

CRAFTON CORNER



As the PSSA approaches in just a few weeks, it's crucial for students to utilize their tools and showcase their knowledge in reading, math, and science. Attendance is imperative during these assessments, and punctuality is key, as adjustments to daily schedules will be made to foster a conducive testing environment for all students.



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For parents of children in grades K-2, please note that remote learning will take place on April 23-24 and April 30th. All students in grades 3-6 are expected to report to school on time each day to participate in the PSSAs. Additionally, our 4th graders will partake in the Science PSSAs.



It's essential to recognize that what your child learns on a daily basis lays the groundwork for achieving success on

Poem Before Testing:

- Breathe deeply
- Rest the night before
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Always read the directions
- Take your time
- Have confidence in yourself
- Energize by drinking lots of water and stretching during breaks



APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Crafton is participating in a fundraiser in an effort to support the research and the families that have children with Autism.

Join the Autistic Support Classroom at Crafton Elementary School in showing your understanding, acceptance and love of Autism by purchasing a puzzle piece. The money will be donated to the Pittsburgh Autism Society.

Be a **Green** or **Gold** Supporter!

Green puzzle piece—\$1 donation

Gold puzzle piece—\$5 donation



All puzzle pieces will be displayed in Crafton Elementary School.

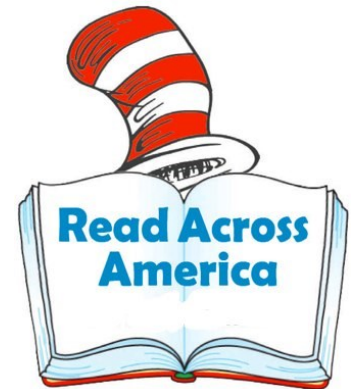
READ ACROSS AMERICA

Congratulations to our grade level winners in our Read Across America Reading Challenge. The students received gift cards for their hard work.

The students had a great time dressing up for each day of the week. Thank you to the parents for supporting our week.

We had many guest readers, from police officers to community members. The students enjoyed getting to know all of our visitors. Thank you to all who read to our students and for making the students' day brighter.

A special kudos to Mrs. Kosko and Ms. Sirianni for helping to organize this wonderful week. Every year she takes on this major event, and every year she goes above and beyond.





Student OF THE MONTH

March	Name of Student
Kindergarten	Archer Gavin Zoey Donahue Grayson Smith
1st Grade	Connor Schoen Rishell-Eva Mechling Marley Abbott
2nd Grade	Diesel Rusin Ivona Musta
3rd Grade	Madison Peck Kuhn- Elise Compitello
4th Grade	Leah Jenkins Caeden Kalnai
5th Grade	Dominic Schaffer Nicholas Reeder
6th Grade	Presleigh Campbell Isobel Macik



Exciting News from the PTA:

Our PTA has exciting events lined up! Enjoy Peppi hoagies from April 2-12. Attend our PTA meeting on April 3 at 7 PM. Order for Square One Fundraiser by April 12. Hoagie pick-up is on April 18. Join our Tie Dye Day fundraiser on April 19, and spread positivity at Chalk the Walk the same day. See you there!

COUNTDOWN TO THE PSSA

With a few weeks before the PSSA, our teachers are looking for creative and effective ways to maximize the remaining instructional time to provide our students with the necessary tools that are needed to become Proficient or Advanced in English Language Arts, Math, and Science. It is imperative that all students are in school during these assessments and report on time, as modifications to daily schedules will occur in order to create a conducive testing environment for all students. The testing calendar is listed below:

Assessment	Dates	Grades
English Language Arts	April 22 23, 24	3-6
Mathematics	April 30 and May 1	3-6
Science	May 2 and 3	4

Parent Tips to Help Prepare Your Student for Standardized Testing

What your student is learning on a daily basis builds the foundation for being able to demonstrate high achievement on tests. During the weeks leading up to the test, begin to talk with your children about the importance of giving their best effort during testing. The following thoughts will help you in preparing your child for being ready to give the test his or her all.

The Night Before:

- ◇ Help your child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
- ◇ Help children resolve immediate arguments before going to bed.
- ◇ Keep your routine as normal as possible. Upsetting natural routines may make children feel insecure.
- ◇ Mention the test to show you're interested, but don't dwell on it.
- ◇ Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

The Morning of the Test:

- ◇ Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at school on time.
- ◇ Have your child eat a good breakfast but not a heavy one. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
- ◇ Have your child dress in something comfortable.
- ◇ Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can be hard, and that they are designed so that no one will know all of the answers. Explain that doing your best is what counts. It is important to make your child comfortable and confident about the test.

After the Test:

- ◇ Talk to your child about his or her feelings about the test, making sure you acknowledge the effort such a task requires.
- ◇ Discuss what was easy and what was difficult; discuss what your child learned from the test.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-2

On April 22, 23, 24 and April 30 and May 1, 2024, Crafton Elementary School will administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) to students in grades 3 through 6. In order to provide accommodations and support to our students during the administration of the PSSA, it is necessary to adjust the school day for students in grades Kindergarten, first, and second, as well as students not participating in the PSSA testing at Crafton Elementary Schools. The difference this year—K-2 will be remote on MOST of the testing days but NOT all. Read below carefully for exact dates.

Students not participating in the PSSA testing will have a Remote Day on April 23, 24 and April 30 2024. Please be advised that the Remote Days mean our primary students will be learning from home on April 23rd, 24th, 30th

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 who are participating in the PSSA **testing should report to school at the** regularly scheduled start time. The PSSA is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment which provides students, parents, educators and citizens with an understanding of student and school performance related to the attainment of standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology. These standards identify what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels. Individual student scores can be used to assist teachers in identifying students who may be in need of additional educational opportunities, and school scores provide information to schools and districts for curriculum and instruction improvement discussions and planning. It is very important for students to perform at their highest level, therefore, please encourage your child to come to school prepared to do well on the PSSA.

Specific PSSA information and reminders will be provided by each elementary school. Please contact your student's elementary school with any further questions regarding the change of schedule during the PSSA Testing. We thank you in advance for your continued support.



COUGAR CLUBS



Crafton Elementary is a school that celebrates Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. To move to the next level for our students, we have implemented the Cougar Clubs. This happens once a month for 30 minutes. Students were able to choose a club that interested them or provided a time to reinforce needed skills. Some examples are:

- ◇ Paws and Relax
- ◇ Walking Club
- ◇ Green Team
- ◇ Chill Team
- ◇ Chess Club
- ◇ Analyzing Musical Masterpieces
- ◇ Guitar
- ◇ And many more

Some students chose to be part of our Green Team Club. This club is a group of students who show their 3Bs everyday. They also go above and beyond the expectations of the normal school day. One of their goals was to visit different classrooms and talk about our 3 Bs.

I look forward to seeing the integration of our curriculum within our club process. The students are excited to share in different interests and passions.

GO COUGARS!!!