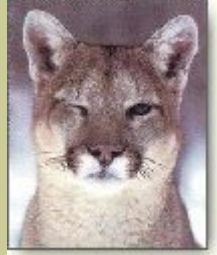


Cougar Tracks

Parent Newsletter

Distributed the 1st Thursday of Every Month



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

Upcoming Events

October

- 2 CSC Meeting
- 3 Carson Blood Drive
- 6 Picture Day
- 16 PTA Meeting
- 22 & 23 Parent/Teacher conferences
- 28 Literacy Parade
- 29 Professional Day
- 30 & 31 Fall Break

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

A great big THANK YOU to all of you who attended this year's Back To School Night. We had a great turn out. We value your time and do appreciate you making time to come and learn about the expectations of your child's class for this school year. If you have not returned your Back To School survey and would like to, please feel free to send it in with your child.

September was a very busy time at school and we are back into the swing of school. The students are well into their rituals and routines and have started their efforts to ensure success for themselves. The teachers are meeting in teams and as a staff to look at data and plan instruction that will also help students be successful.

Parent conferences have been scheduled for this month. It

is always our goal to have 100% of our parents attend conferences to discuss student progress. Please review the enclosed information and respond as soon as possible. All conferences are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. If you are unable to attend during conference nights, please let your child's teacher know.

Carson will hold it's annual Literacy Parade on Tuesday, October 28. The parade is an opportunity for students to show off a Book Character in costume from a favorite book. All students are expected to carry the book depicting their character during the parade. Students are not allowed to wear scary masks or carry anything that emulates a weapon in any way. If either of these items are a

part of your child's costume, please do not send it to school. It is our intent to focus on literacy. The parade will start at 2:00. All parents are invited to come and watch. Treats are often brought to school on this day. Please note that it is district policy to bring only store bought items that are wrapped. Also, some classes do have Peanut Allergy signs posted outside of the class and we ask that you be mindful of this. It is always a good idea to check with your child's teacher regarding other allergies.

Thanks to everyone for ensuring that your child was in school on October 1. October 1 is the official membership count for all Colorado public schools ; the source of approximately 90% of the district's revenue. We are aware that some students were not able to be here and we appreciate you letting us know ahead of time.

Highly Gifted Information Night

If you would like to learn about the Highly Gifted program offered here at Carson, please plan to attend the informational night on Tuesday, October 14 at 6:30. Barb Neyrinck

from the Gifted Talented (GT) office will be presenting and available to answer questions. The deadline for returning applications for your child to be considered for the

program is **November 3**. These applications must reach the GT office by this date. Testing to qualify students will begin in January after the Winter Break.

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

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.”

Picture Day

October 6, 2008

***Parent Conferences
Wednesday
October 22
&
Thursday
October 23***

Parents Encouraging Parents Conference (PEP)

This conference is family centered, designed to offer support, information and education to parents and professionals.

Conference Dates

**November 6 - 8
Vail, CO**

**February 26 - 28
Colorado Springs, CO**

PEP conferences are available to persons residing in Colorado who have a child with a disability , ages birth to 21.

Go online to:
www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEPapplication.asp

Bringing the Fun Back into Parenting with Dr. Joanna Stith - Sponsored by The Listen Foundation

Learn how to use empathy and natural consequences to decrease frustration. Decrease power struggles while building the parent-child relationship.

Dr. Stith is a certified Love and Logic instructor and a Listen Therapist sponsored by The Listen Foundation

**October 23rd
6:30 – 8:30
Bethany Lutheran Church
Room 210
4500 E. Hampden Ave.
Cherry Hills Village, CO**

Please RSVP to Pat at 303-781-9440

Denver Public Schools Host Middle School Open House

Denver Public Schools will host a Middle School, High School and Magnet School Expo at the Museum of Nature and Science. The purpose is to promote the district’s middle and high school programs to students in Denver and beyond who will enter grade six and nine in 2009.

**November 3
6:30 - 8:30
Museum of Nature and Science**

Meet New Carson Staff Members

Linda Olds - Reading Intervention Teacher

I would like to introduce myself to the Carson Community. I am Linda Olds and I will be the reading interventionist to help support classroom teachers with students who are facing reading challenges.

My career of the past twenty eight years as an educator has been wonderfully diverse. I taught in special education for nine years, traditional elementary classrooms for 11 years and have been involved with literacy for seven years. I enjoy working with groups of students to move them forward in their literacy.

I have one high school

daughter named Hannah, a husband named Tom, and two cats named Venus and Mars.

When I’m not working, you’ll find me reading, getting together with friends, gardening, hiking, skiing, scuba diving, traveling, or driving my teenage daughter around (until next year when she is able to drive...yikes)!

I welcome the opportunity to meet you and your children. It’s going to be a great year working at such a great school.

Ardeth Stitt - Social Worker

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and I

a Licensed Drug Counselor (CAC III). Additionally, I am a Certified Adoption Therapist. I have worked for Denver Public Schools for eight years in an alternative program for middle/high school students who have been placed there in lieu of expulsion. Prior to DPS I worked at Denver Juvenile Probation and in the Telecommunications industry for twenty years. I am on the Board of the Center for Safe Schools and Communities and The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ). Additionally, I am thrilled to be here at Carson Elementary and to get to know the population of students and parents in this community. I am at Carson every Thursday and Friday.

Character Education

Our Character Education classroom discussions began in September. A parent volunteer from the Character Education committee has been assigned to one or more classrooms at Carson. These parents go into their assigned classrooms each month to do an activity with the kids around our Carson Touchstone and the character traits. The focus for September was to introduce and/or review the Carson Touchstone with the students. The focus for the October and November discussions will be around tolerance. It is important that Carson students understand and are accepting of our diverse population at Carson. Please ask your child about the character education classroom discussions.

Our first Character Education Assembly will be Friday, October 3rd at 9:00 am. We are hoping to have the assembly outside (weather permitting). This first assembly will welcome all the kids back to school and personally acknowledge all of the new kids to Carson. Each class will have the opportunity to show the other classes how many character links they have earned so far this year. Kids earn character links when they “show me three” – respect, responsibility, and kindness. Students earn Cougar Bucks for demonstrating one of our other character traits: tolerance, perseverance, integrity, and courage. If your child comes home with a Character Counts sticker ask them about their good deed of the day.

Carson’s Character Education Committee typically meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the library. Our next meeting date has been changed due to parent/teacher conferences. Our next meeting will be **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th** at 5:00 p.m. in the library. We hope to see you there!

New Staff Continued

Holly Jordan - First Grade Teacher

Hi! I’m Holly Jordan, the new first grade teacher at Carson Elementary. A little over a month at school and I feel so fortunate to be at a school with such excellent students and parents! I graduated from UNC in Greeley and am happy to be spending my first year teaching at Carson. When I’m not in the classroom, I love to plan trips and travel. I also love living in Colorado and try to make it up to the mountains at every chance. Thanks for welcoming me into this outstanding community. I’m looking forward to continuing the great year ahead!

Carey Nork - 4/5 Teacher

Hello Carson Families! I cannot tell you how excited I am to join such a wonderful community. Please allow me to introduce myself. I grew up on the Western Slope of Colorado in the once small town of Montrose. I grew up helping on my family’s farm,

riding 4-wheelers, camping, running away from disgruntled chickens, and loving school. While my family still lives in Montrose, I moved away when I went to college. I completed my undergraduate degree at CSU majoring in Business Administration and Finance. Upon graduation, I spent nearly 5 years in banking and financial/credit analysis. While I loved my career, I also knew it wasn’t the perfect fit for me. After a lot of planning and thought, I decided to go back to school for my original dream job; teaching. I attended the University of Colorado at Denver for my initial teaching license. I spent last spring teaching 5th grade at another DPS school and I am so excited to be at Carson this year.

Outside of school, I love taking my Beagle, Sadie, for walks so she can chase all the neighborhood squirrels. Over this past summer, I married my best friend, Matt, in Avon, CO. He and I love to go to the mountains, camp, hike, take road trips, travel,

read and more recently, remodel kitchens.

I am looking forward to this year and being a part of a school that has such high standards for its staff and students. Thank you for such a warm welcome!

Danielle Cavallaro - Speech Pathologist

I am the new Speech-Language Pathologist at Carson and this is my first year with Denver Public Schools. I am a former Teacher of the Deaf, teaching for three years at the K/1st grade level in Colorado Springs School District Eleven. I also taught 5th grade for one year at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf. I recently graduated from the University of Colorado-Boulder with a degree in Speech-Language Pathology and I am excited to be at Carson this year!

PTA Notebook

The start of the school year has been fantastic with many successful PTA-sponsored events. Thanks so much to the numerous volunteers who have made everything possible with our programs:

Donuts For Dads and Moms Night Out were two terrific programs that parents truly enjoyed. We will definitely host another donut extravaganza next year while the Moms believe we should go out together every month. We'll see about that one.

Garden Clean Up Day: Many thanks to the 50+ parent and student volunteers who worked so hard to clean up the gardens. The south entrance into the schoolyard and the Kindergarten playground look fresh and fantastic. We hope to host another school wide clean up day in the spring so look for more information later.

PTA Membership Campaign: We had another successful campaign this year and the kids will have a blast at their ice cream and popcorn parties on October 3rd. Congratulations to all the classrooms and parents! Though the parties have ended, you can join PTA anytime this year to support our school and the PTA.

October 16th PTA Meeting: the meeting has been changed this month to the Third Thursday due to a schedule conflict. Join us at 6:30 in the Carson Library. Babysitting is free and the meeting is informative and fun, to say the least.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Noodles Night: Join us for a delicious and easy dinner out on Friday, November 10th. Noodles & Co. will donate 25% of your total order to Carson so don't forget to bring in the flyer in your Thursday folder. Come anytime between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. and just let Noodles know you are with Carson. We hope to take over the restaurant again and fill it with tons of hungry and happy Carson families. So skip the cooking and join us.

Sally Foster: We had a fun kick-off assembly to energize the kids and get them involved in this fundraiser for the general PTA expense fund. Your support of this program goes a long way in supporting our school and we appreciate it. Orders are due October 10th. Contact Tammy Ruterbories at 303-956-6866 if you can help organize orders on October 10th and distribute products when they arrive.

Silent Auction: We are on our way to having another smashing success this year! Here are a few key points to remember:

- Donations are due October 17th.
- Ads in the catalog are a great way to advertise your business to the Carson community. Buy one for yourself and/or sell one to a business you frequent.
- Line up the sitter now for November 15th. It is one night out you will not want to miss because it is a blast. Tickets will go on sale in October.
- Get involved with the event now by volunteering your time, working on class projects, making a cash donation to cover costs, or donating a service, product or gift card.

Wende Abrahm is currently looking for volunteers to help with the class projects. Contact Wende at 303-321-2250 if you would like to help or donate supplies.

Paraprofessional Support: Ms. Rita Cionitti and Ms. Tracey Pascoe have been hired as paraprofessionals to support the first grade classes. Both Ms. Santambrogio and Ms. Jordan have large classes this year. These paraprofessionals will work in the class with the teachers throughout the school day. With this additional support, the student - teacher ratio will be less and the students will be able to receive the guidance needed to ensure maximum growth. We appreciate all of the parents who have been coming in to help out in the class. Your time is greatly appreciated and we look forward to your ongoing support.