CRAFTON CORNER

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK TO THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to welcome all of you back for another wonderful school year. I hope the summer recess afforded you opportunities to think critically, engage in creative activities, and relax and rejuvenate.

With the new year, it is important to always set goals. Let’s work together to become life-long learners, friends, public servants, and leaders. Remember it takes a village to succeed. Help make Crafton Elementary the best place.

Although many goals were created, the entire faculty and staff remain committed to increasing student achievement on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment, also known as PSSA. We have not been notified of our school performance numbers for the 2017-2018 school year. The Pennsylvania School Performance Profile information can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website. Individual parent results for the PSSA for students in grades 3-6 during the 2017-2018 will be sent out in the coming months.

You will also see some great new things as you walk around the school. From the new cougar in the front of the school to the buddy bench on the playground, great things are happening everywhere. Continue to read on to find out more about the new initiatives this year.
Play Before Eat

Play Before Eat continues to be a success at Crafton Elementary and will be implemented for the third year in a row.

Doing Play Before Eat has many positive effects. It promotes healthy eating. When students have recess after lunch, they throw food away to rush to get to recess. We have seen less food being thrown in the trash since we have started this initiative. It also provides a calmer lunch environment. Students get a lot of energy out during recess so they are able to eat more peacefully. There are also fewer nurse visits and behavior visits to the office.

The new recess and lunch schedule for 2018-2019 is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade levels</th>
<th>Recess</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>10:45-11:15</td>
<td>11:15-11:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>11:15-11:45</td>
<td>11:45-12:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>11:45-12:15</td>
<td>12:15-12:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**September Birthdays**

BreannA Airhart  
Noah Arlotta  
Connor Boyer  
Gabriela Champion  
Austin Gamble  
Thomas Gargis  
Damaurias Goodman  
Cale Heinrichs  
Richard Heisler  
Justin Hudson  
Ashley Merscher  
Emma Merscher  
Lana Mihelecic  
Raphael Muebeh Nandi  
Maxwell Novak  
Kellyn Palmer  
Luke Palmer  
Alice Peck  
Jordan Prewitt  
Elliott Puskar  
Colton Rizzo  
Mallory Rose  
Antonio Ruiz  
Greta Schriver  
Maurice Solomon Jr  
Noah Stiffler  
Camara Vincent  
Onyx Walker  
Isaiah Wall
Welcome back to all of the families and parents. If you want to get involved, please contact craftonelementarypta@gmail.com or on Facebook at Crafton Elementary PTA.

Please do not forget to send in those Box Tops and sign up for Apples for Students at Giant Eagle. Crafton Elementary is also part of the Amazon Smile program. Stay up to date with the Remind App by sending a text @08272015 to 81010.

Reminders:

September 3rd—No School
September 4-18th—Spirit Wear Drive
September 6th—PTA Meeting—Ice Cream Social
September 10th—Kids Stuff (books go home)
September 13th—Open House/Book Fair
September 14th—No School
September 24th—Kids Stuff (books are due back)
September 28th—PJ Day

New in STEAM

Crafton Elementary is relaunching the STEAM Room. Students have been asked to create a new name for the space. Some ideas are Imagination Station, Creation Station, and The Think Tank. The school will vote on these names, so stay tuned!!

Students may have come home the first week of school talking about going to the STEAM room. This year, every classroom has an assigned time to use this area. During their time, they are working on their 4Cs: collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

Lego Drive

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! WE ARE LOOKING FOR LEGOS.

As we relaunch our STEAM room, some wonderful teachers are building us a Lego wall. To complete this project, we need Legos. If you have any gently used Legos, consider sending them to the office. We would be happy to use them in our STEAM room. Thank you in advance.
Reading Connection

-Time for a Story-

Want to spend time with your youngster, build his/her reading skills, and help her learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud. Here are suggestions:

**Read regularly**

Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10-15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Bring along a book, and read to him/her during a sibling’s sports practice. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

**Take turns choosing books**

Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety, such as nonfiction or poetry.

**Let her/him participate**

Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, he/she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in the words he/she knows. Go slowly so he/she has time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. He/She will enjoy read-aloud time more if he/she plays an active role.

**Be playful**

You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a mouse or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Or substitute your youngster’s name for the main character’s name, and use family members’ names for other characters.

Note: You don’t have to be an expert reader—your child will love it when you read aloud because it’s you.

Arrival and Dismissal

**ARRIVAL**

Each morning, students will line up to come into the school at 8:25-8:30. Grades 1-2 will line up where the small playground is located. Grades 3-6 will line up on the big playground where the basketball hoops are located. Kindergarten will report to the cafeteria. Students can also go to the cafeteria to purchase breakfast.

Just a reminder—Parents, please drop your child off at the gate. This is for the safety of all students.

Please do not drop your children off before 8:00 am. There is no supervision at that time.

Teachers will report to the designated areas to pick up their classes. Any student arriving after 8:30 will be marked late.

**DISMISSAL**

All dismissal changes must be in writing.

If your child needs an early dismissal, please send a note in that morning. Then, we can have your child prepared for the dismissal. Please do not call after 2:30 pm for any dismissal changes.

All students in grades K-2 will be dismissed in the small playground area. Parents/Guardians will be asked to sign their child out.

Students in grades 3-6 will be dismissed in the big playground area.
Our PBIS kick-off assembly was on Friday, August 24th. The Gab Squad was here to provide a positive and fun experience for the students. They focus on positive thinking and bullying prevention. It is an interactive program where students can sing and dance along. For more information, please see their website at http://www.joshandgab.com/.

We will continue to focus on school-wide expectations for our students. Ask your child about the school-wide silent signal. Students will be proud to show you how they walk through the halls. Also ask them about the PAWS 200. PAWS 200 started this week.

If your child reports bullying to you, please contact the school and encourage your child to report it to his/her teacher. If we do not see the bullying, it is difficult for us to intervene or follow through with either parties. Our goal is to intervene and allow both the bully and victim to understand that the teachers and staff at Crafton Elementary have zero tolerance for bullying.

**SAFETY WEEK**

Safety Week is a time that we dedicate to practicing our safety drills. We assign one drill each day so the students will become familiar and comfortable with the procedures. This year, we will have our Safety Week the week of September 10th. See below for the schedule:

- **Monday, September 10**—Fire Drill
- **Tuesday, September 11**—Evacuation Drill
- **Wednesday, September 12**—Weather Drill/Reverse Evacuation Drill
- **Thursday, September 13**—Lockdown Drill
- **Friday, September 14**—No School, In-Service Day

Students will complete drills under the supervision of the staff, faculty, and local law enforcement and report to various designated locations. These preventative drills are necessary in order to familiarize our students with procedures necessary to keep them safe in the event that a real crisis occurs.