



Dolphin Dialogue



Information on procedures & the start of the 2008-2009 school year

Calendar of Events

Aug. 28 Open House, 4-7 p.m.

Sept. 2 First Day of school, 9:05 a.m.-3:40 p.m.

Sept. 3 Regular 3:40 p.m. dismissal (early Wednesday dismissal starts Sept. 10th)

Sept. 5 Dutrow Magnet School Contracts ready for parent signature; School Spirit Day (every Friday)

Sept. 10 Early Wednesday dismissal begins, 1:10 p.m. dismissal

Sept. 11 Boy Scouting Roundup, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 25 Back to School Night, 6:30 p.m.



Mark your calendars!

School Pictures: Oct. 6th

International Children's Festival: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 11th

Dutrow Elementary School
60 Curtis Tignor Road
Volume XVIII, Issue 1 August 2008
886-7760 (office)
886-7760, ext 1111 (cafeteria)
886-7760, ext 1105 (clinic)
Newsletter Editor: Theresa O'Brien



Pittman's Ponderings

Mrs. Pittman, Principal

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year for Dutrow Elementary, the School of International Studies. It has been a pleasure to meet our new parents, and I'm looking forward to reconnecting with our returning families. We'll get to see everyone - students and parents—at Open House on Aug. 28th. The time-frame is between 4-7 p.m. Carpool if at all possible as parking is always an issue. You can park in the church lot and if the weather cooperates, we'll be able to use the grassy areas around the school.

The first day of school is Sept. 2. Breakfast will be served to those wishing to participate; there's another section in this newsletter that addresses costs and procedures for the food services program. Our doors will open at 8:45 a.m. for our breakfast eaters and everyone else

will enter at 8:55. I strongly suggest that children who will be riding a bus during the year begin this on the first day of school. It will acclimate them to this process as well as help us better define the stop times and length of the routes.

Our school has been authorized by International Baccalaureate as a World School for three years now. That means that this year we will be having an evaluation visit in the spring. Some of our work this summer on the self-study part of this process has made us aware that we have an untapped resource – YOU. We will be building an information base for our international focus. We will be surveying nationalities, languages, and knowledge of other cultures and countries. Be on the lookout for papers

Please see Pittman, Page 4



President's Corner

Sharon Grove, PTA President

Welcome, Dutrow families! My name is Sharon Grove and I am Dutrow's PTA president for the 2008-2009 school year. My son Aidan will be in third grade this year. Our family has been very happy at Dutrow since Aidan started kindergarten.

I look forward to working with each of you to help make this a great school year. We have some big plans for the school year, like our Sally Foster fundraiser and the International Children's Festival on Oct. 11th. As always, we need lots of volunteers to have everything run smoothly, and we encourage everyone to help out in whatever capacity they can. We know that not

everyone can be up at school, but there are things you can do from home. We will have a sign-up table at Open House on Aug. 28th, so please stop by and see how you can help. We also will have a new sign-in system for volunteers which will be easier to use and will eliminate paper, which will help our environment.

I look forward to working with all of you and I know we will have a great year!

Please save this Newsletter
as a year-long reference

Tardies and Absences

We appreciate your support in having education as a priority and selecting a rigorous program for your child to work in daily. We want your child to receive maximum benefit from our program and develop good time management and self management skills. Starting the day off in an unhurried, calm fashion is a first step. Families may choose for their children to participate in the breakfast program offered by the school division. Children eating breakfast here may enter the building at 8:45. All others enter at 8:55. Everyone should be in their class area when the tardy warning bell sounds at 9:00. This allows time to unpack, eat breakfast and settle in for the day by the time the tardy bell rings at 9:05 and announcements begin.



Children not in their class area or waiting in the breakfast serving line after the announcements have begun are tardy. Late busses are an exception to this rule. The person bringing the child to school must bring the child into the office and sign him or her in as the responsible adult. Please bring an appointment note from the doctor if your child is tardy due to an appointment. Doctor and counselor appointments are considered an excused tardy; very little else is and will be recorded as an unexcused tardy. We do monitor how often children arrive late for school and will conduct attendance conferences when necessary.

Breakfast is to be finished when announcements end or within a 10 minute timeframe if a child began eating once announcements had begun due to a late arrival. Breakfast is not served after 9:20. Fast food breakfasts or breakfasts brought from home are discouraged and only acceptable on an occasional emergency basis. This is not a social time of the day and serves the purpose of fueling the brain and body for the learning that occurs.

Parents wishing to walk with their child to class must sign in through the office. You need to sign out in the office once the announcements end and the instructional day begins unless you are here in a volunteer capacity or have an appointment with a staff member. Your help in sending the message to our students that we are all about work during the school day is important. They need to see that we as the adults are working as hard as we are expecting them to work and that everyone is focused on them being the best they can be.

Dismissal Procedures

Our school day "seat time" is from 9:05 a.m. through 3:40 p.m. (1:10 on Wednesdays). We are dedicated to using every minute of the day for an instructional purpose (excluding 30 minutes for lunch and 10 minutes for recess). Dismissal begins at the end of the afternoon announcements which begin at 3:35. Students who are picked up every day or on a regular schedule, (i.e. always on Tuesdays), will be dismissed as a group called "Parent Pickups" to the gym near the end of announcements. Children whose parents have written a note for the day or called during the day and prior to 3:15 will have their names read to join the Parent Pickups. Parents who come to the office between 3:15 and 3:25 and sign their student out will also have their child's name read with the pickup students. Walkers are dismissed to their gathering area also at the end of announcements. Bus riders are dismissed at the close of announcements. Once we have begun the dismissal part of the announcements, we will not add children's names as this causes confusion, missed messages, and delays the dismissal process for everyone. Parents unable to comply with the note writing, calling during the day, or arriving by 3:25 will need to meet their child at the bus stop.



The parent pickup area is inside the gym. Access is gained by joining the line that will enter the front doors to the right of the Office door. Everyone in this line must have either the Purple Car cutout that they received from Pickup Registration at Open House or from the office personnel or the single day sign out ticket that they were given when they signed out and had their child's name added to the list. The doors will open when the bus dismissal has begun and the students in that pod are on their way to their exit. Parents are to proceed to the gym and leave with their child/children once cleared by the staff member on duty. You will exit out the same doors that you entered as other doors are used by students for bus dismissal. Pickup time is from 3:43-3:59.

Early signouts are acceptable only for the occasional doctor appointment or emergency. Should you have another reason for needing to cut the instructional day short on a specific day basis you must receive approval for this from Mrs. Pittman or Mrs. Stith. We do not use the PA system other than for schoolwide announcements as it disrupts the entire pod. We will not be able to go and retrieve children from classes after 3:10 as we need to be in the office preparing for dismissal. If you need to pickup your child between 3:10 and dismissal, you must call the office earlier allowing us to get a note back to the teacher so the child can be in the office at the designated time.

Children are not to be released from their teacher's supervision to anyone other than another staff member as a safety precaution and accountability check. Parents removing children from the class, hallway or a bus line are in violation of their contract to attend this magnet school. This holds true for those that also develop a pattern or repetition of early outs. We appreciate your support in having education as a priority and selecting a rigorous program for your child to work in daily.

Bus ins & outs



The first few weeks of school can be a bit chaotic if your child rides one of the hundreds of school buses that the Newport News School System provides for its students. Please be aware there will be some delays until the "kinks" are worked out. Please be at the bus stop 15 minutes before the scheduled time.

Please allow your child to take the bus if this is going to be the normal routine. If your child is not at the bus stop for three consecutive days and there is no one else at that stop, the stop will be eliminated. The Transportation Department has set up your child's stop according to the home address unless other information was provided for the 2008-2009 school year. Please allow at least 72 hours for all bus stop changes and 10 days if it is the beginning of the school year.

Kindergarten students **MUST** be met by a designated (with a "card" from school), responsible person at the bus stop **all year** or the child will be returned to school. Information about your child's bus stop will be available at Open House on Aug. 28th and approximately Aug. 27th at the Transportation website at <http://bus-stops.nn.k12.va.us/webquery>.

Keeping our kids safe

At Dutrow, we have more than 500 students, who all have parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends. In order to keep our students safe, please be prepared to show a picture ID at the front desk if you are picking up a student or coming to visit. All visitors must wear a



Dutrow guest sticker. This lets the rest of our staff know that you have been checked in at the front office. If you are a PTA Board member or volunteer, please feel free to wear your ID badge, but you still need to sign in.

Please be sure to update your child's information data page at Open House and add any adult or older sibling you give permission to pick up your child or have contact with during the day. If their name is not on the sheet and you don't send us a note, we will not release your child to this person or allow them to go to the pod. Throughout the school year, if there are any changes in phone numbers or individuals you need added or deleted from your child's data sheet, please send us a note and we will make the changes.

If you are coming to the school to volunteer, first of all a big THANK YOU! We appreciate your help. Please sign in and out using our new computer terminal. Always enter and exit through the office door. Please do not use the other doors as an exit during the school day.

Drop off procedures

In order to keep all our students safe, we have certain procedures in the morning if you plan on dropping off your children. These need to be followed whether it is an every-day drop off or a once in a while drop off.

Please enter the parking lot at the entrance closest to Warwick Blvd. (where the school sign is). Begin or join the line of cars and please drive **SLOWLY** through the parking lot up to the "Dolphin Drop off" sign at the far end of the parking lot. By 8:45 a.m., there is a staff member at the station who will help guide children to the sidewalk. We ask that you watch for the signal from the staff member, as we allow at least 2 cars to be unloading at the same time. Please have your child ready to get out of the car with their belongings as quickly as possible, so as not to back up the other cars. **DO NOT** enter the parking lot from the other end, even if you plan on parking your vehicle. You must still enter at the school sign side and remain in line until you come to an empty parking spot. **DO NOT** let your child out before reaching the designated spot.



The first bell rings at 8:50 a.m. The tardy warning bell rings at 9 a.m. and the tardy bell rings at 9:05 a.m. All students should be in their seats and ready to work by the time the last bell rings. They will be considered tardy if they enter the building after 9:05 a.m. If you are walking in with your child, please bring them to the crosswalk in front of the school, where a staff member will be on duty from 8:45 to 9:05 a.m. Children **MAY NOT** be left at school prior to 8:45 a.m. These rules are in place to keep all our children safe.



News from the cafeteria

School lunches are \$1.65. Breakfast is 90 cents. If your child is eligible for reduced or free lunches, you should have received a letter or you will have to fill out a form that will be sent home the first day of school.

Mrs. Clark will be available at Open House for you to deposit money into your child's account or you can send in a check for your child's lunch and make it payable to Dutrow Cafeteria. Be sure it has your child's name and school ID number on it. The check will be credited to your child's account, and our wonderful cafeteria staff will let you know when the funds are low. You also can send in a note to ask that your child's account be blocked from buying snacks or breakfast.

Breakfast will be available the first day of school. It also will be served on half days, although lunch is not served on half days (12:15 dismissal).

Principal

Continued from Page 1

to return that will help us with identifying our school's cultural diversity.

We are excited about this school year for the many opportunities that it will bring to all of us. The really fun part about being in a schoolwide program is everyone is a part of this community of learners – students, staff, parents, business partners, and anyone else associated with the school. Throughout this year, we will all become more knowledgeable, skillful, internationally minded, action oriented, and conceptually focused. You'll find out more about this in future installments of Pittman's Ponderings.

I have two The Worlds of Busch Gardens Europe day passes for use the weekend after the first week of school. Two children will earn one of these on Friday afternoon, Sept. 5th. Throughout the week children will be receiving a ticket from someone other than their own teacher when they are demonstrating behaviors that are respectful, tolerant, caring, and show they have integrity and are principled. Throughout the year we will be recognizing children for their application of the profiles and attitudes that our Primary Years Programme helps them develop.

We also have some great plans for recognizing parents for their involvement in our school, too. Be on the lookout for folks wielding tickets and ways you can earn them.

Welcome new staff members

We have new people joining the Dutrow Staff, current staff in different positions, whole grade levels in new spaces, and a familiar face with a new name.



Our new to Dutrow people this year are: Melissa Patterson from Ohio in first grade; Shelby Gault is transferring in from Riverside Elementary and will be in 2nd grade; Michelle Bullis, our former student teacher will teach fourth grade; and Brianna Lessard comes to us from teaching in Arizona to join our 5th grade team. Lori Kandel and Gloria Rudisill will both be teaching kindergarten. Elisabeth Deaton will join the first grade team. All of first grade will be in an inside pod this year. Art and Spanish will be in the outer building. Fourth and fifth grade have switched pods. The Mrs. Tanner-Stith in the office is our own newlywed, Ms. Tanner.

LFCU 'banks' on Dutrow students

Langley Federal Credit Union, one of our Business Partners, will be at our Open House on Aug. 28th to share about their savings program and take applications if you want to open an account for your child. The Dutrow Depository, or mini branch, will be open for deposits on the 3rd Friday from September through May from 8:50 –9:20 a.m.



2008-2009 Dutrow PTA Board Members



The 2008-2009 Dutrow PTA Board is looking forward to a successful year. We have many programs this year, and your help is greatly needed and appreciated. Please contact any board member with any concerns or questions, and be sure to drop by our table at the Open House on Aug. 28th to learn more about our programs and membership.

Sharon Grove	President
Audra Baird	1st Vice President (Programming)
Erika Wilson	2nd Vice President (Fundraising)
Erin Arsenault	Secretary
Alondo McClees	Treasurer
Alondo McClees	Council Representative
Lisa Wassel	Reflections
Christy Barrington	Book Fair
Leslie McClees	Membership

Theresa O'Brien
Rita Kearney, Hilda Vasquez, and Jennifer Landis-Herman
Paul Smith
Jacqueline Jackson
Whitney Owens
Lisa Wassel
Claudia Sellars and Audra Baird
Kelli Paul
Brenda Clark, John Cork

Margy Pittman
James Jackson

Publicity/Yearbook
International Children's Festival

Logos
Volunteer Coordinator
Red Ribbon Week
Website Coordinator
Hospitality

Box Tops
Staff
Representatives
Principal
Immediate Past
President

PTA website: <http://nnptas.org/ptsa/dutrow>