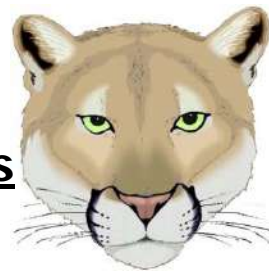




## Carrington Cougar Times



### Principal's Corner

Dear Parents and Friends,

February 29, 2016

We have a very exciting school activity/fundraiser coming up on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are asking all parents to participate in a Virtual Pasta Dinner Night. Our goal is to promote time with family over the dinner table and encourage discussion about your child's school day. We are asking you to take pictures of your family enjoying the pasta dinner and share it on the Carrington Elementary PTO Face Book page by March 31. The family who gets the most "Likes" on their picture will win a tablet! The packets for the pasta fundraiser have gone home with your child, you should have received them. We encourage all families to participate to make this fundraiser a big Carrington community success! State assessment is right around the corner! This year 5<sup>th</sup> grade along with 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking the Science Connecticut Mastery Test on March 9<sup>th</sup>. It is very important for your child to be well rested and on time for school that day. We thank you in advance for your commitment to your child's education and building a strong partnership with the families at Carrington School. Best, Karen Renna, Principal & Kristen Gwiazdoski, Vice Principal

#### ***ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF THIRD GRADERS***

Third graders will start to play the recorder in music class in March. A recorder will be assigned to your child and will be returned to Carrington at the end of the school year. If your child wishes to keep their recorder, they may be purchased for \$3. We use them in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, too!



#### **Pre-K - Mrs. McCulloch, Mrs. Mauceri, Mrs. Weed**

This month the Pre-K classes are learning about construction. They have learned the various tools, building supplies, and vehicles that are used to build roads, playgrounds, and buildings. We have a Home Depot in our Dramatic Play and various construction vehicles in other centers. They are also learning the letters M, B, and R and the sounds that these letters make. (February)

#### **Kindergarten - Mrs. McDonnell, Mrs. Riggi, Mrs. Varholak**

In **Math** we will continue working on teen numbers, represented as ten ones and some more ones. We are also working on composing simple shapes to form larger shapes and describing relative position, like, above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to. In **Language Arts** we continue to work on blending, segmenting, and manipulating sounds to form words. We are beginning to learn about the sounds that are made with 2 letters (digraphs), such as, wh, ch, sh, th, ck, and trick words, such as, the, a, and, are, to, is, his, as, has, and was.

#### **Grade 1 - Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Boivin**

We have begun Unit 3, "Let's Find Out!" Exploring Nonfiction, in Language Arts. In this unit, we will be focusing on key details (facts), vocabulary, text features and author's purpose. With this knowledge and understanding, we hope that our first graders will be able to use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast information from two nonfiction texts. In Foundations, we will focus on open and closed syllable words with short vowels and adding the suffixes of -s, -ed, and -ing to base words with 5 sounds! We will introduce vowel teams and learn how to differentiate between narrative (fiction) and informational (nonfiction). We will continue to stress proper sentence structure which includes correct punctuation and capitalization. In Math, we have begun Module 3, It's Time to Get in Shape! We will explore two and three dimensional figures, measurement, time and equal partitions (fractions) as well as continue to develop our addition and subtraction skills. Those skills will allow us to dig deeper into story problems and apply all our mathematical strategies.

### **Grade 2 – Ms. Goggins, Ms. Feigenblat**

In ELA, second graders will be discussing components of a folktale. We will be reading numerous examples to expand students understanding of the genre. Remember to read with your child for 20 minutes every night! In Social Studies we will be studying the different lives of famous African-Americans and how they impacted our world. In Math, second graders will continue to practice solving two-step word problems, by incorporating their understanding of different units of measurement. Please continue to practice math facts with your child at home.

### **Grade 3 - Mrs. Ciccone, Ms. Dussault, Mr. Gagnon**

In February grade three began literacy with a unit on non-fiction text, including text features and text structures. We have begun to discuss text that is written in sequence such as the biography genre. In math, third graders have begun a unit on fractions, including comparing fractions and real world word problems using fractions to solve them. In social studies we have integrated the sequence text structure by reading about the lives of famous people in history, such as George Washington Carver. In science, we have begun the study of rocks and minerals.

### **Grade 4 - Mrs. Rodriguez, Mr. Parks**

During the month of February, Carrington's 4<sup>th</sup>-graders will focus on theme and universal truths in various texts. Not only are we identifying the theme(s) in a given text, but we are also recognizing how these themes can connect and apply to our everyday lives. In addition, we are also highlighting Black History Month and learning about the immense contributions that have been made to our society and world by African-Americans. In Math, we are examining parts of a whole in various ways: adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators, converting improper fractions to mixed numbers (and vice versa), and adding and subtracting mixed numbers.

**Grade 5 - Mr. Carosella, Ms. Hanley, Mr. Mollengarden** This month, 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be learning about realistic fiction, author's purpose and point of view in Language Arts. For Math, students will be learning how to solve division and volume problems. In addition to that, we are preparing to take the Science Connecticut Mastery Test in March. Students who reached their peak 80% of the month will attend their class's monthly reward. Miss Hanley's class will earn free time, Mr. Mollengarden's class will be playing capture the flag, and Mr. Carosella's class will earn computer lab time. We hope to see everyone attend the PBIS monthly rewards!

### **Grade 6 ELA - Mrs. Piccirillo**

Students are in the process of researching and composing essays about famous African American. They will be sharing writing and projects with their peers on February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. Sixth graders are also learning how to debate. They are learning about the Proposition and Opposition sides, claims, and rebuttal. In social studies, 6<sup>th</sup> graders are designing tests and quizzes for their classmates. This task requires that students fully engage with text in order to generate explicit text-dependent questions. This activity is promoting a better understanding and usage of some academic vocabulary such as *analyze*, *cite*, *textual evidence*, *explicit*, and *inferences*.

### **Grade 6 Math – Mr. Brault**

Within the next few weeks students in sixth grade math will be learning how to solve equations. They will learn how to solve for a variable, an unknown value. Students will also learn about inequalities and how to solve and graph their answers. Students will also learn about dependent and independent variables and then begin to explore geometry. Students in science will be learning the basics of chemistry. They will learn about elements, compounds, and mixtures. How they are similar and how they are different. They will learn about the properties of matter as well as how to measure matter.

### **Grade 7 ELA - Mrs. Sarlo**

The 7th grade ELA classes are reading fiction and non-fiction texts. We worked with new vocabulary for each one, before reading the piece. Once finished reading both texts, the students will make comparisons between them, leading the students to a better understanding of what they have read.

### **Grade 7 & 8 Science – Mrs. Ford**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is reading and discussing the theory of plate tectonics. We are exploring plate boundaries and in particular, The Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire is a boundary that has much volcanic activity surrounding it. We are researching volcano and earthquake zones. These natural phenomenon can have extreme affects on life. Earth can be a fascinating yet dangerous place. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have a lot going on. They are reviewing past material in preparation for the Science CMT which will be administered on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The material can often be seen in the form of homework. The students are also continuing the unit on Force and Motion. They recently completed a lab “How to Separate Oil From Water” which encouraged them to think like scientists to solve a real world problem.

### **Grade 7 & 8 Math – Mr. Hernandez**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

Module Title: Expressions and Equations

Conceptual Lens: Algebraic Representations

#### **Unit Overview:**

We will be working on Writing Linear Expressions and solving problems with Equations.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

Module Title: Expressions and Equations (Linear Equations)

Conceptual Lens: Linear Interpretations

#### **Unit Overview:**

We will be working on Solving Systems of Equations and word problems involving Systems of Equations.

### **Grade 8 – Mrs. Ragette**

In class we are working on composing expository essays. We have finished our research, and we will be returning to the computer lab soon to begin drafting our essays. We have been working on using supporting details to support our main ideas. When we read, we can identify the topic, topic sentence, main idea, and supporting details. We have conducted our research for black history month, and are completing a project on the important figure we chose.



Mayor O'Leary visited our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to discuss local and state government. Check your local educational television channel to see this visit.

### **Essential Skills - Mrs. Barbosa**

This month in Essential Skills we have been continuing to learn about the season of winter, what we wear in the cold and talking and playing with the cold snow. Our shape of the month is a Heart and the Color of the month is Purple. The Number of the month is 6. We are also working on learning and answering questions on the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears We continue to work very hard on our individual objectives.

### **Reading Corner – Mrs. Carlo, Mrs. Cavanaugh**

We are excited to celebrate Dr. Suess's birthday throughout the month of March. Please extend the celebration by reading Dr. Suess books at home. Each book provides a wonderful experience and many laughs. Please join us on March 23<sup>th</sup> for our Family Reading Night. We look forward to seeing you all there "Around the Camp Fire."

From the Desks of Mrs. Carlo (Literacy Facilitator) and Mrs. Cavanaugh (Reading Teacher)

### **Special Education - Mrs. Delaney**

In Reading, the students will be working on their phonics skills, to increase accuracy and fluency when reading a passage. In Math, the students will be working on solving word problems using the CUBES strategy. C- Circle the numbers. U- Underline the question. B- Box the key words. E- Evaluate and draw. S- Solve and check.

### **Middle School Special Education Team**

**Special Education Teachers: Mrs. Cancellaro and Mrs. Guisti**

**Speech-language Pathologist: Miss Geary**

Our sixth grade students continue to work on their research and writing skills. Students have been gathering information, from at least 2 resources, on a topic given to them either independently or with partners. After information is collected and recorded on graphic organizers students are writing an informational paragraph which includes a topic sentence, at least 2 supporting details, and a conclusion. The students are presenting facts about what they have learned using pictures or PowerPoint presentations on the smartboard. Seventh and eighth grade students are working on annotating various texts. Students are learning strategies to become more active readers. Through annotation, students identify unknown or powerful words, make connections to the text, and generate questions about the text. These strategies help students to increase understanding and recall of material.

### **Physical Education - Mrs. MacDonald**

This month in P.E. the students in the younger grades used scooters to work on muscular endurance. The older grades perfected their football skills and used them in lead up games including "Battle Ball" and a modified game of flag football for middle school. Towards the end of the month Grades K-6 worked on jump rope skills and learned about cardiovascular fitness in preparation for Jump Rope for Heart. Jump Rope for Heart will take place for those grades during their P.E. class time for the week of 3/7/16-3/11/16. In Health, our middle school students are learning about nutrition and the six essential nutrients. I encourage you to ask your students about nutrition and have a conversation about healthy eating.

### **Music- Mrs. Rosser**

Carrington students have been active music makers in February with African-American and Native American songs, dances, and games. They have twisted their bodies into alphabet letters and performed canons with voices and instruments. Carrington musicians have written music, played orchestrations for songs, and performed a lummi stick routine for the Beatles' "All You Need is Love."

### **Library/Media Center - Mrs. Behlman**

In honor of Black History Month, students in grade 3 were introduced to the genre of biography and examined some biographies about notable people in Black History. Grades 4, 5 and 6 six researched Black History role models and created power point presentations. Students in grades K-3 were introduced to the second Charter Book Award Nominee, *Dog vs. Cat*. Grade 7 and 8 students are in the midst of taking a Musical Road Trip. Biographies of their favorite musical artists, venues of performances and costs are being calculated. Students will be orally sharing their findings soon. Their power point presentations will include their sources.

### **Art- Mrs. Julian**

The students created art projects for February to recognize Black History month. The middle school students made African beaded masks, The lower grade levels also made projects to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Some included dragons, puppets and lanterns.

### **From the Nurse's Corner - Mrs. Daigle and Mrs. Couture**

Scoliosis screening will take place over the next few weeks for Grades 5 & 7, and only male students in Grade 8.

Vision screening has come to an end. If you received a referral and have not yet returned it to me, please do so immediately as my report is due. If your child does not have vision insurance please call me. I can be reached @ 203-574-8303 from 8am – 3pm each day.

5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be coming home shortly with a packet of documents needed for complying with Grade 6 mandates. **Please return ALL documents to me as soon as possible!**

As always, please keep ill children home until symptom free!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at any time.

### **Guidance Staff – Mrs. Pettway, Mrs. Ogilvy, Ms. Gavrylis**



Carrington took part in the Start with Hello Campaign to raise awareness and educate students about how they can reduce social isolation in their classrooms, schools and communities. After learning about the campaign, our Carrington students participated in a school-wide activity to encourage them to say hello and look for things in common with each other. With every greeting, students received a sticker to wear and filled out a Getting to Know you sheet with things they had in common. All the students had a wonderful time participating!



