Principal’s Message

Happy New Year! Inevitably, the New Year has brought with it a renewed sense of energy and commitment to an increase in student achievement. The staff, faculty, and students returned from their holiday recess with the excitement and energy similar to that of the beginning of the school year. We continue to be dedicated to meeting the needs of each and every student at Carnegie and have implemented multiple interventions and tutoring opportunities to ensure that these needs are being addressed.

This month students will begin to learn about Habit 3 of the Leader in Me Program, Put First Things First. Which means recognizing what is important, prioritizing time, and organizing tasks so we don’t have to constantly be stressed!

November Hudson Hero Winner

Congratulations to Zyjuan Newton in Mrs. Merglowski’s/Miss Meyer’s class! He was the November Hudson Hero winner. Lunch was enjoyed with Miss Meyers, Mrs. Hudson & Chief Kennedy from the Carnegie Police Department.

December Hudson Heroes

K  Treyvon Ladd, Chassity Windsor-Lee, Cynthia Hariharan
1st  Tyler Scott, Evelyn Turko, Brian Goodman, Shriya Kunnanath, Nikolai Howe
2nd  Jalaya Seaton, Jessica Duray, Ryan Montooth
3rd  Amara Garrett, Bailey Vetter, Marc Corio
4th  Mary Dougherty, Haylee Boggs, Abby Lendard
5th  Gavin Helbig, Bryce Rodriguez, Emma Pointer, Regina Shaffer
6th  Brooke Martineck, Alyssa Duray

Winter Chorus & Band Concert

On behalf of the students, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mr. Pedersen (Instrumental Band) and Ms. Ferro (Chorus/ Music) for their commitment to making this year’s holiday performance something that the students were extremely proud of. It was great to see such talent come together from both elementary buildings to perform in the holiday concerts for a proud and excited audience. It was also wonderful to see the beautiful art work hung throughout the halls, thank you Mrs. Criste.

No School:

- Monday, January 19th — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Dates to Remember

- January 27th—2-Hour Delay
- January 27th— 6:00 Pre K Night @ Carnegie
- January 28th— 2nd Nine Weeks Ends
- Feb. 16— Make-Up Day
Grades 4, 5 & 6 made Christmas decorations this year for the Pittsburgh International Airport Holiday Trees. Using recycled products and paper, the students created poinsettia’s, airplanes and candles. All decorations were red, green and white. This is the 15th year the art classes have sent Christmas decorations to the airport, however, the first time they were invited to hang their display.

Fourteen sixth graders were selected to represent Carnegie Elementary. They joined 5 other local school districts in a decorating contest. The tree was 6 feet tall with white lights. The students did a wonderful job decorating the tree. After decorating and refreshments, the students were given a tour by the airport’s art director, Ms. Katie. Ms. Katie pointed out the sculptures, tile work, and other art works and the significance each has to the airport. When the airport was designed, artists were consulted for the art pieces that are displayed throughout the airport. Carnegie won a $100 reward for their tree! Congratulations to Mrs. Criste & the students involved!

Grades K-6 will be given the DIBELS assessment January 6-12th and grades 3-6 will also be taking the Study Island Benchmarks January 6-16th. The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through sixth grade. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. DIBELS are comprised of seven measures to function as indicators of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency with connected text, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. DIBELS were designed for use in identifying children experiencing difficulty in acquisition of basic early literacy skills in order to provide support early and prevent the occurrence of later reading difficulties. The Study Island Benchmark are quarterly assessments for grades 3 to 8. These assessments were created specifically to mirror the content and look of the PSSA. They are intended to provide a quick estimate of how students would perform on the PSSA if the state test were administered on the same day.

Amazing Alternatives sponsored a food drive to benefit the community food pantry during the months of November and December. 729 food items were collected! Thank you for the donations. Congratulations to Mrs. Cantwell’s homeroom for collecting the most food. They were rewarded with a pizza party. Ms. Lewis’s room came in second place!
With the inclement weather fast approaching, please make sure your contact information is updated in the office. The parent link system will notify you if there is a delay or cancellation. Information will also be available on the local news channels.

**Santa Visits Carnegie**

The students at Carnegie were extremely surprised to see that Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit their school. Santa visited and distributed “reindeer dust” to the students in grades K-3 to assist his reindeer in finding their houses. I would like to especially thank the PTA for providing refreshments as well as all the work they did to create a positive shopping experience for the students at the Santa Workshop during the beginning of December.

**Thank You**

Over the past few months we have received coats, shoes and Christmas presents for families who completed surveys at the beginning of the year asking for help. We wanted to take this time to thank everyone for their generosity.

**Kindergarten Registration:**

The Carlynton School District has scheduled Friday March 20th, 2015, as the date to enroll your future Carnegie Elementary Kindergarten students into the district. Registration, which includes a series of student assessments, will take place at Carnegie Elementary beginning at 8:30 a.m. Additional information is listed on the district website. Please contact Jan Sweeney, District Registrar, with any questions, at 412-429-2500 ext. 1125. We are looking forward to meeting the next generation of little cougars!

**Countdown to the PSSA & Terra Nova**

With only three months remaining until the administration of the PSSA (Grades 3-6) /Terra Nova (Grade 2) assessments, our teachers are looking for creative and effective ways to maximize the remaining instructional time to provide our students with the necessary tools that they will need to become Proficient or Advanced in both reading and math. Additional information regarding these assessments will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Testing window dates:

3-6th Reading and Math PSSA’s – April 13th—24th
4th Grade Science – April 20th—April 24th
2nd Terra–Nova—March 23th—March 27th
Thank You, Mr. Ferro!

On December 20th, the Carnegie and Carlynton family said goodbye to an amazing teacher, musician, and community member. After a long-fought battle, Mr. Ferro passed away surrounded by the people he loved. Mr. Ferro was a graduate of the Carlynton School District. After graduation, Mr. Ferro was a trained classical guitarist from Baldwin Wallace College. He was a member of a band that toured throughout the United States and was signed by Sony Entertainment. Mr. Ferro always had aspirations to return to Carlynton to share his passion for music, therefore he furthered his education at Duquesne University School of Music. He was the Carlynton high school music teacher and band director for 5 years before returning to Carnegie Elementary to serve as the music teacher and choral director. Before becoming ill, Mr. Ferro was an active composer and performer. Mr. Ferro will be greatly missed.

He will be remembered for his passion for the arts and most importantly his students. Our thoughts are with his loving family; Kathy, who is our computer lab aide at Carnegie, his twin sister Mary Ferro, who is a substitute teacher for the district, and his two children and granddaughter.
During the months of November and December we learned about Habit 2—Begin with the End in Mind. The following students demonstrated this habit by setting and reaching their goals.

Congratulations to:
Gavin Helbig, Katie Duray, Erin Coyne, Jeremiah Kalimon, Gracie Scullion, Heather DeSimone, Chase Brandebura, Tommy Hatcher, Aaron Lee and Amani Smith.

Habit 3- Put First Things First

What are the most important “things?” How do we keep track and decide?

Habit 3 is Put First Things First—“I plan for the important.” This Habit is about recognizing what is important, prioritizing time, and organizing tasks so we don’t have to constantly be stressed! Some kind of written planner is a great tool. Modeling this behavior is the best way to teach it.

Ways to apply at home:

Priority Sort Game: Let your child pretend to be your boss. You went golfing/skiing/to the movies. Explain why your report wasn’t in on time. Now you be the teacher and let your child explain how they played instead of doing their homework. Now role-play where you each did your work and studied before you played. Discuss the results and how it feels when we prepare. A good point is how much more we can enjoy our play if we aren’t worried about the things we haven’t done.

Planning helps us succeed. Show your child what you use to organize your time and tasks. Is it a simple “To Do” list? Calendar? Digital Organizer? Help them create a list of things that need to be done in the week. How can tasks be broken down by day? Write it out. Small children can use pictures. Older kids and teens can plan times of day for tasks and include time for leisure activity as well.

Family Time. Nothing is more important than our families. Set aside Family time each week. Let kids help plan the activities. Card and board games are a great way to interact. Go for a walk. Plan and fix a meal together. Visit the library or zoo. Look at old family photos. Protect this time and commit to strengthening your family. Don’t be discouraged if it doesn’t go smoothly the first few times. Keep trying.

Words to use:

“How can we plan to make sure your (homework/chores/project) is completed on time?”

“Our family is important and I would like to spend time with you. What would be a good activity for us to do together?”

“Which is more important? X or Y?”

“I bet you felt really good/grown up/proud to have completed ____.”

“Thank you for putting first things first. It is so great to know I can count on you.”

“Let’s talk about this. Did you really think ____ was the most important thing?”

“I understand (your video game) felt very urgent, but was it really more important than (keeping your agreement to unload the dishwasher?)”

“How can we plan better for next time?”

For teens/older kids: “What are some things that just waste your time?”