

# Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

May 4 – May 8, 2026

April Character Counts – Citizenship

**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 34**

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, May 4**

Teacher Appreciation Week

## **Tuesday, May 5**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade FAST Math Assessment

## **Wednesday, May 6**

Early Release	1:45 pm
CES Spirit Night at Ponce De Le Rollin'	
201 Anastasia Blvd.	4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

## **Thursday, May 7**

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade FAST Reading Assessment  
Internet Safety at Murray Middle School  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

## **Friday, May 8**

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade FAST Math Assessment

## **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: "The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice." – Brian Herbert**

## **HOT TOPICS**

### **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week**

This week the CES PTO will be celebrating our teachers and staff. This year we are celebrating with a "Cinco de Mayo" theme. Below you can see what the week will look like. Please find some way to show your child's how much you appreciate them for their hard work

### **Returning Student Verification**

472 returning students are still not accounted for. With district cost-saving measures in place, we must know as early as possible which of our Cougars are returning next year— including our rising middle schoolers. This information directly impacts staffing, class sizes, and the resources we are able to keep in place.

Please complete the Return Student Verification (RSV) by Friday, May 15th. Emails from [noreplyregistration@powerschool](mailto:noreplyregistration@powerschool) were sent out by grade level.

If you don't see it, please check your junk folder. For help, contact our computer operator, (Lisa Cogar).

Completing the RSV is incredibly important for our school. In addition, please encourage families with rising kindergarteners to register now.

Thank you for supporting John A. Crookshank.

### **Testing Schedules**

Scheduled K-2 testing concludes this week. Make ups will continue. Please be on the look out for specific dates in the Growl, included in teacher newsletters and on our website. 3-5 testing begins May 1 with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Reading. The full schedule will be shared in the Growl, from teachers and on our website

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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.



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

### May

11	PTO/SAC Meeting	5:30 pm
12	Tie Tuesday	
13	1st PM3 Performance & Progress Pajama Party	9:00 am
14	K PM3 Performance & Progress Pajama Party 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip to Alligator Farm Visual and Performing Arts Night	9:00 am 6:00 pm
15	PK Music Showcase – in Café High School Grad Walk	9:00 am 2:00 pm
18	3rd Grade PM3 Performance & Progress Pajama Party	9:00 am
19	5th Science Assessment 2nd Grade PM3 Performance & Progress Pajama Party	9:00 am
20	Cougars with Character Grades 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2nd	2nd(8:40 am) & 1st(9:15 am)
21	Kindergarten Celebration in Café	9:00 am
22	PAWS Water Day	
25	Memorial Day – No School	
26	4th Grade PM3 Performance & Progress Pajama Party 5th Grade Universal Trip Fire Drill	9:00 am
27	Cougars with Character Kickball, Cookout, Clap out	4th(8:40 am) & 3rd(9:15 am)
28	5th Grade Promotion	8:45 am
29	Last Day of School 5th PM3 Performance & Progress Pajama Party Report Cards Early Release	9:00 am

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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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## Cougar Family Connection

May 2026



### May Spirit Night

May 6 | 4PM-6:30PM

Lace up your skates and join us at the roller-skating rink for a fun-filled Spirit Night! **Scan the QR code below to purchase tickets.**

\$17.96 per child | \$22.17 per adult  
Limited to 125 people– don't miss out!  
**201 Anastasia Blvd**



### Got ideas? We're all ears!

Tell us what you'd love to see from the PTO—bigger smiles, better events, or new ways to support our school. We also want to know what kind of updates and information you'd like from us! **Scan the QR code below and spill the ideas!**



### Crookshank Cougar Spirit Wear

Pssst... have you visited our online store?! It's packed with Cougar goodies—shirts, swag, birthday signs, and Business Partners registration. It's a one-stop Cougar shop! Please allow up to 2 weeks for items to come home after purchase. **Scan QR code below.**



### Tidal Wave Car Wash Fundraiser

Is your car looking a little... green from all that pollen? Freshen it up with a Tidal Wave Car Wash! Vouchers are just \$10 (normally \$30!). Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery. **Scan QR code below.**



### PTO General Meeting

Monday, May 11 | 5:30PM

**Crookshank Media Center**

This is our last PTO meeting of the year, and we'd love for you to join us! Come be part of the excitement as we vote for next year's Board Members and celebrate another great school year. All are welcome—hope to see you there!



### Teacher Appreciation Week

May 4-8 | Cinco de Mayo

Let's shower our amazing teachers with love! Here's how YOU can help make the week extra special:

- Volunteer (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)
- Donate from our Amazon Wishlist
- Food Donations for each daily event

**Scan the QR code below for all the details and sign-ups!**



### EVERYTHING YOU NEED

[linklay.io/crookshankpto](https://linklay.io/crookshankpto)

Amazon Wishlist | Volunteer Opportunities | Tidal Wave Car Wash | Birthday Messages | Spirit Wear Donations | Teacher Appreciation Week

### WE NEED YOU | PTO Involvement

Looking for a way to get more involved (without it feeling like a full-time job)? Really, we would love to have you even if you have limited availability!

**Join the PTO Board for the 2026-2027** school year! You'll help plan events, support teachers, and connect with other parents along the way. No experience needed—just bring a good attitude!

Email [crookshankpto@gmail.com](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com) to learn more.

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## A FIESTA OF THANKS FOR OUR FANTASTIC TEACHERS AND STAFF

(APPRECIATION WEEK)

Dear Parents & Students:

We will be celebrating our teachers and staff this week! This year we are celebrating with a “Cinco de Mayo” theme. Below is an itinerary of events for the week. We have also included ways for you and your family to give our teachers and staff the appreciation they deserve!

MONDAY - MAY 4TH

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD DRESS IN FESTIVE FIESTA COLORS OR IN THEIR TEACHER'S FAVORITE COLOR

TUESDAY - MAY 5TH

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD GIVE COMPLIMENTS TO ANY TEACHER AND STAFF ALL DAY LONG.

WEDNESDAY - MAY 6TH

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING IN THEIR TEACHER'S FAVORITE SNACK OR TREAT.

THURSDAY - MAY 7TH

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD COLOR AND FILL OUT THE ATTACHED ROCKET SHIP FOR THEIR TEACHER.

FRIDAY - MAY 8TH

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING IN A LITTLE APPRECIATION GIFT FOR THEIR TEACHER. MAYBE A GIFT CARD OR SOMETHING THEY LIKE

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# CROOKSHANK

*Spirit Night*



*Ponce de le  
Rollin'*



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 | 4-6:30PM**

**201 ANASTASIA BLVD.**

**\$17.96 PER CHILD**

**\$22.17 PER ADULT**

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS**

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The Crookshank Elementary School PTO IS

## LOOKING


## FOR LEADERS

EAGER TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR SCHOOL?

The following positions need to be filled. Voting will be May 11th.

INTERESTED? FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT


CROOKSHANK PTO AT: [CROOKSTANKPTO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CROOKSTANKPTO@GMAIL.COM)



**President**  
The big-picture thinker!  
Leads meetings, works with school staff, and helps guide all the PTO fun.



**Vice President**  
The ultimate helper!  
Supports the President and jumps in wherever help is needed.



**Secretary**  
The organization hero!  
Takes notes, helps with communication, and keeps us on track.



**Treasurer**  
The number ninja!  
Keeps track of funds so we can support events, activities, and teacher wishes.



**Event Chair & Fundraising Chair**  
The FUN MAKERS! Help plan book fairs, family nights, fundraisers, teacher appreciation, and school celebrations.

**Committee Members Include:**  
Hospitality, Spirit Night,  
Spirit Wear, Holiday Shop &  
Events!



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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

iTMJBotoxA



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## Parent Square Communication Platform

 ParentSquare

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

