CLEMENS CROSSING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Edward Cosentino, Principal Elizabeth Yankle, Assistant Principal

COUGAR COMMENTS

October 28, 2016 *Clemens Crossing…Always Achieving!* Volume 38, Issue 5

FROM THE DESKS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

With November right around the corner, we have a lot to prepare for over the next few weeks. Schools are closed on Monday, October 31st, so teachers can attend professional development meetings. Additionally, schools are closed on Monday, November 7th so teachers can work on report cards. Schools will remain closed on Tuesday, November 8th, for Election Day since many schools throughout the county are polling locations. American Education Week and Parent/Teacher conferences will also take place in November.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for November 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. In order to schedule conferences, you will need to login to HCPSS Connect. HCPSS Connect will open to schedule conferences on Wednesday, November 9th at 9:00 a.m. The program will be open until Friday, November 18th at 4:00 p.m. The directions for parent conference registration are on the last page of the Cougar Comments newsletter, on our school's website, and under "Guides" at http://www.hcpss.org/connect/. If you have any questions, please call the front office at 410-313-6866.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

The week of November 14 is American Education Week. That week is an excellent opportunity for parents to visit classrooms and see what students are doing on a daily basis in school. The National Education Association's theme for the week is "*Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.*" This is the only week during the school year when parents do not need to contact the school ahead of time to set up a visitation. Feel free to just come and visit your child's classroom. Teachers will share their schedules on Canvas and/or through Friday Folders in the coming weeks. Please note, younger siblings are not permitted to accompany parents during classroom visits.

IXL CHALLENGE

What is IXL? *IXL is a web-based program www.ixl.com - that targets Math for all grades with problems based on the common core standards. The math problems have a wide variety of question types, from word problems to interactive graphing. A great feature IXL provides is that if a child gets the wrong answer, IXL explains why.*

Did you know that your child has an IXL account?

Every student at Clemens Crossing has an IXL account. Students practice IXL math at school and at home. Teachers access reports to monitor student progress as they progress through the skills and levels. Your child's teacher recently sent home the IXL login information.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

The Challenge!
Since we have two extended weekends over the next two weeks, we thought this would be a perfect opportunity to highlight the use of IXL at home. For every 15 minutes students spend on IXL over those two weekends, they will receive 2 ROAR tickets. You do not need to record time or communicate with teachers. Teachers will be able to access their reports to determine how long students spent on IXL during those two weekends.

THANK YOU SUE STRAUSS!
It is with mixed emotions that I share this news with you. After 13 years, Mrs. Sue Strauss will be leaving Clemens Crossing Elementary to work at Bollman Bridge Elementary in Savage. During her time here, Mrs. Strauss was one of the first people to greet students, parents, and visitors when they arrived at CCES. Her care, compassion, and helpful manner helped to make our school what it is today; a caring community of learners. Mrs. Strauss has been a wonderful part of our school community, and she will be greatly missed. Please join me in wishing her the best as she sets forth on the next chapter of her career. Her final day at CCES will be Wednesday, November 2nd.

LUNCH ACCOUNTS
Parents – Please remember to check the lunch account(s) for your child(ren) periodically to make sure you have money on the account for them to purchase lunch. The program is set up to extend for a few lunches, but you must pay back by putting money on the account as well as add enough money to continue purchasing lunch. Parents are responsible for providing a lunch or lunch money on their student account. ***The school no longer loans money to students to purchase lunch.*** Thank you.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM
A reminder that our flu vaccination clinic will be held in school on Thursday, November 3rd. IF YOU HAVE SENT IN A SIGNED CONSENT, BUT YOUR CHILD HAS SINCE HAD A FLU SHOT ELSEWHERE, please notify the school nurse or health assistant at 410-313-5609. Please do not give this information to your child's teacher, as they no longer have the consents and don't have control of the roster for that day. Thank you for your

Regular Afternoon Pickup for Early Dismissal
If you need to pick up your child or children at the end of the day for an early dismissal, we ask that you do that no later than 3:15 p.m. Picking up children after that time, especially closer to the dismissal time, makes it challenging for the front office staff. Children are often transitioning from one class to another as they prepare for the end of the day. In many situations that means that it takes a considerable amount of time to locate children and get them to where they need to be in a timely manner.

PTA

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair is Coming! Browse a wonderful selection of titles for you and your family. The book fair will be in the Clemens Crossing Media Center after school 4:00 to 7:00 Monday November 14 through Friday November 18 (closing earlier, at 5:30 on Friday), and 1:00 to 7:00 on the two half days Nov 21 and 22. We'll also be open for an extra night on Friday, November 11, 6:30 to 8:00 pm during Bingo Night.

We need volunteers to help make this event a success. Please sign up for a time to run the cash register and help people buy books. On November 10 and 11 we need volunteers for set-up and providing food for the teacher preview night. We're using VolunteerSpot to organize volunteers for the Book Fair. Click this link http://signup.com/go/ZEWuBm and sign up for a spot! Thank you so much! If you have questions contact Karen Pang at nerakpang@gmail.com or Julia Griffiths jrgriffiths@verizon.net.

A+ Giant Rewards

Don't forget to register your Giant Food card for A+ Rewards. Clemens Crossing's school ID is **01008**.
It is simple and it means so much to our school.

Box Tops

Box Tops for Education are being collected. Please cut out the Box Tops and send them into school.

Reflections Arts Program: "What's Your Story?"

Clemens Crossing is excited to announce the kickoff of this year's PTA Reflections Arts Program!

"What's Your Story?" is the theme of this year's Reflections Arts Program.

The Reflections Art Program has been bringing the arts to life for more than 10 million students since 1969. All Clemens Crossing students are invited to participate in this amazing program! Reflections encourages students of all ages to unleash their creative talents, express themselves imaginatively in their artwork, experience the fun and joy of making art, tap into critical-thinking skills to create art inspired the theme, and receive positive recognition for their original works of art.

Participation is easy, exciting and empowering! Clemens Crossing students may submit original artwork inspired by this theme in three categories this year:

- Literature
- Music Composition
- Visual Arts

Artworks will be reviewed by experienced arts and education judges. All CCES participants will be awarded certificates of participation, the top four entries will receive ribbons and the first place

entry will receive a medal. The top three entries in each category will move on to the Howard County Reflections Program, the top three county entries will move on to the Maryland State Reflections Program, and state winners in each category will compete in the National PTA Reflections Program.

Students may submit multiple entries. Bring the entries to school on Monday, November 28 through Wednesday, November 30th. The deadline for all submissions is Wednesday, November 30th.
More details, rules and entry forms will be posted on our website (clemenscrossingpta.org), and please send any questions to Risa Carlson, Reflections Chair: reflections@clemenscrossingpta.org

COMMUNITY

Girl Scout Troop #1445 - BOOK DRIVE

Starting on Tuesday, November 1st, CCES's 5th grade Junior Girl Scout Troop 1445 is hosting a school-wide book drive. We are accepting new and gently used books in the front hall of the school. The books you donate can vary from children's books to adult books. Hardcover books are preferred, but we will be accepting any book donations. The book donations are for a good cause. We are donating the books we collect to an organization that will send them to a library in Tema, Ghana, Columbia's sister City. The book drive will end on Friday, November 11th. For more information: https://www.columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GhanaBookDriveFlier_Oct-Dec2016.pdf .

DATES TO REMEMBER

Subscribe to the CCES Google Calendar - *Did you know that you can subscribe to the CCES calendar?* This means all events on our calendar can appear on your personal calendar on any of your devices.

Monday, October 31st	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day
Thursday, November 3rd	Flu Clinic – 9:00AM to 2:00PM
Friday, November 4th	Picture Day *MAKE-UPS* - Fall Individual
Monday, November 7th	NO SCHOOL - Professional Learning Day
Tuesday, November 8th	SCHOOL and OFFICE CLOSED – General Election Day
Wednesday, November 9th	Parent Night #2: A Parent's Guide to Understanding MAP – 6:15PM – 7:00PM - Media Center PTA Meeting, 7:00 PM – Media Center

HCPSS Connect

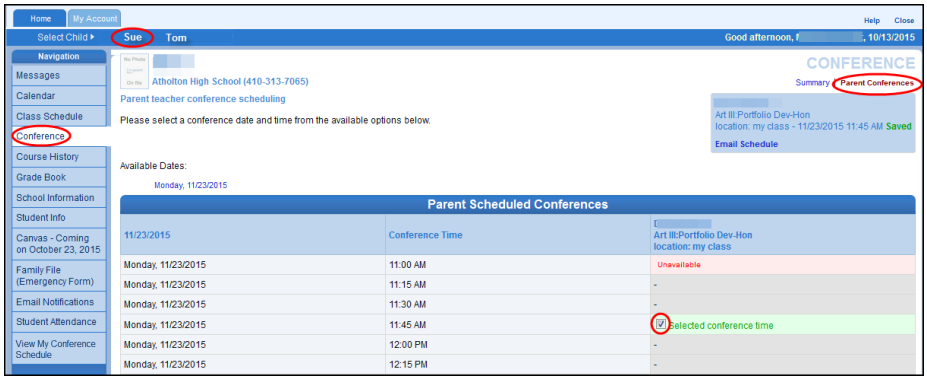
Parent Conference Registration

Howard County Public School System✪ Office of Accountability✪ Document: SYN073 ✪Revision Date: 10/16/2015

=*Warning* =*Timesaver* =*Note*

Register for a Conference

1. Log into HCPSS Connect.
2. In the Navigation Panel, select **Conference**. The Conference Summary page will display showing any conference history.
3. Click the **Parent Conferences** link in the top right corner to schedule conferences.

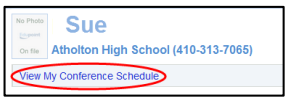


4. Select a time option for each class listed. The conference will be saved automatically. Once you select a time option, all other time options for that class will become unavailable.
5. To select a different time option, clear the first checkbox and select a new option.
6. If you have more than one child, select the next child in the banner across the top.

NOTE: Keep in mind the conference times you selected for your first child when selecting conference times for any additional children.

Change Conference Times

1. In the Navigation Panel, select **Conference**. The Conference Summary page will display showing any conference history.
2. Click the **Parent Conferences** link in the top right corner to schedule conferences.
3. To select a different time option, clear the first checkbox and select a new option.

View Conference Schedule

1. In the Navigation Panel, select **View My Conference Schedule** at the bottom of the list.
2. Click the **View My Conference Schedule** link. A page displays listing all of the conference for your child.
3. Select another child and repeat if necessary.