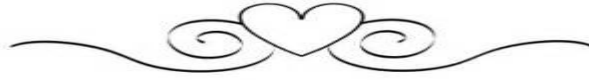


CARRABEC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



Please visit our school website at **ccs.carrabec.org**

On our school website, you will find information about our sports programs, breakfast and lunch menus, our monthly newsletter, the daily bulletin and much more. Also, please contact our school to update your cell or home phone and contact information as needed.

6-8 Yearbooks are currently on sale. Fliers will go home soon. Get them now before the April deadline.

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

2 ~ Ground Hog Day

6 ~ K-5 and 6-8 Q2 Academic Assemblies

7 ~ Board Meeting at Solon School 6pm

9 & 10 ~ Pine Cone Basketball Tournament at Madison High School

12 ~ K-5 PTO Meeting 6pm at CCS

14 ~ Valentines Day

15 ~ Sports Awards Night 6-7pm

16 ~ Student vs Staff Basketball Game

February 19 ~ Presidents Day / No School

February Vacation 19 – 23 ~ No School

26 ~ 6-8 PTO Meeting 6pm at CCS

March 2 ~ 6-8 Dance (STOMP Fundraiser)

From the desk of Mr. Desjardins

Our K-8 students have been working hard since they returned from the Christmas break. It's hard to believe that the school year is half over, and the February break will be here before we know it!

The start of the new year brought some exciting things to our school from Kindle Fires to American Sign Language, a brand new Pokemon Club, 3D Art Club and Debate Club.

We were contacted the first part of the month to be their recipient of 25 Kindle Fires from the Coles Transportation Museum. These will be utilized by the K-5 students and staff. By utilizing Whispcast, a free program through Amazon, we will be able to manage and deliver eBooks, eTextbooks, apps and documents. This is a great opportunity for our students. In return, we will take fifty of our students to the museum for a tour in the spring.

During the winter months, we try to take students outside for recess as often as possible so that they can get lots of exercise and breathe fresh air. Please help us by making sure your child has a warm jacket, ski pants(K-5), boots, a hat, and mittens or gloves every day. We will keep our students indoors when the temperature dips below safe levels or when conditions are too wet.

Our physical education teachers Mr. Robinson and Mr. Brown have scheduled the annual fifth grade ski trip to Sugarloaf Mountain for Friday, March 16th. This is a great day of winter fun and exercise when our students can get to know fifth graders from the other district elementary schools. Information and forms have gone home with the students about this trip.

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year. We closed out the second quarter on January 19th and report cards will be issued on January 26th. We have a K-8 Academic Assembly scheduled for Tuesday, February 6th at 8:00 AM. We will recognize the students who made the Honor Roll and Excellent Attendance (no more than one absence and one tardy) during the second quarter. Mrs. Mellows will present Book-It pizza certificates to those students who passed in their reading log calendars last month. We will also present the K-5 PTO's School Citizen of the Quarter awards Family and friends are welcome to join us for this assembly.

February is the month of the Maine Department of Education's Read to ME Challenge. We have registered to participate in this challenge. And as we did last year the older students will read to younger students. We challenge each of you to read to or with a child for fifteen minutes sometime during the month of February and to challenge someone else to do the same. Help us to spread the love of reading! For more information on this, please see below. Mrs. Ellis is working with her students, teaching them The Star Spangled Banner using American Sign Language. It is absolutely amazing to watch the students perform this.

Our building is filling with after school activities, with Mr. Rothert running a Pokemon Club where the students engage in various activities around the structure of Pokemon. Mr. Ferrari will be starting a Debate Team in hopes to engage near by schools to participate. And, Mr. Reichenbach will be running a 3D printing club. It is exciting to see these activities at our school and all of the students who are involved.

The Kindergarten students joined Mr. D. one morning to recite The Pledge of Allegiance and, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a few of them shared what their dreams are for the world.

Our Civil Rights Teams traveled to Farmington & Augusta for their annual training. All of the Civil Rights Teams from schools around the State of Maine attended this training. This was a great opportunity for them to share what they are doing in their own schools.

Good luck to the basketball players as they play in the Pine Cone League Championship, which will be held at the Madison High School on Friday evening, February 9th and all day Saturday, February 10th.

The much anticipated staff/student basketball game will be held at 1:20 February 16th. This will be the beginning of our February vacation.

With four basketball teams and a great group of cheerleaders, we continue to have a fun and exciting basketball season. With canceled games, our last make up game will be February 7th.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything going on in our school, please stop by or give us a call. Enjoy winter in our beautiful state of Maine!

100 Mile Club

Congratulations to our five students who have already completed 25 miles in the 100 Mile club. Thanks to Mrs. Theberge and Mrs. Smith who are coordinating this each morning. The K-5 kids love racking up the miles. At our February assembly, we will be presenting Cayden Estes, Pete Vicneire, Kayden Longley, Jaysen Longley and Dylan Cwikla a 25 Mile t-shirt.

Sugary Sweetened Beverages

On Monday, January 22nd, Kristie LeBlanc and Carolyn Courtney presented to our fifth through eighth graders, the 5210 Sugary Sweetened Beverages display.

This is what our staff and students had to say:

“The presentation was short but sweet.”

“The information was interesting, and the presenter engaged the kids with activities.”

“Some of the information was surprising.”

“The presenter also gave the kids some guidelines on how much added sugar they should limit themselves to.”

“I thought the presentation was great.”

“The speaker was wonderful and we did some grams to teaspoon conversions which is EXACTLY what we are learning about in math right now so my students felt pretty proud that they could do this.”

“Scary to see how many 10/11 year old children drink coffee, Red Bull and Mt. Dew. “

“My presentation was great.”

“Thanks good job! “

“The SSB lecture fit in well with my math class as it activated prior knowledge of concepts learned in class and provided a real world scenario to apply the knowledge”.

“In the class, the students used serving sizes and sugars to calculate and measure how much sugar is being consumed per student”.

Thank you Kristie and Carolyn for a job well done.



Read to ME Challenge

The Read to ME Challenge will kick off on February 1st at 9am when Maine's First Lady, Anne LePage, will read to children in a Maine elementary school. She will issue a challenge to all Maine parents to get engaged in the campaign. The Maine DOE invites all partners to begin reading and issuing challenges at any time after 10:00 a.m. on February 1 and to continue through March 2nd, which is Read Across America Day.

K ~ Fournier

Happy New Year from the Kindergarten class. We have been very busy since returning from vacation. Our class has been learning about Arctic animals and their habitats. We also spent some time learning about Martin Luther King Jr. We did a project on what our dream for the world is.



Mr. D., invited our class to share our dreams and do the pledge over the intercom.

It's hard to believe that we are starting third quarter already. I am very pleased with the reading progress this quarter. Keep up the good work! In math, we have been working on comparing numbers and teen numbers. Please continue to practice oral counting at home by 1's, 5's and 10's.

Please make sure your child has an extra pair of shoes to wear each day. Boots get wet during recess and do not make for comfortable shoes to wear all day. It is also important to have a pair of sneakers for Wednesdays when we have gym class.

Our class will be celebrating Valentines Day. Please check your child's folder for more information about this day. I will also be sending home information about the 100th Day of school which will be happening soon!

Our class also received a sand/water table from Donors Choose. We are very lucky to get this for free and we are looking forward to using it!

1 ~ Theberge

Second quarter has ended. I am pleased with the progress the students have made. Now that all of the holiday stuff is over I am looking forward to the third quarter. This is the quarter where I see the most gains in first grade.

We have just started unit two in our new reading series, Wonder. Unit two will focus on communities, jobs, buildings, nature, helpers and maps.

In Math we have started unit six with the focus on counting, reading and writing numbers up to 120. We will also begin work on place value with tens and ones.

Please continue to read with your child and fill out those Book-it calendars, we only have until March then Book-it is over for the year.

2 ~ Larlee

The Second Grade is hard at work! The best learning time for them is between Christmas and April vacation, and they are working very diligently.

We are finishing the book "*Stuart Little*" and will soon begin "*Tuckers Countryside*."

We will be taking our winter NWEA tests in the next few weeks. They take this test three time a year to gauge progress and help set educational goals. The class is working on addition regrouping in math. Subtraction regrouping starts in a couple of weeks.

We are working on a unit of fables in our reading program. The students work with a computer program called "Moby Max" every week. The students work at their own pace on different subject matters. This has been a great boost to them and they are also able to work on it at home.

3 ~ Schanz

We have had a productive January, diving right back into our curriculum. Third graders appear to have returned to school from the holiday break refreshed and ready to learn!

We have begun working on learning our multiplication facts. I am so pleased with the hard work and dedication that most students have invested into their study of multiplication. Students have grasped strategies to solve multiplication facts and have begun to gravitate to the strategies that work best for them. One fun way to accomplish this is by playing multiplication squares with a friend or two. I have had students start to ask if they can take home copies of multiplication squares to play at home, and the answer is YES! All you need is a pair of dice and a couple of markers, and your child will show you the rest!



Throughout the last few weeks we have been looking at two genres of literature, folktales and historical fiction. Third graders showed interest in historical fiction so we spent a bit more time there. They found it fascinating to read stories and informative texts about immigration to America in the early 1900s, and they created flip books documenting and illustrating the facts that they found most interesting. Throughout the study of both genres, we have been learning how to identify a text's theme or the author's message.

In writing class, we have been working on short narratives. Students have practiced writing personal

narratives about their own experiences and narratives about their own creation of characters inspired by winter picture prompts. Additionally, students have responded to the prompt “If I lived in a snow globe...” and created their own personal snow globes, which are proudly displayed on our bulletin board currently.

We have started a new unit in science about water and weather. We just made our own water cycles in a bag, and we are eager to observe the water cycle in action!

We started a new unit in social studies focused on colonial history in America. This will be a bit of a lengthy study, but students are expressing a lot of interest in learning, as they have named it, “The history of how America became America.” So far we have looked at what life was like for kids in the 1700s, the life of Benjamin Franklin, the Boston Tea Party, and the Intolerable Acts.

Please continue to make sure students leave home in the morning with their ski pants, winter boots, hat, and gloves so that they can play outside at recess! Recess is such an important part of our school day to expend our energy through exercise and wake up our brains to prepare for an afternoon of learning.

4 ~ Stevens

In reading class, the 4th grade had been reading chapter books before Christmas vacation. Upon return to school they finished and did a fantastic job on their dioramas. They had to choose a chapter out of their book which they really liked and present it to the class. The students really enjoyed this project and want to do more dioramas.

We are working on writing poetry. Haiku’s and lyric poems are their favorite, We are also learning how to write paragraphs using complete sentences. They have been memorizing jingle songs to help them memorize different parts of speech. They seem to really enjoy the jingles.

Learning to solve different ways for math problems are essential but memorizing multiplication math facts will help them solve the problems faster so we are still working on this goal.

Last month’s winner of our estimating M&M’s was Drayden Atwood, This month we are estimating mini marshmallows. Stay tuned to find out the next winner will be.

Here are a few more limericks that our class wrote.

I once had a horse
Who loved to run a course
He jumped and raced
Then fell on his face
Then went into the Air Force ~ by Anna

I had a cat
He was very fat
He lives in a pail
With a big snail
That wears a hat ~ By Ava

My bunny
Was so funny
He went to the garden
Got a bargain
And had a lot of money ~ By Alyssa



5 ~ Long

Oh, Wonderful Winter!!!

Fifth grade has been full of learning, exploring, and experiencing thus far this winter. Students have studied about Civil Rights leaders throughout history and around the world; shaping new ideas and a greater regard for others. It is important in an area with so little ethnic diversity to teach our children tolerance and understanding for others unlike ourselves.

Upon completing our geometry unit we effortlessly transitioned into measurement and the differences between the metric system (newer and used around the world) and customary system (used primarily in the U.S.) as well as how to convert from one unit of measurement to another. We will continue to learn about, practice, and apply these methods throughout February. Anytime you can include your child in cooking, baking, measuring, and/or weighing and building...please do!

Ask your student about systems of the body and how they work together to keep our bodies functioning like well-oiled machines! They may surprise you with how much information they know.

In February, March, April and May, fifth graders will be expected to read two hours a week at home. A log will be sent home for parents to sign and students will be responsible for tracking their reading time each week. Please encourage your child to complete this task as it will not only assist them in becoming better readers but it will give you something to talk about which pertains to their academic lives here at school.

6 ~ Ela

It is hard to believe that the 2017-2018 school year is halfway complete. The year has gone at a surprisingly quick pace so far. It's been a good year. Most students have successfully adapted to the changes that occur when moving from a K-5 setting to a middle school setting. Mr. Rothert has also been a tremendous addition to sixth grade.

In Social Studies class, since Christmas Vacation, we've focused on a number of things. The Electoral College is often misunderstood, or even forgotten, but it has led to some interesting election results. While most Americans simply assume the candidate who receives the most votes automatically becomes president, that is not necessarily the case.

The First Amendment has been a major topic. While we have rights to free expression, those rights are not absolute, and (perhaps to the chagrin of middle school students) student expression can be limited in a school setting.

Finally, in the textbook, we came across the Civil Rights amendments to the Constitution (13, 14, and 15). However, it took another 80-100 years, and American heroes like Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr. for some of the words in those amendments to really ring true.

6 ~ Weggler

2018 has arrived and we have reached the half way mark in the school year! Many of the sixth graders are involved with basketball, cheering, Pokemon Club, 3D Printing Club, and other activities. Time passes quickly when everyone is so busy!

The sixth grade science students are studying the ATOMIC THEORY and the ATOM. Since ancient Greek times, people have thought about and studied what makes up everything around them. The explanation of what an atom is, what it looks like, and how it behaves has changed as new discoveries have been made, especially through advanced technology. The original idea that atoms were small, round balls that attach to other atoms with hooks and loops has been gradually updated and replaced with the current version of the Atomic Theory. Today scientists are able to see deeper into an atom - beyond electrons and the protons and neutrons of the nucleus - to even smaller subatomic particles such as quarks, gluons, and mesons.

Mrs. Weggler's homeroom writing students are working on using strong and varied transition words and phrases in their writing. We are practicing identifying and including transitions beyond the popular then, then, then.... or so, so, so.... Ending a piece of writing in a satisfying way is also a focus of our current unit.

6 ~ Rotherth

Previously, in Mr. Rotherth's class: students multiplied and divided fractions as well as ordered decimals and fractions. This month is focused on positive and negative integers. Many times in math there is little to no real-world translation between the concepts in the classroom and math in the outside world. To bridge this gap we are focusing on making a board game that expresses positive and negative integers. There are many games and ideas that utilize this concept, but we needed to kick it up a notch. In addition to the game boards, each student is working on a unique game piece that has a given value in positive and negative integers. Through this, students can hold, tangibly, a piece of math in their hands and see the relationship of numbers in the real world.



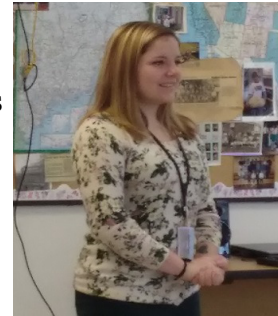
Looking ahead: we will be concluding integers and moving on to ratios and rates.

7 ~ McManus

We just returned from M.L.King holiday and grades closed last week. Half way through the year already! For seventh graders things are going better than I could have predicted.

In the world of Life Science we have studied: Animals and Animal Behavior, Social Relationships, Simple Invertebrates, Mollusks and Annelid Worms, Arthropods, and Echinoderms. These are all animals without a backbone.

In reading class we finished two novels about dogs. A trained seeing eye dog was a major character in both. In December, I brought in guest speaker Baylee Atwood, a former Carrabec Community student of this school. She attends college in California for the training of Service dogs. Her dream has come true.



In Maine History we have turned to primary sources from seven different Mainers who lived between 1783 and 1861. William Allen was one of the people and he started my town of Industry.

Hang in there, spring is right around the corner.

7 ~ Stone

Wow, we have reached the half way point. In writing class, the 7th graders are continuing their work with learning the art of argumentative writing. As a class we will continue to go through a debate camp, teaching the students to jump into existing arguments; weigh and evaluate sides, reasons, and evidence; and rehearse and compose their own essays and letters. The students will be asked to stake a position between two fairly polarized options: Are you for or against competitive sports? The students will also have chances to pursue their more focused subtopics individually. Therefore, the court will be in session!

The 7th grade math classes are continuing their work with percent. The unit has focused on problem solving using percent s. Students are learning to apply percent proportions, percent equations, and percent estimations skills to real-world problems. Using decimal and fraction equivalents for percents, students solve problems involving percent of change, sales tax, tip, discount, and simple interest. Therefore, students will use their reasoning skills they learn to make decisions in the real world about products and services they intend to purchase.

8 ~ Ferrari

In January, the students began to learn about the layers of the Earth, a little about the properties of these layers and eventually how landforms like trenches, mountains, and volcanoes can form as well as the causes of Earthquakes. We ended the month with class debates over two different topics about climate change and the effect/responsibilities humans have to make a change. These debates went very well, and there were some excellent ones where the students hard work really stood out.

Debates also took place in my writing class and students got a chance to express themselves over a couple different topics related to school structure. These in class debates went very well and I am excited that with the help of Mr.D, Mr.Carey, and Mrs. Ellis, I will beginning a middle school debate team this month. This is an exciting opportunity for 7th and 8th graders to take some of that energy and channel it into a useful and constructive manner.

8 ~ Carey

Mr. Carey's social studies classes just finished a project looking at statistics for each state in four areas; economy, education, crime, and health. The goal of this project was to find out which state statistically speaking was the best state to live in. We did not look at such things as weather or population density as these are things that vary from person to person. Some want to live in a big city while others love the idea of living in the country. We came to the conclusion that people would agree living in an area with low crime and low unemployment was a positive.

The students took their statistics and applied a little math so they could create maps of the United States that showed how states fared. Each student created their own map and picked their own topic. We had students create maps based on unemployment rate, average salary, high school graduation rate, burglary rate, and average price of a new home just to name a few. The states that scored well in most categories were Utah, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Maine certainly held its own.

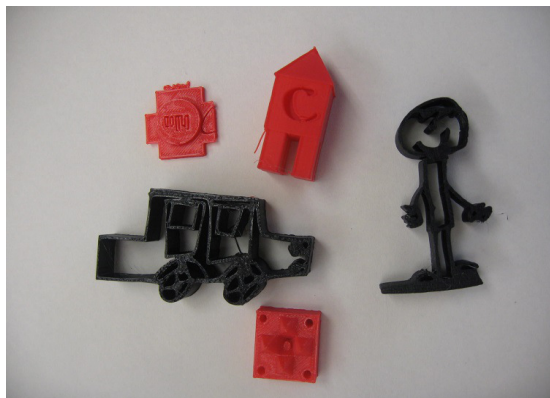
8 ~ Ellis

Mrs. Ellis's students are currently working on Argumentative Essays. Teenagers are, as you all know, very good at creating good arguments. Their challenge is to organize their arguments, present counter-arguments to the opposite point of view, and cite their sources. The other piece that is difficult for students is paraphrasing information they have researched. Avoiding plagiarism is the goal!

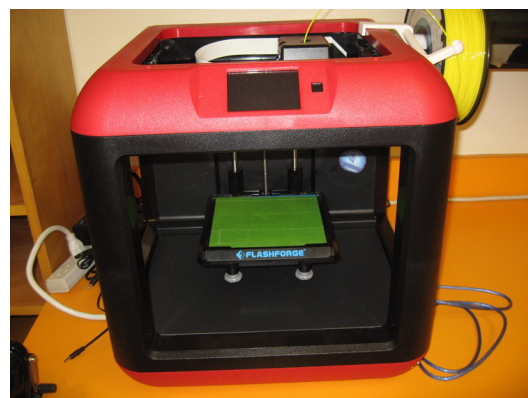
Students are finishing up a geometry unit and reviewing their basic algebra skills. They will soon jump into functions and graphing which is a new concept. They will be completing book units based on a book of their own choosing. Wishing all of you a safe and relaxing February break!

ART ~ Mr. Reichenbach

Through the generosity of the Perloff Family Foundation, CCS has received a 3D printer. I am very excited to incorporate 3D printing into our art curriculum. I have learned that the future of 3D printing is endless, and to maximize students' exposure, I have decided to create an after school club.



Student Creations



3D Printer

This club will be student centered, where each student can decide his or her direction. If students are currently involved in another after school activity they may join at a later date. Depending on the amount of students who sign up, I may open the club up to 4th and 5th grades.

The club will meet every Wednesday in the art room from 2:15 - 3:15. It will start on January 24th and end on May 30th. If there are any questions please contact Mr. Reichenbach @ rreichenbach@carrabec.org.

6-8 PTO

I Hope everyone is staying warm this Winter.

The 6-8 PTO has started a Crock pot Friday for the staff here at CCS. We offer 2 Crock pots, salad, dessert and a bottle of water for \$4.00 or just a salad and water for \$2.00. We are always looking for help so if you are able to help with a hot dish, salad or dessert please contact me @ lrncolivero3@yahoo.com, We offer this every other Friday .

Our PTO has a few big things coming up this Spring. We will hold a meeting on February 26th @ 6:00 in the CCS Library. We are always open to new members and ideas if you are able to come so please join us.

I will also be stepping down in June as President of the 6-8 PTO. We are currently looking for a new President, if you or someone you know is interested in taking part of this volunteer activity, please contact me or see Mrs. LeBeau in the office.

Thank you,

Renee Oliver ~ 6-8 PTO President