

Cougar Tracks

Parent Newsletter

Distributed the 1st Thursday of Every Month



Carson Elementary School - 5420 East First Avenue - Denver, Colorado 80220
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Upcoming Events

October

- 1 CSC Meeting
- 5 Picture Day
- 8 PTA Meeting
- 14 Fall Fundraising Dinner at 9th Avenue Grill
- 16 Early Release Day
Flu Clinic
- 20 HGT Information Night
- 21 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 22 Character Education Meeting
- 26 Parent -Teacher Conferences
- 27 Literacy Day Parade
- 28 Professional Day—No School
- 29 & 30 Fall Break—No School

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

Message from the Principal—2009 School Performance Framework

Carson has again achieved a rating of **Meets Expectations** on the **2009 School Performance Framework (SPF)**. Our school has remained in the high growth and high status category. Our Meets Expectations rating is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, support staff and parents and while we celebrate this tremendous success, our goal is to exceed district expectations and achieve high status and high growth with a Distinguished rating. Now is the time to accelerate our progress and make sure that all of our students are successful. Areas where we will continue to work and strive for improvement include:

Reading and writing---We will work to increase the amount of growth each child is making in an academic year.

Mathematics---We will work to maintain and increase the amount of growth each child is making in an academic year.

Achievement Gaps---We will work to decrease the gap among student groups (Special Education, African-American, Hispanic, Free and Reduced Lunch)

We have already begun work in these areas. Our school has formed teacher data teams by grade-level and teaching content area. We have started this process through collaborative planning of upcoming units of study by close examination of the main concepts and skills taught in each lesson. We have used this information to determine essential learnings for the unit and matched the learning to our state educational standards. We will use this information to develop assessments tied to the essential learnings that will be administered at the beginning and end of each unit. This will provide the necessary information to analyze student strengths and obstacles, establish goals, select instructional strategies that best match student needs, and determine indicators to measure appropriate progress. We have also established intervention groups based on the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), and other assessment results, to provide additional instructional support to students who are in need of targeted reading intervention. Carson's gifted and talented itinerate teacher is in the process of creating advanced learning plans for identified gifted students.

If you would like a copy of our School Performance Framework (SPF) scorecard go to <http://www.dpsk12.org/SPF> for pick one up in our front office.

DPS launched the School Performance Framework (SPF) in September 2008. It is a mechanism the district uses to accredit schools as required by the Colorado Department of Education, but more importantly, it provides a comprehensive body of evidence about school performance. It is aligned with district goals, as well as state and federal mandates. It incorporates data provided by Colorado State Assessment Program (CSAP) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), but it does not replace those measures.

The SPF is unique and powerful because it reflects the work being done in our schools by showing whether our students are learning over time and demonstrating improvement from one year to the next. It provides the most complete and comprehensive picture of school performance.

I believe we will find the SPF to be a valuable guide in our efforts to improve student achieve.

Thank you for all you do in support of your child's academic achievement.

H1N1 Flu Virus

We have our first confirmed case of the H1N1 flu virus. At Carson, we are doing everything possible to keep our children and our staff healthy and safe. Denver Public Schools is working in partnership with the federal government, the state of Colorado and the City of Denver to make sure that every precaution is taken to minimize risk to our students. Students with fevers or other flu like symptoms must not come to school and should stay at home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine). Consistent with our current practice, parents will be called immediately if a child becomes ill at school.

The district ordered hand sanitizers for all schools that we now have at Carson. Teachers have been instructed to make sure that students wash their hands, or use hand sanitizers, frequently, particularly before and after snack time, the lunch period and recess. Teachers and students are cleaning their desk tops and other surfaces on a daily basis. Our Risk Management department has informed us that germs don't live long on hard surfaces, but keeping them clean is good practice anyway. Teachers are also reviewing the guidelines for basic good hygiene, such as proper hand washing, covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or using your elbow instead of your hand when a tissue is not available.

Please reinforce these practices by reviewing them at home with your child. An easy way to review proper hand washing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water is to tell your child they should soap up for the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice.

We are offering a Flu Shot Clinic at Carson Oct. 16th 12:45 to 1:45 in the teacher's lounge. We are also coordinating an informational meeting with our school nurse for interested parents and will notify parents of the date and time. We can all work together to keep ourselves and our students healthy by practicing prevention and closely monitoring symptoms of illness in our children. We will keep you updated as the district continues to give us guidance in precautionary measures.

If you would like to learn about the Carson's Highly Gifted Program—Please plan to attend the informational night on October 20th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Barb Neyrinck from the Gifted and Talented Office will be presenting and available to answer questions

PARENTS,

TAKE NOTE OF THE HIGHLY GIFTED PROGRAM TESTING NOMINATION FORM DEADLINE--November 2, 2009 Testing will take place from November 16 to December 11, mostly on Tuesdays. Students must apply centrally for consideration and testing for this program. Parents, teachers, or anyone who knows the student well may nominate him/her, and students may self-nominate. Nomination forms are available in the office at school or at gt.dpsk12.org

You must mail or deliver the nomination form to :

Gifted and talented Education, 1330 Fox ST., 2nd Floor S., Denver, Co. 80204

The form must be received by November 2, 2009—**DO NOT BRING NOMINATION BACK TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE, YOUR CHILDS TEACHER, OR THE GT ITINERANT. MAIL IT IN OR HAND DELIVER IT TO THE GIFTED AND TALENTED OFFICE.**

Also, Parents remember the GT Parent Institute at the Colorado Association for the Gifted and Talented Annual State Conference. Parent Evening - Monday, October 5, 2009, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. Please go to the website to register at <http://www.coloradogifted.org>

It is a pleasure to be at Carson this year and I look forward to meeting and talking with you when I am at school on Tuesdays. Thank You,

Helen Mozer-GT Itinerant

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Oct. 21 and Oct. 26 from 4:00 to 8:00. More specific information will come from your child's teacher. If you are unable to attend conferences during these times, please let your child's teacher know.

Literacy Day Parade will be held Oct. 27 at 2:00 p.m. The parade is a wonderful opportunity for students to dress as a character from a favorite book. Students carry the book the character comes from during this parade. It is a great way to get students interested in a variety of books. To ensure we have a positive day for all, students are not allowed to wear scary masks or carry imitation or toy weapons. Please make sure your child chooses a character that does not require these items. Treats are often brought to the school on this day. Please check with your child's teacher before bringing treats.

Character Education

Character Ed is back in full swing with many returning committee members and several new members. We are so excited for the 2009-10 school year!

Our focus in the classrooms this month was broken into a primary grades topic and secondary grades topic.

Primary Grades – Group discussion about the Carson Touchstone while emphasizing how the Character Traits relate to the touchstone.

Secondary Grades – Group discussion on their most memorable Character Ed project or discussion.

As usual, the adult volunteers had as much fun in the classroom discussing these topics as the kids did learning and participating.

The committee will continue to go into each classroom on a monthly basis and discuss the Character Traits and how these traits work together.

The first Character Ed assembly will be Friday, October 2nd. We will celebrate Carson, and its warm welcoming community, outside, weather permitting.

The Character Ed committee will support and lead another community wide project this school year. As details are finalized, we will begin spreading the news on this year's – Carson Makes a Difference Day.

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 October 22nd. Look forward to seeing you!

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

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."

PTA Notebook



**The Auction will be here before we know it!
Save the date, book your babysitters and have a fun night of food,
drinks, and music with Carson friends and staff.**

**Saturday, November 14, 2009
from 6pm until 10pm
Christ the King's Ballard Hall
8th Avenue and Elm Street**

**Proceeds will go to updating and improving technology.
We hope to see everyone there!**

Other PTA News:

Thanks to everyone who came and made Back to School Night a big success. Thanks to Rob MacLaren, Brent Abraham, Todd Gordon, Bill Goldberg, and Doug Bonnie for all your work with Donuts for Dads. It was so nice to see so many dads socializing on the playground. Thanks also to Heather Colliander for writing and securing the A to Z Community Resources Grant. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended the first meeting we had a great turn out.

Before and after school enrichment started September 28th. We have lots of students participating in a wide variety of activities. If you have any questions about before/after school enrichment please contact Joy Benenson.

PTA will launch a new website at our meeting on October 8th. Look in Thursday folders for more information about how to access our website.

The silent auction is our biggest fundraising event of the year. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the auction please contact Tracey Pliskin. Also, be sure to check your Thursday folders each week for important auction information.

Monthly PTA meetings are held on the second Thursday 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.

Upcoming Important Dates:

September 25-October 9:	Sally Foster Fundraiser
October 8:	PTA Meeting
October 23:	School Tour at 1:30 for new families interested in Carson
October 26:	School Tour at 9:30 for new families interested in Carson
November 12:	PTA Meeting

Fundraisers for October:

- *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)
- *Fall Fundraising Dinner at 9th Avenue Grill (20% of the proceeds will be donated to Carson)