**Kristina Kania**
**Principal**

**Logan Whitmore**
**Assistant Principal**

# OTTER NEWS

## CYPRESS CREEK ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

PHONE: (386) 322-6101 WEB: CYPRESSCREEK.VCSEDU.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/CCEOTTERS @CCEOTTERS
NOVEMBER 2026

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

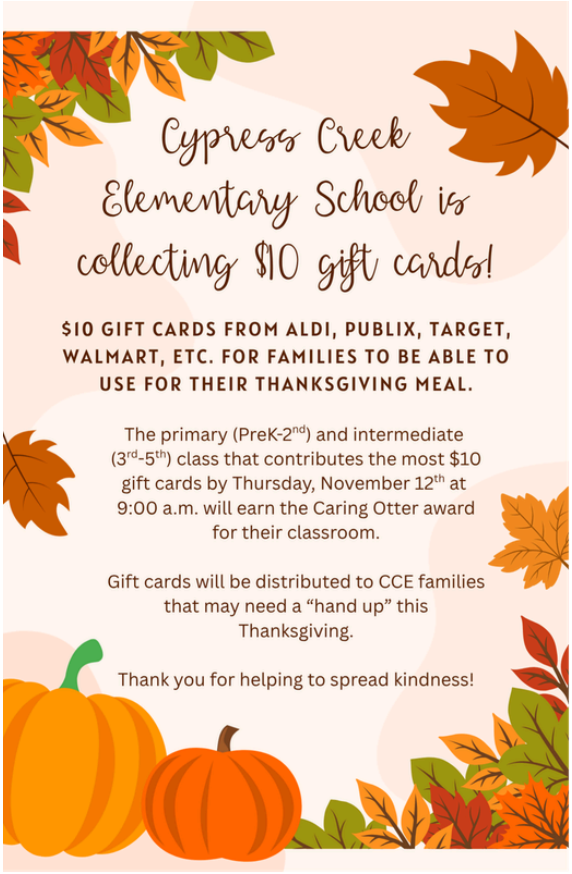
As we welcome November, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude. Thank you for partnering with us, supporting your children's learning, and helping create a positive environment where every student can thrive.

Family involvement makes a meaningful difference in student success. Whether you are reading together, discussing your child's day, attending school events, or encouraging good habits at home, your support matters. Thank you for being an essential part of our team.

Throughout November, please encourage your child to look for ways to show appreciation and kindness. A thoughtful note, a helping hand, or a sincere "thank you" can brighten someone's day and make a difference.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children and for all that you do to support our school. Wishing you and your family a safe, happy Thanksgiving.

With Gratitude,
Mrs. Kania




## SCHOOL HOURS

**Hours:** 7:50 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
**Campus Opens to Students at 7:15 a.m**
**Breakfast Served from**
7:20 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
**No Early Check Outs after 2:00 p.m.**

**Early Release- Wed. 11/4 and Fri. 11/20**
**NO Early Release- Wed. 11/18**
11/4- Midterms
11/6- Picture Retake Day and PTA Otter Spirit Day
11/10- SAC 3pm
11/11- No School/Veteren's Day
11/12- Thanksgiving Gift Card Collection Ends
11/13- PTA Kona Ice
11/16- 1st/2nd Orlando Opera In School Performance
11/16-17- Health Screenings
11/18- Great American Teach-In
11/19- Furry Friends Food Drive- Donation Day
11/20- PE Ice Pops available for purchase
11/13-27- Thanksgiving Break

## PTA INFORMATION

Welcome November, Otters!

First, I want to thank everyone who helped feed our candy monsters and joined us for the PTA's annual Trunk or Treat! It was a spook-tacular time, and we loved seeing so many of our CCE families there!

Next up,- who's ready to spread some kindness?!
The PTA will be hosting a Kindness Fundraiser from November 2-13, leading up to World Kindness Day on November 13th! Your kindness helps the PTA continue to provide resources and opportunities that support the growth and learning of all CCE students. Your donations help fund educational resources such as Generation Genius and iXL, as well as school-wide family events like Science Night, Literacy Night, Spring Carnival (new this year), and more!

Dates to remember:
PTA Kindness Fundraiser: November 2-13- be on the lookout for more information coming home with your kiddo(s) or check our Facebook page for details!
Kona Ice Day: November 13th: 1:00pm-2:30pm
Chuck E. Cheese Spirit Night: November 20th: 11:00am-9:00pm

Thank you for continuing to support our students, teachers and CCE community. We're looking forward to a wonderful November!
Nicole Blum
CCE PTA President
'26-'27

National PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE
everychild.onevoice.

# OTTER NEWS

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

This month we are focusing on the Resiliency Characteristic of Gratitude - being thankful and sharing appreciation with others. In Kindergarten-2nd grade students are learning to demonstrate acts of kindness, take turns and share with others, and show respect. In 3rd-5th grade students are recognizing the importance of being thankful for meaningful friendships and relationships and understanding how respect plays an important role when working with others. We encourage families to support this focus at home through open conversations, sharing what you are thankful for, and modeling gratitude in everyday life. Together, we can help our students develop positive relationships and strong, caring character.

We recently started our annual Thanksgiving Gift Card collection, and if you are able and willing to contribute $10 gift cards from Publix, Target, Walmart, etc., we will then be distributing them to CCE families that may need a "hand up" this holiday season. Gift Card Trackers have been posted outside of classroom doors so that students who bring in gift cards may color in the amount donated and classes will be able to see the contributions add up. The primary (PreK-2nd) and intermediate (3rd-5th) class that contributes the most $10 gift cards by Thursday, November 12th at 9:00 a.m. will win the Caring Otter award for their classroom! Thank you, in advance, for spreading kindness!

If you have any questions or would like to contact me, please feel free to reach out:
Mrs. Jefferis, School Counselor
📧 rmjeffer@volusia.k12.fl.us
📞 386-322-6101 x 39413

VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY
Attendance Matters

Attendance Reminder
Please report all student absences by calling 386-322-6101 and selecting option #2 for attendance. Even if you have already spoken with your child's teacher, calling the attendance line ensures the absence is properly recorded in FOCUS.

- Up to 15 days of absence can be excused with a parent communication (e.g., illness, appointments).
- More than 15 days require a doctor's note to be excused.




**National School Psychology Week November 1-7. Join us in honoring Cypress Creek Elementary School Psychologist Ms. Kelly O'Brien!**

## MESSAGE FROM MR. WHITMORE

As we enter November, it's a great time to focus on the healthy habits that help our children learn, grow, and thrive. Families can support school wellness by encouraging nutritious meals and snacks, choosing water as a go-to beverage, and making time for daily physical activity. With the busy holiday season approaching, simple choices—such as enjoying fruits and vegetables together, taking a family walk, or finding fun ways to stay active—can make a meaningful difference.

A friendly reminder to parents for parent pickup and drop off to remain in your vehicles when going through the parent loop. If you need to get out of your vehicle, please park and approach the crosswalk, and we will ensure your child crosses the crosswalk safely to you. Safety is our number one priority.







### Yearbook Pre-Order Sales

The last day to order your CCE yearbook at the pre-order price of $25 is March 1st. Go to www.inter-state.com/order and enter code 0711PX . A limited supply of additional yearbooks will be sold for $30 when they arrive in May.

5th grade yearbook ads are open. Complete and return the yellow order form by January 29th.