

## **Crofton Meadows Elementary Weekly Wrap Up – Friday, November 22, 2019**

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Good Afternoon Crofton Meadows Elementary Families!

Here is your Weekly Wrap Up for the week ending Friday, November 22, 2019.

**What's Happening** - This week was exceptionally busy at Crofton Meadows. On Monday, the Crofton Chamber of Commerce paid the third grade class their annual visit bringing each student a personal dictionary. The members spend a few minutes in each class passing out the dictionaries and helping the students realize the dictionaries were more than a book of words, they actually were filled with a lot of other interesting information.

The students were also treated to an assembly on reading. The students were very excited about how the characters came “alive” with lights. Thanks to Mrs. Colleen Pitts and the PTO for sponsoring this event.

On Thursday evening, the faculty and staff of Crofton Meadows hosted our annual Reading Night. About 150 students and families participated in reading games and activities, listened to an author/illustrator, and read books by the “fire”. Thanks to Mrs. Shrader and her Reading Team for there hard work in creating a super fun night for the students to enjoy!

Today students in grades 1 - 5 brought home their report cards for the first marking period. This is a time for the students to reflect on their progress so far this school year and to plan for improvement and success during the second marking period. Kindergarten students brought home the results of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

**Important Message for the School Administration** - It has come to our attention that several students in the intermediate grades are involved in large group texting chain. This activity seems to be happening outside of school, but the effects are starting to trickle into the school building and the classrooms. Teachers have overheard several conversations among students about topics that are discussed in the groups (i.e. dating, boyfriends and girlfriends). Additionally, the teachers have noticed students complaining of being tired because they were up late at night sending and receiving text messages. Of particular concern, many members of the chat group are unknown to the group or school officials. We now have students accusing others of “turning them in” to the teachers. This is cyberbullying and will not be tolerated! Students that are found to be bullying others, either through text

messages, group chat, or in person will face disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct. We are asking parents to be aware of their student's texting habits and internet safety. We also ask that parents speak with their student about the consequences for participating in these activities. Thank you in advance for addressing these concerns with your student.

**Family Vacations** – It's beginning to be that time of year where parents start making requests of teachers to prepare work for their students who are going to miss school due to a family vacation. A list of lawful causes of absences can be found on page 15 of the 2019 – 2020 Parent Handbook. Missing school for vacation is not on the list of lawful reasons for absence from school. It is very difficult for teachers to prepare work for students in advance and typically very little of this work comes back to the teacher when the student returns. Student work will be collected during absences and provided the student to make up upon their return. Work that is not made up will be counted as missing assignments and factored into the student's grades. Although it is a family decision when vacations are planned, it is best practice for the student's academic success if vacations are scheduled during the time when the school system is closed on a holiday break.

**Class Fees** - If you have not paid your student's class fee from the beginning of the school year, please consider doing this as soon as possible. For your convenience you can pay on-line by going to [osp.osmsinc.com/annearundel](http://osp.osmsinc.com/annearundel). Find our school name (Crofton Meadows) under Elementary. Navigate to your student's teacher/grade to find the class fee.

**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).

**Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) program** – The Free and Reduced Meals program is accepting applications for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Applications

need to be renewed each year. The application can be found online at [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org). A

**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 Riley M., Alyssa D., Ryan B., Jaina D., Eli M., Piper B., Kams M., Lucas G., Wyatt T., Feebi S., Grant S., Nadia S., Calvin W., Emory S-H., Izzy S., Adam L., Sophia Z., Andrew M., William P., Mackenzie H., Emmi A., Katie S., and Karolina 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!** - The First In Math results for this week are:

Team of the Week:

1st Place Mrs. Gleason's 3rd Grade

2nd Place Mrs. Hampson's 2nd Grade

3rd Place Mrs. Galvin's 2nd Grade

Players of the Week:

1st Place Zach 5th Grade

2nd Place Lazer 2nd Grade

3rd Place Michael 2nd Grade

Remember: Our goal was to DOUBLE the number of Mathematicians by Thanksgiving break we currently have 75 students who reached 3, 000 + stickers! WAY TO GO!!!!!!

**Reminders** - Please remember when you are visiting the school/classroom or attending a school event not to take pictures of other students without permission from the student's parent or guardian. Also, please make sure your students have their name somewhere on their jackets and sweatshirts. We are getting a ton "Lost and Found" items that we would like to return to their rightful owners. If your

student is missing something, have him/her check the Lost and Found rack in the back hallway.

### **Planning Ahead:**

November 27-29, 2019	Thanksgiving Break – School Closed
December 5, 2019	Unity Day (Wear Orange) 2-Hour Early Dismissal
December 10, 2019	Band and Chorus Winter Concert 6:30 PM
December 11, 2019	Strings Winter Concert 6:30 PM
December 13, 2019	Interims for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Go Home

### **PTO News**

**Apex Fun Run Total:** The PTO is very excited to announce that CMES is receiving **\$24,712.69** for our school with the Apex Fun Run! That's incredible! This money funds assemblies, recess equipment, technology resources, teacher reimbursements and much, much more! If you have additional questions about this fundraiser, please contact Mandy at [cmesptopresident@gmail.com](mailto:cmesptopresident@gmail.com). Thanks SO much for your support!

**Professional Development Day:** Thursday, December 5th is our second professional development day. CMES families provide snacks and drinks for them to enjoy during their professional development. While everyone is welcome to participate, the PTO is asking 2nd & 3rd grade families to donate towards the 2nd professional development day.

This year's professional development schedule is:

- October 8 - 4th & 5th Grade Families THANK YOU!
- December 5 - 2nd & 3rd Grade Families
- February 12, 2020 - Kindergarten & 1st Grade Families
- March 24, 2020 - All grades

Please [click here](#) to sign up. All donations must be in the main office by **noon on Thursday, December 5th.**

**Thanksgiving Dessert Table:** Thank you to everyone who signed up to provide the desserts and cider on **Monday, November 25th.** Please remember to drop off your donations to the main office by **10 a.m. on Monday.**

**Holiday Shop:** Save the date! Our holiday shop runs from the evening of **December 17** (VIP shopping 6:15-6:45 p.m./Shopping for all: 6:45-8:00 p.m.) and during the school days on **December 18 & 19.** Students will have an opportunity to shop for others. More information will be coming, but we need your

help working the Holiday shop to make this a success. There are volunteer shifts both in the evening and during the school day. Please [click here](#) to sign up for a shift.

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).