

## **Crofton Meadows Elementary Weekly Wrap Up – Friday, October 11, 2019**

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Good Afternoon Crofton Meadows Elementary Families!

Here is your Weekly Wrap Up for the week ending Friday, October 11, 2019.

**What's Happening** - We are quickly approaching our first set of Parent/Teacher Conference days this year. Conferences have been scheduled for Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This is the time that parents can meet directly with their student's teacher to discuss the student's progress so far this year, set goals, discuss concerns and learn strategies for helping students stay on track at school and at home. One of the keys to student success in school is to have good communication between the school and the family. Attending the parent/teacher conference is one way to make sure this communications is productive and focused on student success.

**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 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> to October 18<sup>th</sup>. The themes for the coming week are Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> Quench your Thirst Day (coffee, juice boxes, juice, water); Thursday and Friday will be a competition where the students will vote for their favorite football team by bringing in any non-perishable food items. The competition will be announced to the students on Monday, October 14, 2019. 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 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](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 scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. If you did not sign up for a conference, please contact your student's teacher to set up a time to meet to discuss your student's progress so far this year. 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.

**Class email Lists** – We have had many requests from parents for the email addresses of the students in their child’s class. In order to maintain the privacy of all our students and their families, we will not be able to provide this information.

**Marvelous Mustangs** - This week’s Marvelous Mustangs are Brandon F., Dalton H., Ethan W., Emily B., Owen H., Bryson R., Jehaan F., DaMir B., Sehjaroop T., James L., Michael B., Josh M., Addilyn O., Amelia D., Campbell B., Jayce T., Layla G., Chase G., Sahil P., Hayleigh P., Anyae P., and Jordan M. Congratulations to these Marvelous Mustangs! You are setting the example for *The Crofton Meadows Way* – Work Hard. Be Kind. Be Safe.

**First In Math!** - Robert Sun, founder of First in Math and the 24 Game tweeted this week: “Kudos to @AACountySchools students have already solved 24 MILLION math problems on @FirstInMath. 300 students are at the FIM Mathematician Level with more than 10, 000 problems each, with @CrftMeadowsACP leading the way.”

That's US!!!! Can we double the number of students at the Mathematician Level by Thanksgiving?

Congratulations to our First in Math **Teams of the Week!**

1st place- Dr. Saunders/ Ms. Adams , 3rd Grade  
2nd Place- Mrs. Galvin 2nd Grade Grade Mrs. Shields 4th Grade  
3rd Place-Mrs. Shields 4th Grade

Our **Players of the Week:**

1st Place - Taavi 3rd Grade  
2nd Place- Tuvia T 5th Grade  
3rd Place- Zach 5th grade

Who will our next Grand Champion be?

**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** – 1) Our instructional day begins promptly at 8:30 AM. This means that students should be in their seat, ready to start their day at 8:30 AM. Most students

need about five minutes to walk from the front door, unpack their belonging and get prepared for the day. Students that are not in their seats at 8:30 AM, will be marked absent unless they have gotten a tardy slip from the front office. 2) Please remember to use the crosswalk when crossing the driveway from the parking lot to the school. 3) 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.

### **Planning Ahead:**

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
Thursday, November 7, 2019	APEX Fun Run
Thursday November 7, 2019	2 Hour Early Dismissal
Friday November 8, 2019	2 Hour Early Dismissal (End of Marking Period)
November 11-15, 2019	American Education Week
Friday, November 15, 2019	Grandfriends Visitation Day

### **PTO News**

**THANK YOU!** Thank you to the families who **donated snacks and drinks for our teachers and staff to enjoy during their professional development** this Tuesday. Our teachers and staff truly appreciated and enjoyed the treats.

Our first **Skate Night** earned CMES \$640! The kids can join in the fun at the next Skate Night on Fri., Nov. 15.

**Spirit Night at CFA** is coming on Tues., Oct. 22.

**Halloween FUN!** Keep Thurs., Oct. 31 open for a volunteer opportunity at the 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>

**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).