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**THE COUGAR NEWS**

Vol. 4 2/01/2020

JOHN A. CROOKSHANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Principal’s Message**

Dear Cougar Families,

Please check out the Important Date section of this newsletter for some very important dates that are coming up for the month of February.

**Parents:** Please help us keep your child’s address and/or phone numbers up to date. If you have moved or change your number, please contact the front office or Ms. Cogar. This is very important so that we are able to reach you in a time of need.

**Reminder:** School starts at 8:25 a.m. Please make sure your child is in their classroom at 8:25 a.m. so that they are not missing instructional time. If your child arrives after this time, the parents must come into the front office and officially sign your child in and your child will receive a late pass to give to their teacher.

**PARENTS:** PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF YOUR CHILD UNTIL 7:45 A.M. UNLESS THEY ARE IN EXTENDED DAY MORNING CARE OR A SAFETY PATROL ON DUTY.

We also wanted to remind parents that the cut off time for early check out is 2 p.m. every day except on Wednesday it is at 1 pm.

**During Dismissal** - We ask that all parents hang the parent pickup tag on your rear view mirror as this will expedite the parent pick up line. This is just a reminder of the new state law effective October 1, 2019 that prohibits drivers from holding their cell phone in their hands in a work or school zone.

**PARENTS:** When writing absence notes for your child’s, please put your child first and last name on the note. We have several students with same first and/or last names. We would like to make sure we are changing the correct student absences.

Sincerely

Marquez Jackson



**February 3-7, 2020**

Winter Book Fair

**February 3, 2020**

Career Academies/Programs of Choice Deadline

for 5th Grade students applying for Middle School Academies. Online registration close at 5 p.m.

**February 5, 2020**

All Pro Dad Breakfast - 7:00 a.m. till 7:40 a.m.

**February 6, 2020**

FSA Night – Winter Session

Interims Report Issued

**February 10, 2020**

PTO Sprit Night @ Chicken Salad Chick

5 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.

**February 14, 2020**

Last day to bring in BOXTOPS

**February 17, 2020**

President Day – NO SCHOOL

**February 21, 2020**

1st Grade Living Museum

**February 28, 2020**

PTO Movie Night

**Pre-K Parents Café**

**The Crookshank School Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

**8:30am to 9:30am**

Come enjoy time with other Pre-K Parents!!! This will be a time to connect, share ideas, make and take home an activity to do with your children.

Please bring your ID and sign in at the Main Office. We will meet on the Patio.

**BOXTOPS**

The last Boxtop collection at Crookshank will be:

**Friday**

**February 14, 2020**

They have updated to scanning your receipts.  **DO NOT** cut out the scanning coupon.  Only regular box tops that you have will be collected. These are box tops with an expiration date. Expired ones we do not get credit for. Please have your child start bringing them in to their homeroom teacher. There will be no more collections after February 14th.  Thank you!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Dr. Seuss Family Reading Night!**



Thursday, March 5, 6:00-7:30 PM

More information will be coming home soon!!!!!

**5 Ways to Build Math into Your Child’s Day**

Math is everywhere. That’s great news for parents, because we can talk with our kids about math in fun, natural ways and that kind of math-talk is really important.

Studies show that a child’s math skills at kindergarten entry are a better predictor of future academic success than reading skills, social skills, or the ability to focus. As parents, we can give our kids a head start by helping them get comfortable with math concepts like measuring and counting at home.

Here are 5 ways to build math into your child’s day.

**1. Bake something together**  
You can’t help but use math when you’re baking. Doubling recipes requires multiplying, halving a recipe requires dividing, and measuring a ½ cup or a ¼ teaspoon gets you working with easy fractions. At a more basic level, kids love counting out chocolate chips. (And so do the parents; I speak from experience!)

**Ask your child:**How many chocolate chips do you think it will take to fill one cup?  How many for 1/2 cup? Count together and see how close you came to the right answer!

**2. Measure, count, and record**

Most kids love stopwatches, and watching the seconds tick by gives them opportunities to practice counting. Measure distances and heights. Count jumping jacks, push-ups, or consecutive kicks of a soccer ball.

**Ask your child:**How far can you throw a ball? Take a guess, then throw the ball as far as you can and measure the distance.  
How many jumping jacks can you do in a minute? Try it!  
How many times can you jump rope or bounce a ball without missing? Count and see.

**3. Build something together**

Big or small, any project that involves measuring includes counting, adding, and multiplying. It doesn’t matter whether you’re making a clubhouse out of shoeboxes or building a genuine tree house. Legos and other building toys are wonderful tools for incorporating both numbers and spatial thinking into playtime.

**Ask your child:**How high can you build that stack of Legos?  
How many Legos do you need to stack to reach as high as the coffee table?  
Can you make a square? A rectangle? Other shapes? Talk about the shapes of whatever your child has created.

**4. Plan dinner or a party**

Whether you’re planning a party or just getting ready for a family dinner, there are plenty of math concepts involved. Have your child help set the table and count out the plates, napkins, and silverware. For a party, have your child help with the shopping. You know you’re going to have to do some math since all of those plates, balloons, and party favors are packaged in different quantities!

**Ask your child:**How many plates, napkins, and forks do you need for dinner?  
If you’re inviting 10 guests to a party, and the plates come 8 to a pack, how many packs are you going to need? How many are going to be left over?  
If you’re not planning a party in the near future, get creative. Why not host a tea party for your child’s favorite stuffed animals?

**5.** **Mix in math to your bedtime reading**

Most families read to their children at night. Why not add a math problem to the mix? Here’s one to try.

**Melt in Your Mouth:** No matter how much you love your favorite snack (apples, marshmallows, pound cake), it probably tastes even better dipped in something warm and gooey. That’s what you do when you eat fondue. You fill the fondue pot with cheese or chocolate, put it over a hot flame, and then dip pieces of food into the yummy meltedness using long skinny fondue forks.

**Ask your 4 or 5-year old**: If you dip 2 apple slices and 3 banana slices into your fondue, how many pieces did you dip?

**Ask your older child**: If there are 2 people sharing cheese fondue and everyone wants 3 apple slices, how many apple slices do you need to serve?

There are plenty of other ways to keep kids thinking about math—board games, stickers, and stargazing, to name a few. The important thing is just to encourage your child to see the numbers all around us and to keep things fun. This is how we’ll raise a next generation that thinks math is cool!