

DECEMBER 2022



CARRINGTON SCHOOL

KAREN RENNA - PRINCIPAL
KRISTEN GWIAZDOWSKI - VICE PRINCIPAL

IMPORTANT DATES

12/9 - CCMC PJ Day

\$1 Donation

Picture Retake Day

12/14 - 12:00 Dismissal

12/15 - Hat Day

12/23 - Holiday Concert

Grades PreK-5th at 9AM

12/26 - 1/2 - Winter Recess

1/4 - 12:00 Dismissal

**1/6 - No School
Three Kings Day**



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

PRINCIPAL : KAREN RENNA
VICE PRINCIPAL : KRISTEN GWIAZDOSKI

As the 2022 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 2023 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

NURSE'S NEWS

TINA HAUSER - RN
A FEW REMINDERS

For PreK students:

Please provide the health office with a copy of your child's flu shot by January 1, 2023.

For Kindergarten Students:

If your child was due for a physical this fall please provide a copy to the health office.

For 6th Grade Students:

Please be sure to make an appointment for a physical and immunizations which are due by the first day of 7th grade.

HEALTHY THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

Get enough sleep, stay hydrated, and eat healthy!

**Also, please keep your child home if they are ill
The school fever policy is that the student must be
fever free for 24hrs without the use of Tylenol or
Motrin to return to school**

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

READING DEPARTMENT

As the temperature drops, we all start looking for fun family activities to do indoors. Did you know that December is Write a Friend Month? This is a perfect time to brighten someone's day by sending them a friendly letter or card. What a wonderful family activity that could be! You could also grab your favorite blanket and curl up with a great book. This year, as a district we have a new program called Literacy Pro. This is a digital program that allows our students to access books that interest them at school and at home. We want our students to LOVE literacy the way we do. This is a great place to start. Please encourage your children to read each night whether a paper book or one from our variety of online resources.

We also want to send a friendly reminder that middle of the year testing is coming up when we return from winter break. The best way to prepare for this is to READ, READ, READ!

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at
(203) 574-8184.

Sincerely,
The Reading Department
Ms. Johnson – Literacy Facilitator
Mrs. Cavanaugh – Reading Teacher
Mrs. Carosello – Reading Tutor
Mrs. Moriarty – Reading Tutor

PRE - KINDERGARTEN

MRS. MAUCERI AND MRS. PROMOTICO

Happy Holidays! It certainly is 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!" Please take some time to talk about your clothes with your child and their attributes (patterns, colors) and let them share their favorite items and why.)

Not only will we explore traditions about various winter holidays, we will also have a unique opportunity to 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, December 7th is Parent Conference Night and 12:00 dismissal. Please sign-up on Parent Square 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 9th 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 14th is another 4.5 hour day with 12:00 dismissal for Teacher Collaboration. Our Progress Reports will be sent home on Wednesday December 21st. We will be preparing our "Holiday Stations" sometime during the week of December 19th. Finally, we will participate in our School-Wide Holiday Concert. More information to follow for both events.

We would like to take this opportunity to 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. RIGGI AND MRS. BAKER

In ELA, our Kindergarteners 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 a text that you have read to them. We are also working on sentences, counting the number of words in a sentence, sentences beginning with an upper-case letter, and ending with punctuation. We continue to identify, form, and make the sounds of all the letters in the alphabet. 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. Let them show-off as much as possible.

In Math, we will continue connecting written numerals to quantities and classifying objects into categories by counting, using objects, pictures, and numerals. We are working on partners of 6, 7, 8, and 9. The students are using objects to show the different partners.

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

Have a wonderful Holiday.

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

FIRST GRADE

MS. PALMER 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.

SECOND GRADE

MRS. BOIVIN AND MS. GUERRERA

Hello 2nd Grade Families!!

In December, math will be focusing more on newer topics for second grade. We will begin our second unit in numbers within 100. This will include topics such as addition, subtraction, time and money. We will be using manipulatives to guide us towards strategies. We will be using strategies that we learned in unit 1 also!

In reading, we finished talking about animals and how they can sometimes teach us lessons within stories. We will then move onto Unit 3, which talks about the Earth and people within communities! We will continue using strategies such as: main topic and details and parts of stories.

In foundations, we are going to continue working on vowel teams and their sounds. We will then get more into second grade topics such as multisyllabic spelling and the rules. We will also continue with learning new suffix endings.

The weather is getting very cold, please make sure your child has a coat to go outdoors for recess. Also, if your child needs a sweater while in the building, it must be compliant with the District's Dress Code Policy. Please review the Student Handbook for District Policies including Dress Code Expectations.

For the Holiday Concert, make sure your child is wearing concert attire. They are allowed to wear black, white, red, or green. Only 2 adults are allowed in the concert. Students will be allowed to leave once the concert is over.

We will continue to also reinforce classroom expectations and procedures. Class Dojo communicates to students and to parents how your child is doing in the classroom. Be sure to also check ParentSquare daily for any updates in the classroom!

December Important Dates:

12/7 Half Day

12/14 Half Day

12/23 Holiday Concert @ 9:00 a.m

12/26-1/2 Winter Break!!

Thank you so much and Happy Holidays!

Miss Guerrero

Mrs Boivin

THIRD GRADE

MRS. CICCONE AND MR. GAGNON

Happy Holidays from Third Grade!

Throughout December in our study of math we will discuss the distributive property of multiplication as well as the commutative and associative properties. We will use our knowledge of multiplication to solve problems and we will begin our study of division.

In literacy we will read expository texts with topics of animal survival, animal and plant adaptations, and problem solving. We will discuss authors' point of view, cause and effect, and problem/solution text structures.

The study of Foundations spelling will introduce students to the very important concept of "vowel consonant e exceptions" and we will teach the "e drop rule" for adding vowel suffixes to "vowel consonant e" words. We will also introduce the new "schwa" sound which teaches students that other vowels can make the short i and the short u sound!

In third grade we continue to emphasize that students should be respectful, on task, accountable, responsible, and safe. We communicate our behavior expectations to students daily through the use of Class Dojo and we encourage parents and guardians to monitor students' behavior along with us each week. We continue to implement end of month rewards for good behavior.

FOURTH GRADE

MRS. CARROLL AND MS. SMITH

In ELA, we have finished up Unit 2 in our Wonders Curriculum which centered around animals and had students ask themselves, “What have you learned from animals or animal characters?” The students are currently typing up a final draft of their explanatory essay on an animal of choice. We are always practicing daily to increase our reading fluency and students should be reading nightly as well in order to increase their reading stamina. They have set a goal of reading at least 4 nights per week for at least 20 minutes each night; and will track this progress on their reading homework calendar.

In Science, we’re continuing to learn about waves and how light causes objects to reflect and refract. We will also be learning about how information is transferred.

As the temperatures continue to drop, please make sure to send in proper outerwear with your student (coat, gloves, hat).

FIFTH GRADE

MS. CRESPO AND MR. RUSSO

Hello everyone! Happy December!

The Math goal for December is to finally finish our first Unit and begin exploring Unit 2: Decimals and Fractions. The students have done an excellent job working very hard in Unit 1, so I think they are more than ready to take the next step in adding and subtracting fractions and decimals, and diving deeper into place value!

As far as Science is concerned, we are just finishing up Unit 2 and will start to explore Unit 3: Energy and Matter in Organisms. The students did a wonderful job working together to discuss and critically think about matter, particles, physical and chemical changes, and more during Unit 1. I am very excited to listen to new ideas and have plenty of interesting scientific discussions!

In our ELA section, the students are working on folktales, and now poetry. Students have been doing a great job brainstorming ideas for a poem of their own which will be included in their writer's notebook.

This month has been full of fun and excitement thanks to the awesome staff at STARBASE. The students are having a blast learning more about occupations in the STEM field as well as participating in cool hands-on activities such as controlling robots, creating egg protectors, building functioning circuits, solving puzzles (ask about the Green Glass Door!), and so much more! A special thanks to Diana Toro (LYRA) and the STARBASE team for giving us this opportunity to learn and experiment with them!

We hope you all have a safe and fantastic holiday season. Please enjoy and stay warm!

Best,
Miss Crespo and Mr. Russo

SIXTH GRADE

MR. CAROSELLA AND MS. GRIFFIN

Math:

Students will continue with representing ratios and rates using a table or graph. Students will make tables of two quantities and create equivalent ratios to answer word problems. Also, students will take the data from ratio tables to graph onto a coordinate plane. Then, students will use ratio reasoning to convert between measurement systems. Students will manipulate and transform measurements using multiplication and division.

Social Studies:

Students will continue to explore the continent of Asia. Specifically, students will learn about the physical geography, history and life in Southeast Asia.

Reading:

Students will begin the novel study *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* exploring the essential qualities of leadership and the characteristics and qualities that make for an inspiring leader. Specifically, students will focus on central/main idea and summarizing throughout this unit.

Language Arts:

Students will continue to work on a variety of grammar skills with a focus on identifying different parts of speech, as well as key transition words between paragraphs.

Science:

Students will continue Unit 2 Ecosystems. Students will research information about biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem. Students will discover the importance of abiotic factors as well as identifying the types of biotic factors that maintain a healthy ecosystem. Students will identify and determine the role of producers, consumers and decomposers in an ecosystem.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE

MR. THOMAS

7th grade -

Students will be studying the Western portion of the United States and are currently completing a digital poster about Death Valley.

8th grade -

Students will begin studying about the French and Indian War. We will examine the precursors that lead to the American Revolution.

MS. STETZER

7th grade -

Students will be working on their informative / Explanatory Writing.

8th grade -

Students will be working on their Argumentative style writing.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

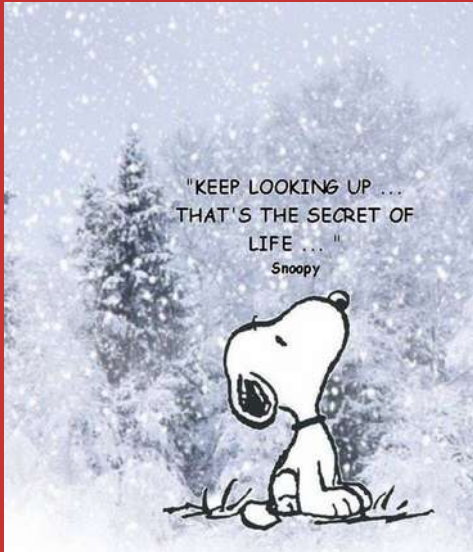
MRS. PARKER

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday with their families and loved ones. Students are back now and we are working on Digital Citizenship which includes issues such as online safety, cyberbullying, and maintaining privacy. I have incorporated these essential lessons for grades 2-5 one day/week. Students enjoy the lessons and have opportunities to discuss how to manage media usage in daily life. Reading comprehension skills using the McGraw Hill Reading program continue to be our main focus as we acquire proficiency in the English language.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

MRS. CANCELLARO

We continue to work on high frequency word recognition and instructional level reading fluency. Please have your child practice their high frequency (Dr. Fry) words daily. They can be found in my google classroom (ccancellaro-resource room). Also, once we have completed a fluency passage I will be sending them home to practice as well. Please encourage your child to read them to you. You will be so proud of their progress!!



MS. PANONNI

Students have been working hard in my classroom to build their phonics and reading skills. Some groups have been focusing on letter identification, letter sounds, and blending sounds together. Some of my small groups are now working on reading fluency which is awesome! In math students have begun working more with subtraction and using their knowledge of addition facts to help them solve subtraction facts. I hope everyone has a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

MRS. BARBOSA

This month in Essential Skills 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 our coats and hats.

MRS. BARBATI

For December, we will be exploring different holidays celebrated around the world. We will be working on identifying animals in our environment, especially the Reindeer. The shape we will focus on is the "Triangle" and the color of this month is "Green". The number for December is 4 and we will focus on the next season - "Winter". Another topic that ties into Winter is snow so we will be exploring how water changes into a solid. The letter sounds we will be working on are "m, n, l and r". We work daily on our self-help skills with coats, feeding and becoming more independent.

SPECIALISTS

MRS. DOOLAN - MUSIC

Holiday Concert

December 23rd, 2022

9:00 AM * Grades: PK, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

The Elementary Students have been working hard in music class to present a Holiday Concert! Due to space, each family is allowed 2 guests. A form will be sent home and must be filled out if you do not want your child to participate. Children should dress in their nicest clothing (dresses, shirt and tie) and wear colors of the season like red, green, black, blue and white.

Pre-K & Kindergarten

Must Be Santa, Rudolph, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Jingle Bells

Grade 1

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

Grade 2

Where are You Christmas, Welcome Christmas, Mr. Grinch, 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

Jingle Bell Rock, Do You Wanna Build a Snowman, Feliz Navidad

Grade 5

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

SPECIALISTS

MR. CHIASSON - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Due to the amount of time it took to complete the pretests for the CT Physical Fitness Assessment for grades 3-8 in the month of November, these students will continue to work on soccer skills for a few classes before transitioning to Ultimate Frisbee where skills, strategies, and gameplay will take place.

Students in grades Pre-K to 2nd will be working on cooperative games that will help improve their communication skills as well as their ability to work with others.

MR. RIVERA - ART

As we move deep into the month of December, elementary students will focus on shape, color and thematic compositions for the season. We are feverishly making snowflakes in order to decorate the main entrance, atrium, classrooms and front office.

Our middle school students are currently focused on realistic drawings of the human face. We have already started drawing eyes and will be moving onto noses. With practice of each part of the human face we will culminate with self-portraits and portraits of their peers.

MRS. ROSA - LIBRARY MEDIA

Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First grade students are reading stories about snow, both fiction and non-fiction. Elementary students are learning about different winter holidays and reading fun holiday stories. 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.