

# Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

## December 15 – December 19, 2025

### December Character Counts Trait – All Pillars

**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 18**

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, December 15**

Movie & Popcorn K - 1<sup>st</sup> PAWS Party

#### **Tuesday, December 16**

Movie & Popcorn 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> PAWS Party

#### **Wednesday, December 17**

Early Release	1:45 pm
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#### **Thursday, December 18**

Movie & Popcorn 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> PAWS Party

#### **Friday, December 19**

Early Release	1:45 pm
Second Quarter Ends	
First Semester Ends	

#### **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>

#### **Reporting Absences**

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

**Growth Mindset: “Failure is success if we learn from it.” – Malcolm Forbes**

#### **HOT TOPICS**

##### **Girls on the Run**

Girls on the Run does a community service project each season. This season they are collecting aluminum can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House. This organization provides a place to stay for families who must travel away from their home for their child to receive care in a hospital. If you would like to help us with their service project, please send the tabs to school. We will be collecting them through December 17th. Thank you for helping us support this organization!

##### **December 19 Lunch Menu**

On Friday, December 19, our cafeteria will be serving bagged lunches on Friday. These lunches include a sandwich or lunch kit, (ham and cheese, turkey and cheese, as well as soy butter and jelly sandwiches), sliced apples, and carrots with ranch dressing.

##### **Lost and Found Clothes**

Please ask your student if he/she looked in the lost and found for that hoodie that went missing back in October. The last day to pick up Lost and Found items.

##### **Classroom Shifts**

The School District is currently analyzing schools with available space and our ability to remove leased relocatables. We are one of those schools. In addition to other benefits, this move promotes a more efficient spending of tax dollars. We are working closely with teachers and staff to minimize disruption to students, and these moves have been coordinated for the end of the semester. When we return in January, our PreK and Self Contained classrooms will officially be in the main building

##### **School Resumes**

Students will return to school on Monday, January 5.

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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,
4. Make sure to have your pick up tag clearly visible.

**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.

#### **New Worlds Reading Registration Link**

The New Worlds Reading program provides free books to Florida students in grades K-5. Use this QR Code to see if your student qualifies for this wonderful opportunity.



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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.



SCAN ME

<https://bit.ly/CESPBIWishlist>

##### **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.

##### **Yearbook: Sale & Advertisements**

It's time for the "Early Bird Special" on a yearbook for the 2025-2026 school year! Head over to [www.BuytheYearbook.com](http://www.BuytheYearbook.com) to purchase a yearbook full of smiles and fun memories! You can also purchase a student ad using the directions on the attached flyer to highlight your amazing kiddo(s)! This is especially great if you have a 5th grader you want to celebrate! Yearbook pricing will increase in the spring, so grab yours today!

##### **Varsity Tutoring**

Every student can take advantage of this free resource. K-12 Parent. Our district has partnered with Varsity Tutoring for schools to provide students a suite of effective online learning resources that cover grades K-12. Students can get extra homework help or prepare for the next big test whenever they need it. For more information, see attachment in the Parent Square message.

**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/>

##### **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.

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#### **Upcoming Events**

- |             |  |         |
|-------------|--|---------|
| 12/22 – 1/1 | Winter Break   |         |
| 1/2         | Planning Day – No School for Students  |         |
| 1/5         | School Resumes   |         |
| 1/7         | District Spelling Bee 4:00 FCTC  |         |
| 1/12        | Character Counts PK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Invite from teacher<br>PTO/SAC Meeting 5:30      |         |
| 1/13        | Character Counts 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Invite from teacher<br>Tie Tuesday |         |
| 1/14        | Character Counts PK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Recognition Celebration                          |         |
| 1/15        | Report Cards   |         |
| 1/16        | Character Counts 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Recognition Celebration            |         |
| 1/25        | PTO Spirit Night – Jacksonville Icemen Hockey Game                                   |         |
| 1/27        | PTO Craft Night  | 5:30 pm |

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JOIN CROOKSHANK ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL'S

# Art Club

WITH MS. LAVAGLIO

Open to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders  
Meetings are...

**THURSDAYS | 3:00-4:00PM**

In the art room 57  
Dates are...

SESSIONS	START	END	FEE
1	09/18	10/23	\$105
2	11/06	12/18	\$80
3	01/29	03/05	\$80
4	04/02	05/07	\$80

Please see Ms. LaVaglio for more information  
or if you would like a sign-up form

Phone: (904)547-7840 Ext 22833      Email: E022924@stjohns.k12.fl.us

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## Art Club Sign-Up Form

Crookshank Elementary School  
Ms. LaVaglio

Please fill out this form with your parent or guardian. Hand in this form + payment to Ms. LaVaglio before our first meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Student Information

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Information

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How will your child be picked up? \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE** make sure you are on time and waiting to pick your child up at the front of the school by 4:00pm.

**Payment      School Fee: \$25      Art Club Fee: \$80      Total: \$105**

To enroll in an after-school program, you must pay the general admission fee plus the club-specific fee for a 6 week period. You may pay with cash or by check. A receipt will be provided once the payment has been received.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to arrive at 3:00pm every Thursday in the art  
(Student Please Sign Here)

classroom ready to start art club. I will follow the same art room expectations as always. I will be on my best behavior and treat all art supplies with care. Any messes that I made will be completely cleaned up before art club ends at 4:00pm.



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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. Looking at getting involved but don't know how? The PTO still has 1 open position- Business Partner Chair. We also ask that you attend all PTO Board meetings as well. Contact the PTO [crookshankpto@gmail.com](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com) with any questions about what's involved or if you are interested.

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:** (1) Assist with the PBIS Store any Friday morning from 7:45 am-8:45am (2) Snack cart on Thursday, December 18th beginning at 8:00 am until approximately 12:00 pm meeting in the PTO Room.

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! Please give us approximately 2 weeks from the time of purchase to send the vouchers home. <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pto>

**Events:** Holiday Shop took place last week and all of the students enjoyed buying gifts for all of their families and friends. We want to thank the teachers and staff for allowing the students to take time away from class to come to the Holiday Shop. We also want to thank all of our volunteers who had taken time away from their busy schedules especially this time of the year to assist our students with their shopping! It was another successful event, and we look forward to doing this again next year for the students!

**Family Craft Night:** This event will take place on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm in the cafeteria. Please be on the lookout for the flyer to be sent home. This is an ONLINE ONLY RSVP. There are 2 payment options for this event; Option 1 Family Fun Pack (includes 2 awesome crafts to take home per family and pizza & drinks for up to a family of 4 OR Option 2 Craft Pack (includes 2 awesome crafts to take home per family). Additional pizzas, drinks, and snacks will be available to purchase at the event.

**Spirit Night:** January's Spirit Night will be on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 3:00 pm at the Jacksonville Iceman game. \$5 of each ticket sold will come back to John A. Crookshank. Flyers went home on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, and there is a QR Code/link to order tickets.

**Spirit Wear/Online Store:** Have you visited our online store? It has EVERYTHING from shirts, swag, birthday sign info, and Business Partners registration. Please give us approximately 2 weeks to send the items home from the time of purchase. It is so easy click the link below <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pto>

Thank you from your PTO Board.



**Crookshank PTO**  
904.547.7840  
[sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto](https://sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto)

PAWS UP!

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## Crookshank Spirit Night with the Icemen

The Jacksonville Icemen are thrilled to host Crookshank Elementary on Sunday, January 25th at 3:00 PM as we take on the Iowa Heartlanders at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena!

Every ticket purchased through this exclusive link will support the Crookshank PTO, with \$5 from each ticket going directly back to the school and PTO initiatives.

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:**



<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Crookshankelementary4>





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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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## **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

*TMJBotoxA*



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## Parent Square Communication Platform



**Download the App**

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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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#### 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

