

# CARRABEC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## FEBRUARY/MARCH

### 2019 NEWSLETTER

**\* Responsible \* Respectful \* Safe**

#### **FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 1 ~ Winter Ball / Semi-Formal 6-8 Dance
- 1 ~ Winter Kids/Winter Carnival PBIS celebration
- 2 ~ Ground Hog Day
- 5 ~ K-5 and 6-8 Q2 Academic Assemblies, 100 Mile Club, Citizen of the Quarter & Book It!
- 6 ~ Board Meeting at Solon School 6pm
- 6 ~ PTO Meeting
- 9 & 10 ~ Pine Cone Basketball Tournament at Madison High School
- 14 ~ Valentines Day 
- 15 ~ Early Dismissal
- 15 ~ PTO Paint Night
- February 18~ Presidents Day / No School
- February Vacation 18– 22~ No School

#### **MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 4-8 ~ National Social Workers Week
- 6 ~ School Board Meeting
- 6 ~ PTO Meeting @ CCS 3-4pm
- 13 ~ Early Dismissal Day
- 15 ~ District Gr.5 Ski trip to Sugarloaf
- 22 ~ Staff Workshop Day/ No School
- 26 ~ PBIS Celebration Planetarium (Tentative date)



## **6-8 Yearbooks are currently on sale for \$20 each.**

You can now pre-order online at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) and use the yearbook code 13732619. Also, if you have photos you wish to share, you can upload images to be considered for the yearbook at [community.lifetouch.com](http://community.lifetouch.com) using code GCUPJV.

Buy your year book now before the April deadline. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at [clebeau@carrabec.org](mailto:clebeau@carrabec.org) or 635-2209.

## **Please visit our school website at [ccs.carrabec.org](http://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.

## **From the desk of Mr. Desjardins**

January most certainly brought us some cold and snowy weather leaving us with a couple more storm days to add to our end of year calendar. The low temperatures prevented our students from going outside but this did not stop the staff from finding alternate ways of having their students be more active and release some energy during that time. I am looking forward to the progression towards spring. The days are starting to get longer and the sun is getting a little warmer with each and every day.

Our Winter Concert was held on January 15<sup>th</sup> and we had an amazing turn out. It gave me such pride to watch our students perform their various talents to the audience. Each one unique in his or her own talent but yet uniformly engaged in a group to create a beautiful ensemble of music. I applaud the efforts of Mr. Gilbert and these students who worked diligently throughout the year to master the art of music.

Great new! I am excited to share that Cobra Youth Wrestling has begun. This has been a huge undertaking and I have had great support to get this program rolling in our school.

Our after school Pokemon Club, run by Mr. Rothert and our after school Ski Club run by Mrs. McCluskey are expanding. Mrs. McCluskey put in a great deal of effort into organizing this club, she knew where to reach out to get the funding and the gear. This is another great activity that we are offering here for our students.

Mr. Ross Sirois did fundraising last year allowing us some funding to get our wrestling singlets and gear and we are in hopes to gain more funds for next year to get our own wrestling mats. We currently have 45 students, ranging in age from pre-K to grade 7, participating in our program. Running our program is Coach Ross Sirois and Coach Charlie Day.

Our first tournament was held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> in Winslow, and the kids did great. Many placed in their weight group.



Our after school Pokemon Club, run by Mr. Rothert, 3D program run by Mr. Reichenbach and our after school Ski Club run by Mrs. McCluskey are expanding. Mrs. McCluskey put in a great deal of effort into organizing this club, she knew where to reach out to get the funding and the gear. This is another great activity that we are offering here for our students.

Our Data Team has been working diligently learning their way around the NWEA site, accessing and utilizing the various reports available. This will be used to help teachers zoom in on areas of weakness for our students in an effort to increase test scores. The team facilitated our half day work shop on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, presenting to our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers from here as well as the Madison Junior High.

Our second quarter ended on January 18<sup>th</sup> and report cards went home on January 25<sup>th</sup>. It is hard to believe we are already into the second half of the school year. Our Q2 Academic Assembly will take place on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **100 Mile Club**

Congratulations to our students who have already completed 25 miles in the 100 Mile club. Thanks to Mrs. Theberge for organizing this every day. We have 10 additional students who have earned their 25 mile t-shirts. Congratulations to them all and good luck to the other students who are working hard to make it to every mile stone.

## **PTO/Winter Ball**

Semi-Formal dance for grades 6-8. Music, Dancing, Photo booth, Food and Fun will take place on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 6-8:30. DJ Mista Carey will provide the music. \$5.00 per person. Please email [amber.mihos@yahoo.com](mailto:amber.mihos@yahoo.com) if you can help chaperone or help with food donations.

## **WINTER KIDS/5210**

Winterkids is in full swing. We are competing with schools across the State of Maine for prizes. Carrabec school and Madison Elementary are the only two from Somerset County. We have been doing fun things like reading in the snow, skiing with Mrs. McCluskey and studying snowflakes with Mrs. Schanz.

This will only be for the month of January. On February 1st we will be finishing up the competition by having activities in the afternoon. These include snow sculpting, sled relay races and sledding down the hill. If anyone has any extra sleds that the kids can borrow for this fun day please bring them into school at the end of next week. Please put your name on it so you get the correct sled back.

## **K ~ Fournier**

Kindergarten is back on schedule in spite of delays, half-days, vacations and school cancellations.

We are working on ten frames in Math once a week with our Math buddies from Mr. Ferrari's' class. Our buddies come down to our room for fun math activities and the students love it. This includes color by number and Mobymax.

We are in Winter story mode. Our reading activities center around stories like *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, *Snowman at Night* and other winter and outside themed books.

We are still in the middle of winter so please make sure everyone comes to school with the proper clothing. Some of the children have been writing about swimming in the pool in their January Journals. I hope they are like the groundhogs and this is a sign of an early Spring.

## 1 ~ Theberge

Happy New Year!!

It's the beginning of a new year and now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays are over, it's time to get back to work.

Before vacation we welcomed Mrs. Clark from the Pick-A-Better snack program to our classroom. Mrs. Clark will come into our classroom once a month and introduce a healthy fruit or vegetable. She will also give the students Bingo sheets to fill out at home and return to school for prizes. It is similar to the Book-It program. In December we tasted broccoli and hummus.

Many of you have voiced your concern about the Go Math! Program that we use in first grade. CCS has a five year contract with Go Math! And we are in year two. If you have questions or concerns about this program feel free to call or email our district math coach, Brian Twitchell at [btwitchell@carrabec.org](mailto:btwitchell@carrabec.org) or 635-2209. Brian will be more than happy to assist you with any questions or concerns.

May your 2019 be filled with peace, joy and happiness!!



NEA supports Read Across America by donating books to all first graders across the state.

## 2 ~ Larlee

The students have settled in well from their vacation. We are still hoping for 5 day weeks so they can have some consistent time to do their work. We are finishing reading *Stuart Little* and will start *Tuckers Countryside*.

In math, we are starting to work on addition and subtraction regrouping. Phonics lessons are centering around digraphs(2 letters that come together to make one sound) for the next couple of weeks. In Reading class, we are studying a unit on Weather.

We are finishing our cursive handwriting. The students are having a lot of fun with it!

They are doing a great job.

### **3 ~ Schanz**



Hello, Third Grade Families!

I've been back with my students for a month, and I am so proud of how hard this class has worked in my absence and continues to work now! A huge thank you to Ms. Stevens for her loving dedication to third grade! I knew my class was in good hands!

In math class, we have been continuing to work on multiplication. Students are working on mastering their multiplication facts. Almost every day students have time to study and quiz each other on their multiplication facts. When students feel ready, I quiz them on the number of their choice. When they pass they get their name recognized on our Multiplication Masters display. Ask your child how many levels they have completed!

We practiced identifying main idea and key details in nonfiction texts for a couple of weeks. Through this study we read about national monuments and landmarks. At the conclusion of this topic students got the chance to choose a monument of interest to them to make a poster advertisement, which currently are proudly displayed in our classroom. Now we are studying theme and author's purpose through folktales.

For writing, we have completed a few small narratives. Our big focus for January was to write an opinion essay. We learned how to clearly state our opinion and support our opinion with reasons. We are practicing our typing skills by completing our final pieces on Google Docs. Tying into our reading work on theme, students wrote some wonderful stories where they had to show the theme of using cooperation to solve a problem.

Students are learning about vertebrates and invertebrates in science. We learned how to classify vertebrates, did an experiment to discover how arctic animals stay warm, and learned about symmetry by looking at insects.

We have just begun our study of the Colonial period in American history. To launch this unit, we watched Felicity. By watching this movie, we were able to begin to visualize what life was like during this time in history. Even though this movie is historical fiction, we were able to begin to see the conflict between the Patriots and the Loyalists. We are looking forward to learning more through biographies and the study of the Revolutionary War.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns that I can help you with!

### **4 ~ McCluskey**

Thank you to all the generous donations received from many people and towns to support our 4<sup>th</sup> grade Cross Country Ski program.

The fourth grade class has been learning to multiply one digit numbers by two-digit numbers and will be moving on to multiplying two digit numbers by two digit numbers. Additionally, we will be incorporating some geometry into our weekly lessons. Students practice

multiplication facts daily in school, but please have your students practice at home as well. Five minutes a night is enough to make a big difference. I taught 8th grade math at CCS and saw first-hand that students without math facts memorized were significantly slowed down in their learning.

Students are writing compare and contrast paragraphs. They will write a total of three of these. Next, we will move onto opinion writing. Beware of their improved skills of backing up an argument with sound reasoning!

In science, we are learning about energy; kinetic, potential, and thermal. Next up, sound energy.

Every Thursday from 11:00 to 12:00 students are working on Genius Hour projects, student-selected projects which students work on over the course of three to four weeks, and then share their learning and/or creations with the class in a presentation. Topics have included big foot, using 3-D printers and Tinker Cad, solar energy, photography and fashion design.

We have been skiing twice during the school day and once after school. I have been so impressed with our students' persistence and determination. The conditions, especially the deep snow, have been difficult, but students rose above it and mostly had a great time.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or ideas. I'd love to hear from you.

## **5 ~ Golden**

Wow is the year just flying by! We have already finished two quarters and are headed full steam ahead into the third. As we look back at the first half of the year we have really made some great strides academically and with our social maturity. We have truly been trying hard on both fronts and the student's efforts are showing.



We were recently visited by three college students who worked very hard with our students on a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) project. They taught us about beavers and what great engineers they are in the wild. They discussed the strength and structural design of a beaver lodges and why they are built the way they are. Our students then created their own versions of a lodge using the knowledge they had gained. They were given supplies to use to create a lodge that could hold up under weight. After much discussion about which one would hold most weight we were able to test them and what a great time we had.

The cold seems to be coming back after our recent January thaw, which was way too short in my personal opinion. But it does remind us that we need to continue dressing warmly. Please remember that winter jacket, ski pants, boots, hat and mittens are great idea so that students can enjoy the entire playground. Also an extra pair of dry socks is always a great addition to

your child's backpack.

We are continuing our routine of homework notebooks. It has proven to be a great tool for communication and as a reminder of what homework is due. I truly thank you for following through on this as the year continues. Here's to hoping for Spring sooner than later!!!

## 6 ~ Ela

It is somewhat amazing that we've already reached February. It seems like the 2018-2019 school year has progressed at a very fast pace.

I often receive questions from students and parents regarding extra credit. Students often ask for extra credit so that they can improve their overall average in Social Studies class. Most of the time, I do not give out extra credit. In almost all of the instances in which a child has a low average, the low grade is due to the student not completing their work, or not taking the time to do their work to the best of their ability. I usually tell students that if they want to raise their average, they should start completing their work, or be better prepared for the next test. A few 100s in a row can bring a low average up very quickly.

## 6 ~ Weggler

It is hard to believe that the school year is more than half way over! Students are involved with rec. basketball, Pokemon Club, 3-D Printing Club, and other winter activities. Time passes quickly when everyone is busy.

Grade six science students have wrapped up a unit on ELEMENTS, COMPOUNDS, and MIXTURES and are now studying the ATOMIC THEORY and the ATOM - the tiny particle that makes up all matter. 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 is the Atomic Theory and it 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 - and have discovered even smaller subatomic particles such as quarks, gluons, and mesons. We will then study THE PERIODIC TABLE and learn even more about the 118 ELEMENTS arranged on it.



Language Arts students in Mrs. Weggler's homeroom have been focusing on the writing trait of VOICE, especially point of view/perspective and writing in a voice appropriate to their audience. In the coming weeks, we will be working on crafting an argument.

## 6 ~ Rothert

This quarter in Mr. Rothert's math class we explored unit rates, ratios and percentages. Our project this quarter was to 3D print an airplane and design a set of wings that would achieve the greatest distance or speed. The students created different wing sets and flew them recording distance and time to get speed. Then found the average speed and distance to compare the different wing types for best speed and distance.

Moving forward we tackled adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. This quarter begins with operations in decimals where we will be tackling real life monetary issues such as, cost of living, vacation expenses and shopping sprees.

## 7 ~ McManus

The skiing has been wonderful, both downhill and x-country. Snowshoeing, snowmobiling and ice fishing are in full swing. Speaking of ice fishing, students are eagerly awaiting our completion of our unit on fish. Please save pickerel, perch, bass, and other fish you won't eat for kids to dissect.

In Life Science we have started our unit on animals. Topics of study are: Animal behavior, Social relationships, Invertebrates, Mollusks, Annelid worms, Arthropods, Echinoderms, and Fishes.



The focus in Maine History is now “Maine Before The Civil War”. We are looking at primary sources. Seven different people who lived in Maine between 1783-1861 have kept either journals or diary notes. William Allen, the founder of my town Industry, is one of those individuals.

Mr. McManus and his Dad with their catch of the day

## 7 ~ Stone

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I class will continue to refine their algebraic skills through the third quarter. To help assist them we will be working on Polynomials and quadratic equations. Quadratic equations are used to model many real-life situations in science, economics, and engineering. Important tools for solving quadratic equations are the Pythagorean Theorem and the quadratic formula.

As students continue to study mathematics at C.H.S. they will encounter many applications of

quadratic equations, square roots, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Since the Maine State assessment is on the horizon the students will once again be preparing for a standardized exam, wish us luck.

### **7 ~ Ellis**

Students in Mrs. Ellis's seventh grade English/Language Arts classes continue to make excellent progress in vocabulary and grammar. They will be studying poetry and trying their hand at several forms of it. They are working on argumentative essays this quarter and will participate in debates. As you might imagine, argument is a strength for junior high kids!



### **8 ~ Ferrari**

The third quarter of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science begins with studying weather and climate. This will eventually lead into our last major unit of the solar system. In math the students have been working on exponents and scientific notation. Next, the students will start a large unit on functions.

This quarter will also end the basketball season, it was a fun and impressive season for both teams. Our Carrabec Cobras were able to challenge and even beat 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams from schools that are 5 times larger than our own. I look forward to the end of winter and the opportunity to have our larger class trips in the Spring.

### **8 ~ Carey**

In Mr. Carey's Literature class the students just finished reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. This book was written over fifty years ago. When Hinton began writing the novel she was just a junior in high school. The book is based on two rival gangs (the greasers and the socials) that truly existed in her high school in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This class enjoyed it just as much as classes in the past. It is clearly a book that seems to be standing the test of time.

This past week the students began reading the classic *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

In Social studies the we just finished learning about the War of 1812. The most notable piece of history that comes out of this war was our National Anthem. Francis Scott , while on a british ship, watches the Battle of Fort McHenry in Baltimore. The next morning as the early fog and mist clear he sees the American flag being raised over the fort. He realizes we held off the attacking British. He was so inspired he immediately begins writing a poem titled "The Defence of Fort McHenry". The poem is soon put to a British drinking tune and is renamed "The Star-Spangled Banner". In 1931 it officially becomes our National Anthem in 1931.

## **Music ~ Gilbert**

First of all, I would like to thank all of the family, friends and community members that packed the CCS gym on January 15th for our Winter Concert. It might have been postponed, and definitely included some post-Christmas Christmas music, but the concert was a rousing success, and I thank everyone for showing their loyal support to the RSU74 Music Program. We've already begun preparing for our Spring Concert, and trust me, you definitely won't want to miss this one!

Second, it is with great excitement that I share with you that some of our 5th and 6th grade Choral students have been nominated to an annual singing festival in Central Maine! The students nominated are: (5th Grade) Anna Canales, Alexis Fortin, Rowan Slate, (6th Grade) Camron Davis, Haley McFayden and Ciarra Whittemore. Their acceptance in the festival would give them the opportunity to perform with over 100 other kids in the Central Maine area, and proudly represent the music program that Carrabec has been cultivating these past few years.



