

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

September 1 - 5, 2025

September Character Counts Trait – Fairness

Mission : The professional learning community at John A. Crookshank Elementary School is dedicated to collaboration in developing purposeful instructional delivery models. We work together to create intentional learning opportunities that develop the whole child and provide our students with the foundational skills and growth mindset to be both academically and socially emotionally successful. We celebrate individual accomplishments, value diversity, respect exceptionalities, and partner with our families to meet the unique needs of each student.

Vision: To develop lifelong learners, nurturing collaborative critical thinkers.

Volume 3: Issue 4

Early Car Rider Drop off 7:55 am
School Opens for all students: 8:00 am
School Start Time: 8:25 am
School Dismissal Time: 2:45 pm *
* Wednesday 1:45 pm

Monday, September 1

No School – Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 2

Wednesday, September 3

Early Release 1:45 pm
K STAR Reading – McQuaig, Ramirez

Thursday, September 4

K STAR Reading – Dingler, Heffernan
4th FAST Reading

Friday, September 5

K STAR Reading – Frazer
4th FAST
PBIS Store

Early Checkout/Dismissal Changes:

cestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Cougar Café Lunch Menu:

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/JohnCrookshankElementary>

Growth Mindset: "I may not be there yet, but I'm closer than I was yesterday." - José N. Harris

The Future Begins Here!

HOT TOPICS

Book Fair is Coming

We're excited to announce our Fall Book Fair, happening, September 8-12. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore new books, spark their imaginations, and build a love of reading.

Here's what you need to know:

Dates: September 8-12
Location: School Library
Payment Options: (Cash or card)

Whether your child is into adventure, mystery, graphic novels, or nonfiction, there's something for everyone. Proceeds from the Book Fair help support our school library.

We'll also be hosting a Open House on September 9, so come join us for a fun evening of books and community!

Thank you for supporting literacy and helping our students grow as readers. We can't wait to see you there!

Water Bottles

Please remember that we kindly ask that students only fill their water bottles with water. Juices and sports drinks wreak havoc on our carpeted classrooms.

Absence Reporting

The link to enter an absence is on our website which will take you to Parent Square.

Reporting Absences

[Request to Excuse a Student Absence Form](#)

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Running Reminders

Sign in Procedure: In line with the district wide sign in policy, if you wish to volunteer in a classroom, participate in any class activities, chaperone/attend a field study, eat lunch with your student, participate in a parent conference, or attend any performance or event during school hours, you will need to be an approved and registered volunteer. You must complete the district's Volunteer Application <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/> QR Code to register is below as well.

Transportation Changes & Early Checkout

Dismissal changes & Early Checkouts must be completed by 2:00 PM (M, T, TH, F) and by 1:00 PM (W). All changes should be in writing. Please send changes to [CES transportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:CEStransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us) & Cc: your student's teacher.

Walker Drop Off Parents and families, instead of walking up or riding a bike up the bus loop entrance, please use the sidewalks along the playground to arrive at the walker gate. It's a very unsafe mix of walking/biking and buses.

Parent Drop Off and Pick:

Some friendly reminders:

1. Please remain in your vehicle when dropping off and picking up. A CES staff member will assist with your student exiting and entering the vehicle.
2. Remember, the PPU line is a hands-free zone, so help us keep kids safe AND keep the line moving by saving phone calls and texts for later."
3. Please pull up as much as you can to keep the line moving. Try to avoid large gaps in the line so we can make dismissal run smoothly for our students and staff!"

CES Student and Parent Handbook: Please see the link for the CES 25-26 Student and Parent Handbook: [CES Parent and Student Handbook 25-26 wout PAWS.pdf](#)

District Student Code of Conduct: Please see the link for the SJCS D 25-26 Student Code of Conduct <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/conduct/>

Free Breakfast and Lunch: John A. Crookshank Elementary is a site for free breakfast and lunch. Breakfast starts at 7:45 am for our Extended Day students and stops at 8:25 am. We encourage all of your students to have breakfast each morning and lunch in our café.

Child Safety Matters: K-5 students will participate in two Child Safety Matters Lessons during their media resource time in the upcoming months. This program is state approved and meets Florida's requirements for health education. Child Safety Matters (CSM) is a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum for elementary school students in grades K-5. The program educates and empowers children and all relevant adults with information and strategies to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to bullying, cyberbullying, all types of abuse, and digital abuse dangers. Please reach out to bailey.benoit@stjohns.k12.fl.us with any questions.

You've Been Caught ROARing! We are starting a new PBIS positive recognition program this year called *You've Been Caught ROARing!* Students will be recognized for going above and beyond to meet the CES Guidelines for Success – **Personal Best, Act Responsible, Work Together, Show Respect**. Students who are recognized will receive a recognition slip and then become eligible to win a t-shirt and lunch with Mr. Roach, Mrs. Whilden and Mrs. Jeffers.

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PAWS list QR code

If you can, please consider purchasing any items from our PBIS Store wish list for the students to purchase with their points.



Home Access Center

The Home Access Center (HAC) is a web-based application that is part of our Student Information System called eSchoolPlus. Please visit the website below to access or sign up for an account at <https://homeaccess.stjohns.k12.fl.us>. This system provides parents and students with a daily summary page, schedule and attendance, discipline information, class work, report cards, test scores, and course requests for all students in grades 3-5. If you need assistance with your account, please contact our Computer Operator, Lisa Cogar at 904-547-7846.

Parent Square

Parent Square is a rapid phone, email, and/or text notification system provided by our school district to communicate important or emergency information efficiently. This system will be used for providing accurate information to parents/guardians about daily attendance and safety as well as communication from the principal. For you to receive these messages, **please make sure that your contact information is up to date.**

QR Code below to register.

Clinic News: If you have any clinic questions, please call or email Nurse Roxane Smith at 904-547-7832 <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/health/>

Dental Services

Big Smiles – dental forms were sent home for all grade levels, PK-5th. **Big Smiles** will be on campus Tuesday, September 30th – Friday October 3rd, providing FREE dental services for students who have been enrolled. Parent/Guardian can complete the form and return to school or utilized the QR code on the consent form. For further information about **Big Smiles**, parents may call 855-481-8638 or visit BigSmilesDental.org

Medication Policy

The nurse's office has seen an uptick of medications, Epi-Pens, Inhalers, Over the Counter medications, etc. being sent with students in their backpack. A reminder that **All medications must be brought to the school by a parent or guardian.** Please do not send medications to school with your child. For any questions or concerns, please reach out to Roxane Smith, RN, BSN/School Health Nurse at 904/547-7832.

Car Rider – Parent Pick Up Cards

If your student is a returning car rider, please make sure to get a new 25-26 Car Tag. This applies to all returning Cougars as well. Our staff will be looking for the new tags when calling students in the afternoon and then releasing students to vehicles. If you need a new car rider tag, one can be picked up in the front office. When requesting a new tag, please make sure to have your identification.

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Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|------|---|-------------------|
| 9/8 | Fall Book Fair | |
| 9/9 | 5th FAST Reading
Tie Tuesday
Fall Book Fair
Open House | 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm |
| 9/10 | K STAR Math – McQuaig, Ramirez
Interims
Fall Book Fair | |
| 9/11 | K STAR Math – Dingler, Heffernan
5th FAST Math
Fall Book Fair | |
| 9/12 | K STAR Math – Frazer
Fall Book Fair | |
| 9/15 | PTO – SAC Meeting | 5:30 pm |
| 9/18 | Back to School Dance | 3:00 pm- 4:30 pm |
| 9/19 | Teacher Inservice Day – No School for Students | |
| 9/24 | PTO Catalog Cookie begins | |
| 9/29 | Big Smiles | 9:00 am-12:00 pm |
| 9/30 | Big Smiles | 9:00 am-12:00 pm |

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PTO Updates

Hello, Cougar Families!

Join us for the events that we are excited to bring to Crookshank! Our main goal is to keep building the wonderful sense of community that we are so lucky to have at our school. Whether it be the excitement of planning and volunteering, to attending activities with your family, know that your participation is so appreciated and valuable. Stay tuned for all of these opportunities. Thank you for your support, and please let us know if you need anything!

PTO Involvement & Membership

Sign up to be a volunteer/member with the PTO - membership is FREE!!! By signing up you'll be first to know of what's coming up and how to either volunteer or donate. Flyer went home in the Wednesday folder on 8/27/25.

Looking at getting involved but don't know how? The PTO still has 2 open positions, (1) Business Partner Chair and (2) Fundraising chair. Contact the PTO (crookshankpto@gmail.com) with any questions about what's involved or if you are interested. (Flyer attached)

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Assist with Snack Cart for the teachers and staff on Thursday, September 18, 2025. Please sign up on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A62AAAF5C61-57932937-volunteer>

Fundraisers

Need to get your car washed? Want to get a \$30 car wash but only want to spend \$10? The PTO is selling \$10 car wash vouchers (a \$30 value) for **Tidal Wave Car Wash**. Go onto the PTO's website to order today! We will be selling them all school year! <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-ptu>

September Spirit Night

Come out to Carmelo's located at 146 W King St in St Augustine on Monday, September 8, 2025 and mention Crookshank Elementary when ordering as a portion of your order will be donated back to the school!

Spirit Wear/Online Store

Have you visited our online store? It has EVERYTHING from shirts, swag, birthday sign info, and Business Partners registration. It is so easy click the link: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-ptu>

Sincerely,

Your CES PTO Board



Crookshank PTO

904.547.7840

sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto

PAWS UP!

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**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

These are CES PTO's official
social media platforms,
email contacts, and our
website! Check them out!

General Email: crookshankpto@gmail.com

Business Partner: CrookshankPTOpartners@gmail.com

Webpage: sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto

Facebook: www.facebook.com/crookshankcougarspto

Instagram: [@crookshankpto](https://www.instagram.com/crookshankpto)

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Crookshank PTO

🎉 JOIN OUR PTO – IT'S FREE! 🎉

Parents • Teachers • Staff • Community

🗣️ We Want **YOU** to Join the **PTO**!

Be part of a team that:

- ✓ Supports our students and staff
- ✓ Plans fun school events
- ✓ Enhances learning experiences
- ✓ Builds school spirit and community

💰 **Membership Cost: \$0 – It's FREE!**

That's right – there's **no cost to join!** Your voice and your energy are all we need.

Why Join?

- 💬 Have a say in school decisions
- 👥 Meet other involved parents & staff
- 📍 Help make a difference in our school community
- 📝 Sign Up Today!

Fill out a membership form below and return to school:

--- CES PTO Membership: Please write legibly and return to the Front Office: ---

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Student Name/Grade/Teacher: _____

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CROOKSHANK PTO

September Spirit Night



Calling all Pizza Lovers!

Don't feel like cooking? Do you love pizza, pasta or subs? Come out and support Crookshank's September Spirit Night

Monday

September 8th



Carmelo's
146 W King St
St Augustine

Freshly baked, cheesy goodness awaits—bring your appetite and a friend!

Mention Crookshank when ordering and a portion of your order will be donated back to the school



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Purchase a \$10 Car Wash Coupon to support the Crookshank PTO

**Each coupon is valid for one Graph-X4
wash, which is a \$30 value. You will
also have access to vacuums, cleaning
cloths and interior cleaning spray.**

Coupons are valid for 12 months.

**To purchase online scan the QR Code.
Coupons will be sent home with your
student within 2 weeks of purchase.**



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PTO Business Partners

Dear Crookshank Families,

Do you own or work at a local business? Know someone who does? Every year we partner with local businesses to raise funds for the school, and in return we help advertise our business partners to more than 600 families! If you are interested or have a suggestion for a business that might be interested, please email

crookshankPTOpartners@gmail.com. Business partners can also sign up online at <http://crookshank-pto.cheddarup.com>

Become a CES Business Partner!

Principal's Partner

\$1,000

- Sponsor name & logo promoted via school newsletters and PTO website
- Social media posts to promote business partner
- Business banner displayed on CES fence for the school year (banner provided by business)
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials or have a table/display at school events
- Business name featured on electronic marquee/school sign
- Full page ad included in the school newsletter once a month (ad provided by business)

Cougar Partner

\$500

- Sponsor name & logo promoted via school newsletters and PTO website
- Social media posts to promote business partner
- Business banner displayed on CES fence for the school year (banner provided by business)
- Opportunity to distribute promotional material or have a table/display at school events

Cub Partner

\$250

- Sponsor name & logo promoted via school newsletters and PTO website
- PLUS social media posts to promote business partner

Paw Partner

\$100

- Sponsor name & logo promoted via school newsletters and PTO website

***Business partners who commit to a specific level of donations for the 2025-2026 school year will receive the corresponding partnership level and benefits. For example, you can pay \$500 and commit to \$500 in donated goods to receive the \$1000 Principal Partner level.



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Principal Partners



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Cougar Partners



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Cougar Partners

THE
Sports Corner
CUSTOM APPAREL



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Paw Partners



Dr. Rebecca A. Faunce DMD

(904) 829-8899 faunceorthodontics.com
201 Health Park Blvd. Ste 216 - St. Augustine

At the office of Dr. Rebecca Faunce
we encourage you to Smile, *With Confidence!*

CALL today for a
Complimentary Consultation!

SPARK™ DAMON SMILE
CLEAR ALIGNER SYSTEM More than straight teeth™

* invisalign® DAMON CLEAR

TMJ Botox A



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Parent Square Communication Platform



Download the App



Android



iOS

www.parentsquare.com

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Raptor Visitor and Volunteer System



Procedure for School Access

As required by Florida state law, everyone **MUST** have a cleared background check to go past the front office at John A. Crookshank. Your driver's license is required to enter the building at all times. A photo of your ID will not work as you will need to scan your Driver's License. You **MUST** have school access approval to volunteer at the school, attend any conferences, awards events or chaperone field trips.

Now is the time to go ahead and apply for school access if you have not already done so! Please make sure all spouses, grandparents, siblings over the age of 18, etc. who may visit the school are also approved to enter the building.

Enter all required information (including first, middle and last name). You will receive an email when your application is received and when it is approved. The Raptor system will send you an email when your school access is expiring and will prompt you to update your application.

The front doors will remain locked during school hours. Front Office personnel will request visitors state the nature of the visit before the doors will be unlocked. If there are multiple visitors, all visitors will need to respond before being able to enter. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the safety of our students is paramount. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the front office at 904-547-7840 or 904-547-3945

Use Your Smartphone

Scan the QR code below to complete the School Access Volunteer Application on your smartphone.



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Fall Fling FESTIVAL



PRESENTED BY:



Join Us for the Fall Fling Festival to raise \$10,000 to build the "Clean Start" laundry facility at the new Goff Family Shelter. This shelter will house nine families with minor children, offering stability and a safe space to rebuild and work toward permanent housing.

The festival will feature:

- Live bluegrass music by the St. Augustine High School Band
- Cornhole tournament
- Food trucks
- Kids games, crafts, inflatables, and pumpkin painting
- Local vendors and artisans with handcrafted items and treats
- 50/50 raffle
- Cider bar
- Hay rides
- Community partner booths with resources, kids safety tips, and ways to get involved

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

12:00-5:00 PM

ST. AUGUSTINE ROD AND GUN CLUB



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Important Notice

Florida Statute 943.082 states that if, following an investigation, it is determined that a person knowingly submitted a false tip through FortifyFL, the Internet protocol (IP) address of the device on which the tip was submitted will be provided to law enforcement agencies for further investigation, and the reporting party may be subject to criminal penalties under s. 837.05. In all other circumstances, unless the reporting party has chosen to disclose his or her identity, the report will remain anonymous.

Suspicious Activity Reporting App

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Submit A
Tip Online



Download On The
App Store



Get It On
Google Play

