

DECEMBER 2021

CARRINGTON

Principal: Karen Renna

Vice Principal: Kristen Gwiazdoski



IMPORTANT DATES

12/10 - CCMC PJ Day

12/15 - 12:00 Dismissal

12/17 - Holiday Concert

9:00 AM * Grades Pre-K, 1, 3, 5

10:00 AM * Grades K, 2, 4

12/24 to 1/2 - Winter Recess

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Dear Families,

As the 2021 year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support and trust in all of the staff at Carrington School to educate your child. We look forward to 2022 with a renewal of energy and commitment to educating our students and making Carrington School the best in the City. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best,

Karen Renna, Principal

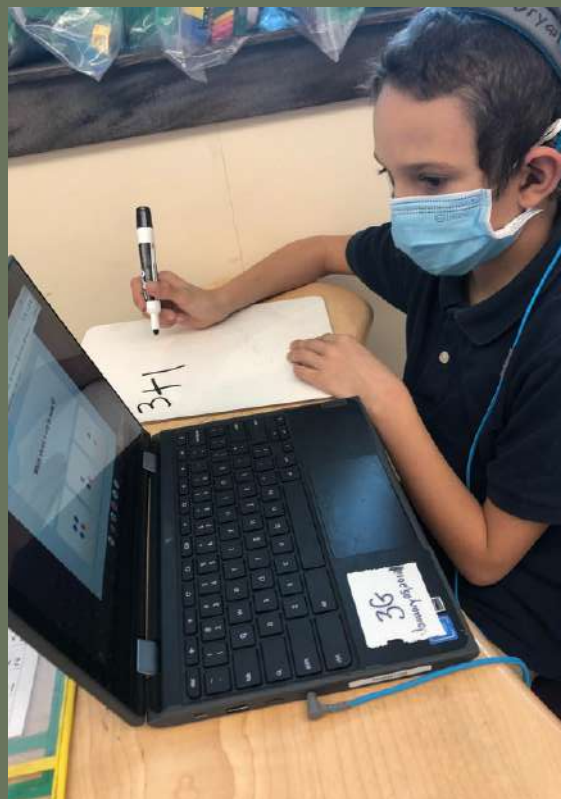
Kristen Gwiazdoski, Vice Principal



I-READY HARVEST CHALLENGE



During the month of November, Carrington School students in Grades K-5 participated in the "i-Ready Harvest Challenge." Students who completed a minimum of 45 minutes of "My Path" lessons and achieved a pass rate of at least 80% each week during the month received a bag of popcorn as an incentive. The challenge was a way to increase i-Ready instructional usage and hold the students accountable for completing their own work. There were 305 students who participated and 210 or 69% met their goal. We are currently doing another challenge for December.





NURSE

Ashley Tortora
Carrington School Nurse



A FEW REMINDERS

COVID Vaccine: Once your child completes their COVID vaccination series, please provide the health office with a copy of their card to have on file in their record.

For PreK students: Please provide the health office with a copy of your child's flu shot by January 1, 2022.

For Kindergarten Students: If your child was due for a physical this fall please provide a copy to the health office

HEALTHY THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

Get enough sleep, stay hydrated, and eat healthy!
Also, please keep your child home if they are ill

JUST FOR FUN

Did you hear the joke about the germ?

I can't tell you, I don't want to spread it around..hehehe

We wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!

READING DEPARTMENT

This is a great time of year to enjoy the wonder of reading. Wouldn't it be fun to pick a book each night to share together? There are so many books about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa available for children to enjoy. December also has some special days, such as: The Bill of Rights Day on the 15th, Pearl Harbor Day on the 7th, Nobel Prize Day and Human Rights Day on the 10th, International Children's Day on the 12th, Ice Cream Day on the 13th, National Brownie Day on the 8th, National Syrup Day on the 17th, and Poinsettia Day on the 10th. There is even National Bake Cookies Day on the 18th. Remember recipes are also a form of reading so get some out and enjoy baking with your child. These are just a few of the many topics both you and your child can enjoy reading about.

January is just around the corner and our middle of year testing will take place. So read, read, read and enjoy this special holiday time. Please stay safe and healthy. Happy Holidays To All!

Season's Greetings from the Reading Staff:

Mrs. Thompson, Literacy Facilitator

Mrs. Cavanaugh, Reading Teacher

Mrs. Carosello, Reading Tutor

Mrs. Moriarty, Reading Tutor



PRE K

Mrs. Mauceri and Mrs. Promotico



Happy Holidays! It's the most wonderful time of the year! We hope you enjoy it with your family and friends. December marks the beginning of our "Clothing Study." Within this study, we will explore all types of clothing, their purpose, colors, sizes and fabrics. We may even try our hand at "sewing!" Talk about your clothes with your child and their attributes (patterns, colors) and let them share their favorite items and why.

This Month's Family Project is a "Countdown to Santa" Calendar. All the materials and directions needed for this fun family activity have been sent home. The project is optional and stays at home for your family to use daily and enjoy! This activity encourages number recognition, counting and exploring subtraction. (Number Concepts and Operations)

On Friday December 3rd, we will learn about the holiday of Hanukkah with Mrs. Caplan. She will read us a story and share the traditions she shares with her family on this special holiday. We are looking forward to it. We will also listen to the story, Paperwhite by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace and plant some paperwhite bulbs in our classroom in order for them to bloom on time for the Christmas holiday.

Wednesday is Parent Conference Night and 12:00 dismissal. Please use the sign-up sheet to select a window of time convenient for you to discuss your child's progress. We are flexible and can also meet on another day and time if that suits your schedule.

Friday, December 10th is Pajama Day! Please send your child to school in their favorite holiday pj's with a \$1 donation to benefit Connecticut Children's Medical. We will read Llama, Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney on that day.

Wednesday, December 15th is another 4.5 hour day with 12:00 dismissal for Teacher Collaboration. We will be preparing our "Holiday Stations" for Tuesday the 21st. More information to follow.

We wish all our families a Happy and Healthy Holiday and a very Happy New Year! Mrs. Mauceri, Mrs. Promotico, Mrs. Caplan and Miss Danielle



KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Riggi

In ELA, our Kindergarteners continue to identify, form, and make the sounds of all the letters in the alphabet. We also continue identifying story elements: characters, settings, and events of the story, predicting what will happen next, and creating a mental picture in our mind. Please practice at home having your child ask and answer questions about key details about a text that you have read aloud to them.

Please practice segmenting and blending sounds to make simple CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words. Practice the High Frequency words, and have them read to you nightly. They love showing-off their skills.

In Math, we will continue connecting written numerals to quantities and classifying objects into categories by counting, using objects, pictures, and numerals. We will begin to model counting by tens using pictorial representations and rote counting.

Our end of year goal is, addition and subtraction fluency, so we will represent and solve addition and subtraction stories within 5.

December is a busy month for all of us, we have many activities planned at school, and I know you do at home, as well. We will try our best to keep it as stress free as possible.

Remember...a Carrington School Cougar always “ROARS”:
Respectful, On Task, Accountable, Responsible, Safe.



FIRST GRADE



Ms. Allen and Mrs. Varholak

Happy December First Grade Families!! The month of December will be filled with many fun activities! We hope you have a wonderful Winter Break!

FUNdations- We will begin Unit 6 which introduces the concept of adding a suffix to a base word. Students will be adding the suffix -s to words in previous units. They will also learn about the concept of plurals and action words, teaching them that when they add the suffix -s, it means more than one or it means something is happening now.

Wonders- We will begin Unit 3. Our big idea is: Changes Over Time- What can happen over time? Each week we will have new essential questions related to the big idea. We will also learn new vocabulary words, high frequency words and read new stories! Please practice high frequency words each night! :)

Math- We will be learning how to solve word problems by adding and subtracting. We will use many strategies such as counting on, doubles, doubles plus 1, and missing addend questions to solve addition and subtraction word problems.

Happy December Birthdays to Liam (IV) 10th, Gianna Galullo (IA) 13th, Adriel (IV) 18th, Vivian Headrick (1A) 21st!



SECOND GRADE



Ms. Palmer and Mrs. Boivin

Hello Second-Grade Families!

Math: Currently, students are reviewing prerequisite skills of 10 more and 10 less than a number, and adding two-digit and one-digit numbers. We will then begin to work on adding two-digit numbers together. Objectives for this lesson include being able to break apart two-digit numbers into tens and ones; understanding that we add tens to tens and ones to ones; and understanding when it is necessary to regroup ones into tens when adding two-digit numbers. To support your child from home you could discuss ideas like tens and ones with your child. They could help you count up money (ones and tens) and talk about how ten ones equals a ten. Students will need a strong base of being able to fluently add and subtract numbers from 0-20. Please support them from home by having them practice their addition and subtraction math facts at home. Flashcards are great for this. There are many free online resources available, such as xtramath.org, and math fact fluency apps available for students to use.

Foundations: We have begun to learn about multisyllabic words in Unit 5. We will practice dividing our words into syllables. News suffixes are being added to our Foundations resources as well (-ful, -ment, -ish, -ness, -less, -able and -en). In Unit 6 we will learn about a new syllable, the v-e syllable (vowel-consonant-e syllable)! We will explore multisyllabic words that combine a closed syllable and a v-e syllable together. Then we will learn that words do not end in the letter v and add the suffix -ive.

Reading and Writing: We will begin Unit 3 soon in Wonders and will read about our world. In week 1 we will begin to read about Earth's forces such as gravity and magnets. We will also begin to work on writing an Opinion Letter.

Reminders: Winter is approaching and feels like it has already arrived! Please send your child to school with a coat and any other winter apparel so that he/she can participate in recess outdoors. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday, December 8th from 5-7 p.m. These will be scheduled with your child's teacher on Parent Square. Picture Retake day is scheduled for Thursday, December 9th.

THIRD GRADE



Mrs. Ciccone and Mr. Gagnon

Third graders are continuing to explore and develop their understanding of multiplication during the month of December. They use a variety of strategies to multiply including skip counting, repeated addition, arrays, and equal group models. They use these strategies to make sense of and solve word problems.

The study of Foundations continues with understanding the special spelling rules that apply when adding vowel suffixes to “vowel consonant e” words. Also, this month, students will be introduced to a brand new sound, the “schwa” sound, and will apply this to reading and spelling multisyllabic words.

Literacy during December will include the poetry and folktale genres. In addition, students will be exposed to figurative language. Students use our study of nouns and other grammatical concepts to improve their writing skills. They continue to write responses using text evidence to demonstrate comprehension of written text.

General Announcements:

We would like to remind parents of our daily use of Class Dojo. Students understand that their behavior, as indicated on Class Dojo, has a direct impact on whether or not they will achieve our end of month class reward. Please continue to monitor your child’s performance on Dojo and look for our daily correspondence on Parent Square for updates and all other communications.

FOURTH GRADE



Mrs. Keefe and Ms. Johnson

Hello fourth grade families!

We are currently finishing Unit 2 of Wonders. Students wrote informational essays on an animal that interested them and continued practicing their drafting, editing, and revising process.

As we begin Unit 3, students will read informational texts, and practice identifying the author's point of view in various texts and stories. In language arts, students will be writing opinion pieces.

In math, fourth grade students will continue unit 2. Students began the unit strong by using models to solve multiplication and division equations. Students will continue to build on their understanding of multiplicative comparisons to begin working with multiples and factors. They will learn about prime and composite numbers. Students also make the connection between factors and multiples to equations and word problems. Problem solving and fact fluency are KEY skills to master during this unit. Students are encouraged to practice basic math facts for 5-10 minutes daily to improve math fluency.

Reminders and announcements:

Thank you very much for your help with organizing our November PBIS Reward. We would like to remind families to check ParentSquare and take home folders daily for updates from teachers.

Fourth graders do not eat lunch until 1:15, so it is important that they eat breakfast as well as have a snack to get them through the morning. We are asking that your child comes to school with a snack every day.

FIFTH GRADE

Mr. Carosella and Mr. Russo
Math

This month in Math students will continue with their understanding of decimals. Students will read and write decimals to the thousandths place. Also, students will round and compare decimals using place value strategies and models. Students will use computation of decimals such as addition and subtraction to solve complex problems.

Science

This month in Science we will continue in Unit 3 Energy and Matter in Organisms. Specifically we will focus on living things and their environment. Students will research the relationship of living and nonliving things in ecosystems. Also, students will analyze food webs and the flow of energy in ecosystems

Language Arts

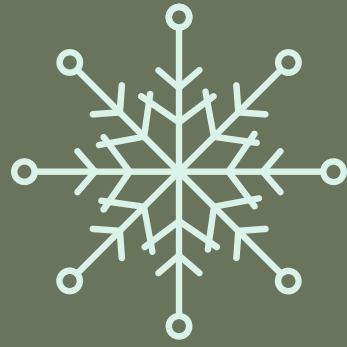
Just a quick update on what we are doing in Language Arts. Monday, November 29th, we will start on unit 3 in our Wonders Reading series. We will focus on different cultures, nature, working with others and things that took place in the past. We begin each weekly lesson with new vocabulary so be sure to question your child about new words they were introduced to.

Encourage students to stay focused and complete reading assignments. It is also important to remind them to read!

Have a great December!



SIXTH GRADE



Mrs. Crosby

Language Arts / Reading

In Reading we will continue reading our novel “A Good Kind of Trouble” by Lisa Moore Ramee’ and will continue to focus on story structure, character development and making connections.

In Language Arts we will be focusing on grammar mechanics such as capitalization, use of quotations and commonly confused words. Our writing topic will focus on the importance of good introductions.

Mr Brault & Mrs Crosby

Social Studies

We will continue our focus with earth’s physical geography and the relationship of the earth’s water, land and the effects of our water cycle.

Mr. Brault

Mathematics

Over the course of the next month students will be working with decimals. They will be adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Students will be expected to solve real world story problems using each of the four operations.

Science

Students have been learning about matter, how to describe it, what it is made of, and how it interacts with other matter. They will learn how energy impacts matter as well as the effects upon natural habitats.

SEVENTH GRADE



Mrs. Sarlo
Reading

The 7th grade has been reading the novel, *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry. Seventh grade is practicing skills in characterization, plot, main idea, etc. We hope to be able to watch the movie for each, as a culminating activity.

Mrs. Ford
Science

Students will learn how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells that work together to function. Some systems that we will be taking a closer look at include the skeletal, circulatory, digestive, respiratory, nervous, and muscular.

Mr. Thomas
Social Studies

In the month of December, we will continue studying present day life in Brazil. Then, we will begin to study the geography and history of the Tropical North region of South America. Please continue to ask your children if they are completing their Smart Book activities. I found these assignments to be helpful in reinforcing the concepts of each section.

EIGHTH GRADE



Mrs. Ford

Students will learn that small changes in DNA can lead to significant changes in an organism. Students are introduced to the concept of proteins being the building blocks of life, and they explore the synthesis of proteins as well as the consequences of errors in protein synthesis within the human body. Pedigrees are also examined.

Mrs. Sarlo

Reading

Eighth grade is practicing skills in characterization, plot, main idea, etc.

Mr. Thomas

Social Studies

In the month of December, Students will finish analyzing the outcome of the American Revolution and begin to examine the creation of the United States. Please continue to ask your children if they are completing their Smart Book activities. I found these assignments to be helpful in reinforcing the concepts of each section.

SPECIAL EDUCATION



Ms. Pannoni
Grades K-3

I am so proud of my students and how much they have been able to accomplish so far this school year. Students did an awesome job completing their work during the first marking period, showing up to class ready to learn each day, and most importantly trying their best. All of my students have been working hard to improve their decoding skills. Second and third grade have even begun to read more in my room which is super exciting! Students have also been improving their ability to add and subtract this school year. We are getting more comfortable adding and subtracting with double digit numbers. Please continue to encourage students to read at home! The more practice they get, the more they will improve their reading skills throughout the school year.

“Fill your house with stacks of books, in all the crannies and all the nooks.” — Dr. Seuss

Mrs. Cancellaro
Grades 4th & 5th

It is hard to believe that the first marking period is over and Winter is almost here! Your child has been working diligently on improving decoding skills every day. Students with strong decoding skills can easily demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge of letter- sound relationships, including letter patterns, to pronounce written words correctly. When children understand these letter relationships, they increase their ability to recognize familiar patterns in words which improves their fluency and accuracy with new words. Some of our activities include letter and vowel pattern sound drills, identifying the six different syllable types, “marking up” words, recognizing/identifying prefixes and suffixes; as well as other games & activities that increase their accuracy with decoding new words. **Please encourage your child to use the EPIC book link in my google classroom to help increase their reading fluency and accuracy skills.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION



Middle School

Mrs. Guisti

During the month of December, the students will continue to sharpen their math fact skills by switching the focus to division facts. They will learn how to use the multiplication chart as a tool to solve division fact problems. Students in grades 7th and 8th will continue to sharpen pre-algebra skills by solving expressions using Order of Operations. They will use all order of operations to solve multi-step equations.

In ELA, 8th graders will be working on their writing skills by writing High School application essays. They will create a multi-paragraph essay that tells the new school who they are as a person, what they want to study in the school, and how they plan on making the most of their high school experience. Good luck to all of my amazing 8th graders!

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

ESL

Mrs. Madera

Hope everyone had a relaxing Thanksgiving! I have sent home the Language Acquisition (LAS) tests results from last year home with students. Please review it. Remember that in order for an English Learner to successfully exit the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, they must be at level 4 and/or 5 for Reading AND Writing. If you have any questions, please reach out to me via email or parent square. Have a great holiday season!

ESSENTIAL SKILLS



Elementary Essential Skills

Mrs. Barbosa

December already! The year is going by quickly! This month in Essential Skills 1 we will be talking about the different holidays in December and what is used in their celebrations. We will also be reading *The Polar Express*. Our shape of the month is a Triangle and the Color of the month is Green. The Number of the month is 4 and the season is Winter. We are also working on our Self-help skills, especially zippers and putting on (and off) our coats and hats. We continue to work on our individual objectives



Secondary Essential Skills

Ms. Scott

Our students have been working so hard these first couple of months in Essential Skills 2. We've been working on identifying seasons and community helpers. Students are currently working on writing skills and matching holidays within each month and completing arts and crafts that correspond with a theme such as the season. Students will continue to work on writing skills and seasons which correlates directly with individual goals and objectives. :)

SPECIALS



Art

Ms. Hernandez

In Art, middle schoolers will be working with clay and use handbuilding techniques to create vessels, planters, and bowls. The 4th and 5th grade will be learning about actual and implied texture and applying both to various artworks. PreK-3 grade will be learning more on color, shape, space, and line while creating winter themed works of art.

Library

Mrs. Rosa

Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First grade students are reading fictional and non-fiction stories about snow. Elementary students are learning about and exploring the dictionary. Middle schoolers are all completing research projects. 6th graders are researching about holidays around the world. 7th graders are completing a research project on holiday toys and 8th graders are researching careers that they are interested in.

Tech Ed
Mr. Quinn

In Technology Education, students are doing something different in every class. 6th graders should be making a holiday design on tinkercad. 7th grade has been continuing to code in Scratch, programming animations. Finally 8th graders are brushing up on their typing skills with typing.com.

Physical Education
Mr. Chiasson

In Physical Education, grades PK-2 will be working on cooperative games. These games will allow students to problem solve, work together, and encourage their fellow classmates. In grades 3-5 students will be introduced to Ultimate, more commonly known as Ultimate Frisbee. They will first focus on proper throwing and catching technique as well as accuracy before adding different components of Ultimate. In grades 6-8 students will be introduced to Ultimate as well including different offensive and defensive strategies culminating in a round robin tournament. This great game is becoming more and more popular in the United States as well as around the world.

HOLIDAY CONCERT



Music
Mrs. Doolan



December 17th, 2021

9:00 AM * Grades Pre-K, 1, 3, 5

10:00 AM * Grades K, 2, 4

The elementary students have been working hard in music class to present a Holiday Concert! There will be 2 concerts a half hour long each and each child will be allowed 1 guest. A form will be sent home and must be filled out. Guests are required to socially distance and wear a mask. Children should dress in their nicest clothing (dresses, shirt and tie) and try to wear colors of the season. (red, green, black, blue and white)

Pre-K

I'm a Little Snowman, Jingle Bells, Feliz Navidad

Kindergarten

Must Be Santa, Rudolph the Red Nose reindeer, Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Grade 1

Have a Holly Jolly Christmas, Let it Snow, Rockin Around the Christmas Tree

Grade 2

Welcome Christmas, Mr. Ginch, The Perfect Christmas Night

Grade 3

The Polar Express, When Christmas Comes to Town, Hot Chocolate, Rockin' On Top of the World, Winter Wonderland, Spirit of the Season, Believe

Grade 4

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Santa Bring My Baby Back to Me, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus

Grade 5

It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas, Toyland, My Favorite Things, We Need a Little Christmas, God Bless Us Everyone



21ST CENTURY PROGRAM

The 21st Century After School program at Carrington School is off to a great start! Our program features enrichment activities for students in grades 5-8. Attendance rates have been high and the students are really enjoying the activities the staff has planned. Last month the students participated on team-building activities with Mrs. Rosa. Mrs. Doolan delivered lessons on Native Americans and the students created symbols pendants made out of clay. Mr. Gagnon focuses on STEM activities and this month the students made “silly sand” to explore the properties of cohesion. They also used hydrogen peroxide and yeast to make foamy elephant toothpaste to explore the properties of chemical reactions!

On Tuesday, December 21st, from 6:30-7:30 we will hold our first virtual family event, our very popular virtual escape room! We hope to see you there! Have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

Season's Greeting,
The 21st Century Staff!

-Mrs. Thompson

-Mrs. Rosa

-Mr. Gagnon

-Mrs. Doolan