"SOARING TO EXCELLENCE"

December 2008 Volume 58

Cardinal Chatter

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

Director's Corner

We have gotten through Halloween and Thanksgiving and are speeding toward Christmas. On behalf of the CCA Team, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. Parties will all be scheduled for the 19th of December unless scheduled differently by your child's teacher.

Every month I have addressed homework and parents DOING their children's homework. The CCA Team and I have no problem with parents helping and checking their children's homework. When parents do their child's homework, they are NOT helping their child. When we come back from Christmas vacation, work obviously done by parents will receive a (0) on that work.

By the time you read this issue of the Cardinal Chatter I will have completed all the team fall reviews. When you get a chance, thank our team for the work they do. Thank our board for setting up a charter where we don't have 30 kids in a class. I marvel watching teachers still teaching at 3:25. Just try taking care of 20 children, keeping them all on task, and working to their potential, not to mention trying to teach them. Teachers group their students for different classes and sometimes are teaching 2 and 3 groups at the same time and amazingly do a tremendous job in handling a difficult situation. Every day I bless our school for the outstanding people who have dedicated themselves to this profession and especially to work at CCA. They care so much for your children.

Please remember that our school program will be on December 12th @ 7 p.m. The program will be held at Weld Central Junior High School, corner of Road 59 and HWY 52.

Harry Ewing

CCA November Board Meeting Highlights

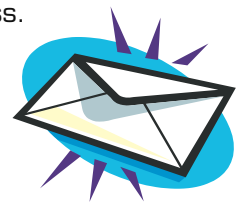
The board approved the following contract for the current school year: **Tena Floryancic**, Teacher Aide.

There is a new binder with all of the current school work orders at the front desk. Please check it out, and help the school out with much needed repairs and improvements.

The December board meeting has been canceled. If an urgent need arises it will be rescheduled.

The board wishes everyone a very happy holiday season!

See page 2 for information on the Board's new email address.



Riggs Informational session Friday, December 12th

Our curriculum director, April Dowdy, will be holding an informational session on **Friday, December 12th at 2:00** in the music room. She will share information about the K-4 spelling program including how Riggs: The Writing Road to Reading and Thinking program is delivered in the classroom and how parents can help support their children at home. Please see April if you are interested, but have a conflict with the time or date.

Third graders celebrate the annual native American feast as part of their social studies curriculum. For more pictures go to the Third Grade Classroom page on our web site (ccaschool.net).

CCA PTO news

PTO would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time, energy and resources to make the **Harvest Festival and Oktoberfest** a success. We are excited to say that because of the efforts of all of the volunteers, we are able to give additional funds to each class to help with the cost of field trips.

PTO will be providing **gift wrapping services** again this year. Gift wrapping services are free, so take advantage. We will be available in the computer room from 7:45 to 2:30 pm on Friday December 5th, December 12th and December 19th to wrap your Christmas gifts. We will receive your gifts until 2 pm to assure that we are able to wrap and deliver all gifts on the day of receipt.

Some of you may be aware that Tammy Wiese and her family have moved to Severance, CO. This leaves **PTO in need of a Communications Chairperson**. The Communications Chairperson is responsible for assuring that notices of events are posted timely, the article is submitted for the newsletter and that any other communication needs are met. We would love to have you join us. If you are interested please contact April Dowdy, Linda Beckel, Tena Floryancic, or Laura Hayden for an application. We would like to close nominations by December 12, 2008.

If you are wondering what to give that special person in your life for Christmas, **consider giving a SCRIP**. SCRIP's are gift cards. They are the same as the gift cards you buy from the store with the added bonus of a contribution for the school. When you purchase a SCRIP, you receive a gift card in the amount of the purchase. There is no additional cost to you; just a little pre-planning. The order form is available in the box in the hall in the front hall of the main building. Deadlines are close so contact Nancy Swingle at 303-732-4059.

PTO will be sponsoring a **Family Spaghetti Dinner and Dance on February 6, 2009 at the fairgrounds**. This promises to be an exciting event and is open to family members of all ages so put the date on your calendar. More news to come!

'Tis the Season...Music & Drama program upon us

CCA's students and Mrs. Johnson, 8th grade teacher, and Mr. Johnson, CCA's band and music teacher, have been rehearsing diligently for the upcoming December 12th program. The program will include seasonal fare in drama, band and vocal music. Be sure to attend! The program will be held at the Weld Central Junior High auditorium at 7:00 p.m., Friday, December 12.

Free gift wrapping at CCA!

The PTO is once again providing free gift wrapping services.

Where: the computer room

Time: 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 pm

Dates: Friday, December 12th and December 19th

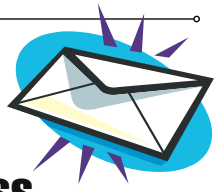
Drop off gifts before 2 pm to assure that PTO is able to wrap and deliver all gifts on the day of receipt.

National Junior Honor Society Sponsoring Non-perishable Food Drive

For their service project this year, the members of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), are sponsoring a food drive at CCA. All non-perishable food items can be dropped off in your child's classroom through December 16th. The class that collects the most food will win a pizza party.

The National Junior Honor Society recognizes middle-school students for more than just honor roll. Membership recognizes students for their accomplishments and challenges them to be active in school activities and community service. Students are nominated to join NJHS by the teachers based on the criteria of citizenship, service, leadership, scholarship and character. Members of NJHS at CCA include eight graders Quade Erker, Katie Toman, Sarah Cooksey, Cassidy Rupple, Bailey Bachelor, and Colton Lunning. Seventh graders will also be nominated for induction this year. Mrs. Eisenman, 6th –8th grade math, is the NJHS sponsor at CCA.

CCA board establishes email address



Starting sometime in January the CCA school board will have an email address: CCAboard@re3j.com. This will provide an additional way for you to communicate with the board. School Board Meetings are held at 5pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Parents may sign in to be added to the agenda immediately prior to the meetings. Our board members are Lucille Arnusch, Ty Dreiling, Justin Glenn, Carla Leet, Laura Hayden, Linda Beckel, and Missy Rosling.

8th Grade Poetry

Mrs. Gordon's 8th Grade Reading class has recently finished our poetry unit and here are some of the poems we came up with. We were all very surprised to find out that we were more poetic than we thought!

New Car

By Austin Proksch

I was on the show floor
I was shiny,
I was new
People look
People touch
I feel ready, ready to go
I get bought
They drive out
I feel free and alive
Feel the wind in my grill on the hood
Stomp the gas
Feel power; acceleration
Passing others
Faster, faster, and then even faster
Pull into the barn
Shiny, new and whole.

Everything Has a Sound

By Quade Erker

I walked out of the room
Amazed at what I could hear.

The voice of the doctor
The swirl of the air
The noise of the chopper
The cars out there

I ran outside
To see what I could hear
The noise of traffic
And the crowds cheer

My family was so happy
My hearing had reappeared.

First Snow

By Bailey Batchelor

Sitting in the big brown chair
Cuddled up with my book and mug
Then out of the corner of my eye
What's this?
A snow flake!?
The first snow of the year.

Runaway

By Colton Lunning

I was running
Away from everything
I used my cunning
To stop the coming

I was running,
Running.

They followed me
And kept being a bother
Into the trees
I went farther

I was running,
Running.

I had to run away
From my life
To get away
From all the strife

I was running,
Running.

Preparing for Winter

By Cassidy Rupple

Hurry, hurry,
Scurry, scurry
Winter is almost here.

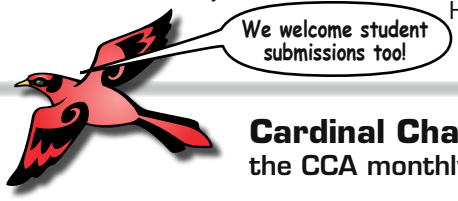
Gather your acorns,
Find some nuts.
Don't stop until your tree is full.

Find a hollow tree,
Stuff it with straw.
Create a cozy nest.

Say goodbye to your friends,
Finish every last chore.
Don't delay any longer.

Now crawl in your hutch,
Cover the whole.
Tuck your tail in tight.

Nestle in tight.
Stay nice and warm.
Hibernate 'till winter is over.



Cardinal Chatter

the CCA 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

Riggs: The Writing Road to Reading and Thinking

Your child most likely refers to the above titled program as Riggs or simply spelling, which is used in grades K-4 at CCA. However, I believe that the title says a lot more about what this program is about. My hope is that I can give this lengthy title an explanation that will help you as parents understand the purposes behind the program.

The methodology behind Riggs comes from decades of research, much of which began with Dr. Samuel T. Orton, who was one of the earliest scientists to research the functioning of the human brain in learning language skills. He was well known for restoring language-skills in brain-damaged World War I veterans, among other patients with traumatic brain injury. Eventually, his phonics-based, multi-sensory approach began to impact the classroom when Romalda Spalding, who wrote *The Writing Road to Reading*, began to teach normal and learning-disabled primary students. Another notable figure was Anna Gillingham who worked closely with Dr. Orton and drew his attention to the regular spelling patterns in English words. Many instructional programs that are currently used to teach children with dyslexia are now referred to as using an "Orton-Gillingham methodology."

At CCA kindergarteners begin the program by learning all the sounds of the first 26 letters and then continue by learning the sounds for two and three letter combinations, which are referred to as phonograms. The focus of instruction is on the letter sounds, as opposed to letter names, and the students learn the correct formation of each lowercase letter at the same time. Therefore, when students learn a new letter, the students **see** the symbol; **hear** the teacher **say** the sound; they then repeat or say the sound; and **write** the symbol from dictation. In this way the students are using all of their senses, which accelerates the learning process.

After the students learn the first 55 phonograms, formal spelling instruction begins. Using the phonograms that have already been learned, students form words while simultaneously learn-

*Continued, see **Riggs** page 4*

Riggs

Continued from page 3

ing the spelling rules and patterns that make up these words. The students then mark these words according to spelling and syllabication rules. The markings not only aide in understanding why a word is spelled a certain way, but when used on spelling tests, it is a way for the student to show the teacher that he/she also understands the syllabication and/or spelling pattern. For example, consider the following first grade spelling word: out·side

The students underline 'ou' because it is a two-letter phonogram. The students learn that in this word there are two letters working together to make one sound. Additionally, the letters 'i', 'd' and 'e' are underlined because it shows a common vowel, consonant, silent e spelling pattern in which the silent e makes the vowel 'i' say its name. (All silent letters are double underlined.) It is marked with a number one because it is the first of five jobs for silent final e and the most common. There is a space between the 't' and 's' because the students also learn a syllabication rule during this lesson, "A compound word is divided between the words that make the compound word."

As you can see, the students are learning a great deal about our English language, and although it may seem like a lot of information, the 47 spelling, plural, syllabication, capitalization and apostrophe rules are repeated a multitude of times with hundreds of words. Moreover, they are not only applied to spelling words, but obviously aide in decoding unknown words in their reading as well. As with the phonograms, the students are seeing, saying, writing and hearing the spelling words. No more memorizing words with no thought behind the task. Students now think deeply about the words in our English language, and reading and vocabulary increases as a result.

I would love to share more information about this program, how the instruction is delivered in the classroom setting, and how you can help support your child at home. I will be holding an informational session on **Friday, December 12th at 2:00** in the music room. If for some reason this date and time does not work for you, please see me. I would love to talk to you.

April Dowdy, curriculum director

In the spirit of the season

Have you noticed some of the festive paper covering classroom doors at CCA? A classroom door-decorating contest is underway. The winning class will receive a special treat, yet to be determined. Judging to take place on December 17th.

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Ph. 303-732-9312 • Fax 303-732-9314

Character
Community
Achievement
Soaring to Educational Excellence

Mission Statement

The mission of CCA is to serve student needs and achieve educational excellence. Students will have a positive learning environment that will give the students the ability to become life long learners, while encouraging responsibility, citizenship, honesty, integrity and respect between students and teachers. Every student will have the opportunity to reach high academic goals within a broad, well-rounded curriculum. Community participation will aid in guiding students to reach their highest academic potential.