

FEBRUARY 2022

# CARRINGTON

PRINCIPAL : Karen Renna  
VICE PRINCIPAL: Kristen Gwiazdoski



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**2/14 - 100th Day of School**

**2/16 - 12:00 Dismissal**

**2/21 & 2/22 - No School - Presidents' Day**

**2/25 - iReady Challenge Ends**

**3/2 - 12:00 Dismissal**

**3/4 - No School - Teacher Professional Development**

# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

PRINCIPAL : Karen Renna  
VICE PRINCIPAL: Kristen Gwiazdoski

It is hard to believe that it is February! Our 100th day of school will be on the 14th. Report cards have gone home and middle of the year testing has been completed. I am so pleased and proud to see the progress so many of our students have made since August.

Please reach out to your child's teacher to discuss their progress. We are all here to work together to ensure the success of your child.

Please encourage reading each night. This helps build fluency and comprehension. We are also having our winter i-Ready math challenge for grades k-5.

As you are aware, cell phones are not allowed in school per the Board of Education policy. I am asking that you please speak to your child about respecting adults and policies that are in place.

We have welcomed a new 7th and 8th Language Arts teacher, Jessica Stetzer. We are happy she is joining our Carrington Cougar family!

Thank you for your continued support and ensuring your child comes to school everyday. So much new learning goes on each day and it is so important for your child to attend school daily.





# **WINTER CHALLENGE**

# **2022**

**\*\*\*For Carrington Students in Grades K-5\*\*\***

**Earn A Delicious Bag of Homemade Popcorn!**



**From January 31<sup>st</sup> Through February 25<sup>th</sup>:**

**Complete at least 45 minutes of i-Ready® *My Path* Lessons each week.  
Maintain an Average Pass Rate of at least 70% each week.**

# READING DEPARTMENT

Happy February 2022!

We hope everyone is enjoying the snow and the cold. What wonderful weather to stay inside with a good book! Hot cocoa, a blanket and your favorite author. This week our students are finishing up middle of year benchmark testing. Teachers will meet next week to discuss and make changes to their small groups for individualized instruction based on the new data. If you have any questions, please reach out. We are always here to answer your questions and give suggestions to help your child succeed and become a lifelong reader. Remember READ, READ, READ. A book is the best company you can have.

The Reading Department:  
Mrs. Thompson, Literacy Facilitator  
Mrs. Cavanaugh, Reading Teacher  
Mrs. Carosello, Reading Tutor  
Mrs. Moriarty, Reading Tutor





# PRE - KINDERGARTEN



Mrs. Mauceri and Mrs.Promotico

We have just begun our new unit of study, "Buildings". The children have the opportunity to learn about the characteristics and features of buildings, the people that build them, and the role buildings have in our community. Please help us by sending in pictures of buildings/places you like to visit, shop and eat with your family. It is a great way for the children to share their experiences with one another and see that they go to many of the same places in Waterbury!

Also, during the month of February we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a social-emotional focus and talking about our feelings, along with some fun center activities on Monday, February 14th. More details will be sent home this week.

Lastly, we will also have a "Fine-Motor" focus. Fine motor activity involves the use of small muscles that control the hand, fingers, and thumbs. Fine motor skills help children perform important tasks such as feeding themselves, grasping objects, and writing. The ability to accomplish self-care and everyday tasks by using fine motor skills helps a child's self-esteem and confidence grow.

It's important to work with children early on to help fine motor skills develop at a young age. Fine motor skills improve with practice, so the earlier the better!

Children who struggle with fine motor tasks become frustrated and upset if they cannot complete everyday tasks. As an example, a child might have a hard time holding scissors and cutting across a dotted line. This might cause them to feel frustrated and discouraged and to avoid cutting exercises since they feel like it's too difficult for them.

Keep an eye out for some weekly suggestions and fun activities for you to do with your child to help us support their continued fine-motor development (Starting with the calendar of "A Month of Fine Motor Fun")

# KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Riggi and Mrs. Baker



In Math, we will continue working with numbers within 10: Addition and Subtraction. Students will develop a deeper understanding of addition as putting together and add-to situations, and understanding subtraction as taking apart and taking from situations. Students will use objects, pictures, words, and equations to represent and solve addition problems within ten. Students will develop an understanding of the plus, minus, and equal signs. They will explore addition and subtraction within ten with a particular focus on the partners of ten. Students will use pictures to tell story problems and write and solve the equations to match. Students will also experience situations where they are given a total with both addends unknown.

The current Math unit focuses on **Geometry**. Students will be introduced to flat and solid shapes and their names, while exploring these shapes in their everyday lives. They will begin to compare the attributes of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. Students will develop an understanding that size and position are not defining attributes. They will start to build spatial reasoning by using positional words to describe location of objects and shapes relative to each other. Finally, they will identify features that shapes have in common and will compose larger shapes from smaller ones.

In Language Arts, we continue to blend sounds, to make a word and segment words, to say each sound. We are beginning to learn about the sounds that are made with 2 letters (digraphs) such as, wh, ch, th, sh, ck and trick words such as, are, his, as, is, has, little, she, and was. We are retelling a story, telling the characters, setting, events, main topic, and key details. Students are writing sentences from dictation and learning about proper and plural nouns.

The current Science unit focuses on the topic of Forces and Motion. Students will learn about the motion of objects and gather evidence about the direction and speed of motion. They will observe how changing the speed or direction of an object can affect its motion. Students will also learn about the strengths of pushes and pulls and their effects on the speed and direction of motion. They will observe and draw conclusions about objects touching and colliding, as well as the effects of applying larger and smaller forces on an object. .



# 100

# FIRST



Ms. Allen and Mrs. Varkholak

Happy February First Grade Families!

The 100th Day of school is upon us! We are excited because we are 100 days smarter! We will be celebrating by dressing as 100 year olds!! This month we will also be celebrating Valentine's Day with a celebration on Monday, February 14! Please have students decorate a box to put all of their Valentines in. Lets spread the LOVE! We can all use a little extra!

Our kindness posters came out BEAUTIFUL. We are excited to spread kindness in the halls throughout our Carrington community!

Academics:

Science

The current Science unit focuses on the topic of Light. Students will observe how light is necessary to see an object and they will explore how the amount of light affects how much can be seen. They will observe how light passes through objects and develop an understanding of transparent, translucent, and opaque objects. The students will also explore how shadows are made and how light travels, including how it can be reflected or redirected and how people use light to communicate. They will carry out an investigation to test how smooth, shiny surfaces affect a beam of light and design a way to communicate with light. Finally, the students will discuss how Thomas Edison's invention of the light bulb helped bring electricity to people's homes.

Math

The current Math unit focuses on Numbers within 20. Students will continue to work with fluency strategies for addition and subtraction within 10 to extend their understanding of adding and subtracting within 20. They will begin developing their understanding of unitizing and place value by seeing ten numbers as one ten and some ones. Students will see that numbers can be put together and taken apart in different ways. Finally, they will apply their knowledge of addends of ten to "make a ten" when adding and "get to a ten" when subtracting.

FUNDations:

Students are moving onto UNIT 8! We will be doing two weeks of blends. A blend is two consonants that become before or after a vowel. We will learn a new way to mark these up! Stay tuned!

Wonders Reading

We are starting Unit 4 : Animals Everywhere.

Week 1 - Creature Features

Week 2 - Team Up!

Week 3 - Survivors

Week 4 - Insects

Students will get new high frequency words and vocabulary words each week to practice!

Please continue to send in snacks and a water bottle daily! Happy Birthdays to our February babies!!

Miss Kelly 2/ 5, Isabella(IV) 2/16 Aidan(1A) 2/22 , Elizabeth(1A) 2/23, Megan(1A) 2/24

# SECOND

Ms. Palmer and Mrs. Boivin



## Foundations

Unit 7 is a three-week unit; our longest unit yet! We have been learning about open syllables and when the letter “y” can act as a vowel. We have learned that “y” has two long vowel sounds. Ask your child if he/she can identify them (y can say i like in the word cry and can say e like in the word baby).

We have been practicing identifying the different syllable types we have learned this year in multisyllabic words. We are also adding new suffixes, -ty, -y and -ly. This unit will have NINE trick words for students to learn! Unit 8 will introduce students to the r-controlled syllable. We will be reading and spelling words with an “ar” and “or” vowel-sound in them.

## Science

The current Science unit focuses on the topic of Changes to the Earth’s Surface. Students have been learning how weathering by wind, water, ice, and plants causes Earth’s surface to change slowly. They have observed how erosion by wind, water, and ice causes slow changes to Earth. Students have explored how earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, hurricanes, and floods cause Earth’s surface to change quickly. They will extend their exploration by modeling how a flood can cause Earth’s surface to change quickly. Students will learn how wind and water cause the land to change over time. Finally, they will explore ways to prevent changes to land through the use of different types of technology.

## Math

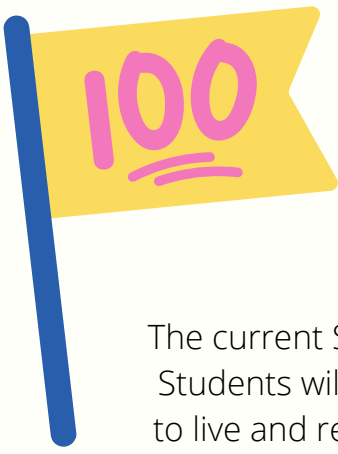
The current Math unit focuses on Addition and Subtraction of Whole Numbers within 100. Students will continue to work with fluency strategies for addition and subtraction of within 20 to extend their understanding of adding and subtracting within 100. They will begin to shift from using counting strategies and models to using place value strategies and models to add and subtract larger numbers. Students will continue to use the relationship between addition and subtraction to solve word problems. Finally, they will create part-whole models and write equations to solve addition and subtraction word problems with unknowns in all positions.

Please help your child with practicing their math facts daily. Start with doubles (1+1, 2+2, 3+3, etc.). Once they’ve mastered their doubles’ facts, they can move on to addition math facts 0-20 ( 2+3, 9+2, 7+8, etc.). Lastly students will need to master subtraction math facts 0-20 (9-2, 12-3, 5-1, etc.). Flashcards can be made on index cards, post-it notes of facts can be placed around the home, and there are even free apps that give students free math practice such as Big Math Flash Cards.

## Reminders:

Report Cards will be sent home the second week of February. Please keep an eye out for them! Please continue to have your child read at home for 20 minutes each day and practice their math facts. Thank you for all your help and support from home!





# THIRD

Mr. Gagnon and Mrs. Ciccone



## Science

The current Science unit focuses on the topic of **Life Cycles and Inherited Traits**. Students will explore plant life cycles and how a plant depends on its environment to live and reproduce. They will explore patterns of change in animal life cycles and use those patterns to make predictions. Students will investigate technology used to track patterns of animal movement in order to understand reproductive behavior. They will compare and contrast the life cycles of several different animals. Students will learn about offspring and parents of plants and animals. Finally, they will study images to interpret data about inherited traits and patterns, as well as simulate inheritance in a hands-on project.

## Math

The current Math unit focuses on **Multiplication and Division: Concepts, Relationships, and Patterns**. Students will build their conceptual understanding of multiplication and division as operations involving equal groups. They will work with equal group models, arrays, and skip counting to build their understanding of multiplication as finding the total number of objects arranged in equal-sized groups. Students will discover and analyze patterns in multiplication, as well as the properties of multiplication. They will understand division as separating a total number of objects into equal-sized groups and develop an understanding of the relationship between multiplication and division. Finally, students will develop and apply strategies to become fluent with multiplication and division facts within one hundred.

## Literacy

Our study of literacy will include a discussion of folktales and realistic fiction. Students will be exposed to themes that include making good choices and using one's skills and talents to help others. Finally, our spelling program, Foundations, will introduce Latin roots and prefixes; students will use that knowledge to further their ability to spell multisyllabic words.

## Class Dojo

We continue to utilize Class Dojo as our primary sources of behavior management and Parent Square as our source for class wide as well as individualized written communications.



# FOURTH

**Ms. Johnson and Mrs. Keefe**

## Science

The current Science unit focuses on the topic of Animal Structure and Function. Students will learn that plants have external and internal structures and be able to identify the parts of plants and explain their interactions. They will gather evidence to support an argument regarding the importance of the internal structures of animals in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.

Students will explore the components and functions of several animal body systems and compare and contrast the systems to identify similarities and differences of the body systems in different groups of animals. They will explore the ways in which people and animals use their senses. Students will learn about the physical parts and unique structures that make it possible for people and animals to analyze information through senses through which sensory information can be processed in the brain. Finally, they will interpret sensory systems and apply what they learn to construct intelligent explanations using evidence and data.

## Math

The current Math unit focuses on Multi-Digit Whole Number Operations. Students will learn how to multiply multi-digit numbers (up to four-digit whole numbers by one-digit whole numbers and two-digit numbers by two-digit numbers) by using what they know about basic facts and place value. They will use base ten models to show equal groups and relate them to partial products. Students then use area models and numbers to show partial products to multiply as they build their understanding of multi-digit multiplication and prepare to master the standard algorithm in Grade 5. They will use multiplication to convert measurement units from larger units to smaller equivalent units within the same measurement system. Students also begin dividing multi-digit dividends by one digit divisors using base ten models and partitioning into equal groups. They will use area models to divide and to conceptualize “taking out” partial quotients and write the multiplications and subtractions to match their model. Finally, students will apply the formulas for perimeter and area of a rectangle and the four operations to calculate perimeter, area, and missing side lengths.

## ELA

Students will be beginning Unit 4 in Wonders



# FIFTH

Mr. Carosella and Mr. Russo



## Science

The current Science unit focuses on the topic of **Systems in Space**. Students will gather evidence to explain that Earth is a sphere and that gravity pulls objects toward Earth's center.

They will evaluate facts about Earth and the sky and use data to find patterns caused by the interactions between Earth, the sun, and stars. Students will apply their understanding to other Earth processes to learn how they are interconnected and work together to sustain life on Earth. They will gather evidence to explain Earth's orbit around the sun and explain how Earth's orbit and the moon's orbit cause predictable patterns, such as the seasonal changes in sunlight and the phases of the moon. Finally, students will observe characteristics of stars and use this knowledge to support an argument that the apparent brightness of the sun is due to distance from Earth.

## Math

This month in Math students will focus on decimals and fractions. Students will add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators using models and equivalent fractions. Also, students will use their knowledge of multiples to create a common denominator when solving. Students will connect their problem solving strategies to answer complex word problems. Also, students will multiply and divide decimals. Students will use their knowledge of place value and basic facts to solve word problems involving decimals and whole numbers. Please encourage students to complete 45 minutes of i-Ready each week. Please emphasize that students try their best and pass the lessons they have i-Ready.

## Language Arts/ Reading

We will be starting a new Unit in Reading , Unit 4, on Monday , February 7th. The topic we will be working on is "How do we decide what's important?" In writing students will work on planning and conducting research, synthesizing information, and communication ideas in writing and presenting. Students will be continuing to learn about matter and the three stages of matter during Science lessons. Be sure to ask your children to review their vocabulary words and also the Essential question from each week, as well as summarizing what information they have learned in class. Have a safe and happy February.



# SIXTH



Mr. Brault  
Math

This month in Math students are learning about and working with ratios. They have learned how to write ratios. They will continue to find equivalent ratios using ratio tables. Students are learning how to compare ratios, find unit rates, and solve real world problems with ratios and unit rates.

Mr. Brault  
Science

In Science students are learning about habitats and ecosystems. They are also learning about interactions between organisms and the roles that organisms play in their habitat such as producers, consumers, and decomposers.

Social Studies

Mr. Brault & Mrs. Crosby

Our unit on Asia will begin with an exploratory look into the population, numerous natural resources, varied landforms and waterways of this continent.

Reading & ELA

Mrs Crosby

In Reading students will begin Unit 3 - Turning Points, exploring how fictional characters and real people adapt and succeed when life suddenly changes direction. We will focus on Citing Textual Evidence and Point of View. Our new novel study, *Dancing Home* by Alma Flor Ada embraces the importance of family, friendship and culture.

In Language Arts students will continue to develop their writing skills with the distinct features of informative/explanatory writing, beginning with a focus on Introductions and Thesis Statements. We will continue our grammar review with punctuation usage and noun types.



# SEVENTH

Science

Mrs. Ford

Students are exploring about the declining bee population through the lens of bee communication: how they sense stimuli and communicate information to the hive. Students will observe the bee waggle dance used as a form of communication. Students research how human activities such as pesticides and cell-phone use affect bees and they identify any negative impact on bee reproduction and survival.

Reading

Mrs. Sarlo

Students have started reading the novel, *Stella by Starlight*, by Sharon M. Draper. We will be reading the book in class and at home and will have several activities relating to the story.

Mr. Thomas

Social Studies

Students will continue to study the continent of Europe. In addition to studying about Europe. The students will complete a Black History Month project focusing on the impact of specific individuals of American and/or World History.



# EIGHTH



Science

Mrs. Ford

Students will investigate the concepts of inertia and net force to understand the causes related to an object's change in position. The

students will develop a model to describe the forces and motions necessary for a successful flight using a jetpack on Earth and Space.

Reading

Mrs. Sarlo

Students have started reading the novel, When My Name was Keoko.

We will be reading the book in class and at home and will have several activities relating to the story.

Mr. Thomas

Social Studies

Students will continue to study the Articles of Confederation. In addition to studying the early American Government. The students will complete a Black History Month project focusing on the impact of specific individuals of American and/or World History.



# ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Mrs. Barbosa

## February Class Happenings

This month in Essential Skills we are 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 Pink. The Number of the month is 6. The letter of the month is “E”. We are talking about some inventors for Black History Month and learning about the Winter Olympics. We continue to work very hard on our individual objectives.



# SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Pannoni

Grades K-3

Students have been doing a great job working hard in my room. Collectively, all of my students have been reading more which is awesome! Third grade and second grade have been reading decodable stories, as well practicing good sentence writing. First grade and kindergarten has been increasing their ability to identify sight words and read simple sentences. The goal is that each student will become better and more fluent readers by the end of the school year. In math, all students have been increasing their ability to add and subtract larger numbers, as well as becoming more familiar with place value. Third graders have been practicing more multiplication facts. The goal for third grade is that many of these multiplication facts will become automatic to students by the end of the school year. Make sure if I have sent any extra practice materials or books home that students are utilizing them at least a few times a week to help improve their skills.

“And will you succeed? Yes indeed, yes indeed! Ninety-eight and three-quarters percent guaranteed!” — Dr. Seuss



Mrs. Cancellaro  
Grades 4th & 5th



Students have 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, as well as games that increase our accuracy with prefixes and suffixes. We are also practicing our multiplication fact fluency using skip counting skills. Please have your child practice at home as well.

“Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.”  
— Oprah Winfrey



# MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION



Mrs. Guisti

During the third marking period, students in Mrs. Guisti's special education classes will continue work on their decoding, Oral Reading Fluency, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Students in the 7th and 8th grades will focus a lot on how to write a paragraph using a topic sentence, text details, and a closing sentence. In math, the students continue work on mastering multiplication and division facts. Some groups of students will continue to strengthen money skills while other groups of students work on pre-algebra skills such as calculating integers.

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Mrs. Parker

Happy February! I am happy to report that we have begun state mandated LAS LINKS testing. This will be our focus for the next month. The test has 4 parts (domains) which are: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. All tests are conducted on their chromebooks. If you have any questions, please contact me via parent square. Stay warm!



# SPECIALS



Music  
Mrs. Doolan

The younger grades are having fun learning about the instrument families. They are grouped in Strings, Percussion, Woodwind and Brass. They especially love playing the drums! The 3rd and 4th Grades are learning about Dynamics and Tempos which are elements in music. The 5th and 6th Grades are studying notes and their values. With their knowledge they are playing rhythms on the African Drums and xylophones. The 7th and 8th Grades have finished up their Musicals “Hairspray” and “Phantom of the Opera”. They are now learning songs from Africa called “Siyahamba”, “Banuwa” and “Opwisana”. All classes are singing songs from the Disney movie Encanto. They love “We Don’t talk About Bruno” and “Surface Pressure”!

Art  
Ms. Hernandez

In Art we are celebrating Black History Month! PreK-3rd grade students are learning about Alma Thomas and creating a Valentine's day artwork inspired by her colorful paintings. Our focuses are rhythm, repetition, shape, and color. Grades 4 and 5 will be creating story quilt drawings inspired by Faith Ringold, our focus will be on pattern and storytelling through art. Grade 6 is learning about the history of poster making and creating a poster of choice for Black History Month along with creating an abstract Valentine's day art work focusing on line and design. Lastly, grades 7 and 8 will be creating digital collages of their choice for Black History Month some topics include: Famous Black artists, musicians, activists, authors, scholars, athletes, etc!

Mrs. Cardona  
Spanish

Prek-Grade 1 are learning numbers in Spanish and having fun dancing and singing songs in Spanish. Grades 2-5 are learning how to say when their birthdays are in Spanish. Grades 6-8 are learning basic phrases and how to introduce themselves in Spanish.

Mr. Chassion  
Physical Education

In Physical Education grades PreK-2nd are working on striking with an implement. It helps with their hand eye coordination as well as being in control of their movements. Grades 3-5 will be working on volleyball with the focus on the underhand serve, overhand serve, and the forearm pass. Grades 6-8 will be working on skills related to volleyball as well as the rules of the game and modified gameplay. Also in grades 6-8 we will begin Health. Students will spend half of their time with me in the classroom learning more about Social Emotional Learning, What is Health, as well as identifying stressors and how to cope.

Mrs. Rosa  
Library

Happy February! In Library this month, grades Pre-K to 3rd are reading about different African American figures. We will also be reading stories about the 100th day of school and President's day. Fourth and fifth graders are working hard researching and creating a Google Slide show on one African American figure. Middle school students have finished their Martin Luther King essays and started researching an African American of their choice to create a presentation on. Waterbury's public library, Silas Bronson is offering a Teen Candy Hunt for Valentine's Day on Saturday, February 12th at 12PM. Register here if interested:  
<http://www.bronsonlibrary.org/content/1588/1590/5316/6438.aspx>.

# 21st CENTURY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The 21st Century After School program at Carrington School is back in person and the students are loving it! Our program features enrichment activities for students in grades 5-8.

This month Mrs. Rosa led the students through the process in creating sequential steps in [code.org](https://code.org) to bring the Minecraft World to life. Mrs. Doolan is continuing her enrichment lessons on Native Americans and the students are creating their very own dream catchers.

Dream Big Boys & Girls! In STEM, Mr. Gagnon had the students blending lights to create colors along with using team building strategies to create structures out of planks. PAL also came to visit us and delivered an engaging presentation on gang awareness and substance abuse.

Wednesday, 2/16, will now be a half day for all students, therefore, after school will not take place. However, we will have a virtual family night that evening with The Maritime Aquarium from 5:45 pm-6:45 pm. We hope to see you there! Stay safe and warm!

The 21st Century Staff:

- Mrs. Thompson
- Mrs. Rosa
- Mr. Gagnon
- Mrs. Doolan

