**Principal’s Message** The work that we do for children continues to be grounded in Compass to 2020, the Virginia Beach Teaching and Learning Framework and Core Values. It is important to note that the work at Green Run centers on building and sustaining an effective learning environment for every student, every day – a concept that is always at the nucleus of what we do. However, parents are a child’s first and best teacher and certain skills are helpful to children in order to be successful throughout life.

Values and character are best taught by parents. The school’s role is to reinforce values, character, and work ethic that children learn and develop at home. Research shows that the most important variable in a child’s success in school is the parents’ involvement in their child’s education. You, as the parent, are a valuable component of your child’s education. The following are a few ways you can continue to be involved in your child’s education:

- Talk with your child every day about specifics of what is going on at school.
- Reinforce the 4 Be’s.
- Be available to assist with homework as necessary.
- Set high standards for the work that is performed.
- Guide the development of good study skills.
- Communicate high expectations to your child.
- Communicate your confidence and pride to your child every day.
- Attend and participate in school activities as much as possible.
- Attend and request parent teacher conferences if you have any concerns.
- Keep in close touch with the teacher and communicate, communicate, communicate!
- Let us know how we can best meet the needs of your child.

Teaching and assessments continue to be data-driven, based on standards, instruction, and collaboration. Mrs. Wiggins (Assistant Principal) and I are in classrooms “where the action is” in order to support the teachers, students, and to assess the needs of our school, and of course, making certain that students achieve academically so they are future ready. Do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher if you have any concerns.

We are ensuring that children are prepared by transforming the learning process from a traditional teacher-driven effort to a student-centered program. This means that students make meaningful choices and take purposeful action in their learning. Transformational learning is the active acquisition of knowledge and skills using student-centered practices, creating opportunities for children to generate and apply new knowledge across context. This exciting change requires teachers to partner with
students and provide them with opportunities to direct their own learning and guide them in setting academic and citizenship goals. Ask your child about goals they are working on and steps they take to achieve results.

We will continue to implement school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) by using resources such as All About the Be’s: Being Ready, Supportive, Responsible, and Respectful. This framework promotes good behavior, positive choices, and focuses on social and emotional development. We ask that you help us with PBIS by reinforcing these expectations at home so together we can guide children toward success!

I am confident that collaborating and partnering with you will ensure that your child will have every opportunity for success. The entire Green Run staff is committed to providing educational excellence in a safe and nurturing environment, all the while reinforcing social and emotional development.

In closing, make sure children are reading for 20 minutes each night. By utilizing Clever, children in grades K-2 can access Imagine Learning and Storia at home and children in grades 3-5 can use Achieve 3000. Learners in grades 1-5 can practice algorithms using Tenmarks to aid with math concepts. These resources reinforce at home what we do in school each day. I look forward to building and sustaining a purposeful partnership on behalf of all children! Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or administrators if you have any question and or concerns about your child or structures and routines of our school.

**Literacy Corner** As winter seeps into our area, you might consider an indoor camping night. Be creative and let your sheets and comforters create a dark warm cave lined with blankets. Fill it with your favorite snacks and loads of books. Take turns reading camp stories by flashlight. Make it a technology free cave and enjoy the fun you will have reading and enjoying being together. Stay warm and happy reading!

**Library News-Mrs. Atkins**  
The Book Fair will be coming in March. March 18-22nd the library will host a Bedford Falls Book Fair. There will be evening hours on Thursday the 21st, during GRES STEAM night.

The library staff encourages students to use the 5 finger rule to make their book selections. You can help your child select books that they can read independently. Randomly select a page and have your child begin reading it. Hold up a finger for every word your child does not know. A good selection would be a book with 2-3 fingers or unknown words per page. This way, the chosen book introduces a few new vocabulary words without being overly challenging. Selecting the just-right book will help to ensure reading success for your child.
Math News

Twelve Steps To Increase Your Child’s Math Achievement and Make Math Fun
Based on the work of Jo Boaler, Stanford University, CEO: youcubed
Instaliment 2
(Steps 1-3 were shared in the Quarter 1 Math Newsletter)

Step 4: Encourage children to work on problems that are challenging for them, so that they can make mistakes.

We know that it is really important for students to take risks, engage in “productive struggle” and make mistakes. Keep telling your children that struggle is really important because it makes their brains grow! You don’t always want to leave your children struggling to the point of complete frustration, but always encourage as much struggle as you think they can cope with at the time. Praise your child for their hard work! Studies show that children who are praised for working hard continued to explore challenging work unlike children who were praised for being “smart.”

Step 5: When you help your children, do not lead them through work step by step, as this takes away important learning opportunities for them.

We often help children by doing the hard part of a problem, such as working out what the problem is asking, and then get children to do something easier, such as a calculation. If your child is struggling with a problem, try not to do the thinking for your child, instead, consider having them draw the problem to make sense of it, or restate the problem in their own words. Ask them what is happening in the problem. Often, a picture that represents the problem makes a lot more sense!
Counselor’s Corner - Ms. Pierre-Louis

Galloping to Greatness

It is shaping up to be a wonderful year at Green Run Elementary! From classroom lessons to school-wide programs and initiatives, exciting things are happening throughout our school!

During classroom lessons each month, I focus on a Blue Box skill (skills essential for healthy emotional development). The past few months we have been focusing on Empathy, Kindness, and Compassion.

As a way to highlight this, Green Run is once again participating in the Great Kindness Challenge. The challenge will highlight ways for our Colts to learn, explore, and practice kindness! Our Kindness/School Spirit week will be the week of February 11 and the SCA and I are challenging all students to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11th</td>
<td>Wear BRIGHT colors to remind everyone to use words that brighten other people’s day!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 12th</td>
<td>Bow-tie Tuesday! Kindness is a gift, tie it with a bow!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 13th</td>
<td>We have the POWER to be kind! Wear your favorite superhero shirt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 14th</td>
<td>Wear Pink or Red because WE LOVE KINDNESS!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 15th</td>
<td>School Spirit Day! Wear your school colors!</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parents of rising 5th grade students - the transition to middle school process is in full swing! Please continue to be on the lookout for information from Green Run Elementary, Larkspur and Landstown Middle schools in your students’ Tuesday Folders.

I am excited to continue making this year one of the best at Green Run Elementary! Please view my web-page for additional updates from the school counseling department!

https://sites.google.com/vbschools.com/gres-schoolcounseling/home
Clinic-Nurse Fox

*Fifth grade parents, please note that ALL rising 6th grade children will need a Tdap booster shot prior to starting 6th grade. You are welcome, and encouraged, to bring in a copy of their immunization any time this spring so it can be entered into the computer.*

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**Cold or Flu?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cold</th>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Flu (Influenza)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rare, Mild (less than 100°)</td>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>Almost Always High (Greater than 100°)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slight</td>
<td>General Aches &amp; Pains</td>
<td>Usual/Often Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradual over a Few Days</td>
<td>Onset</td>
<td>Rapid Onset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Stuffy Nose</td>
<td>Rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Runny Nose</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Sore Throat</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild to Moderate</td>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>Common – Can be Severe (Dry)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**FLU Talk**

We are well into the flu season. The staff here at Green Run Elementary needs your help in keeping our school healthy and students in school, ready to learn.

**What is influenza?**

Influenza, also called the flu, is a contagious viral infection of the nose and throat. It is not the same as the “stomach flu”, which is viral infection of the stomach and intestines.

**How is influenza spread?**

The flu is spread easily from person to person. The virus is passed through the air when someone sneezes, coughs, or even talks. We can also be infected by an object with the influenza virus on it by touching that object and then our mouth or nose.

**What are the symptoms of influenza?**

Influenza can come on very suddenly and usually includes a high fever with fatigue, aches, headache, cough, sore throat, a runny nose, and muscle pain. Children may have additional symptoms such as earaches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

**How can we prevent getting influenza?**

Talk to your child about washing their hands, coughing or sneezing into the crook of their arm instead of their hands, and keeping hands/fingers away from their mouth and nose. Please keep your child home if they have any symptoms of the flu. The flu vaccine is the best way to prevent the flu. Talk to your health care provider about the annual vaccination. Now is the best time to get your family vaccinated for the influenza.

**Music-Ms. Miller**

Hello, all! I am so happy to share some of the exciting things we have been working on in music class during this season. Our kindergarten and first graders have been learning how to keep a steady beat with various percussion instruments and are learning to read rhythm. They can't wait to showcase their talents for you in the spring production! Second and third graders have been doing a lot of work with reading a melody line and I am so proud of how wonderfully they are singing and playing. I am very impressed with their musicianship and creativity. Fourth and fifth grade are having a blast with their recorders and had a great time on their field trip Feb. 7 at The Sandler Center to play along with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra! This was a great opportunity for our Colts and it was wonderful to witness this awesome musical collaboration!

**Art-Mrs. Magee**

In art, students are making pottery! Kindergarten is learning how to make a pinch pot, first grade is creating owls, 3rd grade has finished a fish sculpture, and penguins are keeping 5th grade busy. Second and fourth are completing winter landscapes. The PTA partnered with us for our first Paint Night! It was a huge success! Look for art contest entry forms for the annual Water Calendar Contest coming home soon!

**Physical Education-Mr. Conger**

We are in the middle of our cold months. We have just finished tumbling and dance and are starting our basketball and nutrition units this third 9 weeks. It has been a cold first half of winter but the upcoming weeks look as if we may be able to get outside more. Please be alert to the weather and be sure your child is dressed appropriately to be outside.

**Gifted Resource-Ms. Sawyer**

If you have a first grader and are interested in gifted testing, please contact Ms. Sawyer at dawn.sawyer@vbschools.com Parent applications for gifted testing are due March 1st. The gifted testing date for 1st graders is Thursday, April 11, 2019.
Grade Level News

Kindergarten students have been very busy and working hard on all areas of the curriculum. In math, we continue to practice counting, but now we are adding in skip-counting by tens. We will focus on describing and recognizing part-whole relationships with numbers to 5. This means that we will discover all the different ways we can make 5. This quarter we will introduce money by learning how to recognize coins and identify how many pennies are in a nickel, dime, and quarter. We will wrap up the quarter with students investigating the passage of time on a calendar and comparing different measurements. Students can practice our math objectives by counting the number of spoons in your kitchen, measuring their shoe compared to an adult’s shoe and identifying coins.

In science and social studies we will study the differences between living and nonliving, as well as the basic needs of plants and animals. Kindergarteners will form an understanding of the community by using map skills and creating their own maps using a map key.

Language arts will continue to build on what we have been learning, but with much more rigor and details. Students are retelling stories using the Beginning, Middle, and End events of the story. While reading a story ask your child what happened in the BME and have them retell it to you for practice. Our nonfiction focus is to continue to practice identifying simple facts and information that is relevant to the topic. When reading a nonfiction story with your student ask them a fact that is read and ask them to be a “fact detective” by showing you where they found that fact in the book.

Our writing is in complete sentences, starting with a capital letter, finger spaces between words, lowercase letters, and proper punctuation at the end. We have been working hard on this every day. Kindergarteners are able to use the word wall as a reference, as well as use letters and beginning consonant sounds, to spell phonetically. At home you can help your student excel by practicing sight words each day. The ones we have worked on in class are on the back of the first homework page. You can turn this into a game by asking them to spell sight words while you are in line at the grocery store or find sight words in books you read.

We continue to make progress and provide a fun learning experience for your child as they have settled into the learning process.

Grade 1 is retelling, retelling, retelling. Keep practicing fiction and nonfiction stories at home and retelling important events, facts, characters, problem, and solution. Author’s purpose and theme are also coming up. “Why did the author write this story?” is a big question. Also, we are practicing our sight words daily. In math, we are working on addition and subtraction facts and data and graphing. We will be working on addition and subtraction until the end of the school year.

Grade 2 has covered a lot of ground during this second marking period. In reading, we have been reading mostly fiction stories and discussing setting, character, story problem, events, and theme. In writing, students are writing fiction stories that are often funny. We are working on rewriting stories to add detail, correct punctuation, and quotation marks. In math, we have dived into addition and subtraction and are using manipulatives to help explain our thinking. We had a lot of fun exploring matter and experimenting with different forms of matter. We ended our quarter by going on a field trip to the Sandler Center to see a play. The kids are growing academically as well as becoming better citizens as they use their All About the Be’s on a daily basis - be respectful, responsible, ready, and supportive. Can't wait to see how well they do in third quarter.
**Grade 3** Quarter 2 was a very busy time for third grade. In math, we focused on introducing multiplication and division strategies. The measurement unit was on money, time, calendar, and temperature. All of these measurement components still need to be mastered, so we will continue to work on these objectives throughout the rest of the year. Any exposure at home to analog clocks, thermometers, and money will be of great value to our students! In reading, we worked with fiction and nonfiction texts. Students were expected to find main ideas and supporting details in both genres. We spent a lot of time discussing character development and theme in fictional texts. All reading objectives are ongoing. We encourage students to continue to identify whether a text is fiction or nonfiction and use comprehension strategies to identify the story elements of fiction and the facts of nonfiction. We had a fun unit on simple machines! The students showed their engineering skills by constructing a machine in class! We started our civilizations unit in social studies and will be studying Ancient Greece and Rome the rest of the year. Thank you for all of your support at home! We are looking forward to completing this last half of the year diligently and successfully!

**Grade 4** As the 2nd quarter comes to a close, fourth grade has been working very hard. In language arts, the students have continued to practice their reading strategies of drawing conclusions, plot, character development, and main idea. In writing, the students completed a personal narrative where they wrote about what it would be like to travel on the Oregon Trail. The students had to use research from a map, an article, and a journal to help them learn more about the experience. In science, the students worked very hard on learning about the ocean and its different features. The students also completed a unit on the Virginia Indians and completed artifact digs like archaeologists! Lastly, in math, the students have been working on a number of different skills. They have worked on geometry, patterns, GCF, LCM, and fractions. This quarter had a lot of challenging math objectives, but we will continue to practice and learn even more about fractions and decimals. We look forward to the second half of the school year!

**Grade 5** students are working hard to meet our personal goals and prepare for the Standards of Learning Assessments in May. During our reading time, we have been working on determining the author’s purpose in nonfiction. In fiction work, we have played the role of a poet as we work to determine the theme of various poems. Remember to keep working in Achieve and reading at home every night for a minimum of 30 minutes! Math has been fun as we are starting our measurement unit. Students are excited as they are measuring everything from a math book to a friend’s forearm. In science, we have started our new unit in Light and Sound. So, don’t be surprised if you see your child and their sibling testing how fast sound travels in the bathtub! We will also continue to work on The Scientific Method, while focusing on constant, independent, and dependent variables. During the middle of third quarter, we are looking forward to learning about the Civil War as we move back into Virginia Studies. Our fifth grade classes are progressing very well so far, and we look forward to the rest of the year with your child!
REMINDERS FROM GREEN RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- For the safety of all children, students may not be dropped off or enter the building before 8:20 a.m.

- Breakfast in the classroom is from 8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.

- The student drop-off area at the cafeteria doors closes at 8:40 am. After this time, your student is tardy and you must bring them into the building and sign them in.

- Parents, please be sure to keep your contact information up to date with the main office. This includes: address, phone numbers, emergency contacts, and email addresses.

- Please remember to call the main office before 9 a.m. at 757-648-2560 to report your student’s absence.

- When you must change your child’s dismissal routine, please send a note in with your child for the office. If it occurs during the school day, PLEASE let the office know by 2:30 P.M.

- VBCPS REQUIRES THAT ALL VISITORS ENTERING GRES MUST SIGN IN AT THE SECURITY DESK AND PROVIDE A PHOTO I.D.