

Crabapple Crossing Elementary School
Principal's Newsletter

George Freiberger, Principal

Summer, 2011

www.fultonschools.org

www.crabapplecrossing.org

Newsletter is sent out the 2nd Friday of the month

From the Principal's Desk.....

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Dear Crabapple Crossing Elementary School Families,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! We have many wonderful learning opportunities in store for your child this year. Your children will experience many new things and we are fortunate to have some of the best and brightest teaching professionals working with our students.

It is imperative that everyone knows our school priorities here at CCES. Below is a list of both our short and long term priorities.

Crabapple Crossing School Priorities:

- *Create a classroom environment that encourages a climate of cooperation through classroom meetings*
- *School-wide focus on Writing Curriculum*
- *Integrate Technology in every classroom*
- *Increase student performance on the CRCT; maintain platinum status, and in year 3, 2013-2014, become a National Blue Ribbon School.*
- *Move students from meets to exceeds in reading, language arts, math, social studies & science*

Student achievement will always be our main focus at Crabapple Crossing ES. It will take all of us working together to achieve these goals. Thank you in advance for being a partner with us in your child's education.

We will have three major PTA fundraisers this school year: the Boosterthon, the Fall Festival, and the Basket Raffle. Please look for more information in future Principal and PTA Corral newsletters. Another way to generate funds is through the Student Enrichment Fund where money is given directly to the school. Many companies will match contributions to the school, so please let us know if your company participates. Our hard-working PTA will do what is required to get the matching gift. The money raised from these fundraising activities will be used to sponsor free events as well as provide new technologies, educational programs, and students materials.

We will continue using electronic newsletters for both the PTA and Principal Newsletters. This will be the main way information is shared by both the PTA and the School.

If you wish or need to continue receiving a paper copy, please clip off the bottom portion of this letter and return it to your child's teacher. We will be happy to send a copy home with your child on the regular scheduled dates.

I am looking forward to a productive and successful school year for our children.

Thank you for your support of CCES and its effort to go green!

George B. Freiberger, Ed.S
Principal

Please check the box below only if you wish to receive paper copies:

----- I would like to continue receiving a paper copy of both *The Corral* and Principal Newsletters.

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

CRCT scores have been analyzed and the results are amazing!

We have disaggregated the scores in Reading, English/LA, and Math and these scores are the highest number of students in the "Exceeds" category ever at CCES.

Our community really needs to be proud of the results. This truly demonstrates how hard our students, teachers and parents work to support success. It also demonstrates the level of achievement our kids are capable of attaining when they commit to their performance.

Remember that there are three levels to the CRCT. To successfully meet expectations students have to be at level 2 or 3. I will share the percent of students that met or exceeded expectations, but then in parentheses, I will also share the number of students who were at level three and exceeded state expectations for that content area.

<u>3rd Grade</u>		<u>4th Grade</u>		<u>5th Grade</u>	
Reading	100% (81%)	Reading	99% (79%)	Reading	100% (74%)
English/LA	99% (85%)	English/LA	100% (77%)	English/LA	99% (80%)
Math	97% (89%)	Math	99% (80%)	Math	100% (86%)
Science	97% (87%)	Science	99% (87%)	Science	97% (84%)
Social Studies	97% (68%)	Social Studies	99% (58%)	Social Studies	95% (67%)

As you can see, the students did phenomenally well. Congratulations to all on a job well done! Please be sure to celebrate these scores with your children and let them know that they have made us all proud.

The First Day of School! How do we get ready? What to expect?

The much anticipated first day is approaching. You've purchased school supplies, a new school wardrobe, and had your child brush up on their reading and math skills over the summer. Now what? Getting back into the swing of the school year will require organization and flexibility on the part of both parents and students. It is important that a daily routine begins a couple of weeks before school starts. Here are a few tips for not only incoming students, but to help put Mom and Dad at ease, as well.



- Move bedtime up by thirty minutes. Children are at their best when they are well-rested.
- If your child has not been reading or participating in enrichment activities, it is not too late. Designate a time each day for an academic activity from now until the start of school. Children thrive on routine.

The first day of school is an exciting time for everyone. Please don't forget to bring your cameras. You will want to have this memorable moment on film! To ease the transition from home to the school environment, **if you feel that your child would need the reassurance of your accompaniment, you are welcome to walk your child down to the classroom the first day of school, only.** After that, parents are asked to say goodbye at the bus stop, in the carpool line, or in the front lobby. Classroom teachers will be quite busy getting arriving students settled and as such, will not have time to conference with you during morning arrival. School personnel will be available to assist students in finding their way to class if they need extra guidance. Although there may be a few tears at first, especially among the younger children, saying farewell outside of the building will be best for all concerned. Our faculty and staff are well-trained and ready to provide your child with the best educational experience there is to offer.

Students and staff will need a few weeks to establish a smooth routine in our cafeteria, including finalizing lunch schedules and seating arrangements for each classroom, and learning cafeteria guidelines and expectations. **Parents will be welcome to join their child for lunch in the cafeteria beginning after the Labor Day holiday.** Thank you for your understanding.

Volunteer Opportunities Everywhere....WE WANT YOU!

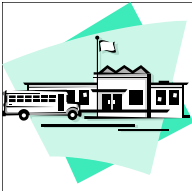


The very best way to be involved in your child's education is to take advantage of volunteer opportunities at Crabapple Crossing ES. During Open House and again at Back-to-School Night, you will be given the chance to sign up for various academic and social roles within your child's classroom and the PTA. Our school is fortunate to have a huge percentage of parent volunteers to help enrich the academic experience of your children.

From reading to the class, to assisting with a math lesson, your child, as well as other children, will greatly benefit from your time.

Crabapple Crossing Elementary takes very seriously, the role of parent and community volunteers. In order to volunteer in the classroom, media center, copy room, computer lab, or chaperone a field trip, **you must have completed the Expectations for Volunteers at School Program (booklet) and signed the form on the last page.** All parents who attend Back-to-School Night will receive this training from your teacher. You will be asked to complete the last page of your volunteer handbook and turn it in to your teacher. During this training, information on how to work with children, school policies and safety procedures, and the role of volunteers in the building are just a few of the topics covered. This training is mandatory and non-negotiable. When volunteer opportunities arise, teachers and room reps will only contact those parents or guardians who have completed the form and returned it to their classroom teacher. You may pick up a volunteer orientation booklet from your classroom teacher or the front office.

In order to keep the focus on our CCE students and for safety reasons, parents are asked to make childcare arrangements for younger siblings before coming to school to volunteer. It is very difficult to participate in a classroom while also having to keep an eye on a curious, younger sibling. We look forward to working with you to make this a great year for everyone!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

Grade Level Back-to-School Nights will be the time for you to visit your child's classroom, see where they sit, learn about what happens during their school day, and receive important information about the curriculum and school expectations for students. During this evening, you will also be given the opportunity to sign up for volunteer opportunities within the classroom and PTA. **Grades K-1** will meet **August 11th**, **Grades 2-4** will meet **August 16th**, and **Grades 3-5** will meet **August 18th**. **Grades K, 2, & 3** are from **5:30-7:00 p.m** and **Grades 1, 4, & 5** are from **6:30-8:00 p.m**. To keep the focus on expectations for the school year, and because of the wealth of information that will be communicated, this event is for **adults only**. Please make other arrangements for students and younger siblings.



Who's Who at Crabapple Crossing....

For your convenience, below is a list of school personnel and their area of expertise. Please feel free to contact them with any questions or concerns.



- ♥ **Denise Weinstein & Susan Salter, Clinic Assistants:** Medical concerns of all Crabapple Crossing Students, Work closely with Judy Reddick, cluster nurse for CCES
- ♥ **Elena Gardner, Front Office Assistant:** Coordinates assistants, coverage for meetings, school news and notes, over-all front office support
- ♥ **Anne Branan, Front Office Secretary:** Homework Requests, Transportation Changes, Student Check-out, Messages for Staff, General School Information
- ♥ **Lynn Greene, Data & Records Coordinator:** Student Records, Enrollment and Withdrawals, Attendance, Change of Student Information
- ♥ **Jane Masterson, Bookkeeper/Principal's Secretary:** Local School Accounts, Cost Center Budget, SAP, Purchasing, Master Calendar, Scheduling Appointments with the Principal, Faculty/Staff Concerns, Principal's Newsletter Editor
- ♥ **Classroom Teacher: All Classroom Concerns Should Begin with the Classroom Teacher.**
- ♥ **Michelle Martin, Guidance Counselor:** Provide classroom guidance, Conduct Small Group and Individual Counseling, Student Support Team Administrator
- ♥ **Sheila Connell, IST (Instructional Support Teacher):** Support and Resource for Special Education and Speech Departments, Encore Maintenance, Individualized Education Plans, Behavior Intervention Plans
- ♥ **Veronica Krapf, CST (Curriculum Support Teacher):** Professional Development and Training with Certified Faculty, Curriculum/GPS Standards, Student Placement/Testing, Student Support Team
- ♥ **Kimberly Bowsher, Assistant Principal:** Classroom Observations, Testing Coordinator, Transportation/Bus Drivers, School Policy and Procedures, Student Discipline, Student Achievement, Business Partnerships, Student Support Team
- ♥ **George B. Freiburger, Principal:** All School Operations, School Improvement Planning, Student Achievement, PTA, LSAC, Community Relations, Business Partnerships



Cafeteria News and Information

At Crabapple Crossing ES, parents can decide how money is spent from their student's lunch account. Student lunch accounts can be set up so money may only be spent for breakfast or lunch, tagged for MEALS ONLY. However, parents may put extra money on the account for snacks such as:

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Popcorn | Corn chips | Pretzels |
| Ice cream | Cookies | |

Parents, you can decide if your student may have an open account, where he or she can purchase extras every day. Or you can restrict the account to specific days, such as FRIDAY ONLY or TUESDAY & FRIDAY. Accounts can also be tagged for NO EXTRA ENTRÉE'. Just remember, it must be a short message. These restrictions cannot be done on the MealPayPlus website; they must be done at the cafeteria. Parents may send in a note to the cafeteria manager, Wanza Malcom, and the student's account will be set accordingly. Then purchases may be audited on MealPayPlus. If you have further questions, email [Wanza Malcom](mailto:Wanza.Malcom@fultonschools.org) at Malcom@fultonschools.org.

Understanding the Ten Day Count



At the beginning of school, classroom assignments are made with careful review of many criteria to create positive and productive instructional settings for all of our children.

Our enrollment is affected by the opening of new subdivisions, students new to our school who register daily, and student attendance during these first 10 days. Many schools are experiencing over-enrollment situations while others have totals under original projection at this time. It might be necessary to reduce or expand the number of classrooms at a grade level to reflect district and state guidelines for class sizes. Scheduling students in specific courses and special education classes also requires a tremendous amount of time to negotiate to meet all state and county guidelines. If it is necessary to add or collapse a class or change a child's teacher, we find that our children adapt beautifully. Generally speaking, they accept this change more easily than the rest of us.

At this point, we are still under our original projection for total enrollment; however, at each grade level, we are enrolling students every day and we feel pretty comfortable at this total enrollment. We have been monitoring our enrollment daily and are still working through the intricacies of scheduling every student in all that he or she needs. Please know that we will continue to keep you informed should any changes be necessary.

Happy Birthday!

Birthdays are not “celebrated” at school. Student birthdays are recognized one day per month. Students whose birthday occurs that month are invited to come to the cafeteria after morning announcements to receive a special gift from the administrative team. Your child along with the other students celebrating their birthday will have their picture taken and proudly displayed in the front hall for all to see during their special month. To honor/celebrate your child’s birthday, you may donate a book to your child’s classroom library or to the school’s Media Center. Birthday treats and goodie bags are not permitted. Invitations to birthday parties are to be distributed outside of school to protect the feelings of all children. Thank you for making this a time for all students to celebrate together.



Please Keep Cell Phones at Home!



Elementary school children are not permitted to have cell phones on school property. Fulton County Schools prohibits the possession of them for students in grades K-5. Please do not attempt to have your child discreetly keep one in his/her backpack or pocket. Any student caught with a cell phone in their possession, whether turned on or not, will have the phone confiscated by the teacher and turned in to the Assistant Principal’s office. At that time, parents will be notified that the phone will be kept in the office until they come to the school to retrieve it.

Crabapple Crossing Elementary Dress Code

It’s that time of year again. Before you take the latest fashions into the department store fitting room, look at each item carefully and check whether or not it is “school appropriate.” Our teachers and staff want your children to be comfortable in their school attire and not have to focus on whether or not their skirt or shorts are the appropriate length or if he/she has to constantly pull their shirt down over their midriff. The elementary school day is chocked full of academically enriching activities. There are also many opportunities for exercise and playing outside. All students will receive 15 minutes of recess daily, which will entail outside playtime. Please follow these guidelines when selecting clothing and shoes for your child. It will be Crabapple Crossing’s policy to call parents of students who violate the dress code. **Parents will be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothing before the student may return to class.**

- Students should wear **sneakers** daily. They are mandatory for P.E. class and are the safest shoe for wearing on the playground and play areas.
- **Heelies (sneakers with wheels), are not acceptable footwear for school.** Please reserve these shoes for after school activities.
- Shorts and skirts must be at least finger-tip length.
- Sleeveless shirts or dresses must be the width of at least 3 fingers across. Spaghetti-straps are not appropriate.



Thank you for your support!

A Few Notes!

- ♥ Our school day begins at **7:40 a.m.** and ends at **2:20 p.m.** Students are expected to be in their classrooms no later than **7:40 a.m.** **Please do not drop students off in carpool before 7:10 a.m.** Students will be counted tardy if they are still in carpool or walking through the front doors at that time. If you choose to drive your child to school, please keep in mind that traffic during that time of day is extremely heavy. All cars must come through the main carpool driveway in the front of the school. **Children may not be dropped off in the staff parking lot, 15 min spaces, clinic spaces or in the bus lanes. We recommend placing your child on the school bus. If you wish to walk your child into the building you will need to park across the street at the church (Blue Lot) and walk your child all the way into the front office.**
- ♥ Teachers may be contacted via email, voicemail, or by sending a written note to school with your child. **We ask that transportation change notes not be sent via email or voicemail as they may not be accessed during the school day in time for dismissal.**
- ♥ **For safety reasons and security of all of our students, ALL parents/guardians must be prepared to show picture identification when you need to check your child out of school. Please do not be offended when the secretary asks to see your picture identification. This is strictly for your child’s protection.**
- ♥ The school clinic operates from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Any prescription medicine needs to be brought to the clinic with a completed authorization form signed by a physician. Over-the-counter medications will also be administered in the clinic, and an instruction/authorization form is mandatory as well. Parents are asked to bring in any and all medication for their children. Please do not send in ANY medication with students. The clinic is not a doctor’s office. Extra medication is not kept on hand to administer to your child unless you have provided it. If your child exhibits a fever, diarrhea, or vomits during the school day, a parent or other emergency contact will be called in order to have the child picked up from school immediately.
- ♥ **Due to our buses running at full capacity, students must ride their assigned bus except in an emergency situation.** If a situation arises where you must rely on a bus other than the one assigned, it is the parent’s responsibility to contact North Fulton Transportation at (770) 667-2970 in regards to getting proper authorization. **Play-dates are not acceptable reasons for riding another student’s school bus.**
- ♥ **Toys, dolls, hand-held video games, and MP3 players (iPods) should be left at home. Sweatshirts, coats, and jackets should be labeled with your child’s name. The odds of getting lost clothing returned to your child are greater if clothing is clearly labeled with your child’s first and last name.**

Looking Ahead.....



August

August 10 Open House, 8-10 a.m.
All grades, students and parents
August 11 Back to School Night, *parents only*
5:30-7 Kindergarten
6:30-8 1st grade
August 15 First Day of School
Bye-Bye Breakfast, Kindergarten parents
7:30 a.m., cafeteria
August 16 Back to School Night, *parents only*
5:30-7 2nd grade
6:30-8 4th grade
August 18 Back to School Night, *parents only*
5:30-7 3rd grade
6:30-8 5th grade



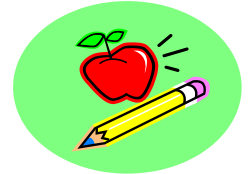
September

September 1 "Be Cool" Walk to School Day
September 5 Labor Day—No School
September 7 Fall after school programs start
September 8 Hearing Testing (1st & 3rd)
September 9 Vision Testing (3rd & 5th)
September 12 PTA Meeting, 10 am
September 13 Shane's Rib Shack Give Back Night
Kindergarten teachers serve, 5-7 p.m.
September 14 LSAC Meeting, 9 a.m., media center
September 15 Picture Day
September 18-24 Turn off Television Week
September 23 First Day of Autumn
September 23 Fall Festival, 4-8 p.m.
September 26-30 Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week
September 28 Stomp Out Bullying Program
September 30 Box Tops Due

Character Education—September

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for the disabled.

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