

CARRABEC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

November 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 ~ Set Clocks BACK 1 hour
- 4 ~ Board Mtg @ CCS 6pm
- 11 ~ Veterans Day / No School
- 25 ~ Staff Workshop Day
- 26 ~ Thanksgiving Day
- 27 ~ Vacation Day



MASKS ~ MASKS ~ MASKS

Our entire student body has done an amazing job with the rules of wearing their masks. They have been kind and caring of others and that makes us here at CCS very proud. The Kindergarten students even remind each other when their classmates forgets their mask or it slips from their noses.

SNAP-ED PICK A BETTER SNACK PROGRAM

Our K, 1 and 3rd grade students will start this years SNAP-Ed program with vidoes and Google slides. The fruit of the month is Core Fruit – Apples! Our SNAP-ED Nutritionist will be dropping off apple slices with our district champion to distribute to the students along with Bingo and Parent pages and prizes.

THE PACER

Congratulations to our 6-8 School Champion and PE Teacher, Heidi Day, the Boston Children's Hospital was very impressed with her PACER data from last year. According to the data, our students who are involved in physical activity spend less time in the office for behavior and have less attendance issues.

With support from the **GOOD SHEPARD FOOD BANK**, we will be holding our next drive through food giveaway 11/3/20 from 1:30-3:00pm at Carrabec High School. Any local families are able to come get a box of food to support their family!

In lieu of our annual **HALLOWEEN** Parade, we held a PBIS reward party instead on Friday, October 30th for our K-5th grade students. This was a halloween themed event. Students were able to wear their costumes and they had so much fun. We decorated a school bus and students were able to walk through and collect a prize/treat at the end.

REMOTE LEARN STUDENTS

For students who are Fully Remote and have signed up for lunch and breakfast, please remember to call the CCS office on Fridays before Noon for Monday pick up and or delivery. Pick up time is from 11:15 – 11:45. Any questions, please contact the school office.

NEW BREAKFAST SMOOTHIES

The lunch ladies are offering 12 oz. smoothies Tuesday and Wednesday for breakfast for all the students and staff. Delicious flavors include Orange creamsicle, Lemon Lime, Strawberry, and some new fall flavors, Pumpkin, Apple, Mango Express, Coffee and



Mocha. Our 6-8 students had a taste test last week and their names were put in a raffle as they tasted them. A student from each grade and cohort won either earbuds, a gaiter face covering or cobra socks. The kids really love these healthy choices for breakfast.

MR. MAHONEY ~ K-8 PRINCIPAL

I wanted to take a minute and thank all of you because we, as a school community, have been working hard to keep our students safe and in school. Thank you for all of your help outside of school keeping our students healthy and safe. Coming into this community, this year during the pandemic has been eye opening at the resilience of our students, staff, and community members. I know this hasn't been easy and is a very different experience but the willingness to work together has never been in doubt here at Carrabec Community School.

As we begin to wrap up our first quarter, I wanted to touch base on a handful of things. Overall, it has been a solid start and we are continuing to check and adjust on a daily basis. First and foremost, I wanted to give sincere congratulations to our students and staff for their efforts this quarter. The requirements to keep this building running under which we have started have been new and challenging. Our students have risen to the occasion and I am very proud of them. We are currently operating under Phase 2 of our plan and getting back our K-5 population for four days a week has been great. Our 6-8 students are still cohorted and I want to reiterate that on their non-cohort days they are still to be working on schoolwork online. This is a work in progress but I appreciate everyone's efforts!

For our remote learners, please be patient and continue to reach out when there are issues that we can address. We have tech support from 8 AM - 7 PM and the phone numbers are listed on our district website. This is a new dynamic for our teachers and our students, and they are learning more each and every day. Overall, we just need to make sure that we are still communicating amongst all stakeholders to make sure everyone is successful.

If you ever need anything, please feel free to reach out to us here at CCS and we will help as best we can.

MRS. FOURNIER ~ K

We are off to a great start! Everyone is doing a great job keeping their masks on and adjusting to school. Our class has been busy doing Alphabet boot camp and will finish up our letters in the middle of November. We are also focusing on letter sounds and beginning sounds. We have learned about apples, pumpkins, and bats. We have explored our five senses in the fall.

In math, we just finished up working on shapes. We learned about how many sides shapes have and also how many vertices. Our next chapter in math will focus on writing and identifying numbers 0-50. Our class has done some retelling of stories using some Halloween favorites. We will also continue with our beginning writing skills and letter formation.

MRS. THEBERGE ~ GRADE 1

Wow, first quarter is over already! We spent the first few weeks reviewing letters, sounds, sight words, numbers and expectations during COVID.

In reading, we have completed three weeks of Smart Starts and started Unit one. Week 1 was about *Things at School* and week 2 was about *Where I Live*. We have covered sentence structure, reading direction, retelling a story and using pictures for clues to a story.

In math we are in Chapter one which is addition from 1-10. We have learned several different strategies to use when doing addition. We have also been practicing writing numbers the correct way. In Science we have covered, forest fires, bugs, hair, telephones, all in Mystery Science.

School is not what it used to be. The days are shorter and we are trying to cover as much academics as we can. Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled soon. I look forward to meeting with all of you via Google Meets.

Continue to stay safe, Mrs. Theberge

MR. LARLEE ~ GRADE 2

The **Second Grade** Cohorts have come together and we are working 4 days a week. It is starting to get back to somewhat normal. We are reading *Charlotte's Web* and the *Henry and Mudge* series of books. In Math, we are working on numbers to 100. We will soon start our unit on numbers to 1000. We have a unit on Friendship that we are working on in our Reading classes.

MRS. SCHANZ ~ GRADE 3

Hi, Third Grade Families!

I can't even begin to tell you how nice it is to have my classroom full of students again! Third grade has been exceeding my expectations in social distancing and mask wearing! I know none of these new guidelines are fun, but I am proud of each student's flexibility and adaptability.

We have been working our way through the first chapter in our math book. We have covered even and odd numbers, multi-digit addition, and rounding to the nearest ten and hundred. We had fun practicing rounding by playing a rounding bingo game, and we finished our study of rounding by creating our "Rounding Around Town" project.

In reading class, we have been working in our Wonders program exploring cultures and traditions through narrative texts and narrative nonfiction texts. We have been practicing the skills of sequencing events in stories and identifying character traits. Additionally, we have started book clubs. Students spend time first thing in the morning, reading a chapter book in groups and working together to answer comprehension questions.



We have completed a few quick writes and are moving on to start writing a spooky Halloween story focusing on writing this story with a beginning, middle, and end. Students have also been working on capitalizing the first letter of a sentence and ending with a period, question mark, or exclamation point. Students have had fun expressing their creativity in their writing by incorporating their own similes.

In science, we have studied how germs spread and how hand sanitizer kills germs. We did an experiment where we put pieces of bread in individual Ziploc bags that had been touched with clean hands, dirty hands, and rubbed on the outside of a laptop. We observed them for two weeks. Ask your child to describe to you what they observed! It was a disgustingly great lesson on the importance of washing our hands!

We have studied Patriots' Day, Constitution Day, and are continuing our study of Early Explorers for social studies lately.

Laptops have been traveling to and from school with your student. Just a friendly reminder, the purpose of the laptops going home with the student each day is for the student to complete their homework. Right now, you can expect a new read aloud posted on Seesaw for homework each afternoon. We are reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Students are expected to listen to the read aloud video and answer a couple of questions. On most days, you can expect students to also have a reading or a math paper



assignment that they bring home for homework as well. Since students are only in school half a day, it has become necessary for students to do a little independent practice at home that typically would be done in school during a full day. Thank you for being so understanding and helpful in following up with this expectation at home! On Fridays, students will take home reading and math assignments to be completed on Monday since Mondays are still a school day. Spelling packets are also sent home on Fridays, but they are not due until the following Friday.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have! ~ aschanz@carrabec.org ~

MRS. TAYLOR ~ GRADE 4

Hello fourth grade families. Wow, what a beginning to our school year! I want to begin by saying that the fourth grade students are working very hard. I am so proud of their work ethic and their positive attitudes during these trying times. Due to our limited amount of time together each day, we have been really focused on reading and math this quarter.

So far, in math, we have covered place value and rounding. I was very impressed that my class picked up place value so quickly! We can now read numbers in the hundred thousands! We just completed our mid chapter check for chapter one in our GoMath books, which everyone did an excellent job on. Next, we will be moving on to adding multiple digit numbers. I have faith that we will cruise right through this as well. We are currently reading the book, *Pax*, in class. The book is about a boy named Peter, and his pet Fox, Pax. The fourth graders seem to be really enjoying the story, and they are doing a great job with their reading comprehension based on this book. They have also drawn some amazing pictures of Pax, Peter, and their adventures. We are also working on parts of speech, and figurative language. The fourth graders can now identify similes and metaphors. We have even made some of our own! Recently, we have been hard at work learning how to spell some sight words as well. So far, my favorite thing we have done with writing is our collaborative Halloween story that we wrote! I put this out on the bulletin board, it is just awesome.



Though our main focuses have been on reading and math, we have been able to sneak a little bit of science in. Here are the “big idea” questions that we have covered so far: Why do flowers have different colors and scents? How do dolphins sleep without drowning? Why does a cactus have needles? And Why do birds migrate?

Overall, I am very proud of this group! We are definitely doing the best we can with the new guidelines and school set up. Thank you all for being so understanding and helpful. - Mrs. Savage

MR. GOLDEN ~ GRADE 5

Fall is truly flying by this year, as has the First Quarter of school. In that time, we have implemented our routines and seem to be making progress in understanding the value of these routines. One of our routines that we will begin to utilize is our Daily Homework Notebook. This practice is intended to be an organizational tool and a daily go between if anyone needs to reach me, and vice-versa. We will begin to ask that a parent or guardian begin to sign this each night so that you and I are on the same page with what homework has been assigned. I have found this to be very helpful in the past in keeping students caught up with assignments.

While I'm on the topic of routines, dressing warmly comes to mind. Please remember to check and make sure your child has warm clothing. Winter will be here before we know it and soon a warm jacket, ski pants, boots, hats and mittens will be needed 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 currently working extra hard in our math and language arts classes and it is showing with students making great strides. Students are excited to show us what they have learned, so please feel free to ask them to show what we have been doing. It may take a little prying, but the smile they have after explaining it is worth it!

Please try to stay warm as it appears winter will be here shortly!!!

MR. ELA ~ GRADE 6

It seems like the First Quarter of the 2020-2021 school year has flown by at a rapid pace. It has certainly been different this year, but I think most students have adapted pretty well to the "new normal".

It is very important that all students, both in-person and remote learners, check their Google Classroom pages each day. Students who fail to complete work often struggle to catch up, but this year it will be more difficult than in previous years. With fewer grades than in the past, a zero or two can hurt a student's overall average in a big way.

In sixth grade Social Studies, the focus early on will be Civics and Government. In grades k-5, Social Studies class was not a regular experience. In middle school, it is. How did the United States become the United States? Why did we "break away" from King George and the British? Once the thirteen colonies became the United States, how did we go about ruling ourselves? That's where we have been in the First Quarter.

With the departure of Mr. Ellis, there was a question of who would teach Seventh Grade Social Studies. Mr. Carey teaches Social Studies to two seventh grade homerooms, and I teach Social Studies to Mr. Stone's students. The focus for most of the year will be Maine History. We will cover Maine's History from the time when only Native Americans inhabited the land we think of as Maine, to the time of European exploration, the colonial period, our status as a part of Massachusetts, and on to the present day.

Overall the start of the year has been surprisingly smooth. It has been great to be back in school each day. I encourage parents to contact me either by phone at CCS (635-2209) or by email (dela@carrabec.org) any time there may be a question or concern.

MRS. WEGGLER ~ GRADE 6

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! It has definitely been a strange start. School looks very different, but it is great to be back in the classroom. The students are doing an excellent job following the new guidelines.

The focus of grade six science is PHYSICAL SCIENCE - the study of matter (the tiny particles that make up everything) and energy. We began the year with an introduction to the science basics - the scientific method, observation, scientific models, theory, law, tools, and safety. We are now learning ways matter can be measured (length, temperature, weight, mass, volume, and density) and using tools such as balances, graduated cylinders, and spring scales to make measurements. We will then explore the physical and chemical properties of matter and the physical and chemical changes, which matter, can go through.

Sixth grade language arts class has two components - writing and English. In writing, we have been working with choosing a topic and supporting it with strong, interesting details. We have been doing work with subjects and predicates in English.

MR. ROTHERT – GRADE 7

Boy what a crazy year this has been! This first quarter we geared up for in class and online learning as well as troubleshooting some technology to make us successful. Academically we have been working hard on multiplying and dividing decimals.

RTI students have been using the time to go back and work on prior concepts to help solidify as a result of any missed time from last year. ELA students have read a couple short stories by Issac Assimov and we started the Barcode Tattoo. A novella chronicling the life of a teenager who lives in a world where barcodes are not only mandatory, but you are unpatriotic if you do not wear them.

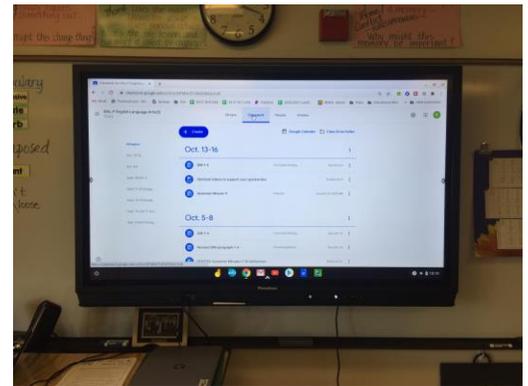
Looking forward in math classes, we will be moving toward the fractional end of numbers. Specifically multiplying and dividing those. Afterward we will move on to some basic geometry. Please stay up-to-date with the Google Classroom page for any changes from week to week as well as any assignments that may have been missed!

MRS. ELLIS - 7TH & 8TH GRADE ELA



It has been an interesting start to the 2020-2021 school year to say the least! However, students are really making the best of it. Complaints about masks and social distancing have been minimal. The hardest thing to get used to has been the online work for the off days and trying to keep the remote learners in the loop. The change to the longer day for 6-8 students has been a little tough, but having a little more time to work and get help is going to be very beneficial.

Google Classroom is an organized way to keep kids on track with their work. If anyone needs more instruction on this platform, please seek us out. The more parents know about it, the better. With our Promethean Boards, we can show kids exactly what their assignments will look like on Google Classroom and help them see how to navigate that platform. It is much more efficient than our old LCD projectors.



MR. STONE GRADES 7TH & 8TH GRADE MATH

7th grade math classes will continue to focus on Integers and how to represent situations that involve such concepts as winning/losing, above/below, left/right, and positive/negative. However, most of the attention will focus on using and justifying the rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers. This skill building provides the foundation for students to apply integer rules to all rational numbers in order to solve algebraic equations and real-world problems.

In Algebra I we have been busy building algebraic skills so that we can pass the Algebra I standards. The early chapters introduced students to basic techniques for solving simple single-step equations. As we progress the students will be dealing with multi-step equations and expressions. We will be using inverse operations to isolate the variable in an equation, and applying P.E.M.D.A.S to evaluate our expressions. The goal will be to continue to learn algebraic skills so that we can graph linear equations and apply them to real life situations. In the coming weeks we will be developing the concept of slope as a rate of change and determining the slope from graphs, tables, and algebraic representations.

MR. FERRARI ~ GRADE 8

This year has been a very hectic school year across the world, the 8th grade at Carrabec has been no exception. The students coming every other day creates an interesting dynamic. I have however, been very proud and impressed at how well the 8th graders are handling everything. In math we have finished our review of past materials some of which were completely missed due to COVID last year, and we are about to embark on our geometry unit. In science we are in the

middle of our rock, mineral unit, the limited amount of students in the classroom has allowed this unit to still be as hands on as possible, and things have gone well. We also have done some engineering challenges where the students are given a limited supply of materials and are asked to build structures that have to hold as much weight as possible.



MR. CAREY ~ GRADE 8

As usual, Mr. Carey's Social Studies class kicks the year off learning about the American Revolution. The students will learn about our founding fathers such as John Adams, John Hancock, and of course George Washington. We are reading the historical fiction novel *April Morning* by Howard Fast. The book takes place in Lexington, Massachusetts on the night of Paul Revere's ride. The birth of our nation is an inspiring story that our students really need to learn and understand.

Under normal circumstances, we would have gone on three field trips with the 8th grade. One of those trips would have been to Norlands, a live-in history farm in Livermore, Maine. Here the students have an opportunity to experience life in the 1800's with no electricity and using many different tools from this time period. Unfortunately, because of COVID we are unable to go on this trip. Therefore, to replace this opportunity we are bringing in various outdoor and kitchen tools from the 1700 and 1800's. Sometimes the students have opportunities to use these tools. Each month we are doing a new activity. In September, the students had the chance to use a scythe and experience haying. The crosscut saw and woodcutting was the activity in October. November will bring the process of making butter.

With the exception of last year, each April the students have an opportunity to travel to such places as Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and Gettysburg. Mr. Carey is keeping his fingers crossed to be able to offer that trip again this year.

MRS. MELLOWS ~ LIBRARY

It is wonderful seeing all of your children again in the library. We have received many new books for them to borrow and I think there is something to interest everyone. I have also enjoyed discussing with them books that they read over the summer.

The BookIt Program for Grades K-5 has begun. From October 1st to the end of April, we encourage children to read daily, turn in their paper each month and Pizza Hut will reward the students that participate with a certificate for a personal pan pizza each month. Remember ~ Reading with and to our children is one of life's greatest joys!

PTO

CCS is looking for parents/guardians to take over the PTO. Our PTO has currently been dissolved and our officers are looking for replacements. Please contact Victoria Greene @ vgl1989@yahoo.com to find out more information.

ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES:

Please take this 5 minute survey from The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. Even if you completed the survey last year, we need your participation again!

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize drawing and five lucky winners across the state will each receive a \$100 Amazon gift card for their personal use AND if you win, our school will receive \$1,000.

Other schools are participating, so the more families from our school who complete the survey, the greater our chance of winning \$1,000!

Contact information for the prize drawing will be collected at the end of the survey and will not be connected to your survey responses. All survey responses are anonymous.

Type in this link to begin the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020FamilySCHSomerset>

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE ~

Just a reminder we have on our district home page a Public Health Resource tab under this new tab you will find updated information on Covid-19, testing sites, State requirements for Immunizations with a link to public clinics.

I also want to remind you of the new protocols we have in place to help keep students and staff healthy.

1. COVID-19 PRE-SCREENING TOOL FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. This is very important and a requirement to screen your child every morning before school. Please keep your child home if you answer YES to any of the questions OR if they have two or more of the "less common" symptoms listed.

2. MASKS/FACE COVERINGS: Make sure it fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, completely covers the nose and mouth, secured with ties or ear loops, includes multiple layers of fabric, allows for breathing without restriction and can be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape. No neck ups/gaiters, bandanas or masks with valves will be allowed.

3. Hand washing and Social distancing.

4. TRAVEL: Please follow the Governor's orders when traveling. If you are traveling out of State (including appointments, sports, shopping, visiting, driving and/or flying, etc), please check the

following website for more updated information:

<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy/faqs>

5. If your child is absent from school due to covid-19 pre-screening tool or sent home from school, they need to meet the criteria for returning to school. Please see our webpage for more details or call the school nurse at 207-431-5047.

Reminder to please fill out your child's health questionnaire either online or send in the paper copy that was sent home with your child.

We will be offering our dental clinics again this year. The forms have been sent out electronically or you may request a paper copy from the front office. All insurances are excepted. In collaboration with the Maine CDC we will also be having our free oral exam and varnish again this year for grades K-6 . If you have not signed up for this service it is not to late – request a form from the office.

Students must be HEALTHY to be educated and EDUCATED to be healthy!

In Loving Memory of Jill Nichols-Everett



~ Rest in peace Jill ~

Our friend, our co-worker. You will never be forgotten; your smile will always be remembered.