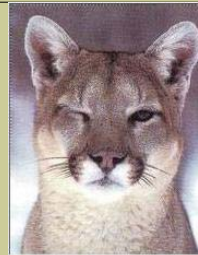


Cougar Tracks

Parent Newsletter

Distributed the 1st Thursday of Every Month



Upcoming Events

March

- 12 PTA Meeting
- 18 Night at the Bookies
- 19 Character Education Meeting
- 23 Spring Break Begins
- 30 Classes Resume

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

Judy Yazdi

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

Carson Summit...A Great Day of Collaboration

The Summit was held on Saturday, February 28 at the Daniels Fund Building in Cherry Creek. Bill Fulton with The Civic Canopy facilitated this event. Bill has facilitated all three summits. He has also supported the Carson staff by working with the school's leadership team to outline and facilitate professional development at the start of the new school year.

Thirty Summiteers consisting of parents and staff worked through the day from 9:00 a.m. to almost 3:00 to collaborate on communication. This conversation will ensure our ongoing efforts to make Carson the best school possible. Please look for the upcoming action plan. Please see the comments from participants.

"I really enjoyed my first Carson Summit. I liked and appreciated that it was focused and so well organized. I felt that we were productive. I also learned about how ideas from previous Carson Summits had come to fruition and I felt like we can make a positive difference for our school community. I'd suggest anyone who has thought about going, to come along to the next one. It's well worth it."

*Best regards,
Mandianne Berg, Parent*

"I had the pleasure of attending the 2009 Carson Summit. It was a great opportunity to come together with other parents to discuss some of the changes that can be implemented to make Carson an even better place. This was fun and enlightening and it impressed upon me the care and dedication these parents show."

Helena Leonard, Parent

"The Carson summit invited teachers, parents, administrators and community members to be idealists and dream of the best learning environment and opportunities for our children. Now, we will take these dreams and collaborate to make them a reality at Carson."

Amy Barnett, Teacher

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.”

Spring Break

March 23 - 27

First Grade

***Drama/Music Performance
April 1***

Perfect Attendance Second Trimester

The following students are being recognized for perfect attendance throughout the second trimester. Please note that tardies and early release from school does impact attendance. Attendance is taken on the computer using the Infinite Campus system throughout the Denver Public Schools.

Joslyn Bowman, Christine Vangelov, Kayla Schlitz, Jimmy Keenan, Ashur LaCroix, Kate Stewart, Charlie Link, Cole Ruterbories, Sylvia Hanson, Mubarak Agok, Jon Brock, Molly Beethe, Josue Herrada, Katherine Stary, Claire Decker, Sofie Berg, Julia Jenulis, Jasmine Bowman, Sophia Clark, Josiah Hinton, Tomohiro Okamoto, Emma Cooper, Jack McCord, Kaitlyn Walden, Cathal Kelly, Ethan Ruterbories, Ashley Walden, Zander Velleca, Alek Laudel, Fred Lyons, Emma Brock, Delaney Cooper, Casey Byerhof, Nickolai Salazar, Natalie Crase, Max Bleise, Kidest Anley, Miriam Schottenstein, Adam Tooley and Emma Wasend

Congratulations to students and a great big THANK YOU to parents!

Mile High Scholars

These students were recognized at the Ellie Caulkins House at the Denver Center for Performing Arts Complex on Wednesday, March 11.

Congratulations to Diego Barron, Claire Benson-Decker, Jacob Friedman, Jesse Rosario and Landon Squibbs!

Summit Participants Comments Continued...

“Every well run organization I know of takes the time and inspires the energy in its members to constantly seek improvement. Carson Elementary is just such a place, using its Summit to learn from the past and pursue a brighter future. I am proud to send my daughter to Carson and to be part of the Summit process.”

Scott Dergance, Parent

“I had a wonderful experience at the summit. It was a great opportunity to work with parents and staff on creating an intentional school culture. I look forward to seeing our goals come to fruition.”

Peter Saxton, Teacher

“I felt very honored to be a part of this great workshop. As a teacher working with parents to improve our community, I saw the commitment from all parts.”

Cheryl Osgood, Teacher

Character Education

Our classroom discussions for February and March are focused on integrity. Based on a survey of the students from last year they responded that tolerance and integrity were the two traits we needed to focus on more this year. Many classroom discussions focused around integrity includes other traits such as honesty and courage. The kids are learning that integrity is doing the right thing. Like character, integrity is who you are and what you do when no one is watching. Talk to your kids about what they have learned about integrity.

On Friday, February 13th we had a mix-it-up lunch. Not only were the students mixed up but we celebrated the Chinese New Year, Black History Month, and Valentine's Day. The students enjoyed dancing, eating fortune cookies, and reading about famous African Americans. It was a wonderful celebration of diversity.

On Saturday, February 28th Carson held a Summit Meeting which brought together our character education committee, PTA, and CSC. We focused on improving our communication between parents, teachers, and staff. We worked hard as a group to come up with an action plan for ways we can communicate with each other better. We strive to maintain our intentional school culture of Carson Elementary School working as a whole community for all students, parents, and staff. Thanks to everyone who attended and worked hard at our Summit!

CARSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE DAY! In April, our Character Education Committee will work on a service learning project for the AnySoldier Project. We will be collecting items to ship to our soldiers overseas. This project will kick off with an assembly in the auditorium. Families will be asked to donate items from a list which will be sent home after spring break. Students will write letters and draw pictures to send to the soldiers. By the end of April we will have collected everything and boxed everything to ship off. If you want to help with this project we could use parent help on Fridays in April from 1:00-1:40. Please contact Wende Abrahm if you are able to help.

Our next Character Education Meeting will be Thursday, March 19th at 5:00 in the library. We hope to see you there.

Lost and Found

Thanks goes out to Donna Hickey for organizing the Lost and Found clothing and other items that have not been claimed.

Pick up day is Friday March 11 and 20.

All items can be picked up in the main hall. Items not retrieved by Friday, March 20 will be donated to a local charity.

Also, there is an adult suede coat in the office. Please call 303-355-7316 if you think it may belong to you.

Remaining Late Start Days

Tuesday, April 21

Friday, May 15

School will start at 11:55

*Supervision will be available at
11:30 on the playground.*

PTA Notebook

UPDATES

PTA Officer Elections

Congratulations to Jane Tobias and Jen Nicholson! Jane will serve as PTA Secretary for a two year term starting in the Fall 2009. Jen will serve as PTA Vice President for the 2009-2010 school year and will then serve as PTA President for the 2010-2011 school year. Thanks to both of you for stepping up and taking on such important roles!

Carson In-School Enrichment Program

This program was a tremendous success in February. Many thanks to Jen Nicholson and Heidi Achenbach, who organized 20+ classes, 35+ parent volunteers and the entire Carson teaching staff to provide fabulous enrichment activities for our kids. The students had a blast every Friday and we appreciate all of your hard work on this program. We really appreciate all the volunteer hours given by our terrific parents! Thank you teachers for allowing us to take over your classrooms too.

Carson School Wide Summit

Thanks to everyone who attended the Summit. It was a great success that will bring many new ideas to our school. Participants will meet again to hammer out some details and program ideas and all information will then be shared with you soon.

Fabulous Fridays in February

Thanks to the money raised at Steve's Snappin' Dogs, the PTA was able to create a small teacher appreciation program throughout the month of February. Each Friday we surprised the teachers and staff with flowers, fudge (chocolate flowers) and Friday Frappuccinos (really a Starbucks gift card to enjoy a cup of coffee at any time). While we will have a big teacher appreciation program in May, we always like to take the opportunity throughout the year to thank our teachers and staff for the hard work they do at Carson.

Souper Tuesday Treats

On March 3rd, PTA brought in a delicious variety of soups, salads, breads and desserts to allow our teachers and staff enjoy lunch on us. Thanks to everyone who took the time to cook and schlep in your crockpots for our fabulous staff. Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved in Tuesday Treats.

Original Works Fundraiser

Your child's artwork is included in this week's Thursday folder. Please review the order form and return your order with payment on March 12th. All products will be back in time for Mother's Day so they would make perfect gifts for everyone.

Carson Night at The Bookies: Wednesday, March 18th. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Support Carson while shopping for fabulous children's books and so much more. The Bookies is a terrific independent bookstore with an incredible selection of children's books, grown-up books, games, teaching supplies and much more. The Bookies donates a percent of total sales to Carson. We will also have delicious desserts to enjoy while you shop.

March PTA Meeting - Thursday Night. March 12th. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Carson Library. Free babysitting.

April PTA Meeting – Thursday Night, April 16th. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Carson Library.

Free babysitting. Please note the date change is due to the Passover holiday so we will meet the third Thursday this month. This is the last PTA meeting of the year so join us!