



# Crabapple Middle School

## Friday Notes

Week of April 6—April 17, 2009



<b>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</b>	
April 6-10	Spring Break— <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
April 13	PTA Board Meeting @ 9:00am
April 16-23	CRCT Testing Window
April 18	Saturday Scholars 10:00-11:30
April 24	Olympic Opening Ceremonies
April 28	Last Day for Reading Counts tests
April 29	6th Team Supreme to Fernbank
April 29	6th Team Xtreme to Georgia Aquarium
April 30	End of Course Math Tests
April 30	Chorus/Orchestra Concert @ 7:00pm

### CRCT Prep Help Just a Click Away

CRCT testing is just around the corner. The math department at Crabapple Middle has put together a small PowerPoint presentation just for parents about CRCT testing. It also gives parents some tips on what to do to help their students get prepared. If you need to know specific help sessions designated for CRCT preparations, you must view the PowerPoint that is available on the school's website. Check it out!

### Orchestra Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Students of the Month in Orchestra. These students have shown Husky Pride in being well prepared for class and showing responsibility, initiative and/or 'extra mile service to the group'.

6th grade	Sam Maggiola
7th grade	Siobhan Slaney
8th grade	Helen Bornhorst

### **Spring Break is April 6-10**

**Enjoy the break and be safe! With spring and warmer weather, please check your student's agenda for proper dress code requirements.**

### 6th Grade Upcoming Fieldtrips

On April 29th, Team Extreme will be taking their students to the Georgia Aquarium. The cost is \$25.00. On that same day, Team Supreme is taking their students to Fernbank and the cost of that trip is \$20.00. Homeroom teachers are collecting these fees now. If you need another permission slip for either fieldtrip, please contact your child's homeroom teachers.

### Jr. Hornet Cheerleading Tryouts

Rising 7th and 8th grade girls who are interested in trying out for Roswell Jr. Hornet Cheerleading can pick up a registration packet in the school's front office. Tryouts begin Monday, April 20th at 4:30pm in the Roswell High School Auxiliary Gym. There will be a parent meeting on April 14th at 6:30pm in the Roswell High School Media Center.

### CRCT Testing Information

The schedule for the spring CRCT is as follows:

April 16	Reading
April 17	Language Arts
April 21	Math
April 22	Science
April 23	Social Studies

**Attendance is of primary importance! Please do not schedule any appointments that week and make sure your child is on time for school each day. Students must be seated in homeroom by 8:25am daily to ensure optimal testing time. If you drive your child to school, please leave a little early to ensure they arrive in time. See page 2 of the Friday Notes for helpful hints in making testing successful for your child.**

### Healthy Snacks for CRCT Testing

CMS will provide a healthy snack on the day of both the Reading and Math CRCT tests. On all other test days, the student should bring in one of the following **nutritious** snacks to be eaten when they have a break between sections: fresh fruit, low fat cheese, or Multigrain bars. No candy or sweets. **DO NOT SEND ANYTHING CONTAINING NUTS.**

**We would also like to ask that your child bring in a mechanical pencil that uses #2 lead. This is not mandatory. We will provide all students with regular pencils.**

# Taking the CRCT

Throughout the year, Fulton students participate in standardized testing as part of the statewide testing program. Spring, however, is an especially important testing season due to the CRCT for elementary and middle school students and the GHSGT for high-schoolers.

Beginning Thursday, April 16, the week after spring break, students in first through eighth grade will take the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests. The purpose of the CRCT is to provide information on academic achievement at the student, class, school, system and state levels. This information is used to diagnose individual student strengths and weaknesses and to gauge the quality of education throughout Fulton County and the state.

The Georgia Department of Education requires that third-, fifth- and eighth-grade students pass certain sections of the CRCT to move on to the next grade. Third-graders must perform at or above grade level in reading, while fifth- and eighth- graders must pass both reading and math sections. Students scoring below grade level will not be promoted unless they attend summer learning opportunities and pass a make-up test.

High school students also face high-stakes testing. End-of-course tests, given in identified high school subjects, will be administered April 27 to May 1. In addition, juniors take the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) each March. Students must pass all sections of the tests in order to graduate and participate in Fulton County commencement ceremonies.

Parents can help their children do their best on tests by making sure they are in school every day, and especially on testing days. Tests reflect the overall achievement of a child and time spent in learning situations increases the likelihood of doing well. Other helpful testing tips include:

- **Give your child encouragement.** Praise him/her for the things done well throughout the year. A child who is afraid of failing is more likely to make a mistake.
- **Ensure that your child has a well-rounded diet.** A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind. Make sure your child has a good breakfast on testing days and every day.
- **Keep the lines of communication open between home and school.** Parents and teachers should work together to benefit the child.
- **Make sure your child is well rested on school days.** Tired children are less likely to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of classwork and tests.
- **Try not to be overly anxious about test scores.** Too much emphasis on test scores can be upsetting to children.
- **Don't judge a child on the basis of a single test score.** Test scores are not perfect measures of what a child can do. There are many other things that might influence a test score. For example, a child can be affected by the way he/she feels that day, physically and/or mentally.
- **Follow normal routines.** Interruptions of normal routines may affect your child's performance.
- **Don't forget eyeglasses or hearing aids.** If your child wears an assistive device, such as glasses or hearing aids, be sure he/she remembers to bring it and wear it during all testing sessions.
- **Plan ahead for medical appointments.** Avoid scheduling doctor's or dentist's appointments during testing times.