

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

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 20

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, January 12

Character Counts Recognition
2nd 8:40 am K 9:00 am
1st 9:20 am PK 9:40 am
** PTO & SAC Meeting Postponed

Tuesday, January 13

Character Counts Recognition
5th 8:40 am 4th 9:10 am
3rd 9:35 am
Tie Tuesday

Wednesday, January 14

Early Release 1:45 pm
District Spelling Bee @ FCTC 4:00 pm

Thursday, January 15

Report Cards Released

Friday, January 16

Monday, January 19

ML King Day – No School

Early Checkout/Dismissal Changes:

cestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Cougar Café Lunch Menu:

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

Reporting Absences

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

HOT TOPICS

PTO & SAC Meetings

Monday's PTO & SAC meetings have been cancelled. The next PTO meeting will be Monday, March 9 and the SAC meeting is rescheduled for Monday, January 26 at 5:30 pm.

Kids Heart Challenge

We are so excited to be kicking off Kids Heart Challenge on January 20th. Our school is participating in the Kids Heart Challenge, and it's time for you to sign up your student to become part of the Lifesavers League. Download the AHA Schools app for iPhone or Android, search for our school and sign up to receive your wristband! Then, start helping kids with special hearts by making or receiving your first donation, and you'll start earning thank-you gifts. You're on your way to completing Finn's Mission! More information to come.

Literacy Week-January 26-30

Monday: Color Clash

*Pre-K-2nd- Wear red

*3-5- Wear blue

*Staff- Wear White

Tuesday: Stars & Stripes

Wear your best stars and stripes and shine!

Wednesday: "Wear" the Future Wednesday

Dress up as what you want to be when you grow up.

Thursday: "Travel Thursday"

Dress as a tourist to your favorite place to visit.
(ex. wear: leis for Hawaii, Cowboy boots for Texas

Friday: "Freedom Friday"

Wear your red, white, and blue to celebrate 250 chapters of America

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January 12 – January 16, 2025

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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 & 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 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.



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

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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.



<https://bit.ly/CESPBISWishlist>

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 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.

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

Upcoming Events

January

19	ML King Day – No School	
23	2nd grade In House Field Study In Cafeteria	8:45 am – 10:10 am
25	Spirit Night – Jacksonville Icemen	3:00 pm (Information below)
27	PTO Family Craft Night	5:30 pm (Information below)

February

4-11	Valentines' Grams	
9	SAC Meeting 5:30 pm	
10	Interims Tie Tuesday	
16	Presidents' Day – No School	
20	Jeremiah's Italian Ice at 124 Capulet Drive, Unit 105 in St Augustine	

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect



JOIN CROOKSHANK ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL'S



Art Club

WITH MS. LAVAGLIO

Open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th 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

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter
January 12 – January 16, 2025
January Character Counts Trait – Respect

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 18th.

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 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.

(Student Please Sign Here)

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

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: We're looking for enthusiastic parents to join the PTO Board for the 2026–2027 school year!  Help plan fun events, support our teachers, and make a real difference—all while meeting great people and having fun doing it. No experience needed, just a positive attitude and a love for our school!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities: (1) Snack cart on Thursday, January 15th beginning at 8:00 am until approximately 12:00 pm meeting in the PTO Room. (2) Souper Bowl lunch for the teachers and staff on Thursday, February 5th from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm. We will be asking for volunteers for the event as well as donations for soup, drinks, desserts and accompaniments. Sign up here: <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: January PTO Meeting scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:30 pm has been CANCELLED. Next meeting will be Monday, March 9th. Please look for emails coming out shortly with updates on what we have planned and how you can help!

Family Craft Night will be 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 and spots are limited! 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. Sign up here: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pto>

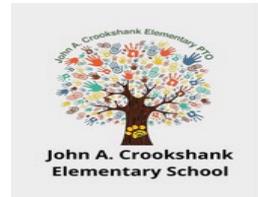
Valentine's Grams will be sold Wednesday, February 4th until Wednesday, February 11th from 8:00 am until 8:25 am in the Main Hallway. More details to come as flyers will be sent home the week of January 26th.

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 Crookshank. Flyers went home on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, and there is a QR Code/link to order tickets in order to support the school. Tickets are limited and are selling fast!!!

February's Spirit Night will be Friday, February 20th at Jeremiah's Italian Ice located at 124 Capulet Drive, Unit 105 in St Augustine 32092 from 6-10 PM. 15% of your order will be donated back to Crookshank!

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- <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pto>

Thank you from your Board!



Crookshank PTO
904.547.7840
sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto

PAWS UP!

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect



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.gofeo.com/event/Crookshankelementary4>



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025
January Character Counts Trait – Respect



family craft night

Tuesday, January 27
from 5:30PM to 7:30PM
in the Crookshank Cafeteria

RSVP online only by January 16 or until Sold Out

No entry at the door without registration

All adults must be approved via School Access

my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pto

Option 1 Family Fun Pack \$25 includes:

- Two awesome crafts to take home (per family)
- A delicious pizza + drinks for up to 4 people
- Extra pizza and drinks available for purchase

Option 2 Craft Pack \$15 includes:

- Two awesome crafts to take home (per family)

Hungry? Great! We have extra pizza, drinks and snacks for purchase.



Please contact the PTO for any additional questions crookshankpto@gmail.com

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025
January Character Counts Trait – Respect

JEREMIAH'S[®]
ITALIAN ICE

of Murabella

FEB 20th - FEB 20th

ICE NIGHT FOR

Crookshank Elementary PTO
Crookshank Elementary PTO

15% OF YOUR ORDER WILL BE DONATED



**COME SUPPORT FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN AN ICE PARTY
FOR YOUR SCHOOL!**

JEREMIAH'S ICE OF MURABELLA

124 Capulet Drive, Unit 105 | St. Augustine, FL | 32092



904-907-8800



JII1044@jeremiahscice.com

**CONNECT
WITH US!**



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter
January 12 – January 16, 2025
January Character Counts Trait – Respect



**D I D
Y O U
K N O W ?**

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

General Email: crookshankpto@gmail.com

Business Partner: CrookshankPTOpublishers@gmail.com

Webpage: sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto

Facebook: www.facebook.com/crookshankcougarspto

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

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter
January 12 – January 16, 2025
January Character Counts Trait – Respect

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: _____

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter
January 12 – January 16, 2025
January Character Counts Trait – Respect



**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.**



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

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 crookshankPTOpromoters@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.



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter
January 12 – January 16, 2025
January Character Counts Trait – Respect

Principal Partners



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

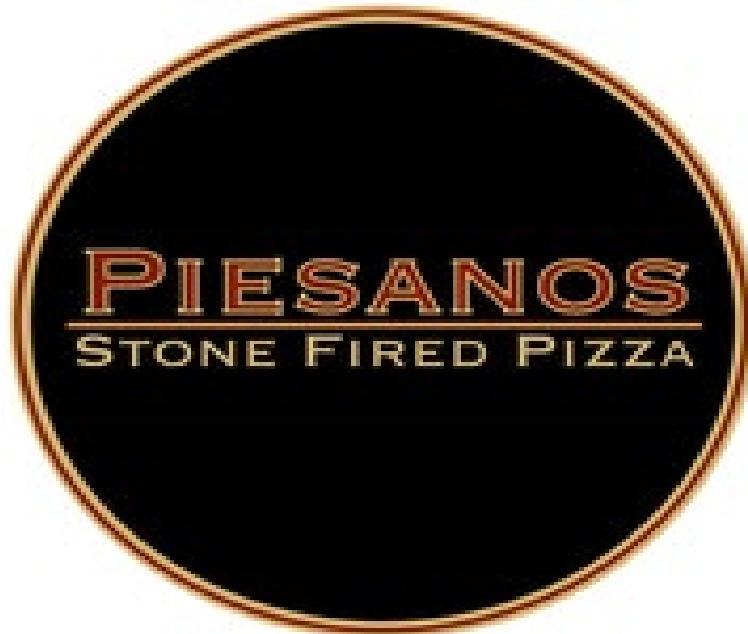
Cougar Partners



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter
January 12 – January 16, 2025
January Character Counts Trait – Respect

Cougar Partners

THE
Sports Corner
CUSTOM APPAREL



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

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!



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

Parent Square Communication Platform



Download the App



Android



iOS

www.parentsquare.com

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

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.



Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

January 12 – January 16, 2025

January Character Counts Trait – Respect

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

