

# Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

## September 8 - 12, 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 5

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 8

Fall Book Fair  
PTO Spirit Night at Carmelo's

#### Tuesday, September 9

5th FAST Reading  
Tie Tuesday  
Fall Book Fair  
Open House 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

#### Wednesday, September 10

Early Release 1:45 pm  
K STAR Math – McQuaig, Ramirez  
Fall Book Fair  
Interims released

#### Thursday, September 11

K STAR Math – Dingler, Heffernan  
5th FAST Math  
Fall Book Fair

#### Friday, September 12

K STAR Math – Frazer  
Fall Book Fair

#### **Early Checkout/Dismissal Changes:**

[cestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:cestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

#### **Cougar Café Lunch Menu:**

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

**Growth Mindset:** The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work. ~Harry Golden

## The Future Begins Here!

### HOT TOPICS

#### **Open House – Come Visit**

We are excited to welcome you to our Open House on **Monday, September 9th from 5:00 to 6:00 PM**. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher, explore their classroom, and learn more about the exciting year ahead. We look forward to partnering with you to support your child's growth and success. Your presence makes a difference!

#### **Book Fair Opens Monday**

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. [Book Fair Homepage](#) 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 our 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.

#### **Media Advisory Committee**

[Crookshank Media Advisory Committee Interest Form](#) or scan QR code to complete the form.



#### **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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://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

9/15	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	
9/23	Basketball v Hartley @ Gamble	5:30 pm
9/24	PTO Catalog Cookie begins	
9/25	Basketball v Southwoods @ Sebastian	5:30 pm
9/26	PBIS Store Open	8:00 am – 8:25 am
9/30	Big Smiles	9:00 am-12:00 pm
10/1	Catalog Cookie/Misc. PTO Big Smiles	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
10/2	Catalog Cookie/Misc. PTO Big Smiles	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
10/3	Catalog Cookie/Misc. PTO Big Smiles PAWS Dance Party	9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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**Girls on the Run** is an afterschool program for girls in 3rd-5th grade. Our coaches and runners discuss how to interact with peers, setting goals, and empowering ourselves/others (plus burn some energy by running). Parents can register at [www.gotrnefl.org](http://www.gotrnefl.org)



## Girls on the Run is for **EVERY** girl.

**Girls on the Run is an afterschool program like no other!**

Twice per week for 10 weeks, girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills. Trained and caring coaches lead 3rd - 5th-grade girls through interactive lessons and movement activities. The season ends with a celebratory 5K event.



### Why it matters

**It's fun. It's effective.**

Participating in Girls on the Run transforms girls' lives by helping them increase their self-confidence, develop healthy relationships, and feel good about themselves, inside and out.



Girls who were the least active at the start of the program increased their physical activity by more than 40%\*



97% of participants said they learned critical skills to manage emotions, resolve conflict, help others or make intentional decisions\*

\*Results based on a independent study conducted by Positive Youth Development expert Maureen R. Weiss, Ph.D.

### SEASON DETAILS

Registration Opens: 8/18/25

Program Starts: 9/16/25

Program Fee: From \$50 to \$130  
\*Two payment plan option and financial assistance are available in the registration process.

Contact: [program@gotrnefl.org](mailto:program@gotrnefl.org)

Site Details: Crookshank Elementary School

Meeting Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:00 PM-4:15 PM

Learn more and register today at [www.gotrnefl.org](http://www.gotrnefl.org).



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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!

### 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!

### 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 1 open position - Business Partner Chair. Contact the PTO [crookshankpto@gmail.com](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com) with any questions about what's involved

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Assist with the Book Fair Monday, September 8 - September 12th from 8am to 11am.

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>

### 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>

### October Spirit Night

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at the Chipotle located on Rt 1 South from 4 pm - 8 pm. 25% of all proceeds will be donated to Crookshank Elementary School. Make sure you mention Crookshank or show the flyer when ordering!

**Sincerely,**

**Your CES PTO Board**



**Crookshank PTO**

904.547.7840

[sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto](https://sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto)

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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](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com)

Business Partner: [CrookshankPTOpartners@gmail.com](mailto:CrookshankPTOpartners@gmail.com)

Webpage: [sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto](https://sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/crookshankcougarspto](https://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](mailto: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](http://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

