

OCTOBER 2022

# CARRINGTON

PRINCIPAL : Karen Renna  
VICE PRINCIPAL: Kristen Gwiazdoski

## Friendly Reminders

School starts at 8:35 AM  
Dismissal is at 2:45 PM  
Every Friday is Fitness Friday  
Charge chromebooks at night  
No Crocs  
No Slippers  
No cellphones

## Important Dates

- 10/10 - No School Columbus Day  
10/12 - 12:00 Dismissal  
10/12 - Community Day  
at Waterville Park 4-6 PM  
10/13 - October Behavior Awareness  
Silly Hair and Sock Day  
10/20 - **PINK** out day  
10/26 - No School  
10/27 - 8th Grade PSAT  
10/28 - Picture Day \*Uniform only

\$1 Donation for Fitness Friday!  
Wear Pink for Fitness Fridays  
in October to support Breast  
Cancer Awareness!



**Carrington**  
Elementary School

# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

*Principal: Karen Renna*

*Vice Principal: Kristen Gwiazdoski*

Dear Families,

We would like to thank everybody for a great start of a new year. We are so excited to have all of our students and staff back and we welcome our new families and staff to Carrington. Our ice cream social was a big success! It was so nice to see so many turn out for the event. As a reminder, classes start at 8:35. If you are dropping your child off in the morning please allow enough time so they are not marked tardy. Parent Square will have daily messages from your child's teacher, administration and/or the district so be sure to download the app and check it frequently. Please send in a written note if you are picking up your child early, along with a Parent Square message. If at any time you would like a meeting with your child's teacher or administration, please be sure to call the school to set up an appointment as advanced notice is needed. If anyone would like to volunteer or be part of our parent committee, please reach out to Jean Creaven, our parent liaison.

Thank you for all you do to support your child to learn and grow!

# GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

*Mrs. Ogilvy*

## HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Our 8th Grade students are beginning to explore their choices for high school. The district school is Wilby, however, students may apply to any of the following schools: Early College High School (Crosby), SOAR Program (Kennedy), ATOMS Program (Wilby), WAMS (Waterbury Arts Magnet School), WCA (Waterbury Career Academy), Kaynor Tech, Holy Cross and the Science and Agriculture Program at Southington High School. Wow, so many choices! These schools/programs are by application only and they will accept students who meet their criteria for achievement, discipline, attendance and overall fit for the school. Most of the applications require an essay or questions regarding their desire to attend a particular school. WAMS is the only school that is chosen by lottery.

These schools will visit Carrington in October or November. The applications will be due by Thanksgiving break and they will be filed electronically. As the School Counselor, I will provide the documentation the school requires, such as transcripts and attendance, however, the student will be required to ask teachers for recommendations. I will be available to meet and support students in this process. Please remind your student of the importance of this 1st quarter. The schools will be accepting students on the basis of their 7th grade and 1st quarter of 8th grade. I will be sending more information as we move forward in this process. Please contact me with any questions  
[logilvy@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:logilvy@waterbury.k12.ct.us)

# READING DEPARTMENT

Welcome back! This year we have a change in our ELA Department at Carrington School. We are very lucky to welcome Ms. Johnson as our Literacy Facilitator. Ms. Johnson was one of our 4th grade teachers last year. She is a wonderful asset to our ELA Department and has many great ideas to enhance our students' success in reading. All K - 5 students are finishing up the beginning of the year benchmark assessments. Your child's assessment results will be sent home in order to keep you aware of his/her academic performance. Small group instruction along with intervention has been taking place on a daily basis. Your child's small group instruction is based on his/her needs. Changes will be made to these groups based on students' benchmark data. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

The month of October has many special days. Some of them are National Pizza Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Dessert Day, Fire Prevention Day, World Teachers' Day, and Halloween. These make wonderful topics to read about and discuss with your child. The library is a great resource and a fun place to visit to read about these special days.

Sincerely,  
The Reading Department  
Ms. Johnson- Literacy Facilitator  
Mrs. Cavanaugh- Reading Teacher  
Mrs. Carosello – Reading Tutor  
Mrs. Moriarty – Reading Tutor

# PRE - KINDERGARTEN

*Mrs. Mauceri and Mrs. Promotico*

We are off to a great start here in Pre-Kindergarten....We have been getting used to our new classrooms' routines and have been making lots of new friends! October promises to be a fun and exciting month as we finish-up our "Beginning the Year" Study and start a new study on "Trees". What a perfect time of year to watch all the colorful changes around us and learn about this amazing part of nature. We will also begin our Monthly Reading Logs to support daily reading with your child at home. More details will be provided... so look out for that!

On October 14th we will have a visit from our Bunker Hill Neighborhood Fire Department. We will be able to see a firetruck up close and watch a firefighter get dressed in all his fire gear so we are not frightened if we have an emergency in our homes. We may even get to sit in the driver's seat! So exciting! Think about setting up a "meeting spot" in your yard for all family members to meet in the event of a fire emergency in your home.

October also marks the beginning of our monthly Puppet Shows sponsored by The Hispanic Health Council to foster healthy habits. This month's program on October 7th titled, "My Plate" will help the children learn about healthy foods and making good choices.

October wraps-up with Halloween and many fun and engaging activities throughout the week during both whole-group and "Free Choice Center Times." Although we do NOT wear costumes, it is an exciting time for the children and one of which they really look forward to. If you prefer your child not to participate, please reach out to us so that we can plan accordingly and be respectful of your choice.

# KINDERGARTEN

*Mrs. Riggi and Mrs. Baker*

Kindergarten is off to a remarkably wonderful start. We are settling nicely into our daily routines and schedules. Please be sure all items are labeled especially with hats, coats and seasonal items starting to be in use.

## READING/ LANG.ARTS

We are working to recognize letters T,B,F,N,M I,U and C& O over the next coming weeks. Please work so all students identify the letter name and sound.

We are also identifying rhyming words and sounds, along with beginning, middle ,and end sounds in a CVC

( consonant -vowel-consonant) word.

## MATH and SCIENCE

We are studying Weather and all of the different kinds we can observe, experience, describe and how we dress in different temperatures and seasons.

Kindergarteners are doing a fantastic job identifying a number, matching it to an amount or set and writing the number correctly. Please practice number formation 0-10 and handwriting poems we sent home practicing consistently at home will lead to great success.

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in tissues, wipes, paper towels and sanitizer products, we are most grateful.

Fondly,

Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Riggi

# FIRST GRADE

*Mrs. Varholak*

Hello First Grade Families!

We are off to an amazing start! Our students have adjusted nicely to our routines, classroom expectations, and school procedures.

We are asking to make reading every night part of your child's day. Studies have shown that students reading for 20 minutes a day are exposed to 1.8 million words in one school year. ... Reading improves writing skills. It expands vocabulary. Most importantly, taking 20 minutes to read every day can boost mental health!!!

In ELA, our students are identifying letters and sounds, blending them together, and decoding harder words. We are also focusing on our new weekly writing curriculum.

In Math we are learning counting on and counting back. We are also becoming math detectives and finding missing addends.

Please continue to check homework folders, behavior charts, and backpacks each night.

# SECOND GRADE

*Mrs. Boivin and Miss Guerrera*

Welcome to Grade 2! We are excited about our new friends, new hallway, and new teachers! There are a lot of expectations that Grade 2 is working on mastering at this early stage. We encourage all parents/families to connect to our ClassDojo to see a snapshot of your child's behavior throughout the day. We also encourage you to check ParentSquare often. We share helpful information such as reminders, schoolwide activities, and things your child is or will be learning. ParentSquare is a great place to connect with your child's teacher. Please feel free to message Mrs. Boivin or Miss Guerrera should you have any questions and/or concerns.

Once we get to October, students are well into their daily routine and are aware of expectations. Foundations will continue reinforcing Grade 1 content. Math will lead us into building upon strategies used in Grade 1 by using mental math strategies for addition and subtraction within 20. In Language Arts, we will finish up writing our very first piece of Grade 2 writing...a Friendly Letter! We will also continue to explore how we care for animals and how families work together. We will learn about how and why the Earth changes in our very first Science unit. Lots of exciting things are happening in Grade 2!

As soon as our Benchmark Assessments are complete, we will be looking at the data to find a new instructional focus area for each student. In Grade 2, our Instructional Focus areas are Blending CVC, Decoding Beyond CVC, Fluency-Accuracy, Fluency-Automaticity, Fluency-Prosody/Comprehension, and Vocabulary/Comprehension.

Please review the Student Handbook for District Policies including Dress Code Expectations. Please be aware that Crocs of any kind are NOT appropriate dress for students and are not to be worn.



# THIRD GRADE

*Mrs. Ciccone and Mr. Gagnon*

We have had a very positive beginning to our new school year! Most parents have joined Parent Square and Class Dojo. We do request and encourage parents or guardians who have not yet downloaded these apps to do so. We think you will be pleased with the helpful information you will receive.

During the month of October, we will begin a Science unit on Forces. The unit will explore topics such as pushes and pulls, gravity, magnets, and friction. During October we will also read and discuss literacy themes that include cooperation and immigration. We will be using folktales and historical fiction to discuss these topics. Finally, in math we will be adding and subtracting three digit numbers with a variety of strategies. We will also be solving complex word problems that represent real life situations.

# FOURTH GRADE

*Mrs. Carroll and Ms. Smith*

We are off to a busy and productive start here in 4th grade. We spent some time going over and practicing the expectations that your children are held to when they are at school; and they are being rewarded with Dojo points for following those expectations. At the same time, they can lose points for not making good choices. We have our first monthly reward coming up (Slime Party!!) and any students with 80% or higher positive points are allowed to participate. Ask your child how they are doing and remember that you can see a snapshot of your child's day at any time on Class Dojo.

In Language Arts, students have been working on reading and responding to various fiction and nonfiction texts. We are working extra hard to increase our fluency right now and practice this daily. The students are also in the process of writing a personal narrative; and I cannot wait to read about all of the adventures your children have experienced.

In math, students have been working on place value. Students will use place value to round, add, and subtract whole numbers up to millions. They will use manipulatives, draw models, decompose numbers to add and subtract, and also learn the standard algorithm. Students tear out and bring home the Family Letter page in their Math book at the beginning of every Lesson. This is for you to see the skills we are working on, strategies we are using in the classroom to figure out the problems, and activities you may do at home to help your child with what they're learning. Students are encouraged to practice basic math facts a few minutes everyday to improve math fluency.

## Reminders:

- The Bio Bottle Project for Hispanic Heritage Month is due by Friday, October 14th. Students may bring in their projects if they're done sooner.
- We are asking students to bring in a snack everyday. Our 4th graders do not eat lunch until 1:05, so it's important that they have a good breakfast and have a healthy snack before lunch time.
- A refillable water bottle is also encouraged. The water fountains have been turned off and have been replaced by water filling stations. In an effort to prevent accidental spills, we do not supply cups if students do not have water bottles.

# FIFTH GRADE

*Mr. Russo and Ms. Crespo*

Happy Fall!

We are off to a great start in fifth grade here at Carrington School! We began our first week talking about ourselves and what we did this summer. We also talked about our likes and dislikes and things unique to us. We created a list of class expectations and began to use Dojo to reinforce positive behaviors.

Now it is time to buckle down and begin to work on Reading and Writing. We began with Realistic Fiction and we started Unit one and we are up to week 3. Please encourage your children to read, read, read. It is best they read about topics they love and are interested in. We start each Reading lesson with a new passage that we read and reread each week. Then students time themselves to see how many words a minute they can read. Then they graph their progress on their reading charts.

In Science we began learning about matter and its 3 forms. We are getting ready to complete some hands-on activities that go along with the unit. Students seem excited to start conducting investigations and learning new terms and information.

I wish all of you a great and safe Autumn Season. I also look forward to working with you this school year to ensure the success of your children. Thanks for your continued support.

# SIXTH GRADE

*Ms. Griffin and Mr. Carosella*

**Math** - Students will find the position of integers and other rational numbers on a horizontal and vertical number line. Also, students will understand the absolute value of rational numbers as the distance from 0 on the number line. Students will interpret absolute value as a magnitude for a positive or a negative quantity in a real world situation.

**Science** - Students explore why ice melts and how the water molecules move as this happens. Students learn about the difference between temperature and heat, and why items may feel different even though they are at the same temperature. Students then go on to explore and explain the different ways that heat is transferred between objects.

Finally, students design, construct, and test a prototype of their habitat for their penguins based on their understanding of heat transfer.

**Social Studies** - Students will explore Unit 1 Foundations of Geography. Students will investigate how geography affects our way of life. Students will explore physical and human geography to help understand the effects geography has on life.

**Language Arts** - Students will continue to work on developing sentence structure, capitalization and punctuation using our online program, Quill. Our daily “brief writes” will continue allowing students to further develop their overall writing abilities.

**Reading** - Students are analyzing the author's tone and purpose through fiction, myths, nonfiction narratives and exploring how history informs and inspires us from a variety of perspectives. Our novel study reaches into the realm of Greek Mythology with “Pery Jackson and The Lightning Thief”

# SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE

*Mr. Thomas*

**6th Grade** - Students are currently working on the layers of the Earth and will transition to studying the Eastern portion of the United States.

**8th Grade** - Students are studying the early colonization of North America and leading in the precursors of the American Revolution.

*Ms. Stetzer*

**7th Grade** - Students are currently learning the different aspects of a dystopian society and how they are portrayed in various stories. We are talking about the author's purpose/intent for writing about dystopian societies.

**8th Grade** - In the 8th grade we have been working on creating strong constructed responses using the E.R.A.C.E.R strategy. We just finished reading/annotating an article on Amelia Earhart that we are using to answer the question : " How did gender norms influence Amelia Earhart's life experiences, and career?"

# ENGLISH

## AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

*Mrs. Parker*

My primary focus is teaching English Learners (EL) how to speak, read, and comprehend English. My classes will include small group instruction which will focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and oral language. I try my best to integrate the same reading materials from their regular education classrooms.

Once a year, Jan- March, students will take a test online called LAS (Language Assessment Scale). This test measures how well the student is acquiring the English language. It consists of 4 tests: Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing. In order for a student to exit the EL program, he/she must receive level 4 or 5 on the reading and writing subtest. We will then continue to monitor the student for two more years just to make sure that they are adjusting well without EL support.

Adjusting to American society and culture will also be presented to those students who immigrate to America. I am happy to support you and your child in any way I can. Please feel free to call, email, or message me on Parent Square with any concerns or questions.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

*Mrs. Cancellaro*

I would like to welcome you all back to a new school year. I am excited to be working with 4th, 5th and 6th graders this year. By now all parents should have received a Parent Square message with all of my contact information. Please reach out to me anytime you have concerns or questions.

Throughout the month of September, students have been reviewing basic skills in reading and math as well as taking informal assessments. These assessments will help drive individual instruction and placement in groups.

*Ms. Pannoni*

Hi everyone! Welcome to the 2022–2023 school year. This year I will be working with grades K-3 as well as 7th and 8th. These first few weeks of school have been focused on getting back into the swing of things.

Grades K-3 have been reviewing their phonemic awareness skills, reading decodable books, and for some beginning their reading fluency passages. This year we are graphing our reading fluency so that students can watch their progress grow during the year. In math we are reviewing our counting and addition skills.

Grades 7th and 8th have been working on their reading comprehension. In math we are reviewing how to simplify expressions, solve equations, and tell time to the nearest quarter hour.

All of my parents received a Parent Square with all of my contact information at the beginning of the year. Never hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Let's make this school year GREAT!

# ESSENTIAL SKILLS

*Mrs. Barbosa*

This month in Essential Skills 1, we will continue learning and adding to our classroom routines and learning all about our new friends. We are reading books about Fall, Apples and Pumpkins. We are working on identifying animals. Our shape of the month is Square and the Color of the month is Orange. The Number of the month is 2. We are also learning about Big and Small. Community Helpers are being introduced and we will have a visit from the Firemen and Fire Truck! We are working very hard on our individual objectives.

*Ms. Barbati*

Essential Skills 2 - We are still learning to follow our classroom schedules and routines. We are reading books about Fall, finishing apples and working with pumpkins. Our shape of this month will be “square” and the color of the month is “Orange”. We will cut open pumpkins, count seeds and write numbers to match given seed amounts. Our number for this month is “2”. We are learning our letters “d” & “t” by using the “Lively Letter” program. Also this month, we will be reviewing our very important community helpers with a visit from the Firemen and Fire Truck on October 14th. As always, students are working on their previous learned skills and individual objectives



# SPECIALISTS

## *Mrs. Doolan - Music*

In Elementary Music Classes we are learning about our steady beat, tempo, our speaking voice versus our singing voice and our loud voice versus our quiet voice. Some songs we have sung are: Handy Pandy, A Smile Goes a Long Way, Apples and Bananas, A Smile Goes a Long Way, Morgan the monkey, I Can Sing a High Note, Rocky Mountain, I Like Singing. In Middle School Music students have been working on a project learning about the life and songs of their favorite music artist.

## *Mr. Rivera - Art*

In art, we are continuing our study of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. This month's focus will be on color, value, balance and rhythm. Students will explore abstract compositions incorporating these elements and principles. We are also celebrating Hispanic Heritage month with the study of the symbolic rooster across different Hispanic cultures. We look forward to the many artistic interpretations of roosters in various media from all grades.

## *Mr. Chiasson - Physical Education*

In Physical Education, grades PK-2 will be working on their overhand and underhand throwing skills as well as their catching skills through a variety of different games and activities. Grades 3-5 will begin working on their throwing and catching skills as well as have an introduction to different skills related to flag football. Grades 6-8 will be focusing on flag football skills including throwing, catching, route running as well as offensive and defensive strategies.

## *Mrs. Rosa - Library Media*

This month in the library, Pre K and Kindergarten students are reading about pumpkins and their life cycle. Grades First through Fifth are learning all about book care, and our circulation system. Book check out starts in October! The middle schoolers are learning and reviewing how to use our online database. 8th grade students are starting to research different high schools and find out what courses they offer. 7th grade have learned all about Banned Book Week. 6th graders are learning how to navigate through ResearchITct.org and how to properly create citations from their research.