CRAFTON ELEMENTARY

September
Volume 5, Issue 1

CRAFTON CORNER

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK TO THE 2019-2020 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 for our growing minds of the future.

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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 will be sent out in the coming months.

You will also see some wonderful new features as you walk around the school. From the new sensory path in front of the kindergarten rooms to the stress-free doodle zone on the 2nd floor, great things are happening everywhere. Continue to read on to find out more about the new initiatives this year.
Library/Steam

This year library becomes LIBRARY 2.0 with the addition of STEAM to the 6 day Unified Arts schedule. Welcoming Ms. Cindy Eddy to this position, she is so excited to integrate STEAM into our library curriculum. Our goal is to plan and implement a library and STEAM program that demonstrates the ability to model, deliver, and craft rich student-centered learning experiences around Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, utilizing project-based learning.

During the students time in Library/STEAM, they will still learn the importance of books and grow their passion for reading. The students will still check out books during their class time, and they will also participate in engaging STEAM activities.

Please refer to individual classroom schedules for specific times.

September Birthdays

Breanna Airhart              Richard Heisler              Elliott Puskar
Noah Arlotta                Ashley Merscher             Antonio Ruiz
Christian Baker             Emma Merscher              Greta Schrivor
Ruby Bannan                 Muebe Nandi                Kody Shryock
Kallie Berkhouse            Kellyn Palmer               Noah Stifler
Connor Boyer                Luke Palmer                 Camara Vincent
Gabriela Champion           Trevor Patton               Onyx Walker
Austin Gamble               Alice Peck                 Isaiah Wall
Thomas Gargis               Chase Powers-Brown          Nevaeh Wilson
Jordan Prewitt
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 2nd—No School
September 4th—PTA Meeting—Ice Cream Social
September 16th—Kids Stuff (books go home)
September 26th—PJ Day
September 27th—No School
September 30th—Kids Stuff (books are due back)

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 be in the auditorium. Kindergarten will report to the cafeteria. Students can also go to the cafeteria to purchase breakfast.

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 p.m. 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.
Want to spend time with your youngster, build his/her reading skills, and help him/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.

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**Play Before Eat**
At Crafton Elementary, we continue to play before we eat. The recess before lunch model has been successful for the past 3 years at our school. There is less waste at lunch times. The students eat and drink more. Data also shows that there are also less behavior and nurse referrals. Please see below for the lunch and recess schedule:

<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>
Our PBIS kick-off assembly is on Friday, September 13th. The Gab Squad provides 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.

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 18th. See below for the schedule:

- **Monday, September 23**— Fire Drill
- **Tuesday, September 24**— Lockdown Drill
- **Wednesday, September 25**— Weather Drill
- **Thursday, September 26**— Evacuation Drill
- **Friday, September 27**— 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.