school for Ms. Branich. We will have an SCA representative collecting these and any other monetary donations you'd like to make for United Way and the playground.

Thanks for making a difference,
Jeanne Branich, SCA Adviser

SchoolNet Parent Portal "goes live" at Pembroke ES on October 26, 2009

SchoolNet Parent Portal is a powerful online tool for parents and guardians to monitor their child's progress in school. Best of all, it can be accessed from any computer connected to the Internet – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Parents will have access to important **current** school year information such as:

- Grades
- Attendance records
- Student assignments
- Missing assignments
- Notes from your child's teacher about assignments
- Standardized test scores (Example: SOL, SAT, AP, Stanford 10)
- Sign up for e-mails notifying parents when their child has an unexcused absence or receives a certain class grade; detailed attendance reports, detailed assignments, reports, and grade summary reports.

Parents will also be able to view historic academic and enrollment information dating back to the 2004-2005 school year.

Pebbles Club News

Dear Pembroke Family,
Pembroke Elementary, with help from the PEBBLES Club, is collecting juice pouches. (Not Juice Boxes) **The money raised will be donated to the American Cancer Society through our Relay for Life Team.** The collected pouches will be sent to www.terracycle.net to be recycled. Terracycle will create fashion bags and other products. There will be a container in the lobby for the pouches. You may also bring the pouches to Mrs. Spencer's room (Rm45). Please cut open the bottom inside of the pouch, remove the straw and rinse before sending them to school.
Thanks for thinking GREEN,
Gina Spencer
Sustainable School Liaison



Please join us for our first Chick-fil-A Spirit Night on Thursday, October 15th at the Haygood Shopping Center location from 5-8:00 p.m. Place your receipt in the box labeled "Pembroke Elementary School" and we receive 10% of the total purchase for our school! See you there.

Subscribe to MySchool Mail

Through **MySchool Mail** you can subscribe to an electronic newsletter and have "Home" or "Work" delivery through your e-mail. This feature on our web site provides a great communication tool for parents, guardians, and our school community.

To Subscribe to MySchool Mail:

Go to our school's homepage (www.pembrokees@vbschools.com)
Select the **MySchool Mail** link and enter your email address(s).

UNITY CIRCLE PLAN TO COME November 25, 2009 at 10:30am

Mark your calendars now for November 25, 2009 at 10:30am for our annual UNITY CIRCLE! This school-wide ceremony kicks off the Thanksgiving holiday. Families, relatives and friends may join their child's class to hear each grade level's Thanksgiving message on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. We plan to hold this ceremony outside on our campus, weather permitting- so bring your coat! Students will be dismissed at noon on Wednesday. If you want to take your child home after the Unity Circle, we ask that you sign your child out.

Partners In Education- DID YOU KNOW???.....

Partners in Education, PIE, is up and running at full speed at Pembroke. We are so thankful to our many partners who are wonderful community friends. We are looking forward to another productive PIE year! Please thank our active PIE whenever you can: Calvary Baptist Church, Amphibious Squadron Eight and NIOC, McDonald Garden Center, Chick-fil-A at Haygood, Sonic on Va. Beach Blvd, Texas Roadhouse, Farm Fresh and Food Lion. You can help our PIE effort by remembering to: send in your General Mills Box Tops, the bottom portion of all Farm Fresh receipts from now until May, McDonald Garden Center receipts; link your VIC card at Harris Teeter, MVP card at Food Lion, and Target credit card to Pembroke. **Please note we are no longer collecting Campbell Soup labels.**

Please see our attached calendar 😊