



COUGAR TRACKS

CRESTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

October 2012



Blaze the Trail

Fall is here at Crestwood Elementary and that means it is time to get the word out about our primary PTA fundraiser, Blaze the Trail. Blaze the Trail is a walk-a-thon that serves as a unique and effective way to fund projects and PTA programs at our school. Unlike traditional catalog sales of the past, **100% of the money donated to the event is spent at Crestwood Elementary.**



The PTA collects sponsorships for \$200 from community businesses interested in supporting our school. These businesses have their company logo printed on our event t-shirts. This year every student and staff member will receive a Blaze the Trail shirt. The sponsorships are used to fund the cost of the event so that donations collected by the students go towards our \$12,000 goal. If you have a business or know of a business that would be interested in this level of support and the promotion that comes with it, please contact me. We will also be promoting the community sponsors using our growing Facebook presence, website and future newsletters.

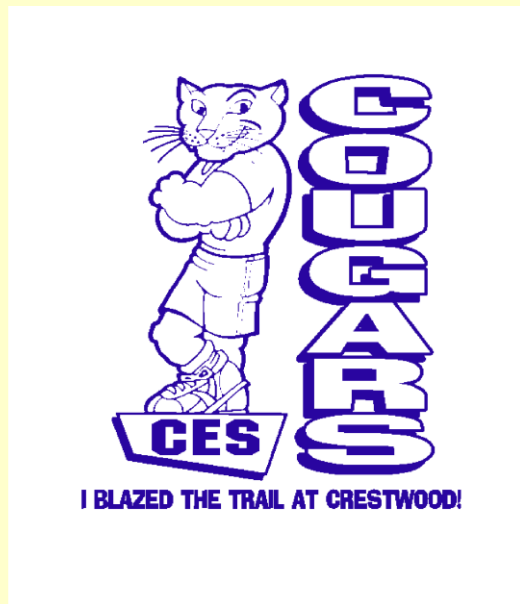
Last week's Tuesday folder included the pledge form and letter outlining incentives for participation. We have a very manageable goal of \$12,000, but need the participation of our entire student body to get there. Whether it is a \$5 pledge from a neighbor, a \$10 pledge from a Grandparent or money Mom and Dad contribute, every pledge counts towards moving us toward our goal. **The event will be held on October 18th**, which is the deadline for turning in pledge money; however, pledges may be turned in at any time.

Pledges turned in by the **early-bird date of October 5th** are eligible to be entered in a prize drawing. Students receive an entry for every \$30 raised. One winner will be drawn from grades K-2nd to win a personal DVD player. One winner will be drawn from grades 3rd-5th to win an Ipod Nano. Every classroom with 75% participation wins a trail mix party. The classroom downstairs and the classroom upstairs with the most money raised will win a Playground Pack filled with 28 items for recess.

This year the PTA has pledged to contribute \$8,000 to build the gazebo-style outdoor classroom for our campus that was designed to memorialize Mrs. Stevens, a former beloved teacher. Our hope is to break ground on this project in the spring, but we need your support to do it. Please participate in contributing to Blaze the Trail. Also, please know that you are welcome and encouraged to take part in the walk-a-thon itself. It is a really fun day for our kids. Captain Cougar and a lively DJ are on hand to encourage the students as they walk during their related arts period. It is the day before fall break this year, so mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun.

Please contact me with questions about our event or sponsorships at either 618-1759 or em.steve@insightbb.com. Pledge forms and incentive letters are available on the PTA website. It is important the donated money accompanies a pledge form when it is turned in, so that we may correctly track prizes. Thanks for your support.

Emily Rademaker, PTA President



Blaze the Trail Incentives Motivation for yourself and your classroom!

Ipod Nano/Personal DVD Player

Get your pledges in by the early bird date of October 5th and be entered to win a prize. You will receive an entry for every \$30 raised. K-2nd graders can win a personal DVD player and 3rd-5th graders can win an Ipod Nano.

Trail Mix Parties

Every classroom with 75% participation will be given a trail mix party. Since our minimum donation is \$1, this award is achievable for every class. Let's make it a school wide party!!

Playground Packs

The classroom downstairs and the classroom upstairs that raised the most money will win a Playground Pack filled with 28 items to make recess a blast! Announcement will be made on October 31st.

Every student and Teacher will receive a Free t-shirt!

Let's make this our best year ever!

Calling On All Parents

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Teachers Need Your Help

One of the best ways to help your child's class is to become a Room Parent or offer to help one out. A Room Parent is in charge of coordinating class parties throughout the year and typically organizes an end-of-the-year teacher's gift. Parties are held at the teacher's discretion, up to three times a school year, usually around the holidays (although they are seasonally, not holiday themed). These parties typically include a nut-free snack, a game and a craft and are normally about an hour long.

Some teachers like to be involved in planning and others leave the creativity entirely up to the Room Parent(s). Correspondence can be emailed (if you give the Room Parent your email address, which is the simplest way to go about it) or sent home in the child's take-home folder. In order to have a successful activity, a Room Parent needs your help. You can help by attending the events as an extra set of hands and/or by offering to send in requested items such as supplies for games and crafts, nut-free snacks and/or money so the Room Parent can purchase these items. If you would like to help, please ask your teacher for the name of your Room Parent or become one yourself! It's a wonderful way to get plugged in and put a smile on a child's face!

Students absolutely love these parties! So we need your help to make them successful. Currently we are in need of volunteers for Room Parents and Helpers.

Many teachers only have 1-2 room parents and the following are still in need: Ms. Beaty, Ms. Curry, Ms. Stuppy, and Ms. Jarnigan. You may get in touch with your child's teacher and/or sign up by emailing JoDee Feldman at jodee.feldman@gmail.com with your contact information, your child's name and teacher.

Nut-free Snack Policy

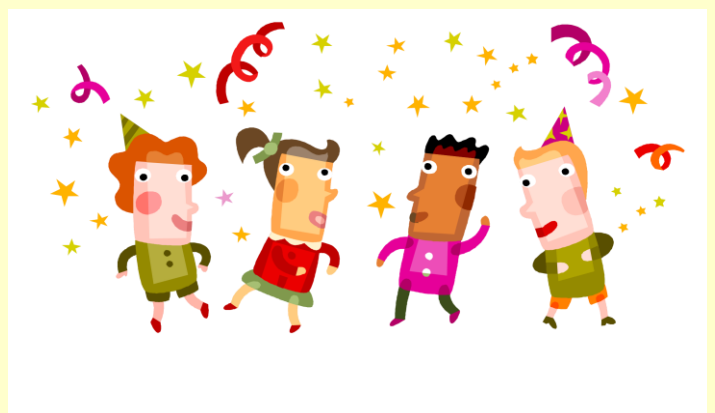
Food allergies can injure children or even prove to be fatal. It is extremely important that we all follow these guidelines when bringing snacks into the classroom.

- ALL SNACKS must be checked by the front office for approval in their original packages. If you made a treat bag, please have the original packages with you for check in.
- Check that label! Food must not contain nuts or be made in a facility that manufactures other products made with nuts. Even a trace can cause a major issue for a child with an allergy.
- No homemade items please. We cannot check the ingredients. (please tell grandparents as well) Store-bought only please.

Wal-mart and Kroger bakeries offer a selection of nut -free cookies and cupcakes. Also, the cafeteria can make cookies for a fee with prior notice. You may call 241-8401 for this option.

More ideas for nut-free snacks can be found at www.RoomMomSpot.com

This site also has tons of ideas for creating a fun classroom party and much more!



Cougar Basketball

2012 Basketball Forms for Co-Ed 5th Grade Basketball

*will be sent out on Oct. 12

*due back on Oct. 18

First Practice - Nov. 1

Last Game - Dec. 14

The complete schedule will be determined when all forms are returned and numbers are final. Please visit www.cougarpe.weebly.com for more information.



Intermural Spring Cross Country - 2013

This program is designed to introduce students to Cross Country racing and increase fitness through running in a non-threatening atmosphere. Participants will be divided up into co-ed teams racing anywhere from 1/2 mile to 1 mile against their peers. Some participants may gain a desire to continue to run at the middle school level where they can expand their racing to include more competition and longer distances. Others may be content to just enjoy running in order to prepare themselves for other sports of interest or for fitness.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 9- Thursday, May 16

* Every Tuesday and Thursday within this time frame

* All practices and races will begin after school and end at 3:45.

*FORMS WILL BE SENT OUT Thursday, March 21.

*THEY WILL BE DUE BACK BY Friday, March 29.



WHO: 3rd, 4th, 5th graders

(Please note that students participating in other spring sports are welcome to participate. It is 2 days a week. ***We will be done by 3:45 so it should not interfere with their activity.***)

WHERE: Crestwood Elementary Cross Country Course

COST: \$20 (Includes a team T-shirt and awards for select races)

For more information: cougarpe.weebly.com

Upcoming Events / Volunteer

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October 3

Kentucky Kids' Day Assembly & Magic Show

8:30 am – Auditorium

Early Release Day

October 9

SBDM Meeting

3:00 pm – Library

Septa Meeting-Special Ed PTA

7:00 – 8:30 pm – The Annex

1900 Button Lane, LaGrange

www.septaofoldhamcounty.org/wordpress

Kids' Art Show

6:00 – 8:00 pm – Crestwood Elementary

PTA Board Meeting

6:30 – 7:30 pm – Library

Red Pepper Day

Stop by for lunch or dinner and mention Crestwood Elementary. A portion of the proceeds will come back to the school.

October 11

Kentucky Smiles Day

October 13

Beautification Day

9:00 – Noon

October 15-18

The National Red Ribbon Campaign is now the oldest drug-prevention program in the nation reaching millions of young people during Red Ribbon Week.

October 18

Blaze the Trail Walk-a-Thon

October 19-26

Fall Break

November 6

Early Release Day

November 9

Movie Night

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Doors to the gym open at 6:30, movie starts at 7pm. Kids may come in modest pajamas. Be sure to bring bean bags, sleeping bags and/or blankets for the floor. Chairs may be set up in the back. Popcorn and snacks will be available for purchase.

Kentucky Kids' Day – Oct. 3 – 8:30 am

Kentucky Kids' Day is a day when the school staff and parents let our students know how special they are. This year's theme is Crestwood Kids Are Magical. The assembly program begins at 8:30am with a special guest performance by Mr. Jeff Russ, a magician. He will perform a magic act and will discuss the topic of safety in a fun way. Parents can make signs that follow the theme and hold them up as they cheer the kids on their way to the assembly. Get there a little early to line the halls.

Kids' Art Fair Art Show – Oct. 9 – 6:00-8:00 pm

Your child has been working on a masterpiece to display at the Art Fair. You are invited to see your child's artwork framed and on display. A form was sent home last week with more information and an opportunity to RSVP. If you did not receive this information, please contact Mrs. Thurman at 241-8401.

Mrs. Thurman is also in need of six to eight volunteers to help set up at 3:30 pm before the show begins at 6:00 pm. We also need help the week leading up to the show from 2:30-3:00 after school.

Upcoming Events / Volunteer

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Kentucky Smile Day – Oct. 11

The Smile Kentucky Program is a dental program that provides education to Kindergarten through 5th grade, free dental screenings for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, and free dentistry for those students who qualify.

3 volunteers are needed for Crestwood's annual free dental screenings, offered by Smile Kentucky, on October 11.

3 to 5 volunteers are needed to help fill and organize goody bags *before* October 11 (during or after school hours).

For more information, contact Sharon Schwarz at Sharon.schwarz@oldham.kyschools.us

Beautification Day - Oct 13

9:00 - Noon

Many parents and staff came together last year for beautification day when we worked on the front of the school. Thank you to all who made that possible.

We are having another beautification day coming up on Sat, Oct 13th and we need your help. We will be putting up fall decorations and then focusing on the back of the school, around the steps and back bus entrance, removing weeds and making things beautiful. If you have any gardening tools you can bring that may help get those tougher weeds, we would greatly appreciate it. **You can contact Christie Burkhead at chrisburkhead@live.com or call her at (502) 802-3852. It would be great if she can know you are coming.** Donuts provided in the am.

Remember to Stay Up to Date!

Request Tuesday emails:

CrestwoodSchoolNews@gmail.com

Visit Our Website:

www.Crestwoodelementarypta.weebly.com

Like us on Facebook: **Crestwood-Parent Networking**

Book Fair Volunteers Needed

October 1 - 5 is our book fair, including a time for your child to have lunch and shop with her/his grandparents. Lots of volunteers are needed. If you can help with any of the days/times below, contact **Amie Hawkins, Library Media Specialist at Crestwood Elementary, 241.8401, x 309; 338.6268; or amie.hawkins@oldham.kyschools.us**

9/28: Book Fair set up (1-2 volunteers)

10/1: Kindergarten lunch & shop (4 volunteers)

10/2: 1st and 2nd grades lunch & shop (4+ volunteers)

10/3: early release day; general shopping (2 volunteers)

10/4: 3rd and 4th grades lunch & shop (4 volunteers)

10/5: 5th grade lunch & shop (4 volunteers)

Button Making/Yellow Hats

Volunteers are needed to help make the Cougar Code pins that are given out weekly by the Guidance Counselor. **As students earn these buttons, they can be pinned to a yellow school baseball cap, which can be purchased for \$4 in the bookstore and worn on special hat days.** Of course kids can wear any hat they choose on these days. Correspondence for these days is generally sent home by the teacher.

Once a person is trained on how to make the buttons, they can take them home to do. Typically it takes two people to make buttons each month and two people to cut out the buttons. It can be the same two, but it does not have to be.

For more information, contact

Sharon.schwarz@oldham.kyschools.us

Parents Need to Know

Oldham County Board of Education – (OCBE)

The Oldham County Board of Education will host a community meeting **Tuesday evening, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** located in **North Oldham High School's Auditorium.**

The purpose of this meeting is to share knowledge about Kentucky's new testing and accountability system. Major changes have occurred to how students and schools are assessed. In order for parents and other concerned stakeholders to understand the implications for students, schools and our community, OCS Board members and district administrators encourage attendance at this event.

School-Based-Decision-Making Council (SBDM) Meeting

Crestwood Elementary School Based Decision-Making (SBDM) Council is meeting **Tuesday, October 9, at 3:00 pm in the school library.** Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Keep an eye on both the PTA and Crestwood Elementary websites for dates of future meetings.

School-based decision making is “a decentralized, shared process in which the local school becomes the place where most policies and plans for schooling take place.” SBDM is a way of reorganizing school leadership and management so that those at the school site are given more of the management and decision making responsibility. A school council is generally made up of the principal, three teachers and two parents. For more information on SBDM at Crestwood Elementary, please go to <http://www.oldham.k12.ky.us/crestwood/>, select the Info tab and scroll down to SBDM.

One Call Now

Follow the link to sign up for up-to-the-minute information from the school with regard to emergency information, schedule or bus changes, as well as other important notifications. This is something all parents should sign up for as it is the quickest way to receive this information.

http://www.oldham.kyschools.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1276&Itemid=3310

Cougar Updates

Membership Update

We currently have 241 members and are making good progress towards our goal of 300 members. PTA membership demonstrates the importance you place on educating your child and shows your interest in issues affecting children. PTA provides its members with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools to help children be successful students. If you have not already joined PTA this year please consider doing so now. Our membership form is available at the PTA website and may be sent with your child to school along with the \$6 membership fee in an envelope marked "PTA membership." Remember the ice cream party participation prize will be awarded to the classroom in each grade level with the largest PTA representation at the end of the month. We are pleased to have the support of our staff and especially want to recognize the 4th and 5th grade teachers whom have all joined our roll. Your support makes a difference at Crestwood!

School Directories Are Here

The school directories are printed and have been distributed to each classroom. If you didn't order a directory and would like to buy one, there are extra copies in the school bookstore for \$2 each.

Skate Party Update

Thanks to all the families who came out for our skate party. We had 63 children attend and Mrs. Jarnigan's class had the largest attendance (8). **Our next skate date is February 5.** Hope to see you then!

Coupon Books

Coupon books are available and will be coming home after fall break