DECEMBER 2023

Principal: Karen Renna

Vice Principal: Kristen Gwiazdoski

Carrington

IMPORTANT DATES

12/6 - 12:00 Dismissal

12/6- Parent / Teacher Conferences 5 -7pm

12/8 - PJ Day for CCMC

12/8 - Picture Retake Day

12/12 - 6th Grade Music Performance at 5:30 PM

12/13 - 12:00 Dismissal

12/25 - 1/1 - Winter Break

1/2 - School Resumes

1/10 - 12:00 Dismissal

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Principal: Karen Renna

Vice Principal: Kristen Gwiazdoski

Dear Families,

As the 2023 year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support and trust in all of the staff at Carrington School to educate your child.

We look forward to 2024 with a renewal of energy and commitment to creating strong partnerships with parents. We encourage you to join our PTO. Please reach out to our parent liasion, Jean Creaven, if you are interested. From our family to yours, we wish you happy holidays and a healthy New Year!

Best,
Karen Renna, Principal

NURSE'S NEWS

Nurse: Tina Hauser, RN

A FEW REMINDERS

For PreK students:
Please provide the health office with proof of your child's flu vaccine by January 1, 2024.

For Kindergarten Students:
If your child was due for a physical this fall please provide a copy to the health office.

For 6th Grade Students:
Please be sure to make an appointment for a physical and immunizations which are due by the first day of 7th grade.

HEALTHY THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS
Get enough sleep, stay hydrated, and eat healthy!
Also, please keep your child home if they are ill
The school fever policy is that the student must be fever free for 24hrs without the use of Tylenol or Motrin to return to school
We wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!

READING DEPARTMENT

As the temperature drops, we all start looking for fun family activities to do indoors. Did you know that December is Write a Friend Month? This is a perfect time to brighten someone's day by sending them a friendly letter or card. What a wonderful family activity that could be! You could also grab your favorite blanket and curl up with a great book. Please encourage your children to read each night whether a paper book or one from our variety of online resources, like Literacy Pro.

Did you know December has so many food related days to celebrate? There is National Cookie Day, National Cotton Candy Day, National Brownie Day, Gingerbread House Day, National Cocoa Day, The Feast of the Seven Fishes, World Pear Day, National Bacon Day, National Cookie Exchange Day, and National Chocolate Covered Anything Day. We are going to be so full after this month.

We also want to send a friendly reminder that middle of the year testing is coming up when we return from winter break. The best way to prepare for this is to READ, READ, READ! Reading the recipe cards for some of the special days this month would be a great way to read together.

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at (203) 574-8184.

Sincerely,

The Reading Department

Ms. Johnson – Literacy Facilitator

Mrs. Mute– Reading Teacher

PRE - KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Mauceri & Mrs. Promotico

Happy Holidays! It certainly is the most wonderful time of the year! We hope you enjoy it with your family and friends. December marks the beginning of our “Clothing Study.” Within this study, we will explore all types of clothing, their purpose, colors, sizes and fabrics. We may even try our hand at “sewing!” Please take some time to talk about your clothes with your child and their attributes (patterns, colors) and let them share their favorite items and why.)

Not only will we explore traditions about various winter holidays, we will also have a unique opportunity to learn about the holiday of Hanukkah with Mrs. Caplan. She will read us a story and share the traditions she shares with her family on this special holiday. We are looking forward to it. We will also listen to the story, Paperwhite by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace and plant some paperwhite bulbs in our classroom in order for them to bloom on time for the Christmas holiday.

Wednesday, December 6th is Parent Conference Night and 12:00 dismissal. We are looking forward to discussing your child’s progress with. Thursday, December 7th is our field trip to Bees, Fleas, and Trees. We will explore a tree farm and learn how to care for them. We will also have some yummy “Snowman Soup” to help warm us up after we walk around the farm. Friday, December 8th is Pajama Day! Please send your child to school in their favorite holiday pj’s with a $1donation to benefit Connecticut Children's Medical. We will read Llama, Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney on that day.

Wednesday, December 13th is another 4.5 hour day with 12:00 dismissal for Teacher Collaboration.Our Progress Reports will be sent home on Wednesday December 19th. Finally, we will be inviting parents in for our “Holiday Stations'' on December 20th (more details to follow).

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a Happy and Healthy Holiday and a very Happy New Year!
Mrs. Mauceri, Mrs. Promotico, Mrs. Caplan and Miss Danielle

KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Baker & Mrs. Boivin

Reading Language Arts

In December, students will continue to strengthen their decoding and blending skills. We will also continue to use the ECRI Program to help support our phonics and reading skills.

We will increase our list of CVC (Consonant-Vowel-Consonant) Words, HFW (High Frequency Words), penmanship and "PROPER" punctuation while writing sentences. Don't forget to practice our High Frequency Words on Word Card Wednesday!

Math

Our students will continue to practice strategies to represent and identify partners of numerals 0-10. We will begin solving addition and subtraction problems. We also continue to subitize an amount without the process of counting.

Science

We have learned about what living things (plants and animals) need to survive. We will use what we have learned about living things to take our first assessment. We will begin to explore the topic of force and motion.

Other News

We are seeing such positive results with students trying to log in to their chromebook independently!! We are hopeful this growth continues with an expectation for all to independently log in by December!! Please continue to practice with your child at home!

The cold weather has arrived. Please make sure your child has a warm jacket, hat and gloves/mittens to go out for recess in the chillier temperatures. Please label each item in case your child misplaces something, it is easy to determine where the item(s) belong.

Pajama Day to support the children and CCMC is December 8, 2023. Students may wear a clean pair of pajamas with a donation of at least $1. Please consider having your child participate.

Please check your child's folder nightly for homework, class work and/or important information. Dojo provides a snapshot of your child's day, so please check Dojo daily. If you have any questions or concerns, please message Mrs. Baker or Mrs. Boivin on ParentSquare.

The Kindergarten Team is grateful for your continued support of helping your children be the best kindergarteners they can be!! Happy Holidays!

FIRST GRADE

Ms. Scarborough & Mrs. Varholak

Winter is fast approaching, please make sure to send your child with a winter coat everyday. You can also send a hat and gloves. They are allowed to wear a school sweater in class as well. Make sure to label all clothing items, as we have to take coats, hats and gloves to lunch with us after recess.

ECRI- We are moving onto Unit 3! In Unit 3 our spelling focus will be long vowels, called “vowel consonant e”.In vowel-consonant-e words, the letter e at the end of the syllable hops over the consonant before it and gives all its power to the vowel. The e stays quiet so that the vowel before it could say its name.

Wonders- We are starting Unit 3 , “Changes Over TIme”. We will continue each week to focus on different essential questions and read books that relate to the question. We will focus on our different reading skills and strategies while we read. Please continue to practice the high frequency words sent home each week.

Math- We are continuing to work on addition and subtraction word problems and understanding true and false equations. Please continue to work on addition and subtraction facts to 10, make it fun!! We will have our IReady middle of the year testing at the end of December!

Important Dates:

12/6- Early Dismissal & Parent Conferences

12/8- PJ Day For The Kids- $1.00 Donation

12/13- Early Dismissal

12/15- Puppet Show “Happy Heart”

SECOND GRADE

Ms. Guerrera & Mr. LeVasseur

Hello 2nd Grade Families!!

In December, math will be focusing more on newer topics for second grade. We will continue our second unit in numbers within 100. This will include topics such as addition, subtraction, time and money. We will be using manipulatives to guide us towards strategies. We will be using strategies that we learned in unit 1 also!

In reading, we finished talking about animals and how they can sometimes teach us lessons within stories. We will then move onto Unit 3, which talks about the Earth and people within communities! We will continue using strategies such as: main topic and details and parts of stories.

In ECRI, we are going to continue working on consonant digraphs. This includes sh, ch, ng, th, wh, and ph sounds. After we work on consonant digraphs, we are moving on to variant vowels, which includes other ways to spell long vowel sounds.

The weather is getting very cold, please make sure your child has a coat to go outdoors for recess. Also, if your child needs a sweater while in the building, it must be compliant with the District's Dress Code Policy. Please review the Student Handbook for District Policies including Dress Code Expectations.

We will continue to also reinforce classroom expectations and procedures. Class Dojo communicates to students and to parents how your child is doing in the classroom. Be sure to also check ParentSquare daily for any updates in the classroom!

December Important Dates:
12/6 Half Day
12/13 Half Day
12/25-1/2 Winter Break!!

Thank you so much and Happy Holidays!
Miss Guerrera
Mr LeVasseur

THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Ciccone & Mr. Gagnon

Happy Holidays from Third Grade!

In December in our study of math we will conclude the distributive property of multiplication. We will use our knowledge of multiplication to solve problems and we will begin our study of division.

In literacy we will read expository texts with topics of animal survival, animal and plant adaptations, and problem solving. We will discuss authors' point of view, cause and effect, and problem/solution text structures.

The study of Fundations spelling will introduce students to the very important concept of "vowel consonant e exceptions" and we will teach the "e drop rule" for adding vowel suffixes to "vowel consonant e" words. We will also introduce the new "schwa" sound which teaches students that other vowels can make the short i and the short u sound!

In third grade we continue to emphasize that students should be respectful, on task, accountable, responsible, and safe. We communicate our behavior expectations to students daily through the use of Class Dojo and we encourage parents and guardians to monitor students' behavior along with us each week. We continue to implement end of month rewards for good behavior.

Finally, we regularly use Parent Square for announcements and individualized messages to parents. Please check that daily for important information.

FOURTH GRADE

Mrs. Carroll & Ms. Smith

In the month of December, we will continue to work on multiplication by learning to multiply larger numbers by one-digit and two-digit numbers. It is very important that students work on math facts daily so they can keep up with the concepts we are learning in the classroom. We will also work on the middle-of-the-year iReady diagnostic to see how students are progressing in their growth in Math. We are doing an iReady Challenge to encourage students to reach 50+ minutes and pass 2 or more lessons in iReady each week. Students who reach this each week are more likely to make their goal by the end of the school year.

In ELA, we are working through Unit 2 in our Wonders Curriculum which centers around animals and has students asking themselves, “What have you learned from animals or animal characters?” They have been reading and responding to various nonfiction texts and exploring how all living things are connected. The writing piece for this unit is a personal narrative and students have chosen a small moment from their lives to write about and have begun drafting their story. As always, we are practicing daily to increase our reading fluency and students should be reading nightly as well in order to increase their reading stamina. Their current homework expectation is to read at least 4 nights per week for at least 20 minutes each night; this will increase to 25 minutes for the new year. Please check to make sure your child is tracking this progress on their reading homework calendar which will be collected for a grade at the end of each month.

In Science, we will be learning about how waves help information to transfer from place to place.

As the temperatures continue to drop, please make sure to send in proper outerwear with your student (coat, gloves, hat). They are allowed to wear a school sweater in class as well so please provide one for your child because the temperature throughout the building varies.

We hope you have a very Happy Holiday Season!!

FIFTH GRADE

Mrs. Allen & Mr. Russo

Hello fifth-grade families!

It is feeling an awful lot like winter out there. Please make sure your child is wearing a coat to school everyday and other necessary items such as hats, etc. as we will be outside for recess unless it is freezing. Hoodies are not part of the school uniform dress code, so please make sure your child has a sweater for the classroom because the classrooms can be chilly sometimes. Thank you!

We are involved in school-wide door decorating with a winter theme. The students are having a lot of fun and the doors look amazing! We wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and holiday season.

The following are topics we will be covering in December:

Mathematics:

We are beginning to learn about place value in decimal numbers. We will also be looking at patterns with powers of ten. The Middle-of-year diagnostic window for iReady will be open in the middle of December. We have examined iReady data and lessons passed and will be participating in a school-wide competition for iReady. We have discussed strategies for being successful when working on iReady such as staying on task, using scratch paper, asking questions and re-reading the problem. Please make sure your child has headphones that he/she can use for school to help him/her be successful. Thank you!

Science:

We are learning about How Organisms use Matter and Energy. This includes producers and consumers. Students will use models to describe that energy in animals' food (used for body repair, growth, motion, and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun. We continue to visit the science lab with Ms. Murray on A (Mrs. Allen's class) and B (Mr. Russo's Class) Days. We are monitoring the weather using a weather station that was donated to the school. We will also be conducting a plant lab to further investigate photosynthesis which is from our last unit on how plants use matter for energy.

Reading and Writing:

We started to learn ways that we get the information that we need and want. Vocabulary has been getting slightly more challenging, so if you can practice with your students, that would be great. We write the words and definitions in our notebooks so you can find them there.

I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing Thanksgiving. Before we know it, it will be 2024!!! We just finished our first semester and report cards went out to everyone. I hope everyone was happy with their grades. We have worked very hard this past semester.

SIXTH GRADE

Mr. Carosella & Ms. Griffin

Math: Students will fluently add, subtract and multiply decimals using standard algorithm strategies for each operation. In doing so, students will apply standard algorithm strategies to solve multi-digit problems for all operations. Also, students will represent ratios using tables, charts and diagrams. Using their understanding of ratios, students will solve real world mathematical problems.

Social Studies: Students will continue to explore the continent of Asia. Specifically, students will learn about the physical geography, history and life in Southeast Asia.

Language Arts: Students will continue to work on a variety of writing skills with a focus on developing descriptive body paragraphs and transitions across storytelling. Our upcoming unit project will require these skills as students will create their own encounter with Percy. Students will also continue to develop grammar skills with daily activities on our Quill platform.

Reading: Students will continue reading Percy Jackson and the Olympians Lightning Thief with a focus on Greek Mythology, story structure and development. Students will continue to acquire new vocabulary and further develop comprehension responses throughout this unit.

Science: Students will continue Unit 2 Ecosystems. Students will explore how organisms within an ecosystem depend on one another. Based on these connections they will create food webs and identify producers, consumers and decomposers. Also, students will formulate a hypothesis about how plants gain mass and then interpret photosynthesis through several activities to learn more.

SEVENTH GRADE

Social Studies - Mr. Thomas

Students will finish studying Canada and then begin to study the countries of South America.

Math - Ms. Hall

Students are learning how to apply the addition and subtraction of integers to real-world situations.

Science - Ms. Murrary

7th grade students have been working hard in their study of chemical and physical reactions. We've done multiple labs investigating these reactions with great success. Next up, we'll go further to gain a better understanding of the periodic table including atoms, elements, and compounds.

Reading - Mr. Napp

- We are beginning our new unit and book. We will be reading The Giver by Lois Lowry. In the unit we will explore the topics of a Utopian and Dystopian society.

Language Arts - Mrs. Fernandez

Students will be studying the dark elements of a society by reading and analyzing StudySync excerpts where they must pick out these elements.

EIGHTH GRADE

Social Studies - Mr. Thomas

Students will finish studying the French and Indian War and begin to examine the Revolutionary War as well as the creation of the United States.

Math - Ms. Hall

Students are finishing up their unit on Angles in Triangles. They will be able to determine the missing angles of a triangle and determine if a triangle is congruent based on angles.

Science - Ms. Murrary

8th grade students are taking their study of earth and its formation a little bit closer to home right now. Now that students understand the moon phases and why we have seasons, we are investigating early life on earth. Fossils, rock formations, and phenomena such as the Grand Canyon are the focus of our studies over the next few weeks.

Reading - Mr. Napp

We have started our new unit and book. We will be reading Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. It is a memoir written in poetry form. In this unit we will talk about the Civil rights era and its impact on the author and the world.

Language Arts - Mrs. Fernandez

Students are learning about how to properly set up a research plan in order to form a strong argumentative response.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Essential Skills 1 - Ms. Rodriguez

A happy hello from Essential skills 1! Hope everyone had a nice and enjoyable Thanksgiving. As we enter the last month of 2023 we are all excited for the fun festivities and activities we have planned. As we continue our one-two step directions we will be making “Joining hands plate wreaths”, “Wiki stick Glitter Christmas Trees”, “popsicle stick ornaments”, “painted egg crate snowmen” and "Stackable felt colorful trees”. We will continue to identify our colors focusing on green, red, and white. We will also be counting stockings, elves, Christmas trees and reindeer from 1-10. Some holiday stories we have planned are “Pete the cat saves Christmas”, “Olivia helps with Christmas", and “Superwhy, Twas the night before Xmas”. We look forward to a successful and productive month of December as we continue working hard on our daily tasks.

Happy Holidays!!

Essential Skills 2 - Ms. Teal

Welcome December!! ESC2 will be doing tons of festive crafts during this month! As we continue our daily circle time we now introduce the colors green and white, the reindeer, triangle and the texture smooth. Please keep an eye out on parent square as we will be doing some fun activities throughout the month of december. Also please remember to check your childs backpack for any papers. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Elementary - Mrs. Barbati

This month my students decorated our door with holiday bulbs, each student creating their own and decorating it in their own special way. The theme and phrase on this decorated door reads "We light up the holidays with Kindness". Also this month, we will be practicing our reading fluency drills to increase both fluency and accuracy, whether it is single words for the lower grades (K/1) or reading passages grades 2-4. In Math, Grades K/1, and 2 are working on their addition/subtraction fluency, while Grades 3/4 are working on their multiplication fact fluency.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!

Mrs. Barbati

Special Ed Resource Teacher (Grades K-4)

Middle School - Mrs. Pierce

This month (December) is a very exciting month. The children are already very excited. In addition to our core academics per their IEP's my students will be participating in door decorating and other holiday related activities. I won't spoil all the fun by telling you everything! If you have questions or concerns about anything please call (203-574-8184), e-mail (kpierce@waterbury.k12.ct.us), of parent square me. Have a Happy and Safe Holiday!

Karen Pierce

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Mrs. Parker

Hello December,

We have created a Kindness Chain for our classroom displaying ways we are kind to ourselves, others, and the world around us. We wrote about gratitude and thankfulness in small groups. Please ask your children to share some acts of kindness and things that they appreciate with you and your family at home. We are also keeping up with lessons in our Wonders series and discussing genres and story elements. Please continue to encourage independent reading at home. Happy Holidays to all!

SPECIALS

Music - Mrs. Doolan

The Middle School students are finishing up a unit on “The Elements of Music.” The students have learned many new terms and are able to analyze music better with their new knowledge! The 6th Grades have been working on an all Holiday Revue called ‘We Need a Little Christmas Vacation”, a story about children who get stuck at school because of a snow storm right before their school vacation in December. They will be performing on December 12th, 2023 at 5:30PM. Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students have been learning bear songs: Bebop The Bear; We’re Going on a Bear Hunt; and Letter B says Buh. They also have been learning about loud and quiet music. That is forte and piano.

Physical Education - Mr. Chiasson

In Physical Education, students in grades PK-2 are finishing a unit on soccer and moving on to a unit on cooperative games where teamwork and communication skills are paramount. In grades 3-7 students will be finishing their Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment pretests before moving on to a unit on floor hockey where skills related to the sport will be practiced before gameplay. In grade 8 students will be beginning a unit on ultimate frisbee from basic throwing and catching skills, to offensive and defensive strategies, and gameplay before the holiday break.

Library - Mrs. Rosa

Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First grade students are reading stories about snow, both fiction and non-fcition. Elementary students are learning about dictionaries. They will also be reading about different winter holidays and fun holiday stories. Middle schoolers are all completing research projects. 7th graders will be completing a research project on holiday toys and 8th graders are researching careers that they are interested in