"SOARING TO EXCELLENCE"

November 2008 Volume 57

Cardinal Chatter

Cardinal Community Academy • 3101 WCR 65, Keenesburg, CO 80643 • http://CCAschool.net • 303-732-9312 • Fax 303-732-9314

Director's Corner

What has always been a major backbone for Cardinal Community Academy? Volunteers! Can you do electrical, plumbing, roofing, painting, yard work, caulking or any other type of repair work? If you don't prefer to work in the classrooms or your work schedule doesn't allow you to help out between 7:30 and 4:00 we can help you, help us, continue to keep our school in top condition. Our team places work orders every week, and we desperately need volunteers to complete those work orders.

I addressed homework in the last Chatter, concerning amounts, and visiting with teachers should you have a problem. Continually teachers address "parent completed homework". I often wonder if someone else does your work at your job. Are you being fair to your child and their education by doing their homework? I realize that it is hard to not do your child's work, but what is going to happen when they get to high school or college? Will you be going to college to complete their work? Ironically, children whose parents complete their homework may perform worse on tests, and actually end up achieving a poorer grade overall. It is very important for your child to complete their own homework, please help them and check the work over, but let them complete their own work.

Recently our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes voted for class representatives and presented a plan to change those three grades to a middle school concept. After two

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Harvest Festival Costume Contest Winners

Niki Swingle as a Mime and Tyler Sigg as the Tin man (most original), Morgan Herman as Dorothy and Remington Swingle as a Red Head (cutest), and McKayla Cole as Scarlet O'Hara and Taggyrt Moses as Indiana Jones (best of show). Be sure visit our web site for a complete slide show featuring all the 8th Annual Harvest Festival activities. **http://ccaschool.net**

Grade 13 & Beyond Scholarship Winners Tour CU

Last January, 3rd-5th grade students from CCA and other area schools participated in the essay-writing contest sponsored by Valley Bank and Trust. The Grade 13 & Beyond Scholarship program is designed to encourage elementary students to consider education beyond high school. Winners of the scholarships were announced in February and three CCA students were among them:

*Continued, see **Scholarship** page 3*

Alumni Visit CCA

Friday October 10th was a day off of school for the Weld Central High School students. They could have slept in; I'm sure most of them did. Seven of them, alumni of CCA, however, chose to come to our school and spend the day helping out in classes, talking with the current middle schoolers about the benefits of staying at CCA, and having sort of a homecoming reunion with each other and their former teacher, Miss Carley. It was a pleasure to see Nate and Alex Tucker, Mikayla Madrid, Conor Waldron, Chyanna Black, Drew Nighswonger and Jenna Pralle again, as confident high school students. All of these kids are enrolled in college prep classses and doing well. They unanimously agreed that CCA prepared them very well for high school classes. Because of their "head start" at CCA which enabled them to place out of the lower level high school classes, they think they will most likely be able to take some AP (advanced placement) and first year college classes while in their senior year. As for their time at CCA, they enjoyed their 8th grade year the most. Contributing to this sentiment was their rapport with Miss Carley, and their awesome week long trip to Durango at the end of the school year. But also contributing to their positive attitude, when reminiscing about CCA, were the challenging academics combined with hands on learning and high level of teacher contact, which is not possible to the same extent in large classes, like those at Weld Central Jr. High. Most of these students participated in the Weld Central Jr. High sports programs as well and did not have any difficulty coordinating this thanks to parents and carpools. Another unique activity at CCA that they really enjoyed was planning and running the Haunted House at the Harvest Festival. This helped them raise money for their year-end trip which they enjoyed so much. Thanks for coming, Alums!

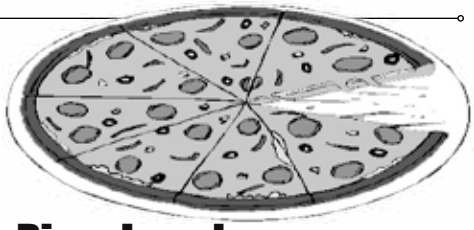
October Board Meeting Highlights

• The board would like to welcome Missy Rosling and Ty Dreiling as the newly elected members of the CCA Board of Directors.

• The board would like to thank Debbie Trupp and Brian Lunning for their years of dedicated service to CCA. As outgoing board members, their contribution will be missed.

• Several of the board members will be attending the Colorado League of Charter Schools annual conference on November 6th and 7th.

Carla Leet



Pizza Lunch

The rest of the days for pizza this semester are as follows:

November 7
November 21
December 5
December 19

We appreciate your generous support in this ongoing fund raiser for the 7th and 8th grades.

Erin Carley

...no better place...a parent's point of view

Recently my Weld Central freshman had a day off of school and asked if she could spend the day at CCA, helping Ms. Carley. I thought "what teenager wants to spend a day off from school at school?" Well 7 out of the 10 kids in last year's eighth grade chose just that. They came in for the whole day and helped Ms. Carley. This shows what a great year they had last year. Not only did they create a bond with each other and Ms. Carley, but it was also year of great academic growth.

It is such a joy to listen to the high school math teachers talk about the high level of math that our students are capable of. They are well ahead of the pack thanks to Ms. Eisenman and a great math curriculum.

To date there is no better place for my junior high student. I hope we will continue expecting great things from our students and teachers.

Jody Nighswonger

Awards Assembly

The first quarter report cards have been sent home and on Friday, October 24th an assembly was held to acknowledge those in grades 3-8 who obtained a place on the Honor Roll. Honor roll is intended to officially praise students for their hard work in achieving a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5. Forty three students were recognized. In addition, seventeen Alpha Honor Roll recipients were acclaimed for achieving all A's (GPA 4.0). Forty two students were also recognized who had perfect attendance and two for academic honors. A list of the honorees can be found at: **http://ccaschool.net**

Volunteer's

Just a reminder that when you log your hours, be sure that you put both the time you start and the ending time. If you don't it won't be counted. If you have any questions, let me know.

Thank you, Lori Glenn

Drama Club

Auditions were held October 16th for the middle school play entitle "Last Stop 'Til Christmas". Rehearsals are now underway and the kids seem to be having fun fleshing out their characters. 6-8th graders auditioned for parts after having a chance to practice lines of their choice from the script. 3-5th graders were also invited to audition for a few roles available for the younger kids. For the audition, Mrs. Johnson, 8th grade science teacher, who also has a minor in drama, had the kids pretend to be mimes and also act out part of a scene from the script in a group. There will be a **meeting on Friday, Nov 7th regarding the younger grades' skits (K-5th) after school** in the 8th grade room. The play and skits will be part of the winter program scheduled for Friday, December 12th and are happily anticipated.

Lunchroom Is Empty!

There is no extra food in the lunchroom! Please help your child remember their lunch and utensils. We would greatly appreciate any donations to cover those times when a students gets to school without their lunch.

Thank you

Cardinal Chatter
the CCA school monthly newsletter, needs you!

If you would like to contribute to the CCA monthly newsletter please email your announcements, stories, photos, requests or kudos to **info@ccaschool.net** by the last Friday of the month. This is a great way to communicate with the whole CCA family including parents with children on the waiting lists. The newsletter will normally be sent home the first Tuesday of the month. We look forward to your responses.

Kathleen and Doyle Harrison

Scholarship

Continued from page 1

Shannon Tan, Cody Huwa, and Elizabeth Harrison. Besides being recognized at a ceremony in March, given the $100 scholarship, a certificate, and a t-shirt, the winners were promised a field trip to tour the University of Colorado in the fall. On Tuesday, October 21, Cody, Shannon, and Elizabeth were excused from school and boarded a bus bound for Boulder along with winners from other schools. Mrs. Kester, 4th grade teacher, and Kathleen Harrison, CCA parent, accompanied them. It was a beautiful day to tour the campus, with all the trees in fall colors.

Erin Fraser welcomed the group. She gave some introductory information about CU, such as that CU is the largest university in Colorado, with 32,000 students, and annual tuition with room and board costs about $8,000-$10000. CU is a research university and has three Nobel laureates in physics among its professors. For students outside class, the campus has it's own movie theatre and bowling alley and the student union, which features the bookstore, a bank, a Domino Pizza and more. The sports mascot, Ralphie the buffalo has often been voted the best college mascot in the country.

Bicyclists and skate boarders abounded on the campus. On our way to the planetarium, Shannon encountered one closer than she would have liked. At the planetarium the kids were treated to an interesting show. Afterwards, the each was given a pass to each lunch at a student cafeteria. They were quite impressed with the variety of entrees, the salad bar and the ice cream machine. It was a fun day and some left saying that they can't wait to go to college.

Director

Continued from page 1

meetings, the representatives and myself agreed on changes to help convert those grades to the middle school concept. They had many great ideas and worked with their teachers to change the whole concept. These students will no longer line up to move from class to class, be required to do lunch recess, have lots of new balls to use during their recesses, have gum in class, to name a few changes. They have agreed to a detention policy and understand that the teachers will be conducting those detentions and what is required when they serve detention. They currently are not allowed cell phones or ipods during the day and are lobbying for the use of those two items. Parents are also invited to dialog on new rules. We care about how you feel about these things as well.

The students have emptied out our reserve of extra lunch food. Should your child forget their lunch, the school has nothing to feed the children. All donations will be greatly appreciated. We can also use plates, bowls, plastic wear etc to help serve our students.

On Friday, October 24th, the awards ceremony was held for third through eighth grades classes. Congratulations for all the well deserved awards. CCA is proud of the effort applied to earn these awards. Thanks to all the parents who came for the ceremony; your children really appreciate it.

Lastly, our new web site is up and running. Please check it out. We want to wean our school off of the constant barrage of paper notices going home and have a place for you to get current information from CCA and your teachers. Go visit http://ccaschool.net!

Harry Ewing

Harvest Festival Cowpie Bingo Winners

1st place was our own April Dowdy
2nd place was parent Jana Weisdorfer
3rd place ticket was sold by Nick Rigoli

Congratulations!

Responsible Kindergarteners

If I were President, I would have…

In light of the upcoming Presidental election, CCA's Kindergarteners have been learning about Presidents–Presidents from the past who greatly impacted our country, such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln; our current Presidnet George W. Bush; and the two Presidential candidates Barak Obama and John McCain. They have also been learning about character traits, such as honesty, perseverance, respect, kindness, etc. Then, the children were posed with the question: What character trait would you exhibit if you were President? Here is what they had to say:

If I were President, I would have honesty. ~Hailey Jones

If I were President, I would have honesty. ~Destyne Kalcevic

If I were President, I would have respect. ~Brooke Ann Dowdy

If I were President, I would have kindness. ~Hayes Edens

If I were President, I would have honesty. ~Gracey Huwa

If I were President, I would have respect. ~Elizabeth Spayd

If I were President, I would have kindness. ~Natasha Zimbelman

If I were President, I would have honesty by not lying. ~Ben Swieter

If I were President, I would have honesty. ~Harley Thompson

If I were President, I would have kindness. ~Kaitlyn Rosling

If I were President, I would have honesty. ~Logan Hines

If I were President, I would have honesty. ~Breanna Nelson

If I were President, I would have honesty. ~Creed Meikle

If I were President, I would have honesty. ~Jayson Lesnansky

Seems like they would all make pretty great Presidents!

I show responsibility by…

CCA's Kindergarten class has been learning about the character trait "responsibility" during the month of October. They've learned that being responsible means being in charge of what they say and what they do. When the children were asked, "How do you show responsibility?" this is what they had to say:

I show responsibility by cleaning my room. ~Ty Wiese

I show responsibility by feeding my dog. ~Kaitlyn Rosling

I show responsibility by feeding my horse. ~Hayes Edens

I show responsibility by making my bed. ~Natasha Zimbelman

I show responsibility by feeding my dog. ~Brooke Dowdy

I show responsibility by cleaning my room. ~Elizabeth Spayd

I show responsibility by sharing with my brother. ~Jayson Lesnansky

I show responsibility by cleaning the dishes. ~Hailey Jones

I show responsibility by picking up my toys. ~Ben Swieter

I show responsibility by cleaning up my books. JD does too. ~Gracey Huwa

I show responsibility by cleaning up my books and my room. ~Destyne Kalcevic

I show responsibility by cleaning my room. ~Logan Hines

I show responsibility by sharing with my brother Jacob. ~Harley Thompson

I show responsibility by cleaning my room. ~Breanna Nelson

I show responsibility by cleaning the dishes. ~Creed Meikle

Stacy Thompson

Thank You Notes

Thank you…

Kris Hurley, at Pastimes, for making the cookies for the Honor Roll Assembly and to the PTO for purchasing them.

Robin Erker

Read to Score team for the yummy ice cream social (Friday, October 24th) for all kids who completed their reading scorecard.

Megan, 1st grade

I am thankful:

"that Mrs. Cain and Mrs. Thompson are such good teachers. I'm also happy Mrs. Cain is teaching me to write stories".

Taggyrt Moses 1st grade

I am thankful:

"that Mr. Ewing stresses being on time and the great way he works with the kids".

"for the way Mrs. Cooksey keeps the kids energized and moving in gym".

"for Mrs. Cole's i-m-p-e-c-c-a-b-l-e".

Ginnah Moses

Harvest Festival was a success thanks to all of our great families and the volunteers who selflessly served at the event. A great big thank you to you all! You are what makes CCA great.

the PTO

SCRIPS gift cards

Holiday season is nearly upon us! Save your gas and shop at CCA for SCRIPS gift cards. Merchants donate a portion from purchases made using the SCRIPS cards directly to CCA. Nancy Swingle will be picking up your order forms on November 7th and filled orders will be available by November 21st. Order forms are available in the front entryway and also the drop box for your orders and payment.

Call Nancy if you have questions: 303-345-1703.

Our Night at the Museum

We had a fabulous time at the Colorado History Museum on October 3rd and 4th! Twenty-three 4th and 5th graders, along with 10 parents, explored Colorado History in a unique way. As archaeologists, we carefully dug for artifacts and arranged them in order and put them together. In the old West, students were able to ride a barrel horse and rope a cow, make butter out of cream, and wash clothes with a scrub board. Like the Native Americans, we told stories using symbols and made a buzz toy. Going back in time, we participated in an 1890s school day. Some of us are very glad to be in 2008! Finally, we slept among the actual museum Some of us had nightmares of Cowgirls coming after us! (Ladies slept in the Colorado Women section.) In the morning we had the ultimate privilege of touring the museum without any other guests. It was truly a one of a kind experience. I know many of us will look at Colorado History in a totally different light.

from the KESTER KAZOO
4th grade newsletter

Come Along on A Bookfair Safari

We're looking for a Herd of Volunteers for the upcoming Book Fair! The book fair will be held the week of parent-teacher conferences **November 17-21** after school in the music room from 3:30-5:00. Volunteer help is needed to set up, pack up, staff the fair and provide refreshments. Contact librarian TerriLynn Carlson at CCA if you would like to help. Please plan to come shop for books. This is a geat place to pick up gifts for children and teachers!

http://ccaschool.net/

Finally were online! It is our hope that CCA's new web site will be a valuable resource for parents, students, staff and other parties interested in CCA. http://ccaschool.net will be your source for current happenings at CCA, as well as information about CCA and its policies. Go there to find specific information about our curriculum, contact information for the CCA team, downloadable forms, and links to school closure information, the infinite campus for student grades and other related sites. The Classroom pages (teacher space) help you see what's going on in your class, find year-long plans, the Rigg's phonogram list, weekly letters and more. The Cardinal Chatter newsletters and the school calendar are also available. See the home page for a slide show of photos from the Harvest Festival. Please help us as we endeavor to make this a place that you will find useful and visit regularly. We also are planning to add pages listing volunteer opportunities and student accomplishments. Your suggestions are welcome and will be taken into consideration. Browse through the site and let us know what you think.

Contact us at info@ccaschool.net

Kathleen and Doyle Harrison