



## *Carrington Cougar Times*

### **\*\*Principal's Corner\*\***

We are very proud of all the students as they have put forth great effort and have been working very hard since the beginning of the school year. First marking period report cards have just been distributed and we are very pleased with the academic strides the students have made.

We would like to welcome back *Dana Carlo* to Carrington as our Literacy facilitator. She previously was our grade one teacher, before leaving two years ago to become a Reading specialist at Washington and Reed Schools.

As the days get colder, please make sure that students dress warmly to go to school. Our building does not open its doors until 8:05, therefore please refrain from dropping your child before that time.

Karen Renna, Principal & Kristen Gwiazdoski, Vice-Principal

### **IMPORTANT.....QUICK UPDATE:**

We will no longer allow for early pickups of children between the times of 2:30-2:50pm unless it is a severe emergency. This is a very busy time for the school and office personnel as we are preparing for dismissal and the close of the school day. Please plan accordingly and send a notice with your child for the teacher if you plan to pick up your child early. We strongly advise against any early pick-ups as it is instructional time that is lost and cannot be made up. If it happens repeatedly, this time adds up. Also when picking up your child at dismissal we ask that parents remain in the car as you pull up to the pick-up area to expedite the dismissal process and keep all students safe. Therefore, we are asking that parents do not wait outside of their vehicles. We thank you for your cooperation in advance and working with us.



### **Mrs. Weed/Mrs. McCulloch and Mrs. Mauceri's Pre-K**

Our classes are learning letter identification and their sounds. As of this month we have learned the letters Ss, Pp, Tt, Oo, and Xx. This month our theme was "Our Five Senses". We explored our senses through our learning centers and our field trips. In math, we are learning our colors,

patterns, shapes, including 3D, number recognition, and counting to 20. We always encourage and foster positive interactions between classmates. This includes using oral language to express our wants and needs. Sharing, turn taking, and waiting are important goals we strive for in our classrooms.

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

Model counting by tens, using pictorial representations and finally rote counting.  
Represent and solve addition and subtraction stories within 5, then ten using objects and drawings.

**ELA**

Lower case and Upper case letter formation

ABC order

Blending and manipulating sounds (cvc words and nonsense words)

Examples: c-a-t say each sound and then blend together “cat”

n-i-f say each sound then blend together “nif”

“cat” now replace the “c” with a “n”, “nat”

“bat” now replace the “e” with a “t”, “bit”

“cat” now replace the “t” with an “n”, “can”

**Kindergarten activities**

Polar Express monthly reward

Students may wear pajamas to school and bring their favorite stuffed animal. We will watch “The Polar Express” and enjoy some hot chocolate and candy canes.

\*\*\*\*\*Please continue to work on teaching your child how to tie their shoes. Thank You!

**Grade 1**  
**Mrs. Boivin Mrs. Baker**

We have begun Unit 2, What Makes A Story, in Language Arts. We are focusing on what all the parts (story elements) of a story are. We will visit new places, new characters and learn how to solve problems. We know that authors often write stories to teach a lesson. Our discussions include appropriate vocabulary, feelings and emotions. With this knowledge and understanding, we hope that our first graders will be able to create effective stories including all the story elements independently.

In Foundations, students will identify, “mark-up” and decode words with bonus letters, digraphs, and glued sounds. We will continue to stress proper sentence structure which includes correct punctuation and capitalization.

In Math, we are beginning to explore place value by representing and comparing two-digit numbers. Students will be solving for the unknown in addition and subtraction story problems. Students are gaining experience with Exemplars. They are learning step-by-step problem solving skills. Those skills will allow us to dig deeper into story problems and apply all our mathematical strategies.

**Grade 2 Grade-Level Summary**  
**Mrs. Thompson & Mrs. Fusco**

In ELA, second graders will be reading nonfiction texts to prepare them for their project on wild animals. We will be learning about different text features, such as: diagrams, captions, tables of content, and glossaries. We will also practice how to read short paragraphs and explain what the author wants us to learn. Remember to read with your child for 20 minutes every night!

In Math, second graders will be expanding numbers and learning how to solve word problems. We will be adding 2-digit numbers both with & without regrouping, therefore, make sure you and your child are practicing math facts at home!

### **Grade 3 Mrs. Ciccone, Mr. Gagnon**

Third graders will be discussing themes of different stories across a variety of genres, including fictional narrative, informational, and biographies. We'll be developing map skills and learning about continents and oceans, in math, students will be increasing knowledge of calculating area, including rectilinear shapes' areas and area word problems, as well as continuing to master multiplication facts up to one hundred.

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

Grade 4 will continue to gain familiarity with factors, multiples, and prime or composite numbers. We will also begin to generate equivalent fractions and represent fractions with denominators of 10 as equivalent fractions with denominators of 100. In Language Arts, grade 4 will review narrative story elements, as well as make inferences and make connections about how conflicts in a character's life changes their character traits and identity.

### **Grade 5 Ms. Hanley, Mr. Mollengarden, Mr. Carosella**

This marking period 5<sup>th</sup> grade is studying biographies and autobiographies for Language Arts and Reading. By the end of the marking period, students will know how to write effective biographies and autobiographies using their knowledge of each. For math, students are currently focusing on multiplying fractions and whole numbers by using a variety of strategies. The four main strategies include: creating a model, drawing a number line, using repeated addition and by using a standard algorithm. At the end of this month, students who reached their peak 80% of the month will attend their class's monthly reward. Miss Hanley's class will earn extra recess time, Mr. Mollengarden's class will be playing basketball in the gym and Mr. Carosella's class will be participating in Sports D. So far this marking period, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been working hard and we all hope to see them at our end of the month PBIS rewards.

### **Grade 6 Mr. Brault**

Over the next six weeks or so students in grade six will be learning more about fractions, whole numbers, and decimals in math class. Students are currently learning how to divide with fractions. They are creating models/drawings to make a rather abstract concept a little more concrete and easier to understand. They are learning how to divide whole numbers by fractions, fractions by whole numbers, and fractions by fractions.

Students will also be working with the standard algorithm for division. That means they will be learning how to do long division the "old" way. This will be done with both whole number and

decimal dividends and divisors. They will also be focusing on adding, subtracting, and multiplying with decimals.

Students will spend some time investigating multiples and factors of numbers. We will be delving into positive and negative numbers on number lines and the impact a positive or negative has on location in the coordinate plane.

This will all be done so that our students will, in the end, become better problem solvers than they currently are. All of the material covered is not done in isolation, students need to be able to solve real world problems that involve applying the many different concepts they are working with. The ultimate goal is that they are able to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, regardless of the concept needed to solve the problem.

### **Grade 6 Mrs. Piccirillo**

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies we will be continuing our studies of the Eastern Hemisphere. Our focus will be on the culture, geography, climate, and history of South Asia, Central Asia, and Southwest Asia.

In English Language Arts (ELA), we are working on plot structure and other elements of the narrative. We are reading short stories and novels to help us identify the exposition, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution in the fictional works.

Along with the stories we are learning new vocabulary and writing brief pieces to demonstrate understanding of new words in context. We are also transitioning into nonfiction text by reading about a topic used as fiction and nonfiction. Our informational writing will be accomplished by conducting research using the internet and texts from our library.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies- Geography Mr. Thomas**

In Social Studies for the month of November, Students will be examining the elements of culture. Customs, Arts/Sports, Religion, Government, Economy, Language, History, and Groups within all of these elements help to cultivate culture. These are themes that the students will revisit throughout the remainder of the school year with each region of study. In addition to the analysis of culture, the class will examine different economic systems which are present in world.

Important questions like (what makes a culture unique? How is culture a part of your life? Why do people make economic choices? How do the world's economies interact and affect one another? ) are big idea questions that allow the students to take educational chances to understand the topics. The classes will also follow the Presidential debates that are taking place during the month of November so that the students will become more civic-minded individuals.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies- U.S. History Mr. Thomas**

In Social Studies for the month of November, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will examine the colonization of North America; specifically the colonies of Jamestown, VA and the New England Colonies. The students will compare/contrast the reasons why the settlers came to Jamestown and the colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colony. Important questions like (How does geography influence the way people live? Why did the settlement of Jamestown succeed? How do ideas change the way people live? What role did religion play in founding the various colonies?) lead the students to draw connections between the creation of each of the colonies as well as the expansion of the United States as we know it today. The classes will also follow the Presidential

debates that are taking place during the month of November so that the students will become more civic-minded individuals.

### **Writing: Ms. Ragette**

Grade 8 ELA/Writing:

In grade eight English and language arts, we are currently focusing on literary elements including setting, plot, characterization, conflict, point of view, and theme. For every story or article we read, we complete a reading checklist to reinforce independent reading skills and good reading habits. We also label a plot diagram with the most significant events that take place throughout the short stories we read. Our class is also learning about literary devices including symbols, irony, similes, and metaphors, and we are able to explain how these features enhance the text. These literary devices will help us to understand the text we read as well as aid us in our writing abilities. We are currently finishing up the final revisions of our high school application essays, and have been making frequent trips to the computer lab to ensure that we have enough time to complete them by their due dates.

### **Grade 7 Science Mrs. Ford**

We have studied the building blocks for all living things leading to the miraculous human body. We have covered the skeletal, muscular, digestive system, and will make our way through the entire body. As we go we learn about organs, organ functions, the function of the system, and how the systems work together. This unit will be culminated with body system presentations.

### **Grade 8 Science Mrs. Ford**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade has begun a unit on Astronomy. We are learning about gravity, seasons, phases of the moon, eclipses, and tidal changes. The students are really enjoying this unit as they look at the moon each evening and report what they have seen.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are also given an assignment to look for science in the world and report to the class. We have learned about concussions from a segment on 60 minutes, electronic skin, and global warming.

### **Grade 7 ELA/Writing Mrs. Sarlo**

Grade 7 is diligently working on interpreting text and drawing conclusions from non-fiction texts. The texts focus on the plight of lions. We will also practice using newly acquired vocabulary to help us better understand what we read.

Writing: In grade seven writing, we are working on our argumentative essays, which include refutation paragraphs. We are currently in the drafting stage, and will conduct peer and teacher editing and revising sessions during the writing process. We are focusing on finding evidence to support our thesis statements in order to build a strong case throughout our essays. We have also been focusing on our individual goals to improve our writing skills, and we keep these goals in mind during the writing process. Together as a class, we have practiced writing skills including paragraph structure, comma usage, and will be focusing on subject-verb agreement, sentence structure, and parts of speech

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Mr. Hernandez**

Module Title: Ratio and Proportional Relationships

Conceptual Lens: Comparisons and Predictions

Unit Overview:

The sneakers you want to buy cost \$50 and are on sale for 20% off. How much will you pay? This is a question that can be answered using proportional relationships. In this unit we will investigate how to solve problems involving topics such as sale prices, blueprints, maps, recipes, tax and much more.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Mr. Hernandez**

Module Title: Expressions and Equations (Linear Equations)

Conceptual Lens: Linear Interpretations

Unit Overview:

Algebra allows us to find patterns in calculations and number relationships and use them to predict solutions to an infinite amount of situations in real-life. A function is a specific type of equation that relates how one amount affects another. For example, your paycheck is affected by the number of hours worked or distance traveled is affected by speed or time. Once we know how these amounts are related mathematically, we can predict outcomes for any value.

### **Essential Skills: Mrs. Barbosa**

This month in Essential Skills we learned about Thanksgiving and about the Pilgrims coming to America on a boat called the Mayflower. We made apple sauce and learned to measure and pour with assistance. We continue to work on our individual objectives and becoming independent with our skills.

### **ESL: Mrs.Madera**

We are currently working on Opinion Writing! We are discussing different topics such as healthy habits, sports, and seasons to formulate our opinions and support them with reasons and details. Outlines and graphic organizers are helping us to organize and develop our ideas!

### **Mrs. Cancellaro- Special Education & Miss Geary- Speech Pathologist**

Focus Area: Students will read and respond using evidence from different sources.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been working on research and writing skills. We completed group readings and discussions on natural disasters and their devastating effects. After discussions, students answered comprehension questions and identified key facts about Tornadoes and Tsunamis. Students explored their topic on the computer and wrote down interesting facts to use in a written piece. Informational paragraphs were then constructed using their notes from different sources. The culminating activity was to present their work using visuals on the smartboard.

**Guidance Corner:**

Lynn Ogilvy, School Counselor, met with middle school parents for an information session about Naviance and high school planning including training/instruction for parent use. She is requesting all applications be submitted to her by December 1<sup>st</sup> for all high schools. She is presenting lessons about topics such as bullying, career preparation and empathy to grades k-8.

Diana Gavrilis, School Psychologist, created an informational area with resources for parents to support students with disabilities. She has been meeting with students to complete evaluations to determine students in need of special education services. She is currently working on corporative group play and improving communication skills.

Renee Sileo-Pettway, School Social Worker, facilitated the PUMAS Club. These are a group of ambassador type of students that are model students/peer mentors. She also assists with the Carrington Events Newsletter that is distributed school wide with important dates and highlights of upcoming events. She is working with students on matters such as social skills, positive self-esteem and anger management.

The Support Center is the location where students Check-in and Check-out daily to assist them with improving their overall school behavior through positive reinforcement and interpersonal contact.

The following are the high school application deadlines:

Waterbury Career Academy -December 11<sup>th</sup>

Southington Agriculture and Science High School- December 16<sup>th</sup>

Kennedy Soar-December 1<sup>s</sup>

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

"We have been very busy learning and moving in Physical Education! Grades Pre-K-1 continue to work on locomotor skills (walking, running, galloping, skipping, sliding, leaping, hopping and jumping) and spatial awareness through fun games and activities. Gr. 2, 3, 4 and 5 perfected their overhand and underhand throwing/rolling skills with games of ghost dodge ball, battleship and pumpkin smash. The middle school students finished a Team Handball unit and are currently presenting games that they created with groups to the class. "

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

Carrington students, from Kindergarten through 8th grade, are all involved with learning about and making music. Depending on their grade levels, they are having musical experiences that range from singing, learning to read rhythms, simple movements and dance, and playing percussion instruments to playing jazzy pieces on recorders. They are being exposed to music from Native Americans, such as the Sioux and Karok nations, and the American Appalachian folk traditions. Some of them are learning percussion ensemble pieces and mixed ensembles with voices, recorders, drums, jingle bells, and glockenspiels. Some are learning to play conga drums, shakers, guiros, and cowbells and learning to play "in the groove." All Carrington students are developing their cognitive skills and physical coordination through music.

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

This month students in the media center are using a variety of resources to conduct research. Grade 4 is learning about the Nutmeg state namely Connecticut. Grade 5 is researching and

creating power points about France. Grades K and 1 are learning about our holiday books and about Thanksgiving. Grades 7-8 have been using eBooks and writing in their journals about what they read. Grade 6 students are working to create personal growth goals to put into Naviance. Students in all grade levels are selecting books for pleasure and information.

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

During November the students focused most of their efforts on Native American Indian culture. In kindergarten the students created dream catchers using paper plates and yarn in order to make a colorful design. First grade students worked on making Indian shields utilizing symbols to represent nature and Native American ideas. The second graders accomplished the task of making pottery bowls in earth tone colors. Third grade classes completed origami cups, hats and fortune teller folding's. Using sticks, fourth grade students made totem poles. They added lively faces and shapes to represent a variety of different woodland creatures. Fifth graders created a still life consisting of bottles focusing on creating a realistic design. Students in sixth grade used cartoon effects and exclamations such as "POW", "CRUNCH", "BANG", etc. to create brightly colored designs. In seventh grade, the students worked on creating an interesting menu to describe simulated food plates that we anticipate will be completed by the end of November. Lastly, eight graders made origami accordion books and added creative marbled paper to make the covers.

### **CARRINGTON PTO NEWS**

Please join in the next PTO planning meeting on Monday, Nov.30 from 1:30-2:30 or at night from 7-8pm. *(Come to the meeting that fits your schedule)*

#### **Upcoming opportunity's to volunteer:**

- The Holiday Shop will run Tuesday, Dec. 2nd -Friday, Dec. 4th  
\*\* Students shop for gifts for family and friends (.50-\$10.00)
- The next Family Night will be on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30pm
- Monday, Dec 21- Hot Cocoa Day – students will enjoy a little holiday spirit.  
\*\*\*To volunteer please contact Robyn O'Neill (Parent Liaison) at the school or by emailing [roneill@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:roneill@waterbury.k12.ct.us)

#### **Upcoming Events & Reminders:**

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> Early Dismissal 1:05
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House 5-7pm
- December 9<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal 1:05
- December 15<sup>th</sup> Family Night 6-7:30pm
- December 18<sup>th</sup> Winter Concert

### **From the Nurse's Corner:**

#### **Be a germ Buster and Stay Healthy:**

- Don't Share Germs!! Stay home if you are ill to prevent spreading sickness to classmates
- Get plenty of rest
- Wash your hands often
- Eat healthy meals & snacks
- Exercise 60 minutes per day



Happy Holidays to you and your family!

