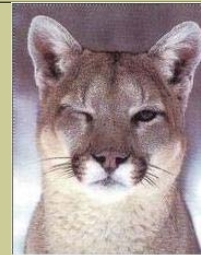


Cougar Tracks

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

- 2 Back to School Night
- 3 CSC Meeting
- 7 Labor Day—No School
- 10 PTA Meeting
- 17 Donuts for Dads
- 18 Assessment Day—No School
- 24 Character Education Meeting

Fundraisers for September

- Box Tops
- Direct Donation
- Sally Foster

2009 - 2010 CSC

Parents

Michael Culhane
Robert MacLaren
Bob Reynolds
Nancy Williams

Business/Community

Catherine Hance

Teachers

Angela Hanning
Peter Saxton
Dawn Goodner
Kathi Newman

Classified

Cathy Philpott

Principal

Tamara Acevedo

Principal's Message

As the 2009-2010 school year has begun, I have enjoyed meeting Carson's outstanding students, parents, and staff. I am so glad that I was able to chat with many of you at the ECE Kindergarten Lemonade, the Back to School Picnic and the Ice Cream Social. Accolades go to the PTA for organizing these events. Carson is a warm and welcoming environment for children and adults, and I thank everyone for the kindness they have shown me as Carson's new principal. I am very happy that you have chosen our school for your child's education, and I know that we will all work together this year to help students grow both academically and socially.

We are continuing our valuable Positive Behavior Support program this year. We started the year with a passport morning during which students traveled to different areas of the building to learn how to show respect, responsibility and kindness. Carson staff were stationed at each area of the building to review and model what respect, responsibility and kindness means to us. Once students visited an area of the school, they received a stamp from their teacher indicating they had visited the area and had understood our school procedure. At the end of the morning, students had a passport full of stamps from all the different places they had traveled to learn about our school touchstone values. We are observing children who are able to "show their teacher three: respect, responsibility and kindness" in all they do.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to the Collaborative School Committee and Carson parents and staff for meeting on short notice to address our first grade class size issue. We were able to work together to find a solution that would best meet student needs. Consequently, we are in the process of adding another first grade class to our school.

Please note that the 2009-2010 Student and Parent Handbook will be sent to youngest and only students via today's Thursday folder. Thanks goes to Jennifer Culhane, PTA president, for her assistance on the handbook. It is my hope that this handbook will be useful to students and parents throughout the year.

These opening days at Carson Elementary have shown me that the Carson Elementary School students, parents and staff truly believe in our school touchstone, "**We are proud students, involved parents, committed educator, 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.**" As always, the key to providing an excellent education for Carson students is our ability to work together as committed educators, caring staff, involved parents and of course our proud students.

Mrs. Olds and Mr. Mike review respect, responsibility and kindness on the bus with second grade students during our passport activity.



**Show Me Three
Respect
Responsibility
Kindness**

***Labor Day—
No School
September 7***

***Assessment Day—
No School for
Students
September 18***

Greetings and Salutations from the Carson Library!

My name is Denise Cushing. This is my third year working at Carson as the Library Paraprofessional. I am currently working towards my master's in Library Science at the University of Denver. I hope to graduate in 2011.

I am not only a Carson employee, but a Carson parent as well. I have a daughter in 5th grade and have been a Carson parent since 2003.

As you know, Carson is a Character Education school. In the library, I stress the following character traits: Responsibility, Respect and Integrity. These fit well with my library policies.

The Carson Library has a two week loan period. The number of books a child may check out varies by grade. We take baby steps towards Responsibility - kindergartners begin with one book out at a time. By fourth and fifth grades, students may have up to four books out at a time. (Exceptions are made for students who need books for school projects.) **Students with late books or lost books may have their library privileges suspended.**

I make every effort to communicate with parents about late books by sending out late notices. Even though I send out notices, I believe that it is ultimately the students' responsibility to keep track of their library books.

Lost books are dealt with in one of two ways: students may buy a replacement copy of the same title (same format) on Amazon.com or they can bring in \$20 as a replacement cost. Fines can be paid in check or cash. I accept payment in the library, or you may send it to the office. (Please let the office know that you are paying a library fine, so proper credit is given.)

Enough with the rules! I enjoy seeing your children every week. We will be reading some really great books; sharpening our library skills and learning how to be responsible.

Upcoming events:

- We hope to have three distributions of Reading is Fundamental (RIF) this year.
- Our Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for November 16th - 20th.

P.S. The Carson Library has a webpage: www.netvibes.com/carsonlibrarian

Recess and Physical Education Attire

Please ensure that appropriate footwear is worn to school as students participate in physical education and go outside for recess.

Meal Charging Policy

Any student who forgets or loses his/her money may charge up to \$4.80. 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. 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.

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Playground supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Students are dropped off to the school playground. **Do not drop students off at the playground before this time as there will be no adult supervision.** The bell rings at 8:55 a.m. Teachers will collect students and escort them into the building from the following Students will be released to a parent, guardian or designated adult (adult listed on the child's emergency contact list). **All students must be picked up by 3:45 p.m.. Please call to inform the office if there is a delay.**

Student Absences

Attendance

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! The Character Education committee is a volunteer group of parents, staff and our school principal that meet once a month to discuss our Carson 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.

Last year, the committee discussed, at length, our individual character traits with the students in their monthly classroom discussions. The students participated in group activities and lively conversations around our character traits each month and were encouraged to continue these conversations at home. 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, the committee plans community meetings and celebrations encouraging student interaction between all classes and grade levels. The committee plans two school wide assemblies, maintains a Cougar Buck reward program, coordinates the 5th grade continuation events, supports the Character Ed library section and spear heads a yearly school wide community service project. In last years community project, Carson students, staff and parents successfully collected donations and lovingly packed 92 Carson Cares solider boxes that were shipped to Colorado soldiers deployed in Iraq.

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. Please consider joining us at the next Character Education meeting.

Carson's Character Education committee meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm in the Library. Our next meeting date is September 24th. Look forward to seeing you!

For more information about Character Education, please contact Wende Abrahm at 303-321-2250 or abrahm5@msn.com.

Carson Touchstone

RESPECT
RESPONSIBILTY
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."

PTA Notebook

Carson Elementary School has a very active Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Our PTA publishes the student directory and the yearbook. We coordinate volunteers to help our teachers meet the needs of our students. We provide educational outreach programs to enhance the educational experiences of our children. We engage in community building efforts and events so that our Carson community can grow together as new families come to Carson.

In order to implement all of our wonderful programs at Carson we hold several annual fundraising events. Our silent auction is our biggest fundraiser each year. The money raised at the silent auction goes towards a predetermined cause in which all kids at Carson benefit. Our book related fundraisers raise money for the library. We also have fundraiser for the arts programs like the Carson Gym Jog (for PE) and the Art Show with a choir performance for (art and drama). All other fundraising goes into the general PTA fund to help support PTA related events and programs. The goal of the Carson PTA is to spend the funds raised each year on the students who raised them.

Monthly PTA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Carson Library. Childcare is available at no charge and light snacks are served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information about the Carson's PTA, please contact Jennifer Culhane at 303-321-6378 or email her at ptacarson@gmail.com. For more information about volunteering, please contact Laura Kent at 303-321-5633 or email her at roblaura3@comcast.net.

I would like to thank the following volunteers for coordinating our beginning of the year events:

Heidi Achenbach and Jen Nicholson for the ECE/Kindergarten Lemonade

Rose Holmes for the Back to School Picnic

Ginny and Ashley Frazer Abel for the 1st day coffee

Tracey Pliskin for the Kindergarten 1st day get together at Robinson Park

Sheri Berry and Cara Toranambe for the ice-cream social

Laura Kent for organizing all of the coordinators, volunteers, and classroom liaisons

Many PTA related items are already up and running like the Mentor Program, Box Tops, and Membership. Thank you to Tracey Pliskin, Deb Taylor, Chris Wells, and Kathleen Polishuk for all you have done so far this year with the above programs.

Upcoming Important Dates for September:

September 2: Back to School Night at 6:00 p.m.

September 10: PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the library

September 10: Carson Directory Distributed

September 17: Donuts for Dads

Fundraisers for September:

*Box Tops (please contact Deb Taylor for more information)

*Direct Donation (please contact Abby Seremet or Jane Tobias for more information)

*Sally Foster (please contact Tammy Ruterbories or Jane Tobias for more information)