

Crofton Meadows Elementary Weekly Wrap Up – Friday, October 4, 2019

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Good Afternoon Crofton Meadows Elementary Families!

Here is your Weekly Wrap Up for the week ending Friday, October 4, 2019.

What Happened This Week - Although this was a short week with no school on Monday, we had a lot going on. Interim reports go home next week, so students were busily completing graded classwork and writing assignments. The fifth graders have also been participating the drownproofing – the AACPS water safety course at the Arundel Swim Center. Today they were especially excited because they inflated their clothes.

Our first PBIS Fun Friday was today! Students who have earned enough DOJO points were able to participate in extra recess! For the rest of the year, the first Friday of the month will be a designated day for all classes to reward our students who are consistently following the Crofton Meadows Way: Work Hard, Be Kind and Be Safe. In addition as part of our PBIS program, we will be planning four school wide events to build a positive community at CMES. The first school wide event will be a Fall Festival scheduled on October 31. We will need volunteers to help that day. Please be on the look out for a sign up genius sent out by the PTO.

New Policy on Snacks from the Cafeteria – In an effort to promote healthy eating habits, the school cafeteria will be limiting student purchases of snacks such as ice cream and cookies to one item per day, when snacks are available. Currently students are allowed to purchase as many snacks as they want as long as there is money on their account. That meant some students were eating three ice creams for their lunch and nothing else. If parents would like to allow their student to purchase multiple snacks a day, please let the school know and we will work with the cafeteria manager to make that happen. Otherwise, snack purchases will be limited to one item when snacks are sold, starting Monday, October 7th.

Harvest for the Hungry - Harvest for the Hungry off to a great start! Students and families have already collected more than 10 boxes of food and more than \$500 to donate to the Maryland Food Bank. Our goal this year is to surpass last year's total which was 2,726 pounds of food that filled 28 huge boxes! We are well on our way. The Harvest for the Hungry Food Drive runs from October 1st to October 18th. The themes for the coming week are Monday, October 7th – Mac and Cheese Day (Wear something yellow), Tuesday October 8th – Twin Day (Bring in a twin pack of

something or two items that go together like peanut butter and jelly), Wednesday, October 9th - (No School), Thursday, October 10th – Breakfast Day (Bring in non-perishable breakfast items) and Friday, October 11th – Fruity Friday and Eat your vegetables Day (Wear bright colors and bring in cans of fruits of vegetables). Let's have some fun and feed our neighbors! Any questions? Contact Mrs. Courtney at mcourtney@aacps.org.

Federal Survey Cards – Federal Survey Cards were sent 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. So far we are off to a great start with returning the completed survey cards. **Fifty-six percent (56%)** of the students' families have returned the survey! Thank you for your quick response. If you haven't completed the card, please complete it and return to school ASAP. If you need another card, please let your student's teacher know or you can pick one up in the office. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Celebrating Vocabulary Development - On Thursday, October 31, 2018 Crofton Meadows Elementary School will hold our annual Vocabulary Day & Parade. This parade is part of our school's continuing emphasis on robust vocabulary development and rigorous instruction. As in the past, students will choose a word to learn for the parade. They are to create a costume, hat or poster to wear in the parade that represents their word. A detailed letter was sent home today that explains what students will need to do to prepare for the event.

Parent Portal Goes Live! – The Parent Portal (the new ParentConnect) went live on Monday, September 16, 2019. An email message was sent home mid-September 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) 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.

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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences – Parent /Teacher conferences are being scheduled for October 15th and 16th. Our goal is for each teacher to meet with a parent of each

of their students. Teachers have created sign-up geniuses for parents to select a time that is convenient for them. Information on how to sign up was sent home this week. If you have a question about signing up for a time slot, please contact your student's teacher. Thank you to those that have already signed up.

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.

Emergency Contact Cards - Ninety-six percent (96%) of the students' families have returned the Emergency Contact Information Cards! That is a fantastic response rate. We are still waiting on a few more cards to be returned. If you have not returned the emergency card, a second card was sent home with your student. It is very important that the school have updated information on who to contact in case of an emergency. Please complete the card and return it to school as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Marvelous Mustangs - This week's Marvelous Mustangs Lucy C., Francesca R., Jaina D., Lucas T., Harrison T., Rose B., Oreoluwa S., Andreyra R., Lilly G., Alice K., Arius M., Taliyah R., Jenny L., Tala A., Coralee D., Mia T., Jacklynn O-A., Hailey K., Linh N., Phaedra D., Sophia R., Emmi A., Kaylynn E., Eva K., Kaylynn M., and Else G-B. 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. Rutland, 4th Grade; 2nd Place - Mrs. Shields, 4th Grade; 3rd Place - Mrs. Galvin, 2nd Grade. Congratulations to our **Players of the Week:** 1st Place - Charles, 2nd Grade; 2nd Place - Colin T, 4th Grade; and 3rd Place - Lincoln W., 5th grade. We also have TWO GRAND CHAMPIONS - 10,000 stickers!! Zach, 5th grade and Taavi, 3rd Grade All students in grades 2- 5 have First In Math accounts! Login in at 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 st 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)
Tuesday, October 29, 2019	APEX Pep Rally (In school assembly)
Thursday, October 31, 2019	Fall Festival and Vocabulary Parade

PTO News

Professional Development Day: Next Tuesday is the first professional development day for our CMES teachers. Thank you to the families who signed up to provide snacks for the staff—all of the requests are filled. *Your donations must be in the main office by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 8.*

SPIRIT WEAR! Get excited! In the coming weeks the PTO will be sharing new CMES apparel for you to purchase.

Halloween FUN! Keep Halloween, Thursday, Oct. 31 open for a volunteer opportunity (Fall Festival). More information to come. As a reminder, to volunteer with students, AACPS require you to watch a volunteer video, sign and turn in the video verification form, and complete a background check (free). The video only needs to be watched once, but the background check must be completed every two years. The background check takes several weeks to be approved.

Volunteer video: <https://md02215556.schoolwires.net/Page/2460>

Background check form: <http://aacps.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1869>

PTO Board Meeting. The next PTO board meeting is Oct. 8, from 6-7 p.m. at 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.