

## **Crofton Meadows Elementary Weekly Wrap Up – Friday, February 21, 2020**

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Good Afternoon Crofton Meadows Elementary Families!

Here is your Weekly Wrap Up for the week ending Friday, February 21, 2020.

**What's Happening** - At a recent attendance meeting, the Pupil Personnel Worker for our school noticed an increase in the number of students that were arriving late to school. We know that the number of students being driven to school is increasing due to the cold and sometime rainy weather, so that makes the drop off a little slower. Please plan accordingly so that your student has enough time to get from the front of the building to his/her classroom before 8:30 AM. The students are considered late if they are not in their classrooms when the 8:30 bell sounds. When students are late, they feel rushed to get ready for the day and frequently take a significant amount of time to settle into the classroom routine and catch up to where their classmates are. On time arrivals make for a smooth start to the day and a more productive and successful outcome for the students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Check out our tweeter feed this afternoon for some pictures from our January #ReadWithMe Challenge celebration. Mrs. Shrader and the PTO sponsored the ice cream social to celebrate all our wonderful readers.

**Nicotine-Free Week** – Next Week is Nicotine-Free Week (February 23 – 29, 2020). The Anne Arundel County Department of Health is sponsoring a Poster Design Contest to spread the message of the harmful effects of nicotine. Students interested in creating a poster brought home information from their classroom teachers. Posters are due to the school nurse no later than Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

**STEAM Night is Coming!** - CMES will be hosting a STEAM Night for families from 6:30-7:30 PM on February 27th. In order to prepare for the many fun and engaging activities we have planned, we are asking for some donations. If you are able to donate, please use the following link to access the Sign Up Genius. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4AAEA62DA4FD0-steam1>. We are asking all families to look around their house for cardboard tubes, cardboard boxes- cut into large square/rectangle sections, scraps of fabric - all sizes and colors, and spare nuts/bolts/screws. You may send the donated items into school with your child, or drop them off in the office. *Please put a note on the items letting the office, or your child's teacher, know that the items are for STEAM Night and should be sent to Ms. Galvin's room. You may begin to send in the donations now, but please send*

*them in no later than Wednesday, February 26th.* Thank you for helping us make STEAM Night a success and we look forward to seeing you there!

**A Message from our Guidance Counselor** - Beginning on March 2 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.

**Fifth Grade Promotion** – 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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](http://www.secondstep.org). The family activation code is SSPK FAMI LY70.

**Marvelous Mustangs** - This week's Marvelous Mustangs are: Isaiah K., Kasim S., James M., Grant K., Caitlin P., Matthew L-C., Mia F., Tori R., Brayden P., Lazer R., Bryce H., Olivia C., Lilly B., Elta L., Adrian A., Zachary C., Peyton P., Gavin C., Katie S., Lily C., and Chris M. Congratulations to these Marvelous Mustangs! You are setting the example for *The Crofton Meadows Way* – Work Hard. Be Kind. Be Safe.

**Fifth Graders are Getting Ready for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – On Thursday, the fifth graders received a packet of information from Crofton Middle school for course selection for

6<sup>th</sup> grade. Please review the information packet with your student. A parent meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6PM at Crofton Middle School to discuss the process and answer any questions you may have. 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](mailto: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! -**

**Crofton Meadows is currently the TOP SCHOOL in the state of Maryland! We are STILL the 22nd school in the nation but closing in on #21. 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. Anastasio's 3rd Grade

3rd Place- Mrs. Gleason's 3rd Grade

Players of the Week:

1st Place Garrett - 5th Grade

2nd Place- Eni 3rd Grade

3rd Place- Levi 1st Grade

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

3rd Grade- Bryce

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

3rd grade- Lenora, Peyton, Elise, Hailey

COMING SOON- 24 Team Tryouts! ( during Recess)

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

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

5th Grade- February 25th

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 27, 2020	STEAM Night
March 9, 2020	Interims go Home
March 10, 2020	No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 16 or 17, 2020	Fourth Grade Field Trip to Arlington Echo
March 24, 2020	2-Hr Early Dismissal
March 27, 2020	PTO Movie Night

### **PTO News**

**Ice Cream Celebration Donation & Volunteer Thank You:** CMES hosted an ice cream social today for those students who completed the reading incentive in January. Thank you to the families who donated items and time making the ice cream sundae celebration a success today!

**What to Read to Your Student's Class?:** Mrs. Shrader, CMES's reading specialist, is requesting volunteers to read in each classroom on March 2 as part of Read Across America week. Volunteers will need to be in the classroom for 30 minutes between 8:45 am and 12:45 pm. 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](mailto:cshrader@aacps.org) to schedule a time.
3. Come early enough on March 2 to check in the main office before proceeding to the classroom.

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

**Movie Night Planning Meeting:** The PTO is hosting a movie night on Friday, March 27, following a general membership meeting. Nneka Kalu, PTO Social Chair, has scheduled the first planning meeting for Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6pm at CMES. Come join the fun! RSVP at [cmesptosocial@gmail.com](mailto:cmesptosocial@gmail.com).

**Monthly PTO Board Meeting:** Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 3, at 9 am at CMES. All are welcome to attend.

**School Apparel:** The CMES spirit wear apparel sale is extended until Sunday, March 8. [Click here](#) to order.

**Speakers Needed for Career Day:** CMES is host a Career Day program, on Friday, March 13. The theme "What Shoes Will you Wear?" shows students the variety of shoes they will wear in their future careers.

Do you or a family member have a job that is inspiring to share? We are inviting you to sign up to speak to 2-4 classes about your career. If you are interested please complete the form sent home in the red folders or email

[cmesptoexed@gmail.com](mailto:cmesptoexed@gmail.com) with your name, career, company, email, phone number, CMES student, and grade/teacher. Speaker requests are due Wed., Feb. 26.

We are excited to see all of nurses, constructions works, chefs, pilots, and business owners, and more inspiring our children!

**Yum! Pizza Fundraiser:** Save the date for, Wed. March 11, [Vocelli's Gambrills/Crofton location](#) is hosting a fundraiser for CMES. A portion of the sales will come back to CMES. More details on our [Facebook page](#). AND the business owners are CMES parents!

**Feedback about the entire Weekly Wrap Up** is welcome at [jtrumbule@aacps.org](mailto:jtrumbule@aacps.org).