

# CROCKER CHRONICLES

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2011**

Dear Crocker Farm Families,

Happy Fall to everyone out there! I think this is the most perfect time of the year, with cool temperatures at night, and a warm sun during the daytime hours.

Welcome back to school everyone. It is always an exciting and somewhat nerve-wracking time of year, particularly as children transition from summer play time to different classmates and new teachers. Bedtimes get earlier (we are certainly trying hard in our house) and we all work hard to settle into our school year routines. At Crocker Farm, we are very fortunate to have three high quality professional staff members joining us for the first time: Mary Lambert (former long time teacher at Wildwood School) and Judah Hughes (a member of the teaching staff at Fort River School for a number of years), have both joined our third grade team. Mr. Eckart, who taught mathematics at Amherst High School for the past twelve years, has joined our staff as a math intervention specialist, working primarily with our upper grade classrooms. We are excited and happy to have all three teachers on board.

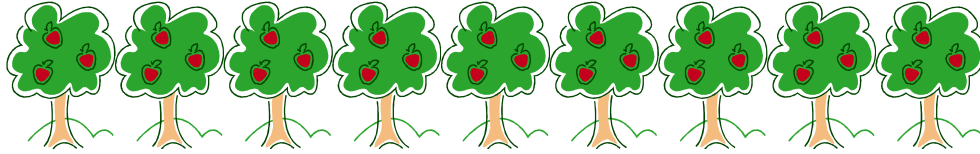
As you may recall from last year, we as a school community worked to develop a set of school values that guide how we interact with one another in our building. These four core values: Cooperation, Accountability, Respect, Empathy (CARE) are central tenants to our school mission. To that end, we have developed and taught cooperation and accountability lessons in classrooms (Respect and Empathy lessons to come), we have developed a school wide matrix (see link:<http://www.arps.org/cf/PBIS.pdf>), and we have started to think about we will reward and acknowledge students for positive behavior. We will have much more to report to you on this matter in the coming weeks.

Lastly, here is my favorite sighting of the year: Our students walking into school everyday with their newly acquired plastic book bags filled with a collection of their newest readings. Everything from Geronimo Stilton to Harry Potter to books about horses or whales or.....I have even had to ask children to look where they are going as they walk and read (yes, both can be done) in the hallways.

Sincerely,

Derek Shea, Assistant Principal

Please take a moment to take this survey to let us know the best time for you to come for a Coffee with the Principal event: [http://bit.ly/CFCoff\\*\\*\\*\\*](http://bit.ly/CFCoff****)



# CROCKER CHRONICLES

**23 de septiembre de 2011**

Queridas Familias de Crocker Farm,

¡Feliz otoño a todos por ahí! Yo pienso que esta es la temporada más perfecta del año, con temperaturas frescas de noche y un sol tibio durante las horas del día.

Bienvenidos de regreso a la escuela. Esta siempre es una temporada del año excitante y de alguna manera angustiosa, particularmente mientras los niños se adaptan a la transición entre el tiempo de juego de verano y los nuevos amigos y maestros. La hora de irse a dormir ocurre más temprano (definitivamente estamos tratando esto en nuestra casa) y todos trabajamos duro para habituarnos a la rutina del nuevo año escolar. En Crocker Farm, somos muy afortunados de tener a tres miembros de alta calidad unirse a nuestro personal profesional por primera vez: Mary Lambert (anteriormente maestra por muchos años de Wildwood School) y Judah Hughes (un miembro del personal de enseñanza de varios años en Fort River School), ambos se han unido a nuestro equipo de tercer grado. Mr. Eckart, quien enseñó matemática en la Escuela Superior de Amherst por los pasados doce años, se ha unido a nuestro equipo como un especialista de intervención en matemáticas, trabajando principalmente con los salones de grado más alto. Estamos muy contentos de tener a los tres maestros abordo.

Como se recordará del año pasado, nosotros como comunidad escolar trabajamos en desarrollar unos valores escolares que guían como interactuamos los unos con los otros en nuestro edificio. Estos cuatro valores centrales: Cooperación, Responsabilidad, Respeto y Empatía (ATENCIÓN) son inquilinos claves en nuestra misión escolar. Con ese fin, hemos desarrollado y enseñado lecciones de cooperación y responsabilidad en los salones de clase (lecciones de Respeto y Empatía en progreso), hemos desarrollado una matriz general escolar (vea la aleación: <http://www.arps.org/cf/PBIS.pdf>) y hemos comenzado a pensar de la manera en la que recompensaremos y reconoceremos a estudiantes por comportamiento positivo. Tendremos más información que reportar en las semanas venideras.

Por último, esta es mi observación favorita del año: Nuestros niños entrando a la escuela todos los días con sus nuevos bultos plásticos llenos de una colección de sus lecturas más recientes. Todo desde Geronimo Stilton a Harry Potter, a libros de caballos o ballenas etc.... Incluso he tenido que pedir a los estudiantes de mirar por donde caminan, ya que están caminando y leyendo al mismo tiempo (sí, ambos pueden hacerse) en el pasillo.

Sinceramente,

Derek Shea

Please take a moment to take this survey to let us know the best time for you to come for a Coffee with the Principal event: [http://bit.ly/CFCoff\\*\\*\\*\\*](http://bit.ly/CFCoff****)

# CROCKER FARM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For Grades K *thru* 6

## Curriculum Night Schedule

### WEDNESDAY, October 12, 2011

5:30 pm ELL Parents - Room 27

6:00 pm Parent Arrival

6:10 pm Michael Morris- Introduction in the Crocker Cafeteria.

6:30 pm Specials/Resource personnel/ELE,SE/Title 1, Reading Recovery (for parents of grades 4-6) *and* Grades K, 1, 2 and 3 presentations (in classrooms)

7:10 pm Specials/Resource personnel/ELE, SE/Title 1, Reading Recovery (for parents of grades K-3) *and* Grades 4, 5, 6 presentation (in classrooms)

7:40 pm End of evening announcement- in the cafeteria.

Limited childcare is available for children 5 years or older. Families will need to provide their own childcare if their child is under the age of 5. Please return the attached childcare waiver by October 11<sup>th</sup>. Childcare *will not* be provided if this form is not returned...No exceptions.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED ASAP, LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION IS 10/11

## **Crocker Farm Elementary Open House Behavioral Guidelines 2011**

(Parent & student please sign and return)

Open House is an all-school event at which every participant is entitled to feel safe, comfortable and secure. We are committed to ensuring that every child is able to enjoy and benefit from Open House. All families must be committed to safety, constructive participation and appropriate behavior, and willing to abide by the guidelines established by the school.

**Please take a moment to go over the following guidelines carefully with your child before signing at the bottom.**

**As a child, in child care at Open House, I promise that:**

I will stay with my group at all times;

I will listen carefully to rules and instructions and ask questions when I do not understand;

I will be kind to other children and staff;

If I need help I will go to a staff member.

**As a Guardian/Parent of a child in Open House Childcare I understand that:**

I am expected to help my child understand and follow these guidelines;

I will be notified if my child's behavior undermines his or her ability, or the ability of other children, to enjoy, benefit from and participate safely in the program;

If an issue of behavior arises, I will be expected to collaborate with my child's care provider to address the problem;

If my child's behavior continues to undermine his or her ability, or the ability of other children, to enjoy, benefit from and participate safely in the program, his or her participation in the program may be suspended permanently;

Temporary suspension and/or permanent dismissal from the Open House childcare program are at the discretion of the childcare provider and the principal.

We agree to abide by and support the guidelines set forth. (Parent & student both sign)

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Parent Name (printed)

Parent Signature

Date

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Student Name (printed)

Student Signature

Date

I understand that Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Department does not provide accident or hospitalization insurance for any program participants. I also understand that all participants are strongly advised to have adequate personal coverage and that participation in all department programs shall be at my own or my child's risk.

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Parent Name (printed)  
Date

(Parent Signature)

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED ASAP, LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION IS 10/11

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR CHILDCARE

**CROCKER FARM ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE**

**OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 6PM – 8PM**

<b>Child Information</b>		
	<b>First and Last Name</b>	<b>Grade/age</b>
Child #1		
Child #2		
Child #3		
Child #4		

**Please note that childcare will not be provided for  
children under the age of 5.**

On the night of open house, I the guardian/parent of the children listed above, can be reached at the following phone number:

( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

And/or agree to answer a page over the school intercom system.



# Amherst Public School District

170 Chestnut Street

September 23, 2011

Dear Crocker Farm Parents/Guardians:

This is a letter to give you updated information on Crocker Farm Elementary School's MCAS test results. I want to start by sharing that for the second year in a row, our MCAS scores improved in both language arts and mathematics. This is particularly impressive given the massive changes that took place last year at Crocker Farm and across the district.

Crocker Farm made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in language arts in the aggregate but not for subgroups. Despite our aggregate score improvement, we did not make AYP in math in the aggregate or for subgroups. Therefore, Crocker Farm Elementary School has been identified for improvement under the accountability status of NCLB (No Child Left Behind).

Crocker Farm Elementary School will be taking actions to improve student performance according to standardized measures while working to maintain the richness of curriculum and instruction for which Crocker Farm is known. We have established curriculum leaders in math and language arts to assist with fostering the best instructional practices and with curricular alignment. We are utilizing evidence-based interventions in math for the first time and have added to the number of evidenced-based interventions being used in reading. We are implementing the "Enhancement Block", a dedicated, daily half-hour period for interventions and extensions for students. We are starting our interventions earlier in the school year (the first round started yesterday) and have greatly increased the quantity of students who are being assisted based on restructuring the intervention team and a more efficient use of resources. We are utilizing data more frequently and with greater dexterity, especially now that the MAP assessments are occurring multiple times a year, which allows us to track student growth in more sophisticated ways. Our work on PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) is improving our school climate and the learning environment for our students. We are focusing on "shared practices" and building professional learning communities in an effort to ensure that best practices do not simply occur in one classroom, but are transferred to other classrooms at similar grade levels based on sustained, high-quality collaboration. Finally, we added a math intervention/teaching position for the upper grades that is staffed by a former high school math teacher, whose content knowledge is extremely high and who will assist in working with students with a wide variety of skill levels.

The school district is providing technical assistance to the school both for the delivery of instruction and in the analysis of data in order to improve the quality of instruction for all students in our school. The school will keep you informed about additional changes that will be made at the school to improve learning.

According to the federal NCLB Act of 2001, Crocker Farm's status is "Restructuring, Year 1 in English Language Arts (for subgroups) and Restructuring, Year 2 in Math (for subgroups).

Ideas and comments on how to improve learning in the school are welcome. Parents are encouraged, as always, to contact Michael Morris, Crocker Farm Principal at [morrism@arps.org](mailto:morrism@arps.org) or at 362-1600 to learn how to get involved in school improvement activities. In addition, the School Governance Council is looking for more members. Please be in touch with Mr. Morris if you are interested in joining.

Sincerely,

Michael Morris  
Principal

Maria Geryk  
Superintendent of Schools

Estimados padres/encargados de Crocker Farm:

Esta esta carta es para compartir información de los resultados de MCAS de Crocker Farm. Deseamos comenzar compartiendo que, por Segundo año consecutivo, nuestros resultados de MCAS hasn mejorado en artes del lenguaje y matemáticas. Esto es impresionante dado el casode todos los cambios que sucedieron el pasado año en Crocker Farm y el distrito.

Crocker Farm logró el progreso adecuado anual esperado en artes de l lenguaje en el grupo entero, pero no en algunos grupos de estudiantes. Aunque los resultados mejoraron para el grupo entero, no obtuvimos AYP (Progreso Anual Adecuado) en matemáticas como grupo y enalgunos grupos de estudiantes. Por esto, Crocker Farm ha sido identificada para “mejoramiento” bajo el sistema de “Ningún Niño se Quede Atrás” (NCLB en ingles). La escuela Crocker Farm tomará acciones para mejorar el aprovechamiento academic en las medidas evaluativas , manteniendo a la ves la riqueza del currículo y enseñanza a la medida que nuestra escuela está acostumbrada. Hemos colocado líderes académicos en artes del lenguaje y matemáticas para asistir en establecer las mejores estrategias de enseñanza y alinear el currículo. Estamos utilizando intervenciones con datos científicos en matemáticas por primera vez y hemos añadido a la cantidad de intervenciones utillizadas en lectura. Hemos establecido un “bloque de mejoramiento”, media hora diaria para ayudar y/o extender destrezas para los estudiantes. Hemos comenzado las intervenciones antes que nunca (las primeras comenzaron ayer) y hemos aumentado grandemente las cantidad de estudiantes que están siendo apoyados basado en la restructuración del equipo de intervenciones y utilizando los recursos de una manera mejor. Estamos utilizando datos mas frecuentemente, especialmente ahora que tenemos la evaluación MAP varias veces al año, lo cual nos permite trazar el crecimiento de una manera mas sofisticada. Hemos extendido nuestro trabajo de “Intervenciones de Conducta y Apoyo Positivas (PBIS en ingles) está mejorando el clima de nuestras escuelas y el ambiente de aprendizaje para uestros estudiantes. Estamos enfocandonos en el “compartir prácticas” y comunidades de aprendizaje profesionales en un esfuerzo de asegurarnos que las mejores prácticas no solo ocurran en un salon, pero que sean transferidas a otros salones, del mismo grado en un sistema de colaboración de alta calidad. Finalmente, añadimos un puesto de intervención/enseñanza de matemáticas para los grados altos, obtenido por un maestro que trabajaba en la escuela superior, cuyo conocimiento de la material es tremendo y estará trabajando con estudiantes en distintas destrezas. El distrito escolar está proveyendo ayuda técnica a la escuela en las medidas de enseñanza y el análisis de datos para mejorar la calidad de la enseñanza para todos los estudiantes de nuestra escuela. Los mantendremos informados de cualquier cambio que hagamos para mejorar la educación de los niños en nuestra escuela.

De acuerdo al acto de “Ningún Niño se Quede Atrás” (NCLB en ingles) del 2001, el estatus de Crocker Farm es de “re-estructuración” primer año (para algunos grupos), en artes del lenguaje y segundo año en matemáticas (para algunos grupos).

Las ideas y comentarios de como mejorar la enseñanza están bienvenidas. Exhortamos a que los padres se comuniquen con Michael Morris, principal de Crocker Farm escribiendo a [morrism@arps.org](mailto:morrism@arps.org) o llamando al 362-1600 para saber como involucrarse en las actividades de mejoramiento. En adición, el consejo de gobernación de la escuela está buscando miembros adicionales. Favor de comunicarse con Michael Morris si está interesado en unirse al grupo.

Sinceramente,

Michael Morris  
Principal

Maria Geryk  
Superintendente

*CROCKER FARM COMMUNITY  
CELEBRATION OF*



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011**

**6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

**CROCKER FARM CAFETERIA**

**Come and celebrate a night of Latino food, culture,  
music, and entertainment!**

If you have any questions, or would like to perform (a song, dance, poetry ...) for this event, please contact Yaniris Fernández (413-219-1364) or Xiomara Hernández (413-256-1397).

Please bring a Latino or Latino-inspired dish or dessert to share.



# LA COMUNIDAD DE CROCKER FARM CELEBRA



**EL MIÉRCOLES, 5 DE OCTUBRE, 2011  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
CAFETERIA DE CROCKER FARM**

**¡Venga a celebrar una noche con comida Latina,  
cultura, música, y entrenamiento!**

Si tiene algunas preguntas o le gustaria participar en la celebración (una canción, baile, poesía . . .), por favor llame a Yaniris Fernández (413-219-1364) o Xiomara Hernández (413-256-1397).

Por favor traiga un plato de comida Latina para compartir.

# Lend a Hand

## The Crocker Farm PGO's Annual Campaign



SUPPORT CROCKER FARM BY DONATING TO LEND A HAND!

**100% of your Lend a Hand donation goes to our teachers and students by funding:**

- **Class trips** - including the Pequot Museum, Plymouth Plantation, and Hamilton Orchards
- **Community events** – Martin Luther King celebration, School Musical, and others
- **Supplies & books** for classrooms
- **Wednesday Clubs**
- **Special requests** from teachers
- **Library** projects
- **Crocker Press**
- **And much more**

**How much should you donate?** People give from \$1 to \$300, and the most common donation is \$100. Every contribution helps.

**Questions?** Contact Jennifer Veshia, Fund Coordinator at [jnbus@comcast.net](mailto:jnbus@comcast.net) or 256-0234.

For more information about the Crocker Farm PGO visit our blog ;

<http://crockerfarmngo.blogspot.com/>

and/or find us on Facebook by searching for Crocker Farm PGO 2011-2012

**Thank you for lending a hand!**

**Crocker Farm PGO**

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**Lend a Hand ~ The Crocker Farm PGO's Annual Campaign ~ [crockerfarmngo.blogspot.com](http://crockerfarmngo.blogspot.com)**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you!

How to donate:

- **Online** at [crockerfarmngo.blogspot.com](http://crockerfarmngo.blogspot.com). Click on **Donate** in the upper right hand corner of the page.
- **Check** made out to Crocker Farm PGO. Write "Crocker Farm PGO" on the envelope and send in with your child or mail to the school (280 West Street).
- **Cash.** Send cash to school with your student in an envelope labeled "Crocker Farm PGO"

Update on our



## Composting efforts

In order to keep our composting efforts running smoothly we would need about a dozen or more bags of leaves, preferably shredded 🌞. We would like to ask people to bag their leaves after shredding them with their lawnmower and to bring them to the composting area at the Shays Street school entrance. If you could help us out, please contact the PGO or Sylvia Keochakian (CF parent) at [keosyl@hotmail.com](mailto:keosyl@hotmail.com) or 413 256 6048. Any help would be greatly appreciated. The worms would love it, too.

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### HELPFUL HINTS:

1. Label all backpacks, jackets, lunchboxes, books, instruments with your child's name. We get a lot of items into the office and we don't know who they belong to.
  2. The Crocker Lost and Found is located in the hallway outside the guidance office. Twice a year it is emptied and all items are either disposed of or sent to the survival center. Take a peak every so often, you'd be surprised what you may find!!
  3. Make sure to call the absentee line before 9 a.m. if your child will be out of school. This way you will not receive an automated call from the district. 362-1659.
  4. Remember to always check into the office to sign in and take a visitor's pass! We will be happy to assist you!!
  5. Any questions? Call the main line at 362-1600
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### JA It's My Business!

Did you ever dream about starting your own business? Did you ever wonder how McDonald's or Tony Hawk or Oprah got started? Join JA It's My Business on Mondays from 3:05-4:05 pm and find out. Have fun, play games, make up your own ad, design your own after-school area. This is designed for Grades 4-6 and will be led by Donna Kelley, Crocker Farm parent and Professor of Entrepreneurship at Babson College. Please let the office staff know if you are interested by October 10. The class will start on October 17 and continue for the following six weeks at Crocker Farm and are free of charge. For more information, please go to: <http://bit.ly/n0xD7d>

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The PGO will be collecting gently worn clothing on the evening of Open House, October 12. Please go through your drawers and closets and see if there is anything you would like to donate!! Thank you!!

# Achievement, Diversity & Community

**ABSENT LINE:** Parent/Guardians are required to call the absentee line, 362-1659 if your child will not be in school. If your child is tardy to school, please have him/her stop by the office for a pass before going to class.

**Linea para reporter ausencias:** Se les require a todos los padres/encargados que se comuniquen con la escuela llamando al telefono 362-1656 si su hijo(a) va a estar ausente. Si su hijo(a) va a llegar tarde a la escuela por favor asegurese que su hijo (a) se reporta a la oficina primero.

## **SAFETY:**

- Please enter and exit through the **main entrance** during the school hours, 8:30-3. All doors will be locked from 9-2:45, including the main entrance.
- All visitors/parents entering the building are required to stop into the main office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. **DO NOT** go directly to your child's room. We will be happy to assist you!
- If your child will be taking an alternate route home please send a note to inform the teacher otherwise they will go home their regularly scheduled route. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
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**SAY CHEESE!!!** Crocker Farm's Picture Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2011. Picture packets will arrive home a few days before the date!!

## **Let's get creative!**

**Join us at Fort River Elementary School on Tuesdays and dive in the ARTS with us!**  
**Theater, Art, & Fashion Design!**

**10 sessions of fun starting at 3:30 until 5:30 every Tuesday**

Session I: September 20 - November 29

Session II: January 10 - March 20

Session III: March 27 - June 5

Place: Fort River School, Amherst

cost: \$240 each session

To register, send attached form plus payment of tuition.

**SAVE \$180** signing up now for all sessions for \$45 per month with our affordable Arts-Share program:

<http://csngn.com/accounts/7-multi-arts/offerings/15>

## **Try a free class:**

Tuesday, September 20

Contact us: [info@multi-arts.org](mailto:info@multi-arts.org) (413) 584-7951

**The Enchanted Forest: The Forest That Stinks!** A Non-Scary Halloween Event for families. On **Friday, October 14** and **Saturday, October 15** from **5-8:30**, the forest at the **Hitchcock Center** will come alive with creatures that stink – or at least use smell to survive! Adults and children of all ages will enjoy meeting these enchanting and magical characters as you are guided along pumpkin-lit trails. Walks leave every 15 minutes and last approximately 45 minutes. Inside the Center there will be simple crafts and games and an opportunity to visit with a fortune teller. Snacks and drinks will be on sale. Pre-registration required. Register early as this event fills fast. Call 413-256-6006