

# NANSEMOND- SUFFOLK ACADEMY

For Immediate Release  
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## **“Message in a Bottle” finds its way to Nansemond-Suffolk Academy**

Suffolk, VA May 28, 2008- Pauline Warren and her new puppy, Roxy, were beachcombing along the Cape Henry Shore when Roxy spied a plastic bottle among the sticks and debris she often finds along the Virginia Beach coastline.

Pauline walked over and saw scraps of paper neatly tucked inside. After opening the encrusted bottle, she found messages from elementary school students and their teacher from the small town of Kannapolis, North Carolina. The students were sending well wishes to a beloved teacher, Mrs. Parker, who has been battling cancer. The fact that the letters traveled over two months and two hundred miles without the help from the U.S. postal service is unusual, but that’s only the beginning of the story.

It was a chance discovery that Pauline works in the Lower School office of another school. As the administrative assistant at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy in Suffolk, VA, she felt it only appropriate to grant the bottle to the second graders at NSA so they could also respond to the well wishers and Mrs. Parker. Along with the assistance of their teacher, Mrs. Colleen Perry, NSA second graders wrote two sets of their own letters; one to put back into the bottle to send up the coastline and the other to be sent directly to Mrs. Parker in North Carolina.

Friendships blossomed as the two groups of second graders from different schools have begun to write and exchange letters and thoughts as pen pals. “Communicating with a new friend from another state is a snap these days, thanks to the Internet and email...but for these students, it is so much more than that. They’ve relied on “snail-mail” and have had the opportunity to learn good writing techniques, develop their map skills, and experience the feelings of compassion. While they’ve shared how it feels to know and love someone who is very sick, more importantly they have learned that friendships can be made in many ways; even through a *message in a bottle*,” commented Perry.

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