

# Carrabec Community School Newsletter

## October 2017



### From the desk of the K-8 Principal

The month of September was great getting to know all of the students in my building. It is a joy for me to greet them as they unload the buses every morning, fresh and ready for another day at school.

Our students returned with smiles and were all ready to immerse themselves in their studies. We want to extend a special welcome to all of our kindergartners and the rest of our new students and their families to our school.

In addition to welcoming new students, we also want to welcome new staff members to CCS. Mrs. Shannah Cotton and Mr. Craig Turcotte have joined our staff as our new 6-8 Special Ed teachers. Our new sixth grade teacher is Mr. Randall Rothert who is an additional teacher due to increased numbers, and Mr. Andrew Ferrari, our eighth grade teacher who took the place of Mrs. McCluskey who took a leave of absence for the year.

We hope we can count on your continued support in our goal to improve student attendance this year. Students need to be in school on a regular basis to get the most from their educational program. We appreciate your trying to make appointments after school or during vacation as often as possible. If your child is sick and needs to stay home from school, please remember to call the school or e-mail Mrs. White ([bwhite@carrabec.org](mailto:bwhite@carrabec.org)) to let us know that this absence will count as an excused absence. Remember that being late to school can also have a negative effect of a student's education. Students should arrive at school by 7:50 to be on time and not tardy. We appreciate parents' help in making sure your children have good attendance.

We are lucky to have the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant again this year. A fruit or vegetable snack will be provided to each student **three** days a week, Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Students can bring another snack from home to enjoy as well, and we encourage parents to send healthy snacks.

We took our K-5 students to Lakewood Theater's fall production for children, "Johnny Apple Seed", on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We thank our PTO for funding this experience with live theater for our students every fall.

We have also been lucky enough through the Somerset Public Health to continue our visits each Thursday from Deputy Sheriff Micheal Pike. He stops in and chats with our students, offers advice, and is seen as a positive member of our school by all students and staff.

The CCS K-5 & 6-8 PTO groups are actively recruiting new members. We have always been fortunate to have a very active PTO who has sponsored special programs and activities for our students. Joining the PTO is a perfect way to get involved in your children's education. They hold monthly meetings so please come and check them out. If you have any questions about the PTO, please contact the school, our K-5 PTO President Tanya McFadyen, or our 6-8 PTO President Renee Oliver.

Remember to send in your Box Tops for Education Labels! Every box top helps the PTO raise money for school activities.

Our Maine Dance Institute (MDI) program for students in grades 4-8 began on September 12th. This is our students' chance to learn two spectacular dance numbers, have a lot of fun, and shine on the stage at the MDI performance on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. All your child needs is a pair of indoor sneakers and a good attitude to be part of this exciting program!

Reading is such an important part of our students' education, and we appreciate parents' support of their children reading at home. Our librarian Mrs. Mellows organizes the Book-It Program, in which students read at home and school and keep a monthly calendar of the minutes they read. Students who participate are recognized at our quarterly assemblies and receive Pizza Hut gift certificates for passing in their calendars to Mrs. Mellows each month from October to March. Please encourage your child to participate in this program.

On September 1<sup>st</sup> we had our visit from Camp Kieve. This was a structured day of team building activities for our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. A variety of games were organized for the students and all of them had the opportunity to experience rock climbing on a 15 foot rock wall. The activities help to create a positive interaction between students who many not normally spend time together.

We have 15 of our students traveling to the high school at 1:30 for Algebra 1 class with Mr. Pranses. They will take the bus home directly from the high school. If they need to come back to CCS for sports, a bus will bring them back around 2:35.

Picture day was held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Knowing the importance of school pictures for parents as well as the importance of instructional time for staff, a schedule was made and the day went by smoothly with minimal interruption to classroom time.

Our Open House on September 14<sup>th</sup> had a fantastic turn out. We had a steady flow of students, parents and community members. It was great to see them roam through the buildings, getting the opportunity to meet the teachers and see their child's classroom. I would like to extend a special thanks to our PTO's for joining us that evening to introduce themselves and invite new members to join. We also had local Cub Scout leaders there that evening to recruit new scouts.

We conducted two fire drills since the start of the school year. Expectations were relayed to the staff and students and they did an excellent job following through with them. We will continue throughout the year to have these drills to ensure that students are prepared in the event of a real occurrence. Safety is our main goal.

The month ended with our flu clinic on the 27<sup>th</sup>

Please don't hesitate to contact myself, Mr. Desjardins, Mrs. Higgins our social worker, or our secretaries Mrs. LeBeau and Mrs. White if we can answer your questions, address your concerns, or help you with anything at all.

From the desk of the  
Athletic Director

The sports season is up and running. Along with soccer, cross country and football, our students can now sign up for golf and cheering. Please be reminded that our new 6<sup>th</sup> graders and new students must have an updated physical before playing sports.

Our Girls' soccer team will be coached by Mr. Terry Corson. Mr. Erik Carey and Mr. Ross Sirois will coach our Boys' Soccer teams, along with Kirk Robinson as our Cross Country Coach. Football, Golf and cheering will run with the Madison program. We encourage all of our 6-8 students to participate in sports.

Please check out our sports link at <https://sites.google.com/a/carrabec.org/ccs-sports/>

Important  
October Dates

- 4 ~ Board Meeting @ Embden Community Center 6pm**
- 5 & 6 ~ Huts & Trails Grade 8 Trip**
- 6 ~ Staff Workshop Day / No school for students**
- 9 ~ No School / Columbus Day**
- 11 & 12 ~ Huts & Trails Grade 8 Trip**
- 14 & 15 Grade 8 Boston Trip**
- 27 ~ End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter / Q1 Report Cards go home November 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- 27 ~ 6-8 Halloween Dance / hosted by the PTO**
- 31 ~ K-5 Halloween Parade / more information to following**



## Kindergarten

We have been off to a busy start here in Kindergarten. Our class has been getting to know the school, each other, and how kindergarten works. I am very pleased with our start! In class, we have been practicing our names, letter sounds, and syllables. We have learned about shapes, patterns, and writing numbers. Our class has learned about apples, fall, and Johnny Appleseed. We visited Lakewood Theater to see Johnny Appleseed, which everyone enjoyed. Our class also has been doing reading buddies with Mr. Carey's 8th grade class. We will do this once a week throughout the school year. Thanks again to everyone who came to Open House. I will be sending home information in October for Parent Teacher Conferences.

## Grade 1

Welcome back to school and welcome to First Grade. Thank you to all of the parents who attended open house, it was nice to meet all of you. The year has started out very well. We have been busy getting to know each other, setting expectations and reviewing the rules and routines of the school. Every morning the first graders run laps in the gym as part of the Mighty Milers program. I track the student's miles and they earn prizes from a company called New York Runners.

We have a new reading program this year called, Wonders. I'm looking forward to using the program and watching your child learn how to become a fluent reader. We will be participating in the Pizza Hut Book-it program again this year. Each month a calendar will be sent home, please color in the days that you read to/with your child, sign and return the calendar to school at the end of the month. During our quarterly assembly Mrs. Mellows will hand out certificates from Pizza hut for a free personal pan pizza to all the students who returned their signed calendars.

Also every month I will send home Scholastic book orders. This is a great time to buy some books at a cheap price. If you would like to order books for gifts, just send me a note and I will call you when your order arrives so that you can pick it up in the office. Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled at the end of October and beginning of November. Until then if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me before or after school at 635-2209. ~ Mrs. Theberge

## Grade 2

The Second Grade has started the year well. We are working very hard. We have a new Reading Series this year called "Wonders." The children are enjoying all the new stories. Open House for Parents was held On September 14 and we had a great turnout.

We went to Lakewood Theater for the play 'Johnny Appleseed' on September 22. It was enjoyed by all and has become a tradition for our students.

We have just finished reading *James and the Giant Peach* and are starting *Charlotte's Web*.

## Grade 3

Autumn Greetings, Third Grade Families!

Third grade has started out our year with great attitudes and a wonderful desire to learn! We have been settling into our classroom routine, expectations, and rules. Respect and responsibility are two ideas that third graders will be interacting with a lot this year. After reading *First Day Jitters* and discussing what it would take to achieve an effective learning environment, we created our classroom rules. These rules are as follows:

1. Keep a safe body.
2. Respect each other.
3. Respect teachers.
4. Listening at all times.
5. Ask before leaving the classroom.

In recognition of Constitution Day, we watched a couple of clips on the U.S. Constitution. Afterward, we read, agreed, and signed our names to our own classroom constitution. Our class constitution reads:

**“We the students of Mrs. Schanz’s third grade class, in order to have a more perfect class, promise to respect all ideas and all people. We will always be safe to promote the general welfare, listen well for a tranquil classroom, work our hardest, never give up, care for each other as a team, and keep our classroom clean. We pledge to make this year a success and to be the best class we can be.”**

I am especially excited this year that we have a new reading and writing program entitled Wonders. Third grade has been eagerly engaging with the colorful stories, themes, discussions, vocabulary, and writing prompts thus far.

You will have already noticed the spelling packets sent home each Monday. This is the primary way that students will learn their spelling words each week. I encourage students to work on this packet a little each night instead of waiting until the last minute. Spelling packets are due on Friday.

If you ever have any questions or concerns throughout the year, my door is always open. Please feel free to contact me, so I can better partner with you and your child.

I am looking forward to another thrilling third grade year!

Mrs. Schanz  
aschanz@carrabec.org

## Grade 4

Dear Fourth Graders and Parents,

I hope you had a great summer! This year there are several new items in the fourth grade classroom. First, every fourth grader is assigned a Chrome book. These are touch screen laptops that are right in our classroom. Another new item to add to our curriculum is the Wonders Program. It is a reading, writing, spelling and vocabulary program. So far we have gotten through one and a half weeks of the program and the students are enjoying it very much. The students who are in my spelling group have been working with a new program called Spelling City. It is online and they can even access it at home. We are still using GoMath as the math program in fourth grade. Fourth graders have been practicing basic math skills with Moby Max, which they can also access at home. If there are any questions or concerns I can be reached at school or through email at [khiltz@carrabec.org](mailto:khiltz@carrabec.org).

Mrs. Hiltz

## Grade 5

Greetings from Ms. Long's Fantastic Fifth Grade!

School is once again in session and students are adjusting to the demands of earlier bedtimes and even earlier wake up times. The school day can seem difficult and long when we've had the freedom to do as we like all summer, but I believe each student (as well as their teachers) are proving to rise to the challenge.

Fifth grade is a time in which students learn to be self-motivated, organized, and responsible for themselves and their academics. Though there is little work done at home, much work and practice is done in the classroom. Expectations are high when looking at the multitude of standards which students must master before being graduated onto sixth grade. Please ask your child to tell you at least **one** new thing they learned each day as this is a great way to open up dialogue with your child and perhaps learn something new yourselves...I know I learn something new from your children everyday!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, advice, and/or opinions concerning your child: [tlong@carrabec.org](mailto:tlong@carrabec.org) or simply send me a note! I strive to assist each of my students to find success in their learning but most importantly; to teach them the love of learning.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

**Mr. Ela** ~ For the first half of the school year, the sixth grade social studies focus will be on Civics. For many students this will be the first time that they have been introduced to key aspects of our nation's history, such as the causes of the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. Ideas like democracy, republican government, separation of powers, and checks and balances will be new to students. Students will also learn about the contributions of our country's founding fathers and mothers.

At the same time that there is an emphasis on Civics, geography will be highlighted. Currently students are learning (most for the first time) the location of the fifty states. To start the year, students are responsible for learning ten states a week, as they build towards the complete fifty state test on October 11. As we move forward this fall, students will learn the locations of the continents and oceans, the locations of 40-50 major countries of the world, and finally the countries and physical features of North America.

For many students, sixth grade represents the first time that Social Studies has been taught to them every day of the week, each day of the school year. Most have seemed to enjoy the increased emphasis on Social Studies, and the new sixth grade class has been an enjoyable group to get to know.

**Mrs. Weggler** ~ The grade six school year is off to a great start! It is hard to believe that we are already a month into it. The students have made a smooth transition and they are working hard.

The focus of grade six science is Physical Science – specifically matter and energy. We started the year with the scientific method, practicing making observations, and learning about scientific models, tools, and safety. In our first unit, Measuring Matter, concepts such as mass, volume, and density will be studied.

Labs are definitely a student favorite! We have completed a Bouncy Ball Lab which took students through the steps of the scientific method and Measuring Liquid Volume, a lab using beakers, graduated cylinders, test tubes, and safety glasses!

This year, the students have a new reading series, WONDERS. There are a number of resources with this program. Please check out the materials when your child brings them home – they are the books with blue covers and a space-suited polar bear pictured on them.

My homeroom writing class has been working with the writing trait of IDEAS. In this trait, we focus on choosing a topic and supporting it with strong details which show the reader a picture and don't just tell.

**Mr. Rothert** ~ Greetings! I'm Randall Rothert, the new 6th grade Math and ELA teacher for Carrabec. I come from Farmington, where I graduated from UMF and worked with the Mt. Blue School District for nearly six years. Teaching has always been a passion for me since childhood and am overjoyed that I have the opportunity to bring my skill-set to this district. I am very excited for this academic year and to get to know the students and their families. Please contact me via e-mail at [rrothert@carrabec.org](mailto:rrothert@carrabec.org) or by phone at 635-2209.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

**Mr. McManus** ~ My name is David McManus and I will teach your child Life Science and Social Studies this year. This is my 34<sup>th</sup> year of teaching!

Temperatures were cool week one and we started out well. Rules and expectations are clear and concise making life easy for students. Seventh graders had a great time with Camp Kieve, highlighted by the climbing wall.

Week two brought torrential rains. Time for indoor recess. We looked at interesting objects under the microscopes. Cells and bug larva helped us learn.

Week three we had our first exam in Life Science. Open house was also held that week.

As of this writing, week four, I hope the students have fun at the dance.

**Mr. Stone** ~ 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

The 7th grade English classes have started to refine the writing process so that they can create a personal narrative, using a simple step-by-step approach. Through each step of the writing process the students will focus on content and language details. Therefore, they will be supplying details, writing dialogue, writing a good beginning and end as well as varying their sentence length. Let's get creative.....

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

**Mrs. Ellis** ~ is currently teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading, writing, and math to her homeroom class. The eighth grade reading classes are all reading the novel *April Morning* by Howard Fast. The novel is about one day at the beginning of the Revolutionary War from the perspective of a teenager. Students are learning vocabulary, having interesting class discussions, and choosing comprehension questions to answer completely.

In writing, students have written a character sketch of themselves and are currently finishing a personal narrative, or memoir. Next they will be writing an expository piece on the job they would like to have in the future. Students write everyday even if it is just a response to a quote or video.

In math, students are preparing for their first test on rational numbers. This included fractions, decimals, and percent problems. Students have worked on some real world problems involving tax, tips, discounts, and interest.

Mrs. Ellis teaches RTI classes to all the eighth grade homerooms. RTI stands for "Response to Intervention" which is really a way of saying that we are providing interventions for student

weaknesses, or relative weaknesses. Students read every day, thoroughly learn one academic word a week, and work individually on specific math areas. All students are going through a math “boot camp”, filling in math skills they either are having trouble with or have forgotten. Accelerated students are on a fast track through “boot camp” and will continue on to some skills and concepts that they may have missed by skipping eighth grade math.

It’s been a great start to the year, and it seems that students are settling in well to their last year in middle school!

**Mr. Ferrari** ~ My name is Andrew Ferrari and I am teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I have a group of 20 students for writing, reading, and math. I also am teaching the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade science. This is my first year as a teacher. I am a recent graduate from Clemson University in South Carolina, and returned back home to Maine to start a career. I look forward to a great and productive year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Writing class has begun with a character sketch. The students picked three words that best described them and wrote a paragraph on each. Then they added an introduction and a conclusion. Our next task will be writing a piece on a future job/career the students would someday like to have. Doing some research to see how this could be accomplished and look into required education, average salaries, and daily routines.

Reading has been primarily focused on reading the book *April Morning*. This book ties in very well with our current social studies curriculum, which is covering the Revolutionary War. The book is from the perspective of teenager who loses his father in an early battle of the revolutionary war. It talks about the challenges he faces as not only being thrust into the role of being the man of the family, but also joining the militia at the beginning of a war.

In math class the students have focused on a review of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative numbers together. We then transitioned into divisibility rules which we used to identify the 25 prime numbers between 1-100. From divisibility rules we went to converting between fractions, decimals, and percentages. This skill was mastered without the use of a calculator. The next sections of math will focus on the use of exponents as well as proportions.

In science class the students began the year with a background of the many branches of Earth Sciences and the many specific areas of their studies. Next, the students worked on the three scales for temperature: Fahrenheit, Celsius, and Kelvin. The students then learned how to write numbers in scientific notation and scientific notation back into numbers. Finally, the students have begun their first major section the surface of the earth. This began with minerals, ways to identify minerals, types of mining, and the effect mining has on the environment. This section will lead to a potential collaboration, with the art teacher Mr. Reichenbach. Our hopes are to have students take a field trip to a nearby river to dig for clay that they will then use in art class to make pottery.

**Mr. Carey** ~ In social studies class this fall we are studying the American Revolution. The students are learning about the causes of the revolution such as the Stamp Act, Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party. They are also learning about the people who played a major role in the founding of this country such as John Adams, John Hancock, Joseph Warren, and James Otis to name a few.

In Literature Mr. Carey's class is also reading *April Morning* by Howard Fast. This book does a great job describing the events of April 18th/19th, 1775 which was the first battle of the American Revolution.

The students will have an opportunity to "travel back in time". Once again this year Mr. Carey will be taking students for a twenty-four hour field trip to Norlands Live-in History Center where they will live like it's the 1800's, The students will live without electricity, running water, and will cook on a wood stove. They will attend school in a one room school house where they will use a quill pen. The first group of students will be there on September 28th and 29th with a second group scheduled for October 26th and 27th.

**K-5 Civil Rights Team**  
Elaine Jillson and Lynn Smith  
Advisors

The K-5 Civil Rights Team is off to a good start. We have 19 students signed up from the fourth and fifth grades. We will be meeting on a weekly basis.

The students were asked to write a paragraph on what Civil Rights means to them. Here are a few examples from their writing:

"I like to help people." "Bullying is just not right!" "It means that people are good to each other." "It means that if someone has different color skin than you, you are to be nice to them and treat them the same as you." "It means to help students at CCS to be a better place for kids so we feel safe." "People should treat others the way they want to be treated." "You should help others even if they don't look like you or even if they talk funny." "It means to set an example to other people and to be very nice to other people and to meet other people so they have a friend to play with." "Bias is where you judge someone's gender and what they like and I don't like bias, it's a horrible thing." "Civil Rights is a team of people fighting against bias, bullying and other methods of hurtful things." "I want to stop unfair laws. I want this school to be a better place. Civil Rights is amazing!" "It makes our campus a safer place. It is also about peace and friendship."

So as you can see, we believe this year's team has a good idea of what the Civil Rights Team Project is all about. We look forward to working on making CCS a safe place for everyone!

**6-8 Civil Right Team**  
Heidi Toman and Beth Higgins  
Advisors

Hello our year has started off on a positive note, we had over 30 students want to join the Civil Rights Team! Mrs. Higgins and I went to an advisory training in Augusta on September 19<sup>th</sup>. We have goals that are given to us from the Maine Civil Rights Project, director Brandon Baldwin. This years goal is to use the words! The words from our mission statement, in the areas of race, skin color, national origin, ancestry, religion, disabilities (physical and mental), gender (including gender identity and expression) and sexual orientation. So if your students come home having heard these words in a positive way it's because we are using them to educate in these areas.

We meet on Friday mornings, we are a student driven team. This means our team come up with the ideas and we assist them as advisors. The team will be choosing offices in the next few weeks. We are looking forward to making good things happen here at CCS.

## News from Mrs. Mellows

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer and found plenty of time to read some good books. I was busy reading book reviews and choosing some great new books for the library this summer. PLEASE come and check them out!

All classes come to the library at least once per week. They are allowed to check out 1 or 2 books depending on grade level. Please encourage your children to read by enjoying their books with them.

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world, the love of books is best of all!

## K-5 PTO NEWS

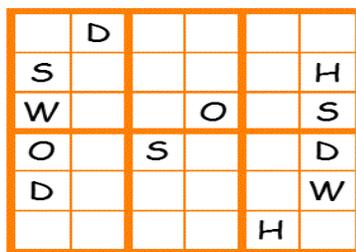
**SAVE THE DATE** your support is needed! The K-5 PTO will be sponsoring the Harlem Rockets on Thursday, October 26th at 6:00pm at the Carrabec High School. Come and join the fun and excitement as we watch the Harlem Rockets compete against our home team, the "Carrabec Dream Team". Tickets will be on sale soon at all RSU #74 schools and at the door. Advance tickets cost \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. Tickets at the door cost \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. All proceeds will support the K-5 CCS students.

Remember to send in your boxtops monthly in an envelope or bag with your child's name on it.

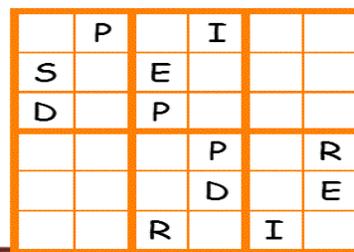
You can follow all K-5 PTO news and events on Facebook at Carrabec Community School PTO. Our next meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 3 at 5:00 (Harlem Rocket planning) and Monday, October 23 at 5:00 (regular meeting).

# Halloween Sudoku

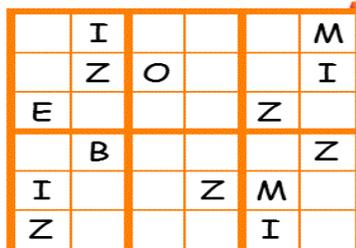
Fill in the grids so that each column, row, and box contains one and an only one of the letters from the given word.



SHADOW



SPIDER



ZOMBIE



ORANGE

## 6-8 PTO NEWS

Hi everyone, hope you all had a great summer vacation. Our 6-8 PTO is always looking for parent involvement during the entire school year. Want to know how to help?

- Volunteer in our soccer and basketball food booths during home games
- donate snacks or hot dishes to be sold at the booths
- help with our 6-8 dances
- donate a food item for our teacher lunches
- donate food items during our Teacher Appreciation week
- attend our monthly meetings here at CCS

If you are able to help the 6-8 PTO please send an email with your contact, there is also a sign up sheet in the soccer booth for your help during the soccer season.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Halloween Dance for all 6-8 students and will be in need of Chaperones and food donations. Please email me at [lrmcoliver03@yahoo.com](mailto:lrmcoliver03@yahoo.com)



## News from Mr. Gilbert



The year has just begun, but music at Carrabec Community School is off to an INCREDIBLE start, and I come to you with both good news, and some changes that have occurred in the music program! First of all, and with the blessing of the administration, we have increased the number of rehearsals for Middle School Chorus and Band from once a week for 40 minutes each, to TWICE a week for 45 minutes each! These students have all worked incredibly hard for the past two years as we reshape our music program in RSU74, and their dedication and passion for music have helped us make this change, and I couldn't be more excited about it.

Second, just when I thought that the Band and Chorus program had reached its height in terms of numbers, 2017-2018 might just be one for the record books! Numbers across the district have continued to increase. Two great examples of this growth are the Elementary Band (5th Grade) and the High School Chorus. Last years Elementary Band had 25 students in it across the district, up to 35 this year, and the High School Chorus increased from 9 to 21. This program is growing, and it does not seem like it will be slowing down anytime soon!

And finally, thanks to tremendous support from the community, my second DonorsChoose.org campaign was fulfilled in 7 days. Through the campaign, we received several miscellaneous parts and instruments to continue filling out our percussion section, as well as reeds and cleaning supplies to support our Woodwind and Brass players. The community has been great in its support and donations towards the music program, for which I am eternally grateful. We are, however, always looking for new and used instruments for our ever growing program, help spread the word!

I hope to see you at the Winter Concert in December!

~Mr. Gilbert, Music Teacher

## News from Let's Go! 5-2-1-0

Congratulations to all the staff and students at Carrabec Community School. Once again CCS earned their GOLD level in the Let's Go! 5-2-1-0 program. This program is helping to make our school a healthier place.

Mrs. LeBeau, our 5210 School Champion and Mrs. Smith will be working on creating a Walking Club where students will earn prizes based on the miles they walk. This is early in the process and more information will go out once they get it all worked out.

We will continue to hold the Walking School Bus in the Fall and Spring. Our route consists of walking from CHS to CCS. Mrs. LeBeau hopes to get the Walking School Bus ready for mid to late October.

The Wellness Committee and 5-2-1-0 School Champion would like to thank you for your support in helping to make Carrabec Community School a healthier place for our students to learn!

## Mrs. Waugh -Technology

I am so excited to have a chance to let everyone know the great things we will be doing in Technology class this year!

The **kindergarten class** has been on the ABCya website. They are learning the keyboard by playing the Keyboard Zoo game. Kindergarten computer class lessons will focus on teaching students where the letters are on the keyboard, how to log on and log off of the computer, and how to reach different educational websites.

In **first grade** students are using the DanceMat Typing website to learn how to type. DanceMat is an interactive game that teaches kids to type using the home-row technique, showing them where to place their fingers and which fingers to use to type different letters, numbers or symbols. Students are introduced to correct posture while sitting directly in front of the computer with the keyboard squarely in front of them. Students will also use different games to help them learn to type like Jump Key and Typing Rocket Jr. they are both on ABCya website.

**Second grade** will continue using DanceMat, helping them increase their typing skills they learned from 1st grade. They will use their typing skills and write letters on the ABCya website using the game Letter Creator, they will complete a Keyboard Challenge and complete the higher levels on Jump Key. Typing at second grade level is not about speed, it is about developing good habits.

In the **third grade** class students move to a program called Typing Club. At the third grade level, students start getting graded for their typing skills. Typing Club starts with the home row keys so students have a chance to review the keyboard while increasing their skills. Typing Club is an engaging and interactive experience while learning how to type. Students win badges when they successfully

reach different levels. What I like about Typing Club is that students can see their progress and watch their skills increase.

Third grade will also be introduced to Google Apps. They will learn how to log into their Google Accounts and create a new document and share documents with each other. They will learn to change font color and size and how to add images to a page.

The **fourth and fifth grade classes** continue working on their typing skills utilizing the Typing Club program.

Both classes will be building NXT robots this school year. LEGO Robotics teaches our children about teamwork (they must work in pairs), basic troubleshooting and problem solving while engaging in a fun activity. Each class will not only build robots, they will also do some simple programming.

Both grade levels will be learning about being a good digital citizen. Fourth grade will use an interactive game on Digital Passport, while the fifth grade will use Digital Compass. Both websites are interactive, fun, and I find very effective in teaching kids about how to use the internet safely. After they finish a game or an adventure they must log onto their Google Account and write about what the message the game or the adventure was trying to teach.

In the **six grade** we are exploring, discussing and writing about different subjects. Right now we are talking about cyberbullying and its effect on individuals, families and the community. They watch a YouTube video, we have a class discussion and then they write in a weekly journal about what they watched. They are required to write at least 4 complete sentences, each week. I find it amazing the class discussions we are having and how much interaction there is within the class. In October, Officer Pike from the Somerset Sheriff's Department will be doing a presentation for each of the 6th grade classes on cyberbullying. He presented a couple of years ago, and it was very informative and brought the issue of cyberbullying closer to home.

The **seventh grade** class completes a weekly journal. They are given two prompts to write about, they must answer each prompt with two complete sentences. Students will then be given a weekly assignment and given class time to work on. All work is done digitally using Google Apps. Students will be learning about digital footprints, different types of scams, they will create tables and use Google Drawing, etc.

In the **eighth grade** students are working on a weekly grateful journal. Each week they are given a two grateful prompts and ask to write a response. They must type at least two complete sentences for each prompt. We are also working on developing a budget using Google Sheets. This serves two purposes, students are introduced to Google Spreadsheets and how they work and they also learn about what it cost to live. They will have to research each item and come up with a monthly amount. When we have finished the spreadsheet, they will research careers and see if they are making enough money to cover their monthly expenses. I will be inviting Brenda from Skowhegan Savings Bank to come in and talk with them about how to open a savings and evidently a checking account.

I am really excited about this school year, I welcome the challenges and look forward to making a difference in a young person's life.