**Osprey Team My School Mail – September 21, 2018**

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Good morning, Ospreys!

Many of you did not receive the first mailing (due to listserv issues) so it is included below.

Our Ospreys were able to jump right back in after missing several days last week due to Hurricane Florence. It has been a productive week: textbooks were issued, homework was turned in, novels were discussed, and pre-assessments were taken. Evidently a few noses were blown, too, because we are in dire need of tissues. Please send boxes in, if you can! All in all, we are getting into the rhythm of 8th grade which includes some fun events outside the classroom.

One of them is our **Annual Southern Picnic** which will be in late October. By that time, we'll be reading Harper Lee's celebrated novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, in which she explores social issues in the Jim Crow South during the Great Depression. Lee's book juxtaposes poverty, unemployment, and racism with richly detailed depictions of Southern hospitality, pride, and heritage. Students will have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Southern meal, discuss these timely social topics, play team-building games, and read on the lawn behind the school gym. This annual event is a delicious, educational, and fun tradition!

**Call for volunteers**: we need a parent or two to volunteer to oversee the coordination of the other volunteers and food for our Southern Picnic. We have a signupgenius to organize donations; it is just really helpful to have a parent/parents take the lead. Please email Dr. Luecke if you can take this role: [*Karen.Luecke@vbschools.com*](mailto:Karen.Luecke@vbschools.com)

**Student Kudos:**

* Congratulations to our newly elected SCA FOCUS representatives: Natalia, Ryan, Tyson R., and Suellen. We know that they will represent us well and we appreciate their dedication and service to our team.
* A shout to our Osprey student athletes! We have heard that William C. plays football for Corporate Landing and Madi does Cheer at Lynnhaven. Amelia plays soccer, but we haven’t heard for which school. Tyler K. swims year-round with ODAC. We are sure there are more!
* A huge round of applause for Raleigh who qualified to attend the USA Gymnastics High Performance Camp this coming weekend. To qualify, she had to place in the top 10 at Level 9 Nationals last season and have a minimum all-around score.  She practices 28 hours a week and has maintained straight A’s at ODS!

*Please send items such as scouting achievements, athletic achievements, and more to Dr. Luecke at* [*Karen.Luecke@vbschools.com*](mailto:Karen.Luecke@vbschools.com) *so we can celebrate the diverse talents on this team.*

**About Geometry Honors *from Mrs. Li*:**

Geometry scholars have been exploring conditional statements before delving into the application of laws of deductive reasoning. Next week students will begin constructing or justifying algebraic proofs and basic geometric proofs with the power of logical thinking. Unit 1 test has been scheduled for September 26 and 27. Students have geometry skills development (HW) daily after each new lesson because math concepts/skills need to be practiced / applied for learners to achieve mastery. After school geometry tutoring will be available Monday next week.

**About English *from Dr. Luecke*:**

We have been mulling over the question, “what is a hero?” for a couple of weeks now, sharing our own personal heroes (mine is the word-warrior Martin Luther King, Jr.), looking at images in an online newspaper article, watching a video on the rescue of a whale, and engaging in a shared inquiry on “The Man in the Water.”

Students will finish their choice novels about unlikely heroes and turn in their Book Notes next class for a grade on 2 of the 5 sections. Feedback was given to each student to guide their work on the graded sections. These grades will be posted next week.

I indicate in the gradebook when students have not turned in work, even if it is ungraded. A “0” means incomplete or missing work, and a “1” means the work has been turned in.

**About Civics***,* ***from Ms. Pullman:***

This week in Civics we completed our preassessments for the year and Unit 1. We discussed civic duties and responsibilities including what activities 8th grade students can do to express civic responsibility. Students were tasked with researching school design to analyze how design is impacted by civic attitudes of a certain time period. They then contrasted these ideas with Old Donations’s former location on Seaboard Road and our new building on Honeygrove. Next week we will begin our study of constitutional foundations and philosophy.

**About Earth Science *from Ms. Young*:**

Students have been exploring the systems of Earth Science to prepare for a brief essay they are writing for National Earth Science Week, Oct 14-250. Students are writing about how geoscience tells us about human interaction with the planet’s natural systems and processes, especially in terms of the ways people affect and are affected by the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere.

We spent time in class twice researching the topic. The librarians, Mrs. Camper and Mrs. German, came in to update the students on the new resources available to them through their Clever accounts. They also created a collection of resources specific to the essay. Dr. Luecke also came in and gave a brief review on essay writing to refresh their memories. Rough drafts are due September 24A/25B for a peer edit for science content. Students will also be peer-editing essays in English, with final copies due October 11A/12B. They also have the opportunity to enter it in the American Geosciences Institute’s national contest, for a chance to win some money! See more details here: http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/essay.

Students will take their first quiz on Wed/Thu. We spent time reviewing in class on Thu/Fri. It will encompass all the materials from our Intro to Earth Science unit.

Thanks to those who have sent in tissues, candy, paper towels and/or hand soap. We are really in need of tissues if you can spare a box.

We will begin our first unit of the year, Earth’s Materials on Monday/Tuesday. This unit serves as the foundation for the year and is very important knowledge that will be utilized in each subsequent unit. It is like the alphabet for Earth Science. The unit delves into minerals, rocks and natural resources. Based on the pre-assessment, I have lot to teach them and am so excited about it.

Lastly, students will be participating in the 9/11 presentation that we missed due to the unexpected days out of school last week. An email was sent home to all parents. Thanks you so much for the kind responses and thank yous for my sister. Feel free to come join us. It will be at 1:30 pm in the Schola on Monday (focus time for students).

**Osprey Team My School Mail – September 9, 2018**

**Good evening, Osprey Families and Friends!**

The Osprey Core teachers are delighted with our new students and the first week of school went very well! Our new 8th graders are rising to the occasion, adapting to our expectations for outstanding scholarship and comportment. Dr. Hedrick spoke to our students on Friday, encouraging students to be kind, respectful, collaborative, honest, and diligent. She also clearly laid out the consequences of student choices.

**Student Kudos:**

* A big round of applause and a sincere thank you to the Ospreys who volunteered to help Mrs. Fowler with technology this summer! The following students contributed the following number of house: Nick S. 93.5; Karsten B. 46.5; Manju M. 34.5; Ambrunee K. 22.5; Josh B. 16; Julia C. 14.5; Michael M. 12; Anna R. 12; Erika W. 11; Kevin C. 8; Ure E. 8; Sonia K. 8; Sarah T. 8.
* Thank you to Natalia D. who became a buddy to a new Osprey, and she did so with enthusiasm and delight. That is the kind of caring initiative we love to see in our students!

*Please send items such as scouting achievements, athletic achievements, and more to Dr. Luecke at* [*Karen.Luecke@vbschools.com*](mailto:Karen.Luecke@vbschools.com) *so we can celebrate the diverse talents on this team.*

**About Geometry Honors *from Mrs. Li*:**

Welcome to Geometry Honors! It has been wonderful meeting and getting to know your children and I definitely look forward to a great year! This past week geometry students spent class time becoming familiar with class expectations and taking baseline assessments to tailor our instruction. Students will began the first unit Reasoning and Proof next week with a look at logic, types of reasoning, and conditional statements  The first unit will prepare students for proving and building a system of geometry knowledge throughout the course. All students should have their supplies (compass, ruler, and protractor) for learning geometry.

**About English *from Dr. Luecke*:**

The first books have been issued! We start the year exploring *unlikely heroes* and students were able to choose a novel in which to investigate that theme.

Chromebooks were also issued in English class, and so far, students have been careful and responsible with them. It is so nice to always have access to computers, especially in English!

**About Civics***,* ***from Ms. Pullman:***

This week in Virginia Civics and Economics we discussed class expectations and got to know one another. We began our investigation into the grade level theme of Order v. Chaos by creating a Taba in small groups.  Students worked hard sorting factors of order and chaos they see in the world. We will complete this activity next week by exploring the relationships and patterns of those factors and connecting them to real world events.

**About Earth Science *from Ms. Young*:**

Welcome back! I had a great first week with your student! We started the year off by examining Earth as a system (biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and geosphere) and doing some analysis of the four main branches of Earth Science (astronomy, oceanography, geology and meteorology). Earth Systems analysis will be a continuing theme throughout the school year, as we try to help students understand the interconnectedness of our complex planet and beyond. Please ask your child what the four Earth Systems and four branches of Earth Science are and see if they can give you an example of how they may be connected.

If you would like to donate any supplies for our classroom, please consider hard candy (jolly ranchers are a favorite of the kids) or tissues. We would really appreciate your donation.

Finally, please do not hesitate to email me at [jamie.young@vbschools.com](mailto:jamie.young@vbschools.com) if any questions or concerns should arise this year. I am excited to be able to share my knowledge about this amazing universe with your child and I look forward to a great year!

**Other Announcements:**

We are excited to announce a Special Series: Parenting the Twice Exceptional Child. This series will be offered monthly throughout the school year with the goal of providing parents of twice exceptional children an opportunity to come together and discuss topics relevant to their unique needs. The meetings will be held the third Thursday of each month. The first meeting will be Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 2:00 at Old Donation School. Please contact Janet Smallwood at janet.smallwood@vbschools.com to let us know that you will attending.