

Cougar Tracks

Parent Newsletter

Distributed the 1st Thursday of Every Month



Carson Elementary School
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Upcoming Events

December

- 5 School Tour
- 19 Professional Day/No School
- 22 Winter Break Begins

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

Principal's Message

The first **Late Start Day is Friday, December 12**. The students will come to school three hours later on this day. Therefore, the **reporting time for Carson is 11:55**. Again, the late start days are a result of the agreement reached on September 9, 2008 between the Denver Classroom Teacher Association (DCTA) and the Denver Public Schools. During these late start days teachers will be involved with school/district focused professional development.

Supervision will not be available for students until 11:45. Please do not drop students off prior to this time.

The students will eat a sack lunch provided by the cafeteria staff instead of the hot lunch that is usually served. This request has been made to allow for a

shorter lunch period. The students will not likely have recess on these late start days. I encourage you to have your child participate in some form of physical activity before arriving to school on late start days if at all possible.

The Silent Auction was a huge success! Thank you, thank you to all of you that participated in any way and every way. Your generosity of volunteerism, donations and purchases ensured a great auction. The \$30,000 dollars raised will go a long way in supporting technology at Carson.

Also, thanks to everyone for supporting this year's Scholastic Book Fair. It was awesome! The fair raised \$11,000. Although this is not a fund raiser, many book profits have been used to help purchase more books for

Carson's library and to build classroom libraries as well.

I am especially thankful this year because I am truly aware of the economic situation that we face as a nation. I appreciate you all digging deep and always going the extra mile to support Carson's growth. We have an amazing school community.

Carson will host its third annual school Summit. The Summit will be held on Saturday, February 28 at the Daniel's Fund Building on First Avenue. This meeting as in the past will consist of parents, teachers and administration. A planning committee with representatives from the CSC, PTA and Character Education committee will work to outline the focus of the day. The Summits have been instrumental in helping to establish Carson's school culture. Please look for more information in the new year.

Happy Winter Vacation to ALL!!

You and your family are wished a wonderful season of celebration. I sincerely hope that you will take time to enjoy family and friends. Do something fun! Life is short and no day is promised. You all deserve the best that life has to offer.

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.”

Winter Break Begins

December 19

School Resumes for Students

January 7, 2009

CSAP Testing

The Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) will begin soon for all students in grades three through ten. The CSAP assessment determines how well students do as measured by the Colorado state standards. This test is given to all students across the state of Colorado.

All third grade students at Carson will take the reading CSAP assessment on February 10 & 11. In March, all third grade students will resume testing. The fourth and fifth graders will begin their testing. The third grade students will take the writing and math

assessment in March. All fourth and fifth grade students will take the reading, writing, math and science assessments.

The testing window for CSAP is scheduled from March 2 - March 20. Parents of students in grades third, fourth and fifth will receive a more detailed calendar at a later date. Please note that the fourth and fifth grade students will need the majority of the testing window to complete their assessments.

It is very important that your child be in school everyday and on time during CSAP testing. Please make every

effort to schedule appointments and/or trips outside of the testing window. Since Spring Break will occur the week of March 23rd, I would like to request that students not be taken out early to start family vacations. It is critical to have all students present for testing.

Thank you so very much for understanding the need to have your child in school. Please mark these very special dates on your calendar for February and March. Your support in ensuring the best for all Carson students is always appreciated.

Health News Alert

Sometimes it becomes necessary to send students home who are running a temperature and are not feeling well. Please ensure that students who are sent home with a temperature from school, remain home until they have been fever free without medication for 24 hours.

Congratulations!

The following students were left out of the October Cougar Tracks for Perfect Attendance in the first trimester. Rodney Banales-Williams, Emma Brock, Nick Salazar, and Hennessey Jones.

Character Education

On November 11th we had our first mix-it-up day during lunch in honor of National Mix-it-up day. The kids were asked to sit with kids they do not already know. They were asked to discuss why it is important to make new friends. Students at Carson are also mixed up for book buddies, enrichment, and for kickball in the spring.

The Character Education Committee sold our special blend of Vail Mountain Coffee at the Grandparent’s lunch on November 24th. We sold 25 bags of coffee. The money raised from the coffee sales will help fund our school-wide community service project to be held in April. If you are interested in purchasing a bag of coffee we have bags available in regular, decaf, ground, or whole bean. Please see Lynnal in the office. The cost is \$10.00.

Tolerance continues to be the focus of the classroom discussions. As we approach the holidays we have families in our school who celebrate different holidays from Christmas, to Hanukkah, to Kwanzaa, and the winter solstice. The holidays provide a great time to talk with your children about how we all have different traditions and beliefs as we come together to celebrate as a family. There will be no formal classroom discussions in December, however, classroom discussions will resume in January when we talk with the kids about perseverance. Carson’s Character Education Committee will not meet in December. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd at 5:00pm in the library. We hope to see you there.

School Calendar for 2009

Dates are subject to change.

January 5 & 6	Professional/Planning Day for Teachers
January 7	Classes Resume for Students
January 8	CSC Parent Meeting
January 14	Late Start Day
January 15	PTA Meeting
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
January 22	Character Education Meeting
February 5	CSC Meeting
February 10 & 11	CSAP Reading Assessment - Grade 3
February 12	Late Start Day
February 12	PTA Meeting
February 16	Presidents' Day - No School
February 17	Professional/Planning Day for Teachers
February 19	Sock Hop
February 26	Character Education Meeting
February 28	Carson Summit
March 2	CSAP Testing Window Begins for Grades 3 - 10
March 5	CSC Meeting
March 12	PTA Meeting
March 19	Character Education Meeting
March 23	Cesar Chavez Day
March 23 - 27	Spring Break
April 2	CSC Meeting
April 9	PTA Meeting
April 17	Professional/Planning Day for Teachers
April 21	Late Start Day
April 23	Character Education Meeting
May 1	Assessment Day - No Classes for Students
May 7	CSC Meeting
May 14	PTA Meeting
May 15	Late Start Day
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday

PTA Notebook

CARSON PTA UPDATE

Happy Holidays! It is hard to believe that the semester has only a few short weeks left to go before our Winter Break begins. The year has flown by incredibly fast. I know it feels like October and November were filled with back-to-back PTA fundraisers and events. The great news is that these fundraisers were all fabulously successful and they have provided the funds necessary to support the PTA and Carson. The rest of the year will be filled with many PTA and school-wide events that are made possible by these fundraisers that take place in the first semester.

UPDATES

Silent Auction The Silent Auction reached its goal of raising just over \$30,000 to support the Mobile Computer Lab. The volunteers, donations and your generous support at the auction made this event a true success. Of course, a special thanks goes out to Jane Tobias, Mary Hemmingway-Emrich, Wende Abraham, Pam Bonnie and a whole crew of outstanding volunteers who worked so hard to make the auction a fabulous event.

Scholastic Book Fair The Scholastic Book Fair was another smashing success. We sold a net \$11,410 in books and that is a 23% increase over last year's total sales. We surely set a new world record for successful book fairs! The great part about this fundraiser is that we take the "profits" in new books for the library and individual classrooms. Each teacher received \$100 in "book bucks" (for a total of \$2800 given out) to use throughout the book fair. The teachers could choose to get books for their classroom or they could give the "book bucks" out to students to ensure that everyone could participate in the book fair. The library immediately took \$2,200 in books directly from the fair so the shelves are more full today for all students to enjoy. Enormous thanks goes out to Denise Cushing, Kate Jenulis, Jen Reynolds, Laura Hydeman and so many other volunteers who spent countless hours in the library with the books and the students.

The success of the Scholastic Book Fair and the Silent Auction could not have been possible without the generosity and tremendous support of our Carson families. Thanks again and again and again! We truly appreciate all that you do for our school and our Carson community!

RIF – Reading Is Fundamental Thanks to RIF, on November 11, every Carson student was able to come to the library and choose a book to keep. The students were enthusiastic and excited to choose their own books. We will have two more RIF days coming in January and in April. Thank you, Chris Wells and your team of volunteers, for organizing this special day for the kids.

Grandparents/Grandpersons Lunch Please thank all of the grandparents and special people who came to school to enjoy a delicious turkey lunch with the kids. The kids love it and we especially love the support that everyone gave to Carson by visiting the Book Fair, buying the Character Ed coffee, the Carson Candidts and other various products available that day. Please let them know how much we appreciate their support of our school.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In-School Enrichment One really fantastic program we offer at Carson is our In-School Enrichment that allows all students to participate in some fun projects together. This program will take place during the four Fridays in February from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.. We are looking for parents and teachers to volunteer to lead classes during the enrichment sessions. Classes we can offer will depend on what you want to teach. Ideas include arts & crafts, games, dance, cooking, knitting, origami, etc. You can also volunteer to provide support in the classroom if you cannot teach a specific class but would still like to help out. Please contact Heidi Achenbach at 303-863-8212 or Jen Nicholson at 303-377-0498 if you are able to volunteer.

January PTA Meeting - Thursday Night. January 15th. 6:30 p.m. Carson Library.

Our meetings continue to be productive, informative and fun. Please join us to find out how you can get involved in the second semester. There are many terrific school-wide events next semester that are really great to be involved in and to attend.