

Crofton Meadows Elementary Weekly Wrap Up – Friday, October 17, 2019

You are receiving this email because you have a child that attends Crofton Meadows Elementary, work at Crofton Meadows Elementary or have expressed interest in receiving the information in this email. If you wish to not receive these emails in the future, please email jtrumbule@aacps.org so your name can be removed from our list.

Good Afternoon Crofton Meadows Elementary Families!

Here is your Weekly Wrap Up for the week ending Friday, October 17, 2019.

What's Happening - This week we took time to meet with parents and families to discuss their student's progress so far this year. We had over 420 parent/teacher conferences on Tuesday and Wednesday where teachers discussed student progress and ways to support the growth of our students with parents. Thank you very much to those that participated in the conference with your student's teacher. Your continued involvement in your student's education is critical to their success. If you were unable to have a conference with your student's teacher, please reach out to her so they can set up a convenient time to meet.

This coming Wednesday, October 23rd we will be supporting Unity Day to stop all forms of bullying. Students, staff and parents are encouraged to wear orange to show that we are together in our efforts to stop bullying and UNITED for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion!

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.

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.

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. To date we have received about 77% of the survey cards back. Thank you for your quick attention. 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 (ishowler@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.

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 Cam D., Aubrey L., Emily B., Kersey M., Caleb L., Ally P., Jacob F., Alivia R., Maizee J., Roxy B., Samantha B., Brynn B., Keila C-E., Colby B., Lainey C., Ella K., Liese R., Camren D., Chase G., Tara M. Israel S., Sophia Z., MJ M., Kaleb W., and Garrett K. 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 @AASchools 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 @CrftMeadowsAACP leading the way."

Our First in Math Goal: Double the number of mathematicians by the November break- we can do it!

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

1st place- Mrs. Shields, 4th Grade

2nd Place- Ms. Rutland, 4th Grade

3rd Place-Mrs. Hage, 4th Grade

Our **Players of the Week:**

1st Place - Ethan H, 4th Grade

2nd Place- Tuvia, 5th Grade

3rd Place- Taavi, 3rd 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:

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

We've Got Spirit, YES we do! Get your CMES apparel starting now through Oct. 30 by shopping online: <http://www.epiapparel.com/cro185.html>

Orders will be distributed the week of Nov. 18—in time for the holidays! Be sure to tell any family members about our sale so that they can have CMES spirit too!

SPIRIT Night at Chick-Fil-A is next Tues., Oct. 22, from 5-8 pm. You pick which Crofton CFA works for your family, and remember to tell them you are a CMES family, BEFORE you order—a portion of sales is donated back to our school.

Fun Run! Our biggest fundraiser of the year is almost here! This year, we are partnering with Apex, an expert in fundraising and character building. They will be joining the kids at school to provide education on how to be an even better citizen. In the coming week, check out the CMES PTO Facebook page and the Weekly Wrap Up for more info. And, mark your calendar for the run on Thurs., Nov. 7.

Fall Festival! Thurs., Oct. 31 is the Fall Festival. More information will be available on the CMES PTO page this coming week. 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.

