



# Dr. James Craik News

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## Greetings from Mrs. Nye

We currently have a before school reading program in progress for grades 3, 4 and 5. This program will be completed on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We are working on comprehension skills in order to extend student understanding of text. Please encourage your child to read on a daily basis and talk with them about what they've read. If your child is attending this program, please make sure they are attending on a regular basis. We are working long hours to assist our students by providing additional help. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff.

Schools are closed for students on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, and parent conferences will be held. There is no school for Pre-K on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> as their conferences will be held those days. Report cards will be issued at your parent conference. If you do not schedule a conference, your child will bring the report card home on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Conferences are a great opportunity for you and your child's teacher to discuss strengths and challenges for your child. Please come with questions and ask for ways that you can work at home to support your child's academic growth.

Magic Math Tour assembly will be here with a presentation on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans' Day. We proudly salute all our veterans and thank you for service to our school, community, and country. On November 13<sup>th</sup> we have invited active and retired military in our community to join us for a celebration of their service to our country.

The Fall Festival was a great success. We had a fabulous turnout. The staff did a fantastic job of decorating and providing the students with an exciting evening. It's always great to spend an evening with our school family.

If your child is participating in any before or after school program, it is important that they attend regularly as the programs are short and targeted to specific skills. Our staff gives a great deal of their time to plan and instruct these before or after school activities. The following activities are occurring either before or after school: Just Say No, Robotics, MESA, DI, Before School Reading Program and Math Teams (beginning shortly).



American Education Week is November 15<sup>th</sup> through November 21<sup>st</sup>. You are welcome to eat lunch with your child on November 20<sup>th</sup> and also to visit your child's classroom that day. A schedule will be coming home from your child's homeroom giving you more information about visitation. If you wish to buy lunch, please send in a note with your child by November 13<sup>th</sup> indicating the number of adults who will be purchasing lunch from the cafeteria. The menu will be cheese pizza, or toasted cheese sandwich, peas and carrots. Adult lunches are a la carte: \$2.30 for main items, \$.50 for small side items, \$1.00 for large side items, and milk is \$.50.

Picture retakes will take place on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like your child to have a retake please send in the package of pictures that you don't want.

On Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will host a Principal's Tea. This is an informal opportunity to hear about some of the programs, activities and interests of Dr. James Craik Elementary. A flyer will come home giving more information in the near future. Please make sure you RSVP as we need a count for refreshments.

As I'm sure you are aware from the news, media and letters sent home from the superintendent, the flu has made its presence known in many of our schools. We are happy to announce that at this time we do not know of any students that are out due to the flu. Attendance is very important. Absences from school cause your child to miss instruction. We understand if your child is sick, but please try to plan appointments so that it does not preclude your child's attendance. The state monitors attendance and sets expected standards. We also have many students who are arriving late, which interferes with their ability to get morning work done. We begin letting students enter the building at 9:05 a.m. Please try to have your child here by that time.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Cherrydale fundraiser. These funds will allow us to purchase extra materials to assist our students. As always, it is your partnership with the school that makes the difference.

Schools will be closed November 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving holiday.

*On behalf of the staff and myself,  
we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving  
and a warm "family" day.*



## Health Room News

Stephanie Kiesel, RN



Parents, as you may know the flu season is here. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in Dr. James Craik Elementary. Some of those steps include disinfecting the school with hospital grade disinfectants and the use of hand sanitizers in the classrooms. With these steps we have seen a rise in our attendance.

We are working closely with the Charles County Department of Health to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

For now we are doing everything we can to keep our school functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help.

**Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based rub.**

**Teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.**

**Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.**

**Keep sick children at home. They must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing drugs.**

Thank you in advance for your help in this matter and please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.



## PARKING SAFETY

The area in the front of the building is reserved for buses from 8:50 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 4:10 p.m. There is a safety issue with vehicles being parked in the front of the building in the morning as buses are pulling in and in the afternoon as buses are loading. Please either drop your child off at the gym entrance where everyday car riders drop off or if you are planning on coming into the building please park your car on either side of the building. The doors open at 9:05 a.m. for students. We ask your help in maintaining a safe opening and closing to our school day.

## Reading Corner

Shellia Soderstrom

### Help build fluency!

Fluent readers read silently, recognizing words automatically. They group words quickly to help them gain meaning from what they read. Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading sounds natural, as if they are speaking.

Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding the words, they can focus their attention on what the text means.

A few ideas to help build fluency are: read aloud with your child daily, read along with an audiobook or CD, practice sight words, reread familiar books, use expression when you read aloud to your child, and read a variety of genres such as poetry, nursery rhymes, short stories, familiar songs, etc...

Thank you to all of those who volunteered to participate in our reading partners program. We will be contacting you soon to inform you of the orientation date.

If you are able to volunteer your time to help promote reading with our children, please contact Shellia Soderstrom, (ssoderstrom@ccboe.com) Reading Resource Teacher.

## Calendar of Events - November

5 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Conferences - Report Cards Issued Schools Closed	
6 <sup>th</sup>	No PreK Parent Conferences	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Magic Math Tour Assembly	
6 <sup>th</sup>	PTO - Ice Skating Night, Capital Clubhouse 6:15-8:15 p.m.	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Veterans' Day Schools and Offices Closed for Students	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Freedom Celebration Salute to Active & Retired Military - 10:00 a.m.	
15-21	American Education Week	
17 <sup>th</sup>	PTO - Chick-fil-A Spirit Night - LaPlata 5:00-7:00 p.m.	
19 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Retake Day	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Celebrate American Education Week Lunch with Your Child / Classroom Visitation	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Principal's Tea - 10:00 a.m.	
25-27	Schools and Offices Closed Thanksgiving Holiday	

The Charles County Public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability in its program, activities, or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Keith Grier, Title IX Coordinator, Patricia Vaira, Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults) at Charles County Public Schools, Central Office Building, P.O. Box 2770, LaPlata, MD 20646. (301) 932-6610/870-3814. For special accommodations call (301) 934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to event.