

Cougar Tracks

Parent Newsletter

Distributed the 1st Thursday of Every Month



Carson Elementary School
5420 East First Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80220
Phone: 303-355-7316 TTY: 720-424-9116 Fax: 720-424-9115

Upcoming Events

September

- 4 CSC Meeting
- 11 PTA Meeting
- 19 Professional/Plan Day No School for Students
- 25 Character Education Meeting

2008 - 2009 CSC

PARENTS

Norma Baron
Michael Culhane
Robert MacLaren
Anne McCord

Business/Community

Catherine Hance

Teachers

Darby DeGroat
Dawn Goodner
Angela Hanning
Cheryl Osgood

Classified

Judy Yazdi

Principal

Gwen Henderson-Gethers

Principal's Message

The 2008 - 2009 year is underway and we are off to a great start. The students and staff are already bonding and working toward a great school year. We have new staff members as well as new family members who we welcome to the Carson community. Parents, I do not take your choice to come to Carson for granted. I appreciate that you spend time to select a school that you believe to be the best place for your child's academic success. Thank you for choosing Carson. As your child's principal, I will continue my work to create an environment conducive to maximizing academic and social success for all students.

As a staff, we are committed to supporting your children to help them thrive in all areas. We want to be in

partnership with you to ensure our best for all students. You are your child's first teacher. What we do is not possible without your ongoing support.

This year to enhance the character education program and monitor student behavior in a more productive way, we will be engaged in the Positive Behavior Support program (PBS). This program is done in many of the Denver Public Schools. The program will help us focus on the positive attributes of our students. It is always so easy to focus on the negative. We want to spend more energy on the positive. The discipline committee along with the staff has spent time developing the attributes for our particular program at Carson. You

may have already heard your child state, "Show me Three" This phrase will be used to help our students think about the character traits, Respect, Responsibility and Kindness. Although we will continue our focus on all seven character traits, these three will be an ongoing reminder for students as it relates to behavior. Our students are off to a great start and more than willing to express that they are working to show respect, responsibility and kindness always. You can help us by reiterating this at home.

I am excited about this year and the many wonderful opportunities ahead of us. There will be challenges at times, but I am confident that as a school community we can conquer all goals. I invite you to be an intricate part of our school community this year by being involved. Please feel free to stop by to visit our students in action throughout the year.

Meal Charging Policy

Any student who forgets or loses his/her money may charge up to \$5.00. Prior to this limit being reached, a written notice will be given to the student to notify the parent. If payment for charges is not received the next school day, an alternate meal will be served. If charges are still not paid after two days, a nutritious snack will be served instead of a meal. In all cases, charges must be paid back. Please feel free to send a check made out to Carson lunchroom to cover charges for an extended amount. You can also visit the DPS website at dpsk12.org to pay on line.

***The PTA IS ONE WAY
YOU CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE FOR
NOT ONLY YOUR
CHILD, BUT FOR ALL
CARSON STUDENTS.***

Volunteers Welcome

Carson welcomes volunteers to work with students and support teachers throughout the day. In your registration packet you received a volunteer application from the PTA. If you have not completed and returned the form, please do so as soon as possible. This year, a parent volunteer has been assigned to each classroom. You will hear from the liaison via phone or email. If you do not wish to be contacted by the parent liaison, please let your child's teacher know. You can also let the parent liaison know as soon as you hear who it is. We want to respect your wishes.

The Office of Volunteer Services in the Denver Public Schools provides volunteer orientation for all parents and non-parent volunteers. This is a new training that is designed to orientate and train volunteers to work effectively with DPS students. Topics include: DPS Mission, Policies, and Making the most of your volunteer experience.

The 2008-2009 schedule is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday, September 8 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, September 10 | 11:00 - noon |
| Friday, October 10 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, October 22 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, November 5 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. |
| Thursday, November 13 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, December 4 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. |
| Monday, December 15 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. |

All trainings are held at
Crofton Elementary School
2409 Arapahoe Street
Library

RSVP Required
720-424-8245 or
Brenda_Vasquez@dpsk12.org

**CHARACTER
EDUCATION**
Denver Public Schools
Carson Elementary

*Respect
Responsibility
Kindness
Tolerance
Perseverance
Integrity
Courage*

**“We are proud students,
involved parents,
committed educators and
a caring staff. We are a
warm welcoming
community offering a
safe, nurturing and
challenging environment.
Our children are
comfortable growing,
learning and celebrating
differences with
consistency, honesty,
responsibility, kindness
and respect.”**

***Professional/Plan
Day
No School for
Students
September 19***

***Show Me Three
Respect
Responsibility
Kindness***

**Parents Encouraging
Parents Workshop**
Colorado Department of
Education

November 6 - 8, 2008 Vail
February 26 - 28, 2009
Colorado Springs

For more information, please
visit
[http://www.cde.state.co.us/
cdesped/PEP.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp)

Clothes Needed

Please send clean used
clothes to support students
needing a change at Carson.
We are greatly in need of
pants for younger students.
Underwear is needed as well,
however, we can only accept
newly packaged underwear.
Your donation can be
dropped off in the main office
and is greatly appreciated.

Student Absences

Parents, please call the school
at 303-355-7316 when your
child will not be attending
school. This will help us
monitor students and keep us
from calling you to check on
your child. We want to
ensure the safety of all Carson
students.

Character Education

It is great to be back in school and see so many familiar faces...and even more exciting to meet so many new friends! Our first Character Education Committee meeting was held on August 28th. We gathered to begin our discussions on how we see our work coming together this year. Last year our committee parents discussed at length, our individual character traits each month during their classroom discussions. The students participated in group activities and lively discussions around our character traits and how we can all put these traits into action through continued celebration of our differences with the support of our warm, welcoming community. This year we will continue our focus on our character traits through our Carson Touchstone and the backbone it provides within our community.

In addition to classroom discussions, our committee plans community meetings and celebrations encouraging student interaction between all classes and grade levels. We plan quarterly Character Education assemblies, maintain a Cougar Bucks reward program, coordinate 5th Grade continuation events, support Service Learning initiatives in the classrooms and purchase books for the Character Education section in our Carson Library. Please consider joining us at our next Character Education meeting.

Character Education touches everyone and lasts a lifetime. Be apart of this exciting work and witness, first hand, what an amazing community we have here at Carson.

Carson's Character Education Committee meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00pm in the Library. Our next meeting date is September 25th. Looking forward to seeing you!

Medication at School

District policy states, "Medication will be given when a parent specifically makes a request and completes the Student Medication Request Release Agreement/Physicians Order for Medication. A new request must be initiated for each medication order. This includes changes in medication, dose and time. No medications shall be self administered in grades ECE through fifth."

Medication **will not** be administered without the completion of the appropriate paperwork as noted by the parent. If you should have any questions, please call Angela Farina, LPN who is available at Carson every Tuesday and Thursday. Jean Lyons, RN can be reached at 303-764-3860.

Parents, please do not give medications to students to bring to school. It is very important that you bring in the medication yourself. This ensures the safety of all students.

PTA Notebook

Welcome back to Carson Elementary! The Carson PTA is excited to work with you to create a fantastic year together for our children and our school. The PTA brings parents and teachers together not only to raise money for important projects that benefit Carson but also to plan terrific programs for our children. Please consider joining the PTA and getting involved in any possible way. We have great volunteer opportunities for everyone and we appreciate everything our parents do for Carson. And, your kids will love to see you get involved.

Here are just a few of the fabulous upcoming PTA events:

DONUTS FOR DADS: Friday September 5th. 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Drop your kids off on the Carson playground and come meet other dads while sipping coffee and enjoying delicious donuts. This first time event is sure to become an annual tradition at school.

CARSON PTA MEETING: Thursday, September 11th. 6:30 p.m.

The PTA meets each month in the Carson library. Please join us at this meeting to find out more about the PTA and how you can get involved. Scrumptious snacks are served and the babysitting is FREE.

MOMS NIGHT OUT: Wednesday, September 24th. 6:30 p.m.

If the dads get donuts, then surely the moms deserve our own special night on the town. More details will follow about this fun event.

CARSON SILENT AUCTION: Saturday, November 15th, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Silent Auction is one fantastic event that you will not want to miss! Not only is it a fun night out for parents, it is also the biggest PTA fundraiser of the year. Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000 to purchase a mobile computer lab for the school. You will hear a lot about the Silent Auction in the next few weeks. There are many ways for you to get involved with the Silent Auction and be sure to mark your calendars and get ready to have some fun. Contact Jane Tobias for more information.

TUESDAY TREATS FOR TEACHERS: ongoing on a weekly basis.

Here at Carson we like to show our teachers how much we appreciate them throughout the year. What better way to say thanks than with homemade baked goods and other terrific treats. Contact Tracey Pliskin if you would like to bring in a treat one week. We schedule 2-3 volunteers each week and the teachers really do love the treats.

Please feel free to contact Tracey Pliskin at 303-340-1777 or traceypliskin@hotmail.com if you have any questions about upcoming events or about the Carson PTA. We truly appreciate our parent volunteers and we know that working with the PTA is a rewarding and fun experience for everyone.