



Crosby Elementary School

Newsletter - April 2019

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Principals' Message

Spring is here and excitement is in the air! As we move into this first week of April our 3rd graders will be participating in the IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) testing. What your child is learning on a daily basis builds the foundation for being able to demonstrate high achievement on tests.

The following thoughts will help you in preparing your child for being ready each day.

The Night Before:

- Help your child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
- Help your child resolve immediate arguments before going to bed. Keep your routine as normal as possible.
- Mention the test to show you're interested, but don't dwell on it.
- Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

The Morning of the Test:

- Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at school on time.
- Remind your child to eat breakfast at school. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
- Have your child dress in something comfortable.
- Be positive about the test. Explain that doing your best is what counts.

Kristen Cannon
Principal

Paul Brass
Assistant Principal

School Hours

Regular School Day
8:10 a.m.-3:05 p.m.
Half Day Staff Development
8:10 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Early Release Day
8:10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Important Dates

April 10th
Half Day Release at 12:45 pm
Kindergarten Screening 1-7 pm

April 19th
No School-Spring Holiday

April 22nd
No School-Non Attendance

April 23rd
First Grade Music Concert
6:30 pm-7:30 pm

April 25th
Harvard CUSD #50 Art Show
Diggins Library 6-8 pm

Kindergarten Screening

In March we held our Kindergarten Registration event. We were happy to see so many of you turn out for this event. The next step in your registration process is to attend the Kindergarten Screening event on Wednesday, April 10th here at Crosby. Each child who has registered for Kindergarten and is not currently enrolled at Washington's Preschool program should have signed up for a screening time. If your child fits this category and you did not sign up please give us a call to schedule your appointment. Kindergarten Screening will help us to determine classroom placement for next year in a way that optimizes student learning.

Teacher Requests 2019-2020 School Year

Our goal when creating classrooms is to balance a mixture of academic abilities and behaviors in order to form heterogeneous learning environments.

We believe that parental input is important. We are interested in hearing about your child's learning strengths and needs and the type of classroom environment in which you feel your child best achieves. We are also interested in hearing about their previous experiences in school and how these experiences may have helped or hindered their learning. With that said, please do not list specific teacher names. *Input that requests a specific teacher will **not** be honored.* We're sure you can imagine the imbalance that can occur when filling specific teacher requests. If you choose to provide parental input please follow the guidelines above and submit in writing to Mrs. Cannon or send via email at kcannon@cusd50.org. **Your input should be received no later than Friday, April 26th.**

We are committed to weighing all factors in creating classes. When we create classes we will consider the following objectives:

- Assign students to teachers who can best meet individual student's needs by matching teaching and learning styles
- Structure classes to be heterogeneous
- Assign an equal number of students to each class in a given grade level
- Group students who work well together
- Separate students who do not work well together



We at Crosby Elementary pride ourselves in knowing your children.

We also pride ourselves in the high caliber of our teachers. We trust our process and our knowledge of your child, combined with your input, will serve them well.

A Peek at Learning

KINDERGARTEN- In literacy we are continuing our focus on cultures. Last month we focused on how different cultures celebrated in different ways. This month we are focusing on how cultures differ in the way they dress and entertain/make music. We are also well on our way to becoming fluent readers by practicing our decoding strategies (blending and segmenting), as well as participating in brave spelling and producing rhyming words.

In math we are finishing up our unit on combinations within 10. We are also becoming fluent with combinations within 5 and reading and writing number words. We are getting ready to begin our next unit on composing and decomposing teen numbers. In Science we are discussing plant needs and the plant life cycle. It's going to be a great month!

1ST GRADE- In April first graders will begin studying plants. We will learn about the different parts of plants as well as how plants survive, grow, and meet their basic needs. This will tie into our ReadyGen unit where we will answer the essential questions how do readers use describing words and key details to understand text and how do writers use temporal words to sequence narrative texts? In mathematics, we are working with subtraction concepts, number sense from zero to one hundred twenty, geometric shapes(2D and 3D), and time to the hour and half hour.

2ND GRADE- During the month of April, second graders will be reading different texts on the same topic that share similarities and differences. Additionally, students will focus on writing their opinions and providing strong reasons to support them. In math, dual language students will be learning about measurements using yards and meters. Whereas, students in monolingual classes will be exploring two and three-dimensional shapes and their attributes. They will partition rectangles into rows and columns of same-sized squares.

Our social studies focus will be on the idea that change can happen quickly and can create challenges. Learners will understand that personal journeys can affect historical events by the personal choices that they make. A few of the texts we will be reading will address this topic. Our science focus will be on the needs of both plants and animals and how they depend on each other to survive within their habitat.

3RD GRADE- During the first weeks of April we will be taking the IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness). IAR is our state assessment that measures our student's in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Please make sure your child(ren) rest and come ready to do their best.

Math: We will continue to work on order of operations and solving number sentences with parentheses.

ELA: We will read Brave Girl and discuss how characters' actions affect the the sequence of events. We will be studying opinion writing where we will focus on adding details to support our opinions.

SLA: We will be reading the book Ellen Ochoa: La primera astronauta latina. We will also be working on opinion writing and main idea.

Social Studies: We will be learning about our country's economy.

Library- In the library, we will be learning how to identify the different elements of a story. We will be learning about characters, settings, and plot. We will also be learning about poetry and how to write our own poetry. We will also begin doing our author studies and learning about books that have been written by these authors.

PE- The Crosby students are looking forward to nice weather and being able to participate in physical education in a variety of different activities outside the confines of the gymnasium. Being outside enables us to participate in individual and team sports such as: golf, frisbee golf, lacrosse, softball/baseball, soccer as well as different team building activities. As a reminder some days may be cooler than others, so please make sure your child is prepared to go outside. Please make sure to look for our upcoming soccer camp this spring. More information and a sign up sheet will be coming soon.



Character Education-

April in Character Ed will be a focus on friendship. We have a calendar that will encourage our children to do something to make a friend each day along with our weekly character ed lessons that will focus on making and being friends this month. I am so excited to see new friendships form this month!

Mrs. Cossiboon



Art- Kindergarten and 1st grade in both Ms. Sindelar and Ms. Bryant's art classes will be doing a collage project with fabric squares. 2nd and 3rd grade art classes will be completing a choice based project that consists of drawing or painting. They will first create a sketch of what they would like to draw or paint and then choose materials for their final piece.

The District Art Show will be held on April 23-May 4th with a reception taking place on April 26th from 6:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M. We can't wait to see you all there!



Technology Time- During the month of April, students in all grade levels will be doing so many interestingly engaging lessons during technology time. Kindergarten will continue to learn the basics of computer coding and slowly be introduced to the school robot named 'Dash'. First graders will start mapping out routes for 'Dash' to take using Blockly coding, simple click and drag programming. Second grade students will start a month long project on Google Draw, learning how to create shapes and using those shapes to make characters or objects for a story re-tell. Third grade students will be finishing up their Women's History projects by designing a Google Slides project with pictures, motion and even sound!

Counselor's Corner-

Our goal at Crosby is to ensure that every student attends school regularly. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.

- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!!

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.

- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school!

At Crosby, we would like to keep you informed of all attendance and truancy procedures. Please know that your student's attendance is being closely monitored in order to assure success. You may receive letters from Crosby informing you of days out and statutes relating to attendance. If you receive one of these letters, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Borges, School Counselor, with any questions or concerns. We look forward to working together on making sure our students are present daily!



What's new with PBIS?

CELEBRATIONS: Students enjoyed our third quarter school wide celebration. Staff members entertained students with a lip sync battle.

FOURTH ANNUAL MOSAIC BOOSTER: Crosby students will be working together to follow expectations during the month of April. We will be focusing on, but not limiting our focus to breakfast expectations. Our booster will end with a G-rated movie reward when we've completed a mosaic. The mosaic will reveal the movie that all students will be treated to for their excellent behavior choices. Our past movies have been: "The Lion King", "Finding Nemo", and "Cars". Students love watching their efforts develop into something amazing! We are looking forward to showing how together we "get the big picture" and follow expectations in our school!

BUS EXPECTATIONS: If you have a student who rides a bus, please remind him or her of the attached expectations. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that our bus drivers can concentrate and safely get all students to and from school. We respect our bus drivers and appreciate the work they do for us.



Student Safety-

Just a reminder that if you need to come into the office to pick up your student for dismissal, we kindly ask you to use the parking lot. The curb area is for students who will be picked up in the car rider line. Also, please stay off of your phones while in the school zone area. As much as we monitor our students and try to keep them safe, all it takes is a student to run out to their car and a distracted driver on the phone.

