

# Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

## January 26 – January 30, 2026

### 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 22**

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 26**

SAC Meeting	5:30 pm
Literacy Week: Color Clash	
*Pre-K-2nd-	Wear red
*3-5-	Wear blue
*Staff-	Wear White

#### **Tuesday, January 27**

Literacy Week: Stars & Stripes-  
Wear your best stars and stripes and shine!

**PTO Family Craft Night** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

\* This is a preregistration only event

#### **Wednesday, January 28**

Literacy Week: "Wear" the Future Wednesday  
Dress up as what you want to be  
Early Release 1:45 pm

#### **Thursday, January 29**

Literacy Week: "Travel Thursday"  
Dress as a tourist to your favorite place to visit.  
(ex. wear: leis for Hawaii, Cowboy boots for Texas)

#### **Friday, January 30**

Literacy Week: "Freedom Friday"-Wear your red, white, and blue to celebrate 250 chapters of America

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

cestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us

#### **Cougar Café Lunch Menu:**

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

#### **HOT TOPICS**

##### **Kids Heart Challenge**

Who's ready for a mystery?! The Kids Heart Challenge mystery gift is back by popular demand! Students earn one for every \$50 raised, up to 20 total. Each one is a surprise, and they're perfect for collecting and trading with friends. Can you collect them all? Sign up today at <http://www2.heart.org/goto/Crookshank> or on the AHA Schools app to get started!



##### **Yearbook Sales and Ads**

It's that time of year! Log into [www.BuyTheYearbook.com](http://www.BuyTheYearbook.com) to place your order online today! It's super simple! If you already sent in your payment via cash/check when the flyers went home in the fall, then you're good to go! Order a yearbook before they are SOLD OUT! You can also place an order for a personalized ad while you're online ordering a yearbook!

Check out the ad flyer on how to place an order. ADS ARE DONE ONLINE ONLY, but the ordering and designing website is very user-friendly, so don't be intimidated! An ad is a great way to celebrate your 5<sup>th</sup> grade kiddo in their final year, but it's also open to all grade levels. Space is limited, so get your orders in ASAP! The deadline to order ads is February 14<sup>th</sup>!

#### **Reporting Absences**

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

**Growth Mindset:** "The difference between try and triumph is a little umph." —Marvin Phillips

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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: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](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.



<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](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**

##### **February**

4-11 Valentines' Grams

9 SAC Meeting 5:30 pm

10 Interims  
Tie Tuesday

13 Teacher Inservice Day – No School for students

16 Presidents' Day – No School

20 Jeremiah's Italian Ice at 124 Capulet Drive, Unit 105 in St Augustine

26 Volunteer Breakfast 9:00 am

##### **March**

9 Sebastian Middle School Orientation (5th Grade)  
PTO/SAC Meeting 5:30 pm

12 Field Day – More Information to Come

13 Teacher Planning Day – No school for students

16-20 Spring Break

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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 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)

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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.

**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! Please reach out if you have any questions or interested in a position, [crookshankpto@gmail.com](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:** (1) Valentine Grams will be sold from Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> thru Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:45 am to 8:30 am in the main hallway. Volunteers are needed to collect orders from students. Also, we need volunteers on Wednesday, February 11th at 9am to help organize and distribute Valentine Grams. Click the link below to volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A62AAAF5C61-57932937-volunteer>

(2) Souper Bowl Lunch for the teachers and staff on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Click the link to volunteer or donate for the Souper Bowl Lunch <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A62AAAF5C61-61661252-souper>

Please sign up on the link below for any of our upcoming volunteer opportunities:

<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: Family Craft Night** will be on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 5:30 pm - 7:30pm in the cafeteria. 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. **Valentine's Grams** will be sold Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Grams will be \$1 each and that includes the gram and a Valentine pencil. Any questions please contact us at [crookshankpto@gmail.com](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com)

**Spirit Night:** February's Spirit Night will be Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at Jeremiah's Italian Ice located at 124 Capulet Drive, Unit 105 in St Augustine 32092 from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm. 15% of your order will be donated back to Crookshank! Flyers will be sent home in February.

**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>



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

PAWS UP!

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# VALENTINE'S GRAMS



#### ✉️ Send a Valentine's Gram! ✉️

- Just snip, fill out your card, and send it back to school with \$1 per Gram (Cash or Cheddar Up).

#### ;br/>Drop-Off Details

- Bring your money and completed cards to the Valentine's Gram Table in the front hallway
- February 4–11 • 8:00–8:25 AM

#### 🎁 Delivery Day!

- Your sweet messages—complete with a fun pencil and eraser—will be delivered to classrooms on February 13!

#### ❤️ Want to Send Even More Love?

- Need extra cards? Email [crookshankpto@gmail.com](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com)
- Want to treat the whole class? Visit Cheddar Up to sponsor your classroom!

Spread the love to classmates, friends, and teachers—  
give a Gram and make someone's day! ❤️🌟



CHEDDAR UP



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**JEREMIAH'S<sup>®</sup>**  
**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!**



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**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](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com)

Business Partner: [CrookshankPTOpublishers@gmail.com](mailto:CrookshankPTOpublishers@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 [crookshankPTOpromoters@gmail.com](mailto: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.



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**Principal Partners**



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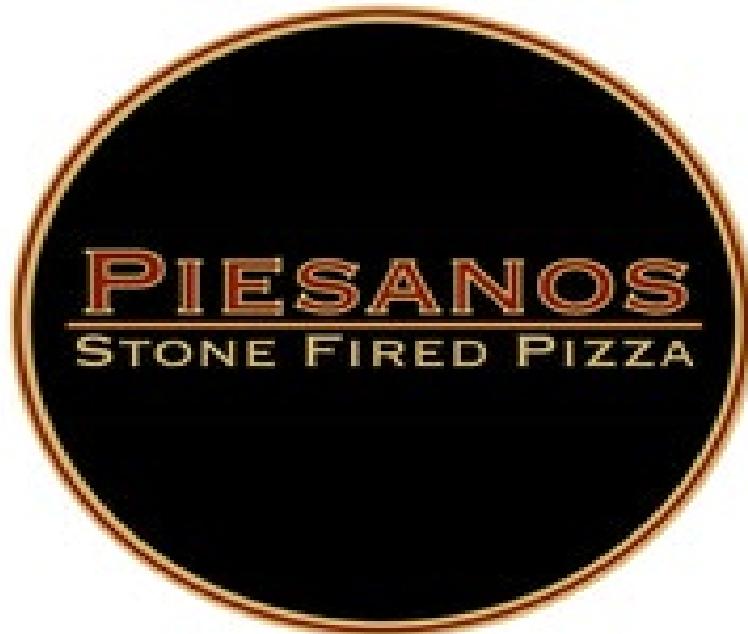
## Cougar Partners



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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](http://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!



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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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#### 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

