

The Paw Print

“At Carpenter,
We
BELIEVE...”

Date: December 18, 2016



**Student Council,
Students, and
Community
Engaged in
Keeping all
Students Warm and Fed**

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 21st
Carpenter School Talent Show
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Friday, December 23rd
No School
Winter Break Begins

Monday, January 9th
School Resumes
Winter Break Ends

Wednesday, January 11th
PTO Executive Board Meeting
Carpenter Library
8:00 p.m.

On December 9th our Student Council and Mrs. Borders embarked on a campaign to collect hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for our school community. Often, during the winter months we have students that don't have or forget items needed for them to stay warm and safe in the frigid Michigan temperatures.

To help with this Mrs. Borders has a giving tree in her classroom available for students in need or for students to give.

On December 14th the Student Council and our community received a significant donation from The Pittsfield Police Officers. They brought winter wear and food donations in support of our Student Council's hat, glove, and sock drive. Additionally, on Wednesday, December 20th the ITS Infrastructure Social Committee at U of M will be dropping off about 220 more items for our giving tree.



This truly reminds us of the great community we live in. Thank you to all for your generosity! We will be keeping our children warm this winter!

* This campaign officially runs through December 22nd, but we will always accept donations of winter wear through out the winter months.*



Carpenter Elementary School's Mission

The Carpenter School Community will provide a respectful, responsible, and safe environment in which each student is academically, emotionally, and socially prepared to face the future



School News You Can Use...

Teachers Spotlight

Meet Mrs. Sandra Chung

This is Mrs. Chung's 3rd year at Carpenter and her 17th in the district. She has found the transition



to

Carpenter has been smoother than expected due to the inviting staff! She loves the colors purple, burgundy, and charcoal. Mrs. Chung enjoys watching movies, listening to music, playing tennis, and eating grilled salmon.

When Mrs. Chung spoke about what her favorite part of teaching is, she indicated that it is seeing the students excited faces in the morning. She loves seeing the growth that happens with my first graders. Mrs. Chung finds it fun to listen to their conversations.

Some other interesting things about Mrs. Chung include: she can speak Korean, loves to travel, has lived in Walled Lake since 1993, and have two children, Daniel 24 yrs. and Janet 22 yrs.

Thank you Mrs. Chung for spending another year with us!

Chief Learner Corner

2016...

This year has brought lots of new and exciting things to our community. In June, we were able to promote our fifth graders to middle school. During the month of July, we hosted our first-ever Cougar Paw University Summer Program for first, fourth and fifth graders! In August, we welcomed new faces to our teaching community. In September, we opened our doors to Young 5s for the first time ever and to more than 430 students!

Our PTO has been working diligently to support our students, staff and community with fundraising and foundational events.

Our Student Council has led in our spirit department and we showed the entire world that Carpenter has Talent.

While we have grown our family, we have lost a few parents, grandparents and great-grandparents along the way. We will cherish their memory and continued to serve others.

No matter what 2016 has brought your family, know that your children have some of the absolute best educators on the planet instructing and caring for them. Enjoy your Winter Break, make new memories and thank you for BELIEVING in US!

Teachers Spotlight Cont.

Meet Ms. Lisa Cope

Ms. Cope is our Physical Education teacher here are Carpenter. She has been with us for the past 22 years and has 29 years with the district.



Ms. Cope's favorite colors are

maze and blue, I think I have seen her sporting U of M gear.... She enjoys golf, cards/games, and reading. In the culinary realm, Ms. Cope's favorites include: steak, potatoes, veggies, and chocolate.

Her favorite part of teaching is the moment when everyone is enthusiastically and respectfully working together as a team to accomplish a common goal. Ms. Cope is most excited to teach and help student achieve things that they didn't know were possible!

When asked to share something about herself she had this to say "I would like to share that I feel extremely grateful to be part of the Carpenter Community. I have always felt very supported and appreciated. I'm proud to be a Carpenter Cougar!"

Thank you for your 29 years of commitment to education and sharing the love of physical activity with out children!

Kid's Craft Fair was a Huge Success!

Written by: Heather Finnie

On Thursday, December 1, the school held a student Craft Fair and PTO Bake Sale! Thirty-two different student led booths, over fifteen different bakers, and countless shoppers filled the multi-purpose room with support to our Cougar Crafters and school. Some of the crafts sold this year were comic sketches, jewelry, games, holiday ornaments and quilted potholders. The talent and creativity of our Cougars was outstanding! A special thank you to Ms. McDonald for working with her classes so that more students could participate in this community event! We hope to see you



Spirit Week

12/19/16 – 12/22/16

Monday: Snuggly PJs & Stuffy Day

Tuesday: Crazy Hair

Wednesday: Hat

Thursday: Twin's Day

Friday: No SCHOOL

Student Council Corner

Hello PTO! I'm Erik, the Student Council Secretary. We have had three Student Council meetings this year. The first meeting we talked about our rules and norms, bullying, and community outreach. The second meeting we met with all of our Carpenter cougar representatives. The second meeting we talked about our Student Council Mission Statement and how we wanted to help the community. Finally, the Executive Board met to plan the Carpenter Cares Hat, Sock and Glove Drive. The Hat, Sock, and Glove Drive will go from December 5th to the 22nd of December. We are accepting new hats and socks and gently used gloves. Donations can be dropped off in Mrs. Border's room. These items will be used by the Carpenter community. So far we have collected four hats, 13 gloves, and one package of socks. Keep the donations coming!

14th Annual Basketball Shoot-off!

Our 14th Annual Basketball Shoot-Off took place on Wednesday, December 7th at 11:00 a.m. in the GYM. Our entire student body, teachers, staff, and many parents come out to support our participants in this event.

Our winners this year were:

Student Champion: Jonathan J. (Grade 3 -Tabaka)

Staff Champion: Jam'Mar W. (Representing Mr. Johnson)

In addition to the shoot-off we had a very special guest speaker! AUSTIN HATCH who give a short message prior to the event. If you would like to learn more about this amazing U of M student a link to his story is available on our Facebook page. Special thanks to Sarah Keefer for setting up this amazing opportunity for our cougars!



Teachers Spotlight Cont.

Meet Mrs. Liz Clark

Let us welcome Mrs. Clark to Carpenter this year as our new Media Specialist (Librarian).

She shared with us some of her favorite things, which include: the color purple, crafting, reading, and ice cream.

Mrs. Clark loves working with students to help foster their love of reading. She is very excited to join the amazing staff at Carpenter.

Mrs. Clark has been married to her wonderful husband for two years. They have a dog, Misty, and cat, Tigger.

Thank you for joining our team Mrs. Clark!

Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO)

The 15th Annual WESO tournament will take place June 3rd, 2017 at Pioneer High School. Science Olympiad, created in 1983 by Dr. Gerard J. Putz and Jack Cairns, is an event geared to increasing interest in science, as an alternative to traditional science fairs and single-discipline tournaments. It started small here in Michigan and Delaware, but has grown to have members in all 50 states with more than 13,500 actively participating K-12 schools.

Our school will send a team to participate in various events at WESO. This event is open to those students in 2nd grade or above. Registration opened on December 15th.

There are 5 New Events as part of this years' WESO event. Additional details to be announced with registration forms that are being sent home in backpack mail.

A new Operation for this years WESO is "Be true to your School". Each year WESO collects returnable bottles and cans for Water Rockets and funding for the WESO Board and Schools team supplies, in addition to funds provided by the Parent and Teachers Organizations (PTO).

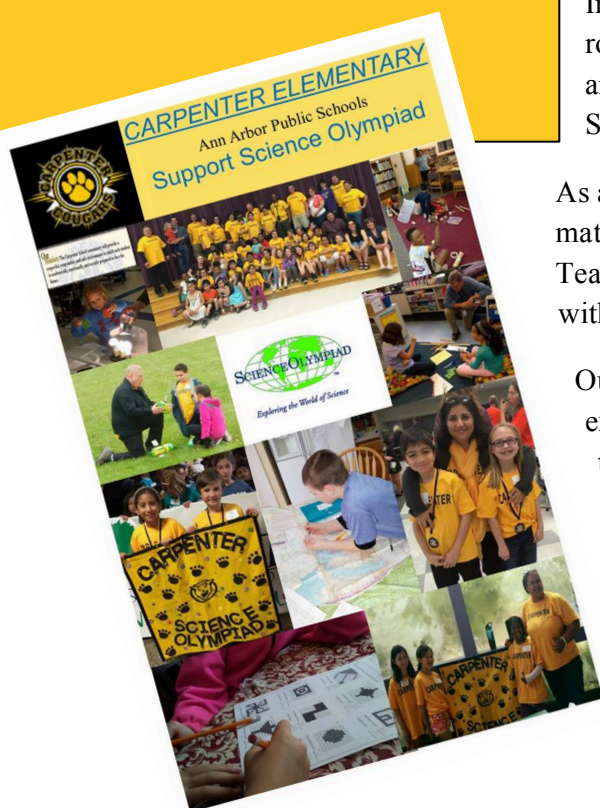
This year we have received approval to build and permanently place a bottle and can collection crate in front of our school. Instead of the annual 4 month collection period, it will be year round. We will be asking Parents, Teachers and Neighbors around each School to drop off their returnable bottle and cans in Support of our new Science and Math club

As additional funds become available, we will fund science related materials and trips as a Science and Math Club for Teachers/Coaches. We will visit places like Botanical Gardens with the Chief Learners Approval.

Our WESO teams will be building crates for other schools in exchange for a donated fee as well. Thank you Mr. Johnson and the WESO Board.

We have a group of Teachers and Parents committed and interested in helping make our Science and Math Club and WESO teams a success.

It's going to be a great year, thank you in advance to all of you who have made this possible.



Highlights From Facebook

BULBS and Our Gardens

The raised beds and over 400 springtime bulbs have been planted in the courtyard and front entrance. Thank you to both Mrs. Borders and Dr. Goodly for buying the bulbs, and Dr. Goodly in helping to build the boxes and planting the bulbs

Mrs. Koeppe hung a birdhouse and bird feeder outside her classroom for her students to enjoy and to help encourage birds in our gardens.

Leaf clean up in the courtyard was completed and a few plants were moved indoors. There is hope that these will last through the winter and we can move them back outside in the spring.

Beautiful array of flowers are expected in the Spring!



Music and Movement

Jason Suel, a facilitator for the Kennedy Center in New York presented a UMS workshop on "Developing Concentration and Cooperation Skills Through Drama for teachers at Carpenter last month. We were lucky enough to have him do a few activities with Mrs. Brower's and Mrs. Koeppe's classes during their vocal music time. Thank you Mrs. Borders for bring this amazing program to our school!



Third grade students went on a UMS field trip to see the Dorrance Dance troupe. It included a combination of tap dance, rap, and Blueman dance moves. What was really exciting was seeing the dancers making music on synthesizers as they danced. We recreated the experience at Carpenter when UMS sent two local dance teachers to present a pre and post show. Not only did we learn a variety of dance moves in rhythm, we explored our own steps using synthesizers available for check out at the Ann Arbor Public Library downtown.



First grade students attended the UMS Jake Shimabukuro concert at Hill auditorium. We were chosen to have one student, Dominic, speak on stage and Kaitlyn and Quinten ask questions in a post show. We were one of 3 school invited to speak with Jake after the concert. It led to a later lunch but great experience.

Special Guests:



We are thankful for our educational partners of The Randazzo Dance Co. for coming to our school and performing a snippet of their The Nutcracker program that was performed at Huron High on December 3rd and 4th. A

special thanks to Mayceecleaire (daughter of our SSW Camille Woods) and our Lady Cougar Dancers for being a part of the show and great role models to their fellow students.



Classroom interactions:

At Carpenter, We BELIEVE in authentic learning! Grandparents come and share their perspective with our 2nd graders for the Generations unit (learning about life cycles). The classes also prepared questions for the grandparents and enjoyed "Stone Soup" made by Mrs. Koeppe, Mrs. Watson and the students. The students were taught the history of the soup and even sent a bowl down to the Chief learner, who enjoyed it as well! Thank you Mrs. Koeppe, Mrs. Watson and Ms. Walters!



Girls on the Run Coming to Carpenter!

Families of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade girls - Registration for the Girls on the Run program at Carpenter is open. Please be aware that there are limited spots and registration is on a first come, first serve basis. Financial aid is available for families in need (we've never turned a girl away!).

Each Girls on the Run team (8-20 girls) requires two volunteer coaches. We estimate that there are approximately 100 girls in 3rd – 5th grade at Carpenter. The more volunteers we have the more girls we can serve.

You don't have to be a runner to be a coach - coaches simply must be passionate about the mission of Girls on the Run, committed to working with a group of girls twice a week for ten weeks, and bring positive energy to each practice.

Volunteer coaches are required to attend an exciting half day training on Saturday, February 18. The season begins the week of March 13th and runs until the end of May. Volunteers coach twice a week for 90 minutes for ten weeks. Our team will likely meet on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 4:00pm – 5:30pm. The culminating Girls on the Run 5k event is scheduled for Sunday, May 21. The Girls on the Run staff will provide the training, curriculum, supplies and support.

To learn more about becoming a coach and to fill out the coach application click here - <http://www.girlsontherunsemi.org/get-involved/volunteer>. Please let our Site Leader, Barry Aherne, know if you apply so that he can add you to his list of superheroes. Barry's email is bearach1@gmail.com.



SIGN UP YOUR GIRL TODAY!

Spring 2017 program registration is online!

www.girlsontherunsemi.org

Carpenter Elementary School

4250 Central Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Principal:

Michael Johnson

Secretary:

Valerie Bacoat

Teacher Clerks:

Pauline Ebrahim & Valerie Munson

General Office Phone:

734-997-1214

Carpenter Elementary PTO Committee**Amanda Gebhardt****Kym Randall****Shannon Dunn****Veronica Shah****Niki Coatney****Amber Beattie****Kathy Owens****Marlena Laugh****Kim Ulrich****Pete Finnie****Additional Ways to Support Your PTO and OUR Students****Box Tops for Education:**

Turn in your clipped Box Tops from participating products to the school office. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents for our school. Want to help our school earn extra box tops? Visit the following website to enter the sweepstakes:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes>

**Coca Cola Product Bottle Caps:**

Bring your bottle caps to the school office and drop them in the GIANT Coke bottle! **Or better yet:** visit the website below to enter your Coke Rewards codes here and donate them to our school. When you donate your points, the points are converted to cash for the school to use: <https://donate.mycokerewards.com/causes/featured>

**Amazonsmile**

New Amazon Program Enables Shoppers to Easily Donate to Their Favorite Nonprofits

Did you know that Amazon donates a percentage of each sale when you shop at smile.amazon.com? It's the exact same Amazon products, the same prices, and the same quick shipping, but when you shop Amazon Smile, Carpenter receives a portion of each sale!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Login with your normal Amazon account info
3. Type Carpenter PTO in the charitable organization search box
4. From now on, do all of your Amazon shopping from smile.amazon.com!

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19th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Children & Youth Program



Please join us

Monday, January 16, 2017

U-M Modern Languages Bldg.

812 E. Washington Street, Ann Arbor

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- free lunch
- entertaining performances
- engaging workshops

To register or learn more:

<https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu/mlk/>

All students in grades Kindergarten through High School in Southeastern Michigan are invited to spend a fun filled day commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the University of Michigan.

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Carpenter Elementary

Ann Arbor Public Schools

4250 Central Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Telephone: 734-997-1214
Fax: 734-997-1226

Michael T Johnson, Principal

December 15, 2016

ATTN: Parents of Carpenter Students

At Carpenter, we are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for this school year and are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal rules related to teacher qualifications as defined in No Child Left Behind. These rules allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching;
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and;
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

The Ann Arbor Public Schools is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled.

If you have any questions about your child's assignment to a teacher or paraprofessional please submit written requests to *Human Resource and Legal Services, 2555 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104, ATTN: NCLB Inquiries*. A minimum of ten (10) business days will be required to prepare the response.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Johnson, Principal

"At Carpenter, We BELIEVE..."



Ann Arbor Public Schools

Human Resources and General Counsel

2555 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

David A. Comsa, Deputy Superintendent
comsad@aap.s.k12.mi.us
Phone: (734) 994-2283
Fax: (734) 997-1046

MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals at Title I Schools

FROM: David Comsa, Deputy Superintendent HR/General Counsel

DATE: December 2, 2016 *DA*

SUBJECT: N.C.L.B. Letters to Parents

Once again it is time to send out the letters to parents per the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). Please reassure your staff that sending this letter out to parents is something that we are obligated to do per NCLB. The number of parents actually requesting this information has been minimal.

Parents of a student in the Ann Arbor Public Schools in a Title I school, under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), have the right to know the professional qualifications of their child's teachers. Per this directive, please print the attached letter on your school's letterhead, type in the name of your school on the first line (location for school name is underlined) and ask your staff to please distribute a copy of the letter to each student in their classroom to take home to their parents.

For further information pertaining to "Michigan's Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers" you can direct your staff to the MDE website at www.mi.gov/mde or call my office at 994-2283.

Thank you.

Cc: Dr. Jeanice Swift
Lee Ann Dickinson-Kelley