



Cardinal Chatter

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

Director's Corner

Students, parents, grandparents, guardians, welcome back to the 2008-2009 school year. I am extremely excited about our team and our goals for this year. We want to continue our rise in CSAP scores and more important raise the bar for our students' learning. In almost every category, the CSAP scores moved above previous scores. In many instances we flew by the school district and the state scores. We need to be very proud of our students' efforts, and the team of people that helped them accomplish this.

CCA is very proud to present our new team members. CCA now has a full time reading teacher, Ginny Cauthorn (28 years experience); Angela Vroom, special education; Katie Woodhouse in second grade (four years experience); Sarah Johnson, eight grade and science; Corey Johnson, music; Kim Spayd, instructional aide; and Ann Streit, instructional aide. I am very pleased with the experience and knowledge these team members bring to our school.

At the back to school night I announced we were forming a parking lot committee. If you would like to be on this committee and help us change pickup and drop off for our students, please contact Robin to be placed on this committee.

Handbooks were given to all students and there are a few changes from the past. Cell phones are now allowed at school to be used before 7:30 and after 3:30.

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Weld Central High School Band performs for CCA students to rev up some Rebel spirit.

December Drama & Music Program

Hello Parents and Students! Do you like to act? Do you like to sing? Do you enjoy working with a team towards a common goal? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we would like to invite you to sign up for the drama program! Even if you didn't answer yes, we welcome all who would like to participate in the drama/music program scheduled for early December. This will be a time when students and volunteers will come together to put

on a production for their community. Currently, a play has not been selected. We would like to get an idea of how many would be interested in participating. Rehearsals will start in early October, running once or twice a week after school. If you have any questions, please contact us at:

sarahjohnson@re3j.com

Thankyou!

Sarah & Corey Johnson

CCA Summer Board Meeting Highlights

- The board would like to welcome Laura Hayden who was appointed to fill the CCA Board of Directors position vacancy in May.
- CCA contracts have been approved for the following staff members for the 2008-2009 school year:
 - Susan Warren - Art
 - Sarah Johnson - 8th Grade
 - Corey Johnson - Band and Music
 - Kim Spayd - Teacher Aide
 - Ann Streit - Teacher Aide
 - Harry Ewing - Director
- The board accepted the Finance Committee recommendation for the renewal of employee insurance benefits through United Healthcare.
- The board approved the substitute teacher list for the 2008-2009 school year.
- Two parent board positions are up for election this fall. Be looking for information coming from the board soon.

Carla Leet

CCA PTO news

• **Thank You** to all who participated in the CCA float for the Keenesburg parade. **We won first prize** in the school division!! Way to go.

• **Thank You** to **Swieter family**. With their help PTO was able to purchase a new sound system that was used at the 'Back to School Night'.

• **Thank You** to the **Harrison family**. For their hard work on the PTO school calendar.

• **Oktoberfest - October 4th (Saturday)** CCA's middle schoolers and PTO will be hosting the KID'S KORNER at the Keenesburg Oktoberfest. So please show your support by coming down and enjoying the festivities with us. This event will be used to support the middle school's field trips.

• **CCA's 8th annual Harvest Festival - October 18th (Saturday)** Please come to PTO's largest fundraiser of the year! This fundraiser supports your child/ren's field trips, reading program and other fun activities done throughout the school year.

We are still in need of volunteers for this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the PTO officers listed below. Thank you.

Hope to see you all at our first PTO meeting- Friday Sept 12 at 7:30 in the lunchroom!

PTO Officers

- Linda Beckel
- April Dowdy
- Tena Floryancic
- Laura Hayden
- Tammy Wiese

CCA Web Site

CCA has plans to go electronic this year. A new web site is under construction- <http://CCAschool.net>

You'll be able to download or view the newsletter through the site, download school forms, view the school calendar, get notice of special events and information on



Calendar Dates

Sept 9 - Board applications due

Sept 12 - PTO meeting 7:40am, Pizza Lunch Day

Sept 16-19 - Parent teacher conferences, CCA Board elections

Sept 24 - CCA Board meeting 5pm

Sept 26 - Cardinal Chatter stories due, Pizza Lunch Day

Sept 30-Oct 10 - turn in Reading Scorecard #1

Oct 3 - SCRIPS orders due

Oct 4 - Keenesburg Oktober Fest

Oct 10 - Pizza Lunch Day, PTO meeting 7:40am

Volunteer Hours

This is a reminder to document and turn in your volunteer hours. There are 3 different ways to let me know:

#1. enter your hours in the binder at the office front desk;

#2. document your hours on the CCA calendar and at the end of the month drop it in the yellow mail box in the entry way;

#3. email your hours to me at lori@rtebb.net.

The school needs these turned in - many of the grants that we apply for ask for a count of volunteer hours.

If you have any questions, please contact me: lori@rtebb.net

Thank you, Lori Glenn

classroom happenings from your teachers.

We'll let you know when the site is ready to launch so you can check it out. It is the hope of the school that this web site will give everyone easier access to the information they need about CCA.

A Note from CCA's Reading Specialist

I'm excited to get the reading program in place for our new *Language!* program and assisting teachers with students and curriculum. My reading experience has involved several years in Title I at the elementary and middle school level, working with English Language Learners, being an Intermediate classroom teacher, and being a Clinical Professor for Colorado University.

With new strategies implemented, I'm looking forward to seeing CCA's reading scores improve and student's feeling more confident about their reading. Also, I'm looking forward to working with parents to help strengthen reading activities at home.

Ginny Cauthorn

Volunteers Needed for Plastic Bag Recycling Project

The CCA third graders sponsor two recycling projects every year - plastic bags and paper. Remember to bring in your plastic shopping bags - all colors **except black** are accepted. Please put your bags in the box located just inside the front door of the main building. CCA earns money for each load of bags we turn in to Wal-Mart!

We are in need of drivers who can deliver bags to the Brighton Wal-Mart and/or paper to Fort Lupton or Brighton. Third grade students will collect the bags and paper every Tuesday. Bags can only be delivered to Wal-Mart on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Paper is just dropped in a recycling dumpster. We would like to have one volunteer for each of these projects who is available weekly to follow through, as there is paperwork that needs to be signed and returned to Mrs. Cole after each delivery. If you are available or would be interested in helping, please see Mrs. Cole in the third grade classroom ASAP! Thanks for your support!

Lisa Cole

A Case for Reading

Many of you may be familiar with the "Matthew effect"; the biblical term that describes how the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. We now know that this Matthew effect is true for reading as well. Those who read more become better readers and those who don't read are typically poorer readers. This seems like common sense to most, and for those parents I am probably preaching to the choir. Some of you may be thinking, "My child never reads outside of school and he reads two years above his grade level" or "My child reads for 30 minutes every night, but she still struggles to read." My answer to the first is, "Count your blessings, but be careful because that may not last." My answer to the second is, "Wow! Imagine if you didn't have your child read every night." We cannot always predict the cognitive and behavioral characteristics that come into play for a child or the education that may have greatly affected his/her beginning reading instruction. But as a parent, the number one thing that you can do for your child is simply have him or her read. It can be powerful!

Cunningham and Stanovich (1998) have conducted research to study the effects of reading outside of school. They found that the average child at the 90th percentile reads almost two million words per year outside of school, while a child at the 10th percentile reads an aver-

age of 8,000 words. That means that the student at the 10th percentile reads in an entire year what the student in the 90th percentile reads in just two days. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

That is why I am so grateful to CCA's reading committee who has developed an incentive program for our students again this year. I sincerely hope that you take advantage of this program for your child. Let's face it, not all students love to read. Some need an incentive. If you are wondering where to start, talk to your child's teacher. Your child's teacher can help you find books that are interesting and appropriate for your child based on his/her reading level. Happy reading!

Reference: Cunningham, A.E., & Stanovich, K.E. (1998). What reading does for the mind. American Educator, Spring/Summer, 1-8.

FYI

Did you know that the volunteer hours you submit can prove useful when the school is applying for grants? I know that every teacher in our school welcomes a helping hand, and it sends a strong message to your child that their education is valuable. So please remember to track and submit your volunteer hours every month. You can simply keep track of your hours on our CCA calendar and then tear off that sheet at the end of the month. We greatly appreciate your time and dedication to this school.

April Dowdy

Communication

It is very important for parents/guardians to understand that the school cannot fix problems if we are not informed of the issues. **Please** contact the teachers or principal should you have problems. I guarantee that your child will not be singled out or treated in an unfavorable way because you communicate with us.

We have had several instances of parents removing their children from school or threatening to remove their students without visit-

ing with us. Our number one goal is a superior education for your children. Again, **please** help us by communicating with teachers or the principal. If you don't feel this is working, we have a board of directors that are more than willing to listen.



Mr. Ewing

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They are to be off and put away during the day. There are telephones in all rooms and the office to be used during the day. Before and after school students will be able to contact parents etc through their cell phones. The first time a student is caught using their cell phone during the school hours, it will be confiscated for the day; second offense, the phone will be confiscated and a parent will have to retrieve the cell phone from the principal; a third offense will result in the cell phone being banned from the school.

Our school class time starts at 7:30. Please have your student at school by 7:25 in order for them to be in class and ready to work at 7:30. Please remember this is their job and they need to be at work on time.

Vision and hearing screening is just around the corner and we need volunteers to help complete the screening. Contact Robin if you are willing to help- it is only for one day and is very important to our students to be checked.

If you have knowledge of any one looking for a good school for their child, we have openings in all grades except 2nd and 3rd.

Harry Ewing



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