

Carver News



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"Caring, Creating, Committed...Carver"

What an exciting time of the year! I hope you had a wonderful Winter Break. It is hard to believe that it is already 2010. Wasn't it just a few days ago that we were getting ready for 2000? Time has really passed quickly.

This semester is going to be a busy one at Carver, and I do not want you to miss out on anything. There are several ways to stay up-to-date on what is happening. Our campus website www.georgetownisd.org/carver is updated all the time. We also send out emails to anyone signed up to receive them (you may sign up on our HomePage). We also have tons of information and a calendar in our newsletter and send home flyers, calendars, notes, etc. with our students. We also have the friendliest and most helpful office staff around, so feel free to call if you ever have a question or just need information.

Thank you so much for your support this past semester! I am settled in, and I am loving being a part of this phenomenal Carver Family. We are all truly blessed to be in this place.



Happy New Year!
Nancy Bottlinger

News from the Nurse

Texas Vaccines for Children Program is now at Carver! Beginning in January, you can get your child's immunizations here at Carver! If you qualify, these vaccines are free of charge. Please see or call Nurse Church Vest for details. 943-5071

Get GT Fit is in full swing. Be sure that you are drinking your water EVERY DAY and getting in that exercise each week! I have dedicated the bulletin board outside my office to Get GT Fit. I'll post the tip of the week and helpful hints. Stop by for updated information!

If you have received a letter stating your child failed a vision or hearing screening, please take your child to the doctor for further evaluation. Return the letter, signed by the physician, to Nurse Church Vest. If you need assistance, please contact the Nurse. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

Lice: It's that time of year where head lice spread very quickly. Be sure to check your child at least once a week for signs of lice (the bugs) or nits (the eggs). If you find lice or nits, please notify the Nurse. Many treatment options are available. Remember: you must get rid of all the nits! Shampooing doesn't always kill the nits and removal of nits is proven to be the best way to get rid of lice. See the Nurse for more details or if you have questions.

Please dress your child appropriately for the weather each day. If it's cold, send them in a coat. NO spaghetti straps or shorts during this cold weather. If your child is sent home in clothes borrowed from Carver, please return them, WASHED, as soon as possible to the Nurse.

PTA

The PTA wants to thank those who have already applied to advertise/sponsor in the Carver Directory. It is not too late if you are still interested in having your business name in the Directory. Please return the application by Friday, January 8th.

Get GT Fit

December 21st marks the start of the 4th week of our 12 week **5k training program**. The Get GT Fit guide has devised specific walking/running goals for each week. In addition, it provides weekly Healthy Habits and training information to help us achieve those weekly goals. In **week 1**, we learned how to get started whether it was as a walker, first time runner, or a runner. In **week 2**, we learned how important it is to be mindful of our breathing while we exercise. **Week 3** explained the difference between soreness and injury and how to determine the difference. Also in this week, was a Healthy Holiday plan and training schedule. In **week 4**, goal setting takes center stage. Our goal? **Race day on February 27th 2010. Register by February 21st to receive an event t-shirt.** The registration form is in the guide on page 50. Keep up the GREAT work!!

Gifted & Talented:

All Research groups had a great time creating their projects in December. First graders built tables out of newspaper, and second graders built paddle boats. In January we look forward our next projects. First grade students will be researching animals, and second grade students will be researching the effect of water.



We would like to welcome Mrs. Emily Fraser to our Carver Family. She is our new Kindergarten teacher.

We would also like to wish Mrs. Coco Perry great success at Tippitt Middle School as one of their new guidance counselors.



Kindergarten News

This month, we will be doing a lot of mid-year testing. Students will be reading one on one with the teacher to determine reading level. We will also be assessing listening comprehension with stories read aloud, followed by five questions ranging from easy details to higher level thinking questions. The final round of tests will be fluency tests to see how many letters or sounds students can name in one minute. Please help us out by making sure your child is well rested and at school in time to eat breakfast with the class. We want everyone to do his or her best on all of these assessments and when students are tired or have their routine thrown off coming to school tardy, it's hard for them to test well. Once all of the testing is complete, you will receive information from your child's teacher letting you know how your child is doing at the mid-year point. Thank you for your continued support!

1st Grade News

Thank you all for helping with our class parties. We had a lot of fun! Hopefully everyone had a restful "Winter Break". We will be studying the following units: Black History, Martin Luther King Jr., Measurement, Magnets, and Counting Money. It would benefit your child to practice counting money at home. Check out the Carver Lab Links page on the Carver Website. There are links to some great websites to help your children practice Math and Spelling.

Please continue to support our school-wide Reading Program by Reading At Home with your child and recording the minutes.
Happy New Year!

Happy Fall From Pre-K!

Happy 2010! Hope everyone had a terrific Winter Break! We are ready for an exciting second semester of learning in Pre-K! This month our main focus will be on different types of weather and the changes that take place between fall and winter. We will also be learning about time changes between day and night, and discussing the different types of landforms that surround us here in Texas. Such as the hills of the hill country and the many rivers like the San Gabriel River in Georgetown. Please ask your child what they are learning about especially when work comes home in their folder. This is a great way for you to connect with them and help extend their understanding.



2nd Grade News

2nd grade has had a fabulous year so far, and we are looking forward to a successful New Year!

We are very excited to be studying shapes and figures, symmetry, and money this month. We will also celebrate Black History by studying Famous Black Americans and their contributions to our great country. We will also learn more about the United States when we learn about our national landmarks. Please continue to work on basic math facts, and read 20 to 30 minutes a night. Thanks for your support, The Second Grade Team

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 Workday Student Holiday	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Report Cards Come Home	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 School Holiday	19 GISD Community Forum 6:30	20 Ident A Kid	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Father Friday Lunch	30
31						

Mathematicians' Corner

Over the Winter Holidays have your kids go to megamath.com. This is great tool online to help them practice their math skills while they are not at school.

To Access:

Carver website, click on Think-CentralMath, then have your child log in. Once they have logged in go to Library, the yellow star, then choose an activity to work on. Your child should know their password. If they don't you may contact their homeroom teacher.



Technology Tidbits

If you are interested in some of the links and websites we are using at Carver with our students, please visit the following link.
<http://www.georgetownisd.org/carver/harmrickd/ParentTechNightShow.pps>

This set of information provided subscriptions that need usernames and passwords. These have been provided by the Librarian in previous material that was sent home. Many students also have or know the passwords and we can send it to you via email if you request it.

Many students are movin' and grovin' on Technology Skills with Learning.com and several students are interested in learning how to keyboard. Some of the best free website to help you or your student begin to learn keyboarding is:
<http://www.freetypinggame.net/>,
<http://www.davis.k12.ut.us/cih/applidtech/Business/Keyboarding/Index.html>,
<http://www.typingweb.com/>.

Please encourage your students to show you what they have been learning in the computer lab.

Happy New Year
 Dama Hamrick

News from Literacy...

Some of you may have your children served in a literacy group at Carver. Literacy Group is an intervention designed to support your child's reading development. There are different types of groups with varying levels of support. Groups are comprised of no more than 6 students. They are based on a balanced literacy lesson including word work (phonics), guided reading (print awareness and strategy work), phonemic awareness, comprehension, fluency and vocabulary. Each lesson plan is designed to meet the group's unique needs and take advantage of their individual strengths. Literacy Group is provided daily for 30 minutes and is in **addition** to the reading instruction received in the classroom. Instruction is provided by trained, certified Reading Recovery teachers or trained paraprofessionals that work closely with the Reading Recovery teachers to plan and implement literacy group instruction. Students qualify for this additional support based on benchmark reading assessment (AIMSWEB), developmental reading assessment (DRA) and/or classroom teacher recommendation.

Art -

Wow! We're half way through the year!! In 2010, look for information (later in the spring) about the Healing Arts Gallery art show with GISD student artwork, and the 2nd Annual District Art Show. I will send specific dates and times home when we get closer. Check the Carver website for current art projects and happenings in the art room!

Physical Education

Thanks to all those who raised money for the American Diabetes Association for our Walk. We raised about \$650. It is a great cause to be able to help to find a cure for Diabetes. Great job. We are putting pictures on our wall in the gym that show your child "Caring". We asked them to bring us a picture of them doing something kind like helping with Christmas decorating, giving presents, volunteering somewhere or just doing something that shows they "Care". I know the weather has been cold and wet, but be sure and get out and exercise or play with your children. We want to thank Run Tex and all the sponsors who made the Born To Run shirts and the nice booklet possible to give to all the students. We hope you are looking through the booklet and talking about it with your child. It has some great info as well as the training/exercising aspect. It will conclude with a 5K/1K run Feb. 27th. Have a great Holiday this Christmas Break.

Music -

What a fun December we had in Music! A big THANK YOU to all the parents and volunteers who helped pull off a fantastic second grade Christmas music program. We couldn't have done it without you! We'll be getting back to work in all grades in January learning about Martin Luther King, Jr., practicing our rhythms and pitches, discovering new composers, and learning new songs.

Librarian's Corner

It's a New Year with lots of new books to read! Let's make a resolution to get books back on time to the library. Parents, please encourage your students to keep their library books in their backpacks so they will have them when they come to the library each week!

If any of you have extra party favors left over from birthdays, or prizes from kids' meals, or small toys in good condition, please send them to the Library. I use these to give away to classes that all turn their books in on time, and I'm always in need of more prizes for the Treasure Box!! Thanks for your help in keeping it filled!

Absences and Tardiness

Please remember that school starts at 8:01. If your child arrives after 8:01, they must get a tardy slip from the office. Mrs. Hord, the assistant principal, will send home letters to students who are frequently late to class. After 14 tardy slips are issued, a consequence occurs. Please help your students arrive on time.

State Law requires that students be in attendance 90% of school days. We want children who are truly sick to stay home, but if your child's complaints are not specific, please let them come to school. We will call home if we need to and ask for you to pick up a sick child. (That's one reason we always need to have working numbers.) If your child is sick, please call the office that day and follow up with a note when your child returns to school.

From the Counselor...

Georgetown Partners in Education (PIE)

PIE is in need of volunteers for their Project Mentor program. Project Mentor is a volunteer program that matches community volunteer mentors with student protégés of all ages. Mentors offer protégés ongoing guidance, helping improve self-esteem, improve academically, understand the relevance of their school work to their daily lives and explore opportunities for the future.

Community members can volunteer to become mentors by committing to participation in the program for one school year, meeting with an assigned student for 30 minutes once a week on school grounds, agreeing to a background check from the Department of Public Safety and attending a initial two-hour mentor training session and at least one mentor sharing session held throughout the year.

If you know a family member, neighbor, friend (anyone you think would be ideal) please mention this wonderful opportunity to them!

For more information on volunteering, contact Partners in Education by email at mentor@georgetownisd.org or by phone at 943-5175.

REMINDER:

We have been asking visitors to sign in each morning if they are going down the hallway. Beginning in January, all visitors will need to use Raptor to sign in each morning. (The yellow stickers will no longer be enough.) Thank you so much for all your help with this safety issue.

Winter

We are always happy to see parents involved in the educational process of their children. Parents often communicate directly with teachers to better understand the demands of the educational process and our teachers are happy to visit in person with parents. However, sometimes a parent just shows up at the teacher's classroom expecting the teacher to have time to visit. It is extremely important for teachers to use their time when students are present teaching. Teachers are able to meet with parents during their conference period or after classes are dismissed for the day. Interruptions to instructional time keep the teacher from focusing on the lesson and results in students not getting the full benefit of their teacher's attention.

Parents are always welcome at Carver Elementary! If you need to visit with your child's teacher, please call or email them for a meeting time.

News from Special Education

The second grade writing resource group recently participated in a Christmas poetry workshop. Just like Santa's elves we worked away writing, stamping, and decorating with word art on the computer. We can sympathize with Santa's helpers when it comes to do-overs.

However, all our hard work will be worth it when we share our poetry books with our families and friends. A few cookies wouldn't hurt either. Much thanks goes to our second grade teachers, Mrs. Vargo for all the poetry books, and Mrs. Hamrick for computer program support.