

## **Crofton Meadows Elementary Weekly Wrap Up – Friday, September 27, 2019**

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Good Afternoon Crofton Meadows Elementary Families!

Here is your Weekly Wrap Up for the week ending September 27, 2019.

**What Happened This Week** - The students and staff had another great week! Last Friday night, the PTO had a great turn out for the Fall Picnic! It was great to see friends, neighbors, and so many new families to CMES! We had over 250 people attend. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and the children loved to catch the “free” cotton candy floating in the air! Thanks to the Cub Scout Pack 758 for cooking the hotdogs and a special thanks to Nneka Kalu for coordinating the event and to the PTO and all the volunteers for making the event such a success!

**Harvest for the Hungry** - Harvest for the Hungry is right around the corner! Help us put an end to Hunger in Maryland. We will begin collecting food on October 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue until October 18<sup>th</sup>. Last year we were recognized by the Maryland Food Bank for collecting 2,726 pounds of food that filled 28 huge boxes! Our goal this year is to surpass last year’s total! Each day during the campaign will have a theme. Look for the yellow flyer coming home with your students today. Let’s have some fun and feed our neighbors! Any questions? Contact Mrs. Courtney at [mcourtney@aacps.org](mailto:mcourtney@aacps.org).

**Federal Survey Cards** – Federal Survey Cards will be coming home on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. The information families fill out on these cards is very important because it will allow Anne Arundel County Schools and Crofton Meadows to get the appropriate share of federal funds for our schools. When we don’t report this information in an accurate and timely way, our schools don’t receive the necessary funds to provide the curriculum and facilities for our students. Please complete the information on the cards and return to school ASAP. Thank you for your help in this matter.

**Parent Portal Goes Live!** – The Parent Portal (the new ParentConnect) went live on Monday, September 16, 2019. An email message was sent home on Monday with the access code for parents to activate their student’s account. If you did not receive an email with the access code, most likely it is because we do not have an email contact for you in the database. You can get the access code by emailing Mrs. Showler ([lshowler@aacps.org](mailto:lshowler@aacps.org)) a request for access to the Parent Portal. Please make sure you identify who your student is in the email. She will respond to you by email with the access code. 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).

**Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) program** – The Free and Reduced Meals program applications are due by October 17, 2019. This is important for and student that was a FARMS student last year and has continued this year. If a new (renewed) application is not received by October 17, 2019, the student will automatically be withdrawn from the program and will be charged full price for meals at school. Please complete the application online at [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org).

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** – Parent /Teacher conferences are being scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is for each teacher to meet with a parent of each of their students. Teachers are creating sign-up geniuses for parents to select a time that is convenient for them. Information on how to sign up will be send home by Wednesday, October 2, 2019, if it hasn't already been done so. Please sign up as soon as the sign-up genius for your student's teacher is available.

**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. Starting Wednesday, September 25, 2019, the Fingerprint Office will be open from 4pm through 6:30pm. This session will be offered every Wednesday throughout the school year. Appointments will be required. Volunteers/Chaperones should call 410-222-5045 to schedule an appointment.

**Emergency Contact Cards** – Emergency Contact Information Cards were due back at school today, Friday, September 13, 2019. We are still waiting on many cards to be returned. If you have not returned the emergency card, please do so as soon as possible. It is very important that the school have updated information on who to contact in case of an emergency. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Marvelous Mustangs** - This week's Marvelous Mustangs are Ryan T., Kamtoci M., Bailey T., Kayci R., Harry M., Lizzy P., and Bryce V. Congratulations to these Marvelous Mustangs! You are setting the example for *The Crofton Meadows Way* – Work hard. Be Kind. Be Safe.

**First In Math!** - When your child earns 500 stickers, they unlock a **FREE family account**, A younger sibling, or you as the parent may play along and join the fun! Congratulations to our First in Math **Teams of the Week**: 1st place- Ms. Hughes, 4th Grade; 2nd Place- Ms. Adams' / Dr. Saunders, 3rd Grade; 3rd Place- Ms. Rutland, 4th Grade. Our **Players of the Week**: 1st Place – Zach G. 5th Grade; 2nd Place- Owen S. 4th Grade; 3rd Place- Alex G. 3rd grade. All students in grades 2- 5 have First In Math accounts! Login in at [www.firstinmath.com](http://www.firstinmath.com). Username is your student's six digit student number. The password is 1234.

**Kid Kindness Grants** - Are you between the ages of 5 – 18? Do you have a fantastic idea about how to spread kindness? Do you need money to help you do it? If so, KindnessGrowsHere, Inc. wants to hear from you. They want kids with awesome ideas to submit applications for ways in which they can help spread kindness in their school, community, town, or neighborhood. Individuals may apply for up to \$200. Groups may apply for up to \$500. Applications will be accepted from September 1, 2019 to November 1, 2019. More information can be found [here](#).

**Reminders** – Two reminders this week to help with the safe and orderly operation of the school. First, please remember to use the crosswalk when crossing the driveway from the parking lot to the school. And second, please do not send (or bring) in edible treat (including cupcakes) for the class to celebrate your student’s birthday or other special occasion. We recognize the student’s birthday with a school-wide announcement and a small prize.

**Helpful Tip** – Please write your child’s name in their lunch boxes (on the inside) and on any sweaters, jackets, or sweatshirts. This will help tremendously in getting lost items back to their rightful owners.

**Planning Ahead:**

October 3, 4 & 7, 2019	Fifth Grade Drownproofing
Monday, October 7, 2019	Interims for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Marking Period go home
Tuesday, October 8, 2019	2 Hour Early Dismissal
Wednesday, October 9, 2019	School Closed – Yom Kippur
Tuesday, October 15, 2019	School Closed – Parent /Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, October 16, 2019	School Closed – Parent / Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, October 23, 2019	Unity Day (Wear Orange to Stomp Out Bullying)

**PTO News**

**Thank you** to our PTO Social Chair Nneka Kalu and to all of the volunteers who helped make the annual **Fall Picnic** a huge success! We had cotton candy flying in the air, food, games, and smiles on faces! Special thanks goes to Boy Scout Pack 758 for bringing the grills and for grilling our delicious hot dogs for us! Thanks for supporting this fun event!

Thank you to everyone who came to help Mrs. Shrader with the **reading curriculum!** It was a big project made smaller, by your helping hands!

**Professional Development Day: Tues., Oct. 8** is the first professional development day. CMES families provide snacks and drinks for the teachers and staff to enjoy during their professional development. While everyone is welcome to participate, the **PTO is asking 4th and 5th grade families** to donate to the first session/day.

This year's professional development schedule is:

- **Oct. 8: 4th and 5th grade families**
- Dec. 5: 2nd and 3rd grade families
- Feb. 12, 2020: K and 1st grade families
- March 24, 2020: All grades

To sign-up, [click here](#). *All donations must be in the main office by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 8.*

**Want to volunteer?** Start by completing the AACPS [background check](#). #besafe #schoolsafety #volunteer

**PTO Board Meeting.** The next PTO board meeting is Tues., Oct. 8, from 6-8 p.m. CMES. Even if you are not a member, you can come and see what we are up to!

**We want YOU to be part of the PTO!** It's \$10 per family for the school year. [Click here](#) to join! New PTO members can create an account by selecting, "Signup Now." Returning PTO families, may sign-in with current e-mail and creating a password.

**Find Us On Facebook!** Check out the [CMES PTO Facebook](#) page for the latest news.

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