



# Crabapple Middle School

## Friday Notes

Week of April 20—April 24, 2009



| <b>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</b> |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 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 –8th grade only |
| 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!

### Attendance During CRCT

Attendance is of primary importance! Please do not schedule any appointments on the five days of CRCT testing. Also, we urge you make sure your child is on time for school each of those mornings. **Students must be seated in homeroom by 8:25am to ensure optimal testing time.** We suggest you leave home a little early if you drive your child to school. **See page 2 of this Friday Notes edition for helpful hints in making testing successful for your child.**

### CMS Olympic Volunteers Needed

PTA needs volunteers to help sell concessions, man water stations and the first aid station during the Olympics. You will also get to take part in this fun day! Ten volunteers are needed per day for a total of 90 for the week. Email Kim Nolte at [noltenolte@bellsouth.net](mailto:noltenolte@bellsouth.net) if you can volunteer.

### 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.

### CRCT Testing Schedule

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 |

### 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.**

### Fulton County Parent Perception Survey

The Fulton County School System is conducting its annual **Parent Perception Survey** from April 16<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please help us make our school better by taking a few minutes to complete this survey. The survey will be available online at [www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org). If you prefer to fill out a paper survey, copies will be available in the front office. Surveys in Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean are also available at the school. Your answers will be shared with our teachers and Dr. Jarrett for school improvement planning. Your identity and that of your child will remain confidential. If you have questions about the survey, please call the Assessment and Evaluation Office at 404-763-5600 ext. 154.

# 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.

## Partnership Perks!

A huge thank you to Deb Carstens, PTA Office Volunteer Coordinator, who organized the wonderful group of moms who counted out mints and pencils for the CRCT—we really appreciated your time and patience!

We would like to thank Zach Hemans father, who works for School Specialty and supplied the pencils for CRCT testing.

We also thank Jill Simon, owner of Package4Less, for her donation of quart size baggies used in our clinic.