

March & April 2020



# Achilles Shield

is brought to you by the **GLoucester County** Achilles Department of ... 



**Spring** will soon be upon us and we are all excited to feel the warm air, hear birds singing and see flowers blooming. Just as the Earth is coming back awake after winter our students are preparing for all spring has to offer. Students are in the middle of the third quarter. Winter screeners are complete and teachers are using data to make instructional adjustments for student growth and achievement. Spring activities are on the horizon with our Read A Thon coming to a close, our book fair in full swing, and several PTO activities scheduled. Be sure to check below and make plans to attend an activity with your child. Please remember to check your student's backpack nightly, returning important communication and reinforcing daily learning. Attendance continues to be a priority here at Achilles. If your child must be absent due to illness or extenuating circumstances be sure to send a note to school, not later than three days after the absence. Thanks for your continued support of Achilles as we work to build and strengthen our school community.

Katina Keener, Principal  
Mary Beth Preas, Assistant Principal



<b>March</b>	2-9	-	Book Fair
	3	-	Professional Day - No Students
	11	-	Mother Daughter Paint Afternoon
	19	-	Spring Picture Day
	27	-	Rescheduled Mother Son Scavenger Hunt
<b>April</b>	1	-	All Pro Dads' Breakfast #3
	3	-	Bay Warrior Day
	3	-	1:30 pm Early Dismissal
	6-10	-	Spring Break
	22	-	Report Cards
	22	-	Father Son Event
	29	-	Achilles on WXGM

## Counselor Corner

Hello families!



Each month your student and their class visit my classroom for their monthly Classroom Counseling lesson. March and April can be very stressful times of year so we will be focusing on stress management and optimistic thinking across grade levels. It is so important for our students to build their confidence and take some time to remind themselves just how awesome they are. YOU can help by working with your student to create a Daily Affirmation. Together you can create a positive saying that they can repeat to themselves each morning. Even better, write it somewhere they see each day like the bathroom mirror or stick it to the front door! It could be as simple as "You can do so many challenging things!" or as complex as a list of things they love about themselves!

*Carlee Hanchak*  
School Counselor





## Achilles Teacher of the Year!

# Congratulations ... **Carlee Hanchak**

- 1. What position do you have at Achilles?** *School Counselor*
- 2. Best part of your job?** *Building relationships with so many different kiddos who I then get to watch learn and grow into amazing people!*
- 3. Where were you born?** *Fairfax, Virginia*
- 4. What did you want to be when you grew up?** *When I was growing up I really wanted to write speeches for politicians!*



- 5. Family?** *My husband and I have been married for almost four years and together have two kiddos, Emalynn and Johnathon.*
- 6. First Job?** *My very first job was babysitting, but my first big-girl job was as a camp counselor in New Hampshire.*
- 7. Hobbies?** *My favorite hobbies include crafting, reading (fiction and comic books mostly), and cooking!*
- 8. Favorite Musical performer?** *I can't nail down a favorite, so I will say anything from Broadway, Disney or a boy band!*
- 9. Favorite Movie/Book?** *My favorite movie is "Life is Beautiful" and my favorite book is a three way tie between The Prophecy of the Stones by Flavia Bujor, Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier, and Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult.*

**10. Favorite food?** *Grilled Cheese sandwiches with Tomato Soup!*



**11. Something you couldn't live without?** *Books! As Charlaine Harris says "Here's to books, the cheapest vacation you can buy!"*

**12. Dream Vacation?** *A tour of castle ruins in Scotland! (If only I could get over my fear of flying)*



**13. If you had 15 minutes on national television, what would you talk about?** *I would probably talk about the importance of being yourself wholeheartedly and not being afraid to let people see all of your unique interests and qualities that make you **YOU**. I would want to remind so many young people that they do not need to hide their true passions, hobbies, or best qualities just to fit in because it is so much more fun to share those things with others than to hide it within yourself!*

## What's Happening in the Habitat!



The official first day of spring this year is Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The amount of daylight we receive has been increasing steadily since December 21, when we had just eight hours and twenty-six minutes of daylight on the shortest day of the year. By the first day of spring, the amount of daylight we receive will have increased to twelve hours and eight minutes. The increased amount of daylight and warmer weather triggers other changes in the school-yard-habitat.

We are already beginning to see signs of plants and trees budding and getting ready to bloom. Migrating species are returning as the temperatures rise and days grow longer. Animals and insects that were hibernating or less active during the winter are reappearing. In the school-yard-habitat we will soon be able to find box turtles, toads and frogs. In fact, several species of toads and frogs will use our spring puddles to deposit their eggs in.

We welcome the changes spring brings to the school-yard-habitat and hope you are enjoying it in your own backyard.



Please contact Deborah Bone at (804) 642-9160 or [dbone@gc.k12.va.us](mailto:dbone@gc.k12.va.us) with any questions.



Kids and Dads,  
Join us for our next  
**ALL PRO DAD.**



**BREAKFAST**  
Wednesday  
April 1, 2020  
8:00 am

## Scholastic Book Fair



March 2nd - 9th, 2020

### Hours:

- ◆ Monday, March 2 \* 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
- ◆ Tuesday, March 3 \* 8:30 am – 4:00 pm  
*(this is a professional day, but...Book Fair will be open)*
- ◆ Wednesday, March 4 \* 8:30 am – 7:00 pm  
*(after school event)*
- ◆ Thursday, March 5 \* 7:30 am – 5:00 pm  
*(family breakfast in the cafeteria that morning)*
- ◆ Friday, March 6 \* 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
- ◆ Monday, March 9 \* 8:30 am – 4:00 pm



## Reading Review

The Achilles Read-a-Thon was a big success! Thanks to all of you that participated in this fun literacy event. All of the money received will go towards purchasing a book for each student in the school. What a great way to encourage and promote school-wide literacy and reading!

Students have also been engaged in reading Elmer and the Dragon, our second One School, One Book book. This book is the sequel to the first book we read, which was My Father's Dragon. Teachers are reading the chapters to the students in class and the students are answering questions about the book. Artwork pertaining to the books has been displayed throughout the school's hallways. It's always exciting to see what new character will pop up next!

The money to buy our One School, One Books books has graciously been donated by the **Achilles PTO**.

***Thanks for all of your support and keep reading!***

## Achilles Odyssey of the Mind Team 2020



**Good Luck to the Achilles OM Team!**

Competition Day: March 21, 2020

Churchland High School in Portsmouth

### What is Odyssey of the Mind?

*Odyssey of the Mind, abbreviated OM, is a creative problem-solving program involving students. Team members work together at length to solve a predefined long-term problem and present their solution to the problem at a competition.*

Back row: Riley Gale, Nina Sweitzer, Bella Pratt, Elin Searce  
Front row: Jackson Miller, Chase Mitchell, Kage Chavalia

Team Coach: Debbie Armentrout



**Warrior Pledge...** "I will live the Warrior Way by respecting myself, others and my community everyday!"

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## GLOUCESTER COUNTY VOTER REGISTRAR & ELECTION INFORMATION IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ON UPCOMING ELECTION

This is to announce the upcoming [Democratic Party Presidential Primary on March 3, 2020](#) at your normal polling locations.

### The Ballot – Know before you go

- Cory Booker
- Julián Castro
- Bernie Sanders
- Elizabeth Warren
- Marianne Williamson
- Michael Bennet
- Joseph R. Biden
- Amy Klobuchar
- Tulsi Gabbard
- Deval Patrick
- Pete Buttigieg
- Andrew Yang
- Tom Steyer
- Michael R. Bloomberg

**POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 6AM -7PM**



### NOTE TO VOTERS

*Don't forget to Thank your Election Officers for all they do and think about becoming one during this busy election year!  
Visit our website and sign-up today!!!*

### NOTE ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you requested an Absentee Ballot and change your mind and want to go vote at the polls, please either return the unused ballot to our office or bring it with you to the polls!!! Otherwise, you will have to vote a provisional ballot!!!

### Deadlines - Don't forget, Bring your "Photo ID"

**Absentee Voting** is available in the Office of the General Registrar. Regular office hours are:  
**Monday - Friday from 8:30am – 4:30pm.**

**In addition to regular office hours**, we will be open on: **Saturday, February 29, 2020 from 9am-5pm** for the last day of Absentee Voting!

**The last day to request an Absentee Ballot by mail** is on: **Tuesday, February 25, 2020.** Don't wait, if you qualify for an Absentee Ballot, please request one now.

**The last day to get registered or make changes** to your name or address to be eligible to vote in this election is on: **Monday, February 10, 2020 by 5pm.**

### **You can do all this and more online!**

Visit our website at: [www.gloucester.va.info/Registrar](http://www.gloucester.va.info/Registrar)

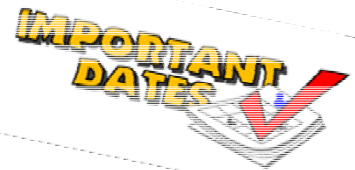
**"The Sample Ballot is posted on our website!"**

Register to vote online at: [www.vote.virginia.gov](http://www.vote.virginia.gov)

### **Gloucester County Voter Registrar & Elections Office**

Bobbi Morgan, Director of Elections & General Registrar  
6467 Main St., (PO Box 208) Gloucester, VA 23061  
Ph#804-693-3659 Fax#804-824-2465

## FY21 Budget Meetings Public Calendar



March 2	Budget Presentation	Colonial Courthouse
March 11	Board Budget Work Session	Colonial Courthouse
March 17	Joint Work Session with School Board	T.C. Walker Education Center
March 25	Budget and Tax Rates Public Hearing	T.C. Walker Education Center
April 1	Possible Board Budget Work Session	Colonial Courthouse
April 9	Possible Board Budget Work Session	Colonial Courthouse
April 13	FY 2021 Budget Adoption	Colonial Courthouse

***All meetings begin at 7 p.m.***

The **Community Connection** section is presented by Gloucester Community Engagement through the community schools initiative. Gloucester County Public Schools neither sponsors/endorse organizations listed in **Community Connections** & information included is solely from the organizations. Gloucester County Public Schools shall not be liable for any loss/damage as a result of information included in the **Community Connection** section.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Be Counted!



### Why fill out the 2020 census?

- \$20,000 per person for the next 10 years
- Fair representation in Congress
- Quality of life. Businesses, governments and developers use the census to plan for the future.

**COMPLETE  
YOURS**  
Online  
By phone  
By mail



### MARCH 28 CLEAN GLOUCESTER DAY

10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Help get the county spruced up before Daffodil Fest!

EASY ONLINE SIGNUP AT:

<https://tinyurl.com/CleanGlo>

or call 804-693-5370

GRAB YOUR GROUP  
AND SIGN UP

PICK YOUR  
CLEANUP SPOT

BORROW SUPPLIES  
FROM CLEAN  
COMMUNITY

PICK UP SUPPLIES  
BEFOREHAND OR  
DAY-OF

ANY CLEANUP  
COMPLETED  
DURING MARCH  
COUNTS!

GLOUCESTER CLEAN  
COMMUNITY  
804-693-5370

[cleancommunity@gloucesterva.info](mailto:cleancommunity@gloucesterva.info)



## GREEN LIVING EXPO



### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

Learn new skills and be the solution to a better planet!

April 25, 2020



Main Street Library

Find out more: <https://tinyurl.com/GloGreen>










Or contact: [cleancommunity@gloucesterva.info](mailto:cleancommunity@gloucesterva.info) 804-693-5370

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## March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	 <b>Book Fair</b>	<b>Professional Day Students Off Book Fair 8:30 am-4:00 pm</b>	<b>Book Fair</b> 3:45-5:30 PM-Odyssey of the Mind	<b>Book Fair</b> 8:00-8:45 AM-Book Fair Breakfast 3:50-5:00 PM-Family Reading 6:00-7:45 PM-Girl Scouts 1055	<b>Book Fair</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Book Fair</b>	<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade S2 6:30-7:30 PM-Cub Scout 133 Den</b>	<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Odyssey of the Mind 3:50 PM-PTO Mother Daughter Paint Afternoon</b>	<b>3:30-5:30 PM-Art Club 3rd Grade S2 3:50-5:00 PM-Family Reading 6:00-7:45 PM-Girl Scouts 1055</b>		
<b>15</b>		<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade S2 6:30-7:30 PM-Cub Scout 133 Den 4:00-4:45 PM-Home Front Warriors</b>	<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Odyssey of the Mind Last</b>	 <b>Spring Picture Day</b> 3:30-5:30 PM-Art Club 3rd Grade S2 3:50-5:00 PM-Family Reading 6:00-7:45 PM-Girl Scouts 1055		
<b>22</b>		<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club K Grade S1 6:30-7:30 PM-Cub Scout 133 Den</b>		<b>3:30-5:30 PM-Art Club 1st Grade S1 3:50-5:00 PM-Family Reading 6:00-7:45 PM-Girl Scouts 1055</b>	<b>6:00 PM-PTO Rescheduled Mother Son Scavenger Hunt</b>	
<b>29</b>		<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club K Grade S1 6:30-7:30 PM-Cub Scout 133 Den</b>				

## April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>All Pro Dads Breakfast #3</b> 8:00-8:45 am 	<b>3:50-5:00 PM-Family Reading 6:00-7:30 PM-Girl Scouts 1055</b>	<b>Last Day of Third Quarter</b>  <b>Bay Warrior Day</b> 1:30 AM-Early Dismissal	 <b>Daffodil Festival</b>
<b>5</b>	 <b>Spring Break</b>	 <b>Spring Break</b>	 <b>Spring Break</b>	 <b>Spring Break</b>	 <b>Spring Break</b>	
<b>12</b>	<b>First Day of 4th Quarter</b>	<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club K Grade S1 6:30-7:30 PM-Cub Scout 133 Den</b>		<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club 1<sup>st</sup> Grade S1 3:50-5:00 PM-Family Reading 6:00-7:30 PM-Girl Scouts 1055</b>		
<b>19</b>		<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club K Grade S1 4:00-4:45 PM-Home Front Warriors 6:30-7:30 PM-Cub Scout 133 Den</b>	<b>Report Cards</b> 3:50-5:00 PM-PTO Father /Son Event	<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club 1<sup>st</sup> Grade S1 3:50-5:00 PM-Family Reading 6:00-7:30 PM-Girl Scouts 1055</b>		
<b>26</b>			<b>7:35 AM-Achilles on WXGM</b>	<b>3:45-5:30 PM-Art Club 1<sup>st</sup> Grade S1 3:50-5:00 PM-Family Reading 6:00-7:30 PM-Girl Scouts 1055</b>		