

Crofton Meadows Elementary Weekly Wrap Up – Friday, February 14, 2020

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Good Afternoon Crofton Meadows Elementary Families!

Here is your Weekly Wrap Up for the week ending Friday, February 14, 2020.

What's Happening - Happy Valentine's Day, everybody! If you have been in the building recently you probably have noticed the growing displays of student artwork! The creations are amazing! Everything from wintery scenes with birdhouses and snowmen, to explorers' maps, dream catchers, mosaic hearts, geometric quilts, and inspirational posters with words like love, live, and hope on them. Thanks to Mrs. Somerville and Mrs. Edwards for leading all our students to discovering their hidden artistic talents and sharing them with the entire school. It's just another way of spreading kindness and joy!

Second Quarter awards were distributed with the report cards on Monday. It was a pleasure to visit with all classes to celebrate the hard work of the students and to encourage their goals for the third marking period. In total we had 70 students earn Principal's Honor Roll, 192 students earn Honor Roll, 81 students earn the Mustang Award for Improvement, and 53 students earn perfect attendance. Congratulations to all the students!

Special Thanks! – A special thanks to the parents and the PTO for your generous donations of snacks and treats for our professional development afternoon on Wednesday. It makes our afternoon of training more enjoyable! Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

A Message from our Guidance Counselor - Beginning on March 3 we will no longer be using DoJo points as a reinforcement for positive behavior. Instead, all staff members will be using a paper ticket system to recognize students for following the CMES school wide expectations: Work Hard, Be Kind and Be Safe. This decision to change mid-year was made because we felt that DoJo points were not concrete enough for our students. The ticket system will allow reinforcement in all areas of the school such as the cafeteria, cultural arts and guidance lessons. Research shows that to reduce behavior problems, expectations must be directly taught, practiced and reinforced with at least a 5:1 positive to negative ratio. For every behavior correction there needs to be at least 5 positive recognitions to change the undesired behavior. It is a school wide goal that each student receives at least 5 tickets a day.

This week all staff members were trained on how to conduct community circles with the students. Each day your child will be participating in a community circle with their teacher and classmates. The purpose of this practice is to continue creating a community within the classroom where students learn to respectfully listen to others, build stronger relationships with peers as well as encourage positive communication skills.

Really Planning Ahead – We are already getting questions about this year’s fifth grade promotion. Promotion activities will be on the last day of school (currently scheduled for June 16, 2020) at 3:00PM. June 16th is a two-hour early dismissal. Students will be dismissed at 12:55 PM. Fifth graders and their families can return at 3:00 PM for the promotion activities. This way we can accommodate all our guests without having to conduct preregistration processing.

Jump Rope for Heart - Jump Rope for Heart finishes today. The students have had a lot of fun jumping and encouraging each other with heart healthy activities. If you are still interested in donating, please click [here](#) to help raise money for the American Heart Association. The window for making donations will close tonight. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Venturella at gromeo@aacps.org.

Second Step at CMES - Each morning students will be learning skills to reinforce positive learning behaviors and social skills that are essential to their success as lifelong learners. Periodically, students will be bringing home follow up activities from the classroom lessons that can be done with a parent to reinforce these skills. The first set of skills that the students are taught is how to focus their attention and ignore distractions through self-talk. Parents can also access information on Second Step by logging on to their website at www.secondstep.org. The family activation code is SSPK FAMI LY70.

Marvelous Mustangs - This week’s Marvelous Mustangs Cayla T., Chloe D-M., Sabir J., Joseph D., Travis G-W., Kate L., Logan M., Colleen M., Ryan B., Cristofer L-R., Braelyn R., Jayden T., Colin R., Anderson P., Thomas F., Mason B., Journey S., Paisley B., Allen B., Franki B., Rylee S., Harry M., Maui P., and Julianna R. Congratulations to these Marvelous Mustangs! You are setting the example for *The Crofton Meadows Way* – Work Hard. Be Kind. Be Safe.

Attention Parents of Current 5th Graders - It’s beginning to become that time of year for fifth grade students to start thinking about middle school. The administrators and guidance counselors at Crofton Middle School are planning an opportunity for parents and 5th grade students to learn more about the process of selecting courses for 6th grade. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6PM at Crofton Middle School. More information is available [here](#).

An Important Message for the School Nurse - The Health Room is seeing an increase in flu like symptoms, cold symptoms. We encourage parents to check their students’ temperature prior to school if they have any cold, flu like symptoms. We

also encourage parents to let the health room know of any diagnosis (flu, strep etc..). We can be reached at 410-451-9778 or nurse3362@aacps.org. Additional information about how to prevent the flu and other sicknesses can be found on the CMES website or [here](#).

First In Math! - Exciting News!! First grade now has access to First In Math! Students log ins for home is:

- User Id: 6 digit student number
- Password: 1234

When your child earns 500 stickers- they also earn a family account for you (or siblings) to play too!

Let's CELEBRATE!

Crofton Meadows is currently the TOP SCHOOL in the state of Maryland! We have moved up and are now the 22nd school in the nation. Can we break into the Top 20? Let's keep trying!

FIM Updates!

Teams of the Week:

1st Place- Ms. Adam's 3rd Grade

2nd place Ms. Rutland's 4th Grade

3rd Place- Mrs. Hughes' 4th Grade

Players of the Week:

1st Place Levi - 1stGrade

2nd Place- Eni 3rd Grade

3rd Place- Omar 5th Grade

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL of our **NEW GRAND CHAMPIONS 10,000+ Stickers!**
Way to Go!

4th Grade- Colin T

3rd Grade- Eni, Caleb

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL of our players who have reached **100 on their Goals Index!!**

5th grade- Zach, Coco

4th grade- Arden, Hailey, Sofia, Alex, Charles, Ethan H, Logan

3rd grade- Bryce, Mark, Alex, Caleb, Eni, Kate, Addison

COMING SOON- 24 Team Tryouts! (during Recess)

3rd Grade- February 27th (Mrs. Gleason's Room)

4th Grade - February 26th (Mrs. Hughes' Room)

Parent Portal Access – Parent Portal allows parents of students in grades 1-12 to monitor their student’s academic progress throughout the school year. Look for the Parent Portal icon at the top of the AACPS website at www.aacps.org.

Changes to the Box Tops for Education Program - No more clipping!... Just scan your receipt! The Box Tops for Education will no longer be accepting box top clips. Parents can download the app and scan their store receipt. The box tops are then instantly added to our school’s earnings online. Check out the video to learn more: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hh94b2BvFK4

WATCH D.O.G.S. - The year is underway, your child has now settled into his/her routine and is learning each day. Do not miss a great opportunity to volunteer some of your time and spend time learning with your child. The WATCH D.O.G.S. Sign up is up and running. If you are interested, please log in and schedule a full day or half day: <https://signup.com/go/sSDpHdz>. Make sure your background check is complete! Any questions can be directed to Mr. Pitts @ watchdogscmes@gmail.com.

Volunteering and Chaperoning and Fingerprinting - Due to a very busy hiring season and increased school needs for finger-print supported volunteers, the Fingerprint Office is booked solid for at least a week or more. To help ease this overcrowding, we are establishing after hours fingerprinting, one day a week, for volunteers and chaperones. The Fingerprint Office now has evening hours from 4:00 to 6:30pm on Wednesdays. Appointments are still required. Volunteers/Chaperones should call 410-222-5045 to schedule an appointment.

Reminders:

Inclement weather, traffic delays, etc.: Please remember to have a back-up plan in place for student dismissal if and when there is an emergency or parents are stuck in traffic. Parents should notify the office when they have to activate their back up plan.

Appropriate dress for the weather: Please remember to have students wear coats and other cold weather garments to school. If the “feels like” temperature is above 32 degrees, and the weather is nice, the students go outside for recess. Also, remember to label their clothing with the student’s name so the item can be returned to the rightful owner if lost.

Early dismissal: If you are picking up your student for early dismissal, it is best to do so at least 15 minutes or more prior to the actual dismissal time (2:55PM). This will allow the student time to gather their belongings and come to the office. It will also help expedite your dismissal from the parking lot so you are not caught in the regular dismissal traffic.

Planning Ahead:

February 17, 2020	No School (Presidents' Day)
February 27, 2020	STEAM Night
March 9, 2020	Interims go Home
March 10, 2020	No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences

PTO News

Skate Night TONIGHT! Wear your brightest colors to Skate Zone tonight from 5-7 pm for a fun Valentine NEON skate night!

Professional Development Donations: An extra special thank you to the families who donated the Professional Development day snacks. Our teachers and staff truly appreciated and enjoyed the treats.

Reading Incentive Completion Ice Cream Sundae Celebration Donation & Volunteer Request: Mrs. Shrader is hosting an ice cream sundae celebration for students who completed the January reading incentive and can use help putting it on. There are a variety of ways CMES families can help make this a success.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054da4a822a3f58-reading>

All food donations must be in the main office by 9am on February 21st.

Volunteers must have their background check and video completed prior to volunteering.

Read Across America Volunteer Opportunity: Mrs. Shrader, CMES's reading specialist, is requesting volunteers to read in each classroom [on March 2nd](#) as part of Read Across America week. Volunteers will need to plan on being in the classroom for approximately 30 minutes [between 8:45am and 12:45pm](#). Each volunteer decides on the specific time with Mrs. Shrader.

If you are interested in volunteering:

1. Sign up on the [signup genius](#).
2. Contact Mrs. Shrader at cshrader@aacps.org to schedule the time.
3. Come early enough [on March 2nd](#) to check in the main office before proceeding to the classroom.

All volunteers must have completed their background check & watched the video prior to volunteering.

Movie Night Committee Meeting: Join the PTO on Tuesday, February 25th at CMES to help plan our upcoming movie night!

PTO Website Update: The PTO website will be down for a refresh sometime next week. Check Facebook and WWU for PTO news.

Feedback about the entire Weekly Wrap Up is welcome at jtrumbule@aacps.org.