With two weeks before the PSSA, it is time for students to use their tools to show what they know in both reading and math. 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 productive testing environment for all students. The English Language Arts PSSA will be April 15-17. The Math PSSA will be April 29-30. All students in grades 3-6 will be taking these tests. Our 4th graders will also participate in the Science PSSAs on May 1-2. What your child is learning on a daily basis builds the foundation for being able to demonstrate high achievement on tests. The following thoughts will help you in preparing your child for being ready each day.

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.

⇒ 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. Explain that doing your best is what counts.
RECESS AND LUNCH

As the spring weather brings rain, students have been inside for recess a lot. Thank you to the PTA for their continued help with maintaining our indoor recess games and activities. Also, a special kudos for keeping it organized. Hopefully, we will see more sunshine soon and get outside for some warm spring air.

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found continues to grow. Please remind your children to look through it if they are missing any hats, gloves, coats, jackets, and sweaters. All items will be donated if not claimed.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Jump Rope for Heart is a fun event where you can jump rope, learn about your heart and how to keep it healthy, while raising money for the American Heart Association.

Our assembly will kick off this event in May, sponsored by Mr. Ficorilli. He will motivate the students and promote a healthy heart lifestyle. The event will take place during the weeks after PSSA testing.

Monetary donations will be accepted though May.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Congratulations to our grade level winners in our Read Across America Reading Challenge. The students were treated to a pizza and ice cream party with the PTA.

We had many guest readers, from fire fighters to parents. The students enjoyed getting to know all of our visitors.

A special Kudos to Mrs. Kosko for helping to organize this wonderful week.
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.

Exciting News from the PTA:

April 2nd—PTA Meeting
April 11th—In-School Talent Show
April 16th—Sarris Pick Up
April 19th—No School
April 23rd—Gift of Time donations due
April 25th—Take Your Child to Work Day
April 26th—No School
April 30th—Hat Day

If you want to get involved, it is never too late! You can always contact us at craftonelementarypta@gmail.com or on Facebook at Crafton Elementary PTA, and one of us will gladly get back to you.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>April 15-17, 2019</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>April 29-30, 2019</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>May 1-2, 2019</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Birthdays of the Month

Madelyn Cail          Kaycie Chapman          Benjamin Colbert
Corinne Coppler      Shaunte Turner-Deluca      Eric Firle
Brandyn Gant         Giada Matteo-Huber         James Kerns
Brendan King          Gabriella Medici         Charles Mullen
Nora Novak            Sophia O’Brien            Ayden Olexa
Teegan Perry          Dominic Schaffer          Austin Warren
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>Name of student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Alex - Riley Egenlauf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helfrick - Noell Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rynn-Gavin Biondo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Price-Blake Popivchak-Geng</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>DeRoss- Claire Suchant</td>
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<td>Bassano - Sydney Morrissey</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Dzurko - Kylie Taylor</td>
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<td>Bigler- Delia Fletcher</td>
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<td>Kuhn- Teagan Sherrell</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ficorilli- Xavier O’Leary</td>
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<td>Monaghan- Jayme Rolling</td>
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<td>Wenrich - Luke Palmer</td>
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<td>Roussos- Lena Levenson</td>
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<td>Meyers - Abbie Thewes-Martin</td>
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<td>Kelly - Raymond Filipovitz</td>
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<td>Ward - Azariah Wade</td>
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<td>Wisser- Connor Hart</td>
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