



# The Husky Pups Chronicle

November 17th: School Community Newsletter

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## DJ Got Me Fit Assembly Recap & Buddy, the CPES Husky Pup, Mascot Debut!

The PTO-sponsored **DJ Got Me Fit** assembly on Thursday, November 13th brought high-energy fun to CPES as students moved, grooved, and sang together. This interactive assembly had children participating in exciting gross motor movements, such as jumping, dancing, and stretching, while enjoying music with their friends. This was a fantastic way to promote gross motor movement and build community, with students laughing and exercising together!

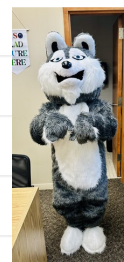
Also, our new Cambridge Park Husky Pup mascot, **Buddy**, made a big debut at this school assembly! Students were so excited to see Buddy joined in on the fun, dancing along during **freeze dance** and cheering on our strongest Huskies during the **plank challenge**. Buddy brought lots of energy and smiles, making the event extra special for everyone! Thank you to our generous PTO for supporting our school community with the assembly and our mascot!



Welcome



to CPES



Buddy!

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## Field Trip Tues, 11/18 & Wed. 11/19 Reminders

As a reminder, please note our school trip this week will be **spread across two days**. Please see below important information regarding our field trip:



**Stop & Shop**®

**Date(s):** Tuesday, November 18th

**Time:** 9:30 - 11:00 AM

**Where:** Stop & Shop, 1129 NJ-34, Aberdeen Township, NJ 07747

**Who:** Our CPES Husky Pups & Pack Leaders in classrooms

- Classroom #4: Hoffman
- Classroom #6: Novello
- Classroom #8: Fins
- Classroom #9: Mazzucco
- Classroom #10: Fowler
- Classroom #14: Hargrave
- Classroom #15: Balletta (Scala)
- Classroom #16: Joseph
- Classroom #18: Taylor
- Classroom #21: Gargulinski
- Classroom #22: Marques

**What:** Grocery Shopping

**Why:** This hands-on experience will allow our preschoolers to connect their classroom learning to the real world as they explore the different sections of a grocery store, recognize familiar items from our play grocery center, and observe how people work together in a community setting.

**Date(s):** Wednesday, November 19th

**Time:** 9:30 - 11:00 AM

**Where:** Stop & Shop, 1129 NJ-34, Aberdeen Township, NJ 07747

**Who:** Our CPES Husky Pups & Pack Leaders in classrooms

- Classroom #1: Wood (Youssef)
- Classroom #2: Menconi
- Classroom #3: Babino
- Classroom #5: Santora
- Classroom #7: Homowitz
- Classroom #11: Mehta
- Classroom #17: Gibson-Clarke
- Classroom #19: Gerding

**What:** Grocery Shopping

**Why:** This hands-on experience will allow our preschoolers to connect their classroom learning to the real world as they explore the different sections of a grocery store, recognize familiar items from our play grocery center, and observe how people work together in a community setting.

Please Be Sure:

- **Permission Slip.** Your child's permission slip was completed and given to your child's teacher so they can attend the trip.

- **Dress the Part.** Please dress in CPES gear and have your little one wear comfortable shoes and clothes; they will be venturing through the aisles of the refrigerated and frozen sections!
- **Be on Time.** To make sure we don't miss our bus, please be on time on the day of our trip!

## Parent Follow-Up Activity: Let's Talk and Play Grocery Store!

This week, your child will go on a field trip to Stop & Shop! While there, they will participate in a scavenger hunt and visit the following departments:

- The Produce Section
- The Bakery
- The Deli Counter
- The Checkout
- The Flower Shop

Our school's grocery store trip is an important learning experience in a *Tools of the Mind* preschool because it connects real-life experiences with purposeful play and planning. In *Tools of the Mind*, children learn best by practicing how to **plan, pretend, and take on roles** that build self-regulation, language, and problem-solving skills.

When visiting a grocery store, children see how the roles they act out in class, like a shopper, cashier, or baker, happen in the real world. They observe community helpers, use new vocabulary, and understand routines like making lists, choosing items, and paying at the checkout. These experiences make their dramatic play more meaningful and help them connect learning at school to everyday life, supporting both social and cognitive development.

Here are a few ways you and your child can keep the fun and learning going at home:

SAMPLE ACTIVITY	SAMPLE QUESTIONS/ CONVERSATION STARTERS	FOLLOW-UP
<b>TALK TOGETHER</b>	Find a few quiet minutes to talk about what your child noticed. Try simple prompts like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was your favorite part of the grocery store?</li> <li>• Who helped you at the store?</li> <li>• What did we buy that helps our bodies stay healthy?</li> <li>• What jobs did you see people doing?</li> </ul>	Encourage your child to share ideas, describe what they saw, and ask questions.
<b>PLAY TOGETHER</b>	Set up a <i>pretend grocery store</i> at home using empty boxes, play food, paper, and crayons; you can engage in the follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking turns being the <b>shopper, cashier, or baker.</b></li> <li>• Using a basket or bag to shop</li> <li>• <u>Writing</u> or draw a simple shopping list together before you play.</li> </ul>	This pretend play helps children <b>practice planning, speaking, counting, and problem-solving</b> , all skills we use in <i>Tools of the Mind!</i>
<b>CREATE &amp; SHARE</b>	Have your child draw a picture of something they saw or enjoyed at Stop & Shop. Label it together (i.e: This is the bakery! Or These are apples!).	Bring it to school to share what they learned with classmates!



## Pawsitively Present!

When families model positive habits, children naturally follow their lead. Preschoolers learn by watching the adults around them! Whether it's showing kindness, keeping routines, or arriving on time, the power of modeling is huge. When parents demonstrate responsibility, patience, and enthusiasm for learning, children begin to mirror those same behaviors in school. Small daily actions at home help children build confidence, independence, and a strong foundation for lifelong learning. *\*Please note attendance letters are generated and sent home every 4 absences.*

## Everyday Tips for Modeling Punctuality

- **Set an example.** When adults show up on time for work, appointments, or school events, children notice and learn the value of being dependable.
- **Use visual cues.** A picture schedule or timer can help young children understand what comes next in their morning routine.
- **Build in “extra time.”** Plan for a few extra minutes so getting out the door doesn’t feel rushed – this helps children associate mornings with calmness, not stress.
- **Talk about why time matters.** Simple phrases like, “Your friends are waiting to play with you!” or “We get to start circle time together!” connect punctuality with positive experiences.
- **Practice time awareness.** Use fun countdowns (“5 minutes until we leave!”) or songs to help children transition smoothly.
- **Praise effort, not perfection.** Celebrate progress – “You got your shoes on right away today!” – to encourage independence and consistency.
- **Keep sleep a priority.** A good night’s rest helps children wake up more easily and feel ready to learn on time.
- **Make mornings meaningful.** A cheerful goodbye ritual or quick hug at drop-off helps children look forward to arriving each day.



## Let's Pretend Together!



I am excited to invite our families to join us for a special **Play Planning and Make-Believe Play Session!** During this time, families will step into our classroom world of imagination and see how children plan, pretend, and learn through play. Each student will have the opportunity for **one parent, guardian, or special adult (no siblings)** to sign up for **one hour of play** in their child’s classroom during the week of **Mon., December 1st - Fri. December 5th.** *Please be on the lookout for communication from your child’s teacher with **sign-up instructions.*** We can’t wait to have you join in on all the fun that happens here at **CPES!**

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on **Tuesday, December 2nd** (afternoon sessions) and **Wednesday, December 3rd** (evening sessions). Families can sign up for a **10-minute time slot** with their child’s teacher through the **Genesis Parent Portal** beginning **Monday, November 17th** through **Monday, December 1st.**



To schedule your conference, please follow the steps below:

- **Log in.** Go to the Genesis Parent Portal and sign in.
- **Open the Conferences page.** At the top of the screen, click on the “**Conferences**” tab.
- **Choose your conference.** Find the calendar icon and click the **link to the right of it**.
- **Pick a time slot.** Select the conference time that works best for you. *Please note: You may choose only one time slot per teacher.*
- **Confirm your appointment.** Click the “**Reserve**” button to save your conference time.
- **Review your schedule.** To double-check your appointments, go back to the “**Conferences**” tab.

*\*If you have any trouble signing up, feel free to reach out to your child’s teacher or the school office for help. If you’re unable to attend on either of these dates, please reach out to your child’s teacher to schedule another time to meet and discuss all the amazing learning and growth your child is experiencing at CPES.*



## Superintendent's Community Message



Last week, MARSD Superintendent Ms. Perez, shared an important [community message](#) about potential redistricting and the upcoming *Shaping Our District’s Future* community forum. We encourage all families to take time to read this message, as it includes information that may impact our school community. Your voice matters; please stay informed and get involved in the discussion as we work together to shape the future of our district.



## CPES Giving Tree

We’re excited to start our **CPES Giving Tree**, a special way for our Husky Pups to learn about kindness and helping others during the holiday season. Each donation collected from our tree will support families in need and teach our students the joy of giving. Together, we’ll see how small acts of generosity can make a big difference in our community.

We are accepting the following donations:

- A gently used or new fake tree
- A gently used or new tree skirt
- Gently used or new blue and white winter ornaments (*for example, snowflakes, snowmen*)
- Child-sized hats, gloves, socks, and ear warmers
- Child-sized jackets and boots



**Thank you in advance for helping support our school community!**

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## MARSD Cares: Winter Wonderland

MARSD Cares is excited to host the second annual Winter Wonderland! We are currently collecting donations to help make this event a success.

***Donations will be accepted now through December 5th.***

Please see the attached flyer for full details on what items are needed and how you can contribute. Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support!

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## PTO Corner

The PTO has a fantastic lineup of activities ahead!

Mark your calendars for upcoming events that will bring our school community together for fun, learning, and celebration!

Stay Connected & Follow along on social media!

**Instagram:** @ptocambridgepark

## Popcorn Fundraiser

We're excited to announce our popcorn fundraiser running from **November 1st through November 22nd!**

Every bag of delicious popcorn you purchase directly supports our school community and helps us continue providing positive, fun experiences and opportunities for our husky pups.

This a simple, tasty way to enjoy a great snack while knowing your purchase is helping support our school!



*Thank you in advance for your support!*

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## Important Dates to Remember – November:

- **Saturday, November 1st through Sunday, November 30th:** Ongoing PTO Popcorn Fundraiser
- **Monday, November 17th:** PTO Town-Square Dine Out (4:00 - Close)
- **Tuesday, November 18th & Wednesday, November 19th:** Field Trip #2 to Stop & Shop

- **Wednesday, November 19th:** Park Meet Up at Northland Park
- **Friday, November 21st:** CPES Spirit Day (Wear your CPES gear *OR* school colors)
- **Monday, November 24th:** Grateful Monday (Wear fall colors!)
- **Monday, November 24th:** BOE RAM Meeting @ Ravine Drive (7:00 PM)
- **Wednesday, November 26th:** 4-Hour Day (12:45 PM Dismissal)
- **Thursday, November 27th through November 30th:** Thanksgiving Break!

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## Important Dates to Remember – December:

- **Tuesday, December 2nd:** PTO Meeting @ CPES (7:00 PM)
  - **Tuesday, December 2nd:** 4-Hour Day (12:45 Dismissal)
  - **Tuesday, December 2nd:** Evening Conferences
  - **Wednesday, December 3rd:** 4-Hour Day (12:45 Dismissal)
  - **Wednesday, December 3rd:** Afternoon Conferences
  - **Thursday, December 4th:** National Cookie Day (Dress Like Your Favorite Cookie)
  - **Thursday, December 4th:** PTO Court Jester Dine Out (4:00 - 10:00 PM)
  - **Friday, December 5th:** Last Day of Trimester 1
  - **Monday, December 8th:** 2nd Trimester Begins
  - **Monday, December 15th:** BOE Ram Meeting @ Lloyd Road (7:00 PM)
  - **Monday, December 15th:** Cozy Sweater Day (Wear Your Favorite Sweater)
  - **Tuesday, December 16th:** Winter Wonderland (Wear White or Silver)
  - **Wednesday, December 17th:** Pajama Day (Wear a Cozy Pair of PJs)
  - **Thursday, December 18th:** Festive Hat/Headband Day (Wear a Festive Headpiece)
  - **Friday, December 19th:** CPES School Spirit Day (Wear your CPES gear *OR* school colors)
  - **Monday, December 22nd:** First Day of Winter (Wear Blue)
  - **Tuesday, December 23rd:** Candy Cane Day (Wear Red and White)
  - **Tuesday, December 23rd:** 4-Hour Day (12:45 Dismissal)
  - **Wednesday, December 24th, 2025 - Sunday, January 4th:** Winter Break
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**Dr. P**

Supervisor of Cambridge Park Elementary School

Contact

