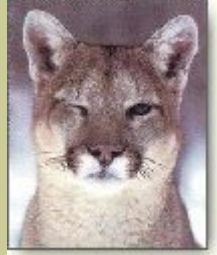


Cougar Tracks

Parent Newsletter

Distributed the 1st Thursday of Every Month



Upcoming Events

November

- 5 Parent Math Night
- 6 CSC Meeting
- 10 Veteran's Day - No School
- 13 PTA Meeting
- 17 Scholastic Book Fair Begins
- 19 Picture Re-Take Day
- 20 Grandparents' Luncheon
- 20 Character Education Meeting
- 26 - 28 Thanksgiving Intermission

2008 - 2009 CSC

PARENTS

- Norma Barron
- Michael Culhane
- Robert MacLaren
- Anne McCord

Business/Community

- Catherine Hance

Teachers

- Darby DeGroat
- Dawn Goodner
- Angela Hanning
- Cheryl Osgood

Classified

Principal

- Gwen Henderson-Gethers

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

Principal's Message

Parents, you are already aware of the late start days that will take place this school year. These late start days are a result of the agreement between the Denver Classroom Teacher Association and the Denver Public Schools. There are five late start days as follows: Friday, December 12, Wednesday, January 14, Thursday, February 12, Tuesday, April 21 and Friday, May 15. Please mark these very important dates on your calendar.

These days will provide critical staff development time. This valuable time will enable us to engage in discussion about student work and data. We will discuss how to implement best practices to meet the needs of students. Teachers will be able to share ideas and strategies that support each other's work in the classroom. The ongoing progress monitoring of students will be a valuable part of this discussion as well. We want to ensure academic success for all students and I know having time to plan and share will in part enable us to be successful in our work with students.

In early October, all third,

fourth and fifth grade teachers met with me to look at student data. With the support of the district Network Specialists, we were able to breakdown and review CSAP (Spring, 2008) and Benchmark (Fall, 2008) data to determine next steps for students. The Instructional Superintendent also spent time with us looking at and discussing student work. Together, we spent an entire day looking at the data and discussing the outcomes as well as next steps to guide our third, fourth and fifth grade students.

Substitute teachers covered the classrooms of the teachers in the meeting. The teachers left detailed lesson plans for their substitute to ensure that the work in the class would not be interrupted. As a result of this day, groups of students were formed to meet with the Literacy Intervention teacher to enhance the work done in the classroom.

A data day is planned this month as well for all teachers of grades one and two to look at student progress thus far and discuss next steps. Again, we will have the support of the district

Network Specialists.

As many of you are aware, we have a committed staff of teachers who put in a lot of hours to ensure success for their students. Many teachers work late into the evening to plan and prepare for the children at Carson. It is my hope that by having these extra days to plan, we can alleviate some of the long evenings spent by many staff members.

Please note that school will start three hours later on the late start days. For Carson, that means that school will start at **11:55**. The students can arrive only ten minutes before the actual start time. There will not be supervision on the playground before this time. Kaleidoscope will not be available on these days either. I realize that this may be a hardship to those of you who work, but I am confident that your child will benefit from the time that teachers will have to work together. If you should have any further questions regarding these late start days, please refer to the packet sent home on Thursday, October 16. You can also refer to the district website, www.dpsk12.org and of course, always feel free to give us a call. **The first late start day is December 12.**

***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.”**

***Veteran’s Day
No School
Monday,
November 10***

***Thanksgiving
Intermission***

***Wednesday - Friday
November 26 - 28***

Carson’s Attendance Trails District

According to the Student Performance Framework distributed by the Denver Public Schools, Carson Scored one out of three possible points for Attendance. This data is generated from the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 school years. The “Stoplight” on the district Scorecard as it is called gives a grade (if you will) for Exceeds, Meets, Approaching and Does Not Meet. Carson received a grade of Approaching which indicates that “The school’s average student attendance rate was below the district’s average attendance rate, but above the 20th percentile.”

The framework is divided into several areas for the elementary level: 1) Student Progress Over Time - Growth, 2) Student Achievement Level - Status, 3) Student Engagement and 4) School Demand. Although we are pleased with our overall performance at Carson and “Meets Expectations” on the overall Scorecard, the attendance is a concern. We have many students who come to school late, leave early, and are absent for a myriad of reasons which include recreational activities. Students need to be in school to learn and teachers cannot teach them if they are not present. It is very important that your child attend school everyday on time for a full day. Parents often ask for work for students who will be out for several days. Even though this provides ongoing practice and enhances what is done in the classroom, the teacher’s direct instruction to student learning is critical.

Please make every effort to ensure that your child is in attendance each and every day as much as possible. We understand that children get sick and must stay home. We ask that you do not send your child to school sick since he/she cannot do his/her best and risk others getting sick. Please help us to ensure the best for your child by ensuring that he/she is in school all day every day.

We appreciate you making every effort to ensure that your child is in school on time everyday.

**Celebrate
Perfect Attendance - First Trimester**

Joslyn Bowman, Teagan Crase, Thomas Culhane, Stonewall Napier, Ashur LaCroix, Jackson Hoch, Kayla Schilz, Syla U’ren, Valerie Guadron-Deras, Carli Tornambe, Ximina Villanueva-Casillas, Claire Benson-Decker, Schuyler Nicholson, Grace Johnson, MacKenzie Dougherty, Kristen Belitz, Josiah Hinton, Sean Oishi-Holder, Rachelle Banales-Williams, Victor Francis, Ashley Walden, Abby Culhane, Cathal Kelly, Kaitlyn Walden, Amelia Watterson, Chian DeLoach, Mubarek Agok, Molly Keenan, Kaitlyn Lauk, Jackson Wells, Noelle Hart, Noah Griesheimer, Niko Hilton, Bryson Stephens, Kidest Anley, Natalie Crase, Benjamin Harrison, Maeve Marley, Sophie Nick, Charlotte Thayer, Rachel White, Nelson Jones, Alexander Velleca, Fred Lyons, Alekzander Laudel,

***Grandparents’/Grandfriends’ Luncheon
Thursday. November 20***

Please refer to schedule sent home in October.

Character Education

Our first character education assembly this year was a big success! We held the assembly outside which was a great way to accommodate our growing school population. The assembly kicked off with the fifth graders making a tunnel with their arms while the ECE and kindergarten students ran through the tunnel while their teacher called their name. This was a wonderful and active way to introduce some of our newest Carson students. Students who are new to Carson in the other grades were introduced and they were asked to stand up to be recognized. New staff was also welcomed into our Carson community. The students have been earning character links for showing acts of respect, responsibility, and kindness. These links were hanging as the backdrop for our assembly. In total the students have earned over 3,000 links in the first month of school. The Green Machine from Mr. Saxton's 4/5 class performed a skit about recycling in an effort to make Carson a "green" school. Thanks to Wende Abrahm and all of her helpers for a fabulous assembly.

In honor of National Mix-It up day held in November, Carson will have a mix-it up celebration during lunch on Tuesday, November 11th. This is a fun way for students to meet other students and share with them things they have in common. There will be music and dancing to go with the mix-it up prompt.

Classroom discussions for November will continue to address tolerance. As a committee we have decided to take two months to discuss this important topic. In a survey given to the students at the end of last year, tolerance was one of the character traits the students are having trouble with understanding. Therefore with two months of discussion devoted to this topic we can hopefully increase their understanding in the importance of being tolerant of others.

Carson's Character Education Committee typically meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm in the library. Our next meeting date has been changed due to Thanksgiving Break. As a result we will meet at 5:00 pm on **Thursday, November 20th**. The location of this meeting has also been changed do to the Book Fair being held in the library. We will be meeting in Mr. Saxton's room 107 instead. We hope to see you there!



Have you "Herd"?

There's a Scholastic Book Fair Safari heading your way!

November 17th to 21st

8 am to 6pm daily (Monday to Thursday)

8am to noon (Friday)

In the Carson Library

Hope to "spot" you there!



The PTA Notebook

Thanks to your continued great support of the Carson PTA, we are able to create a terrific community at school with many fantastic programs taking place around Carson and around town.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PTA Meeting: Thursday, November 13th. 6:30 p.m. Carson Library.

Still wondering what the Carson PTA is all about and how you can get involved and stay informed? Join us at our next PTA meeting and join the fun. Babysitting is free.

Silent Auction – Saturday, November 15th. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The big night is just around the corner and we cannot wait! Get that sitter lined up and pull out something fun to wear for a great night out. Be sure to reserve a spot and sign up for Express Check-out by purchasing your tickets in advance.

Scholastic Book Fair Safari – November 17th to November 21st. Carson Library.

Get all your holiday shopping done while supporting our school. The Scholastic Book Fair brings tons of great books to choose from for kids of all ages. This year the Book Fair will be open until 6 p.m. each day with Safari snacks for the kids on Tuesday, November 18th. So, come join the Safari and visit the Scholastic Book Fair.

UPDATES AND NEWS

Mom's Night Out: We continued the fun with our second Mom's Night Out in October. Please join us next time when we leave the kids at home and get together to connect, laugh and have a great time. Your invitation for the next night out will be here soon.

Noodles Night: This night was a true success! Over 50 families took over Noodles & Co. to enjoy a fun dinner and to support Carson. The restaurant might never be the same but we sure had fun. Our next Carson Night Out is coming soon so stay tuned for more details.

Sally Foster: Thanks to all students and parents who did such a fantastic job with this important fundraiser. Money raised supports the general PTA fund and allows us to have such great events at Carson like the Sock Hop and Field Day to name a few. Together we raised nearly \$5000 for our school. Rock on and wrap on!. Thank you , thank you, thank you!

Tuesday Treats for Teachers: Do you hate to bake? Can't stand to be in the kitchen? Burn everything you cook? Well, then you are perfect for the *Tuesday Treats for Teachers* program. While we continue to spoil our teachers with delicious baked goods and marvelous meals, we would like to get one more volunteer each week to bring in healthy treats like fresh fruit and veggies. Please contact Tracey Pliskin to volunteer.

Parent Teacher Conference Meals; Many thanks to everyone who brought in dinner for our teachers during conferences. We had so many parents volunteer that we even had turn people away. It was great that we could spoil our teachers to such delicious food while they had to stay late at school.

Box Tops: Keep on clipping and saving those tiny little Box Tops! This terrific little program has raised over \$1000 for Carson. It is hard to believe that something so small and simple could do so much for our school.