

# Carrington Middle School

## Paw Prints

### Monthly Newsletter

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January, 2009

Dear Carrington Parents,

I cannot believe we are at the halfway mark of our school year. Of course, time flies when you are having fun. I am very pleased with how our students are progressing as a whole. However, I am growing increasingly concerned about the lack of academic growth they are making outside of school. The truth is our students are going to have to read at home nightly and complete their homework if we are going to have our students ready for the challenges of high school, college, and the workplace.

In response to your child's report card and EOGs, I would like to share some important information and a few thoughts:

- Your child's report card is for you to know how your child is doing in school in all of his/her subjects. If you have concerns about your child's grades, then I would encourage you to set up a conference in the main office.
- If your grade concerns have to do with missing work, then I would encourage you to do two things: (1) set up a daily system to check your child's agenda book – and the assigned homework and (2) require that your child have homework time for at least 30 minutes every evening (even if they say they don't have homework). If your child says that he/she does not have homework, then check the team website or call your child's Homework Hotline extension to check to see if the teachers did assign homework. (The Homework Hotline extensions are on Carrington website.)
- Your child's benchmark scores are a good indication of how your child is doing and whether they are doing above or below grade level work. If they have a 1 or 2 on their benchmark, then I would recommend that you require them to read out of their textbook and review their notes and assignments nightly.

For our students to become even better readers than they already are, they really need to read 30 minutes EVERY night. You can have them read to a younger or older sibling, you can read a book together (alternating pages), or they can even read silently (and then you ask them questions). Even our best readers need to read more to become fluent.

I am appreciative of all of the hard work that you, as parents, put into helping our students achieve. We know we cannot do it without you. As always, feel free to contact the school if we can help.

With Cougar Pride,

Julie D. Spencer

**GO COUGARS!**

#### Please collect

- Boxtops for Education - for Cash Bonuses to Carrington
- Campbells Soup Labels - for Cash Bonuses to Carrington
- Canned Drink Tabs - for Ronald McDonald House
- Turn into the office with student name and team name on them.

**Submission Dates**  
**Friday, February 6th**  
**Friday, May 15th**



Schools to Watch

#### EOGs are on the Way!

Please go ahead and mark May 18-22 off on your calendar as the CMS EOG Week. Our students will be taking Reading and Math EOGs. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will also take a Science EOG. All students who do not pass will have an opportunity to retest.

We will also need parent volunteers on May 18, 20, and 21 from approximately 8:00-11:00. We will send out more information in the future about the specific times and the specific procedures to sign-up. But, please go ahead and make plans to do your annual volunteer hours during this week at Carrington.

### 3rd Nine Weeks Progress Report Dates

**February 5**

**February 26**

**March 12 – for students who are failing or who have dropped in their grades**

**Annie**  
is On the Way!

The Carrington Theatre Department presents *Annie*. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders have tried out for the parts and are currently preparing for our annual musical. Show times will be:

**March 26, 27,  
and 28<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00 pm.**



# Upcoming Dates

Saturday, Jan 24	\$10 Athletic Physicals @ Triangle Orthopedics (behind Chick-Fil-A) from 8:00-8:30
Monday, Jan 26	Carrington Night Out – Pomodoro’s (Hillandale/I85 intersection) – Carrington will get 10% of the proceeds ALL DAY
Tuesday, Jan 27	Basketball @ Shepard MS (location TBA) Home Wrestling vs. Neal
Wednesday, Jan 28	Honor Roll Celebration Site Based Decision Making Comm. – 3:15
Tuesday, Feb 3	Home Basketball vs. WG Pearson
Thursday, Feb 5	Progress Reports Go Home
Friday, Feb 6	School Dance: 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 3-5:00 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 6:00-8:00 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip
Monday, Feb 9	Carrington Night Out – Texas Roadhouse – 5-9:00 (10% of proceeds go to Carrington)
Wednesday, Feb 11	Early Release Day – School dismisses 2 hours early
Thursday, Feb 12	PTO Board Meeting – 5:30
Monday, Feb 16	SNOW Make-up Day
Wednesday, Feb 18	Writing Test
Wednesday, Feb 18	Site Based Decision Making Comm. – 3:15
February 23-27	Celebrating Our Heritage Week
Monday, Feb 23	8 <sup>th</sup> Graders Begin High School Registration
Tuesday, Feb 24	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night – High School Registration – 6:30 – Gym I
Tuesday, Feb 24	Randomly selected 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in national standardized test – NAEP
Thursday, Feb 26	Fine Arts Night – 7:00
Thursday, Feb 26	Progress Reports Go Home
Friday, Feb 27	Celebrating Our Heritage Assembly 9:00-9:45

## Weekly Paw Prints

Don't forget to sign up for our weekly Paw Prints. Subscribe to Paw Prints by sending an email with a blank subject to: [CMS-Cougars-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:CMS-Cougars-subscribe@yahoo.com)

## Carrington Middle School

### Mission Statement

The Carrington Middle School family, consisting of students, teachers, parents, and community members, will provide a safe and nurturing learning environment in which all students make continuous academic, social, emotional, and developmental progress.

## We're Watching Our Tracks!

### Need Academic Help for your student?

Students who are struggling, need help with reading or math, need help with homework may find help in a variety of places at Carrington. I encourage you to work with your child and his/her team teachers to determine if any of the school resources would benefit your child.

**Learning Labs** – We have several Learning Labs available before school for students in the Exceptional Children’s Program and in the English As A Second Language Program. The Learning Labs are open every morning from 7:00-7:30. We encourage our students to attend in order to get academic assistance.

**Media Center** - Our media center is open every morning (7:00-7:30) and afternoon (2:20-3:00) for students to get help, have a space to finish homework, or use a computer. All students have access to our media center at these times. Students may also use a media center pass at lunch to have a quiet location to read a book or finish an assignment.

**After School Math Tutoring** – There is math tutoring available in the afternoons Monday – Thursday. The tutoring is provided by a certified math teacher. There is a separate tutoring site for each grade level. The tutoring is from 2:30-3:00. Students should have a ride to pick them up at 3:00. Students may attend the tutoring to get help with their homework or other math concepts that they are struggling with.

**After School Program/Encore** - Encore is our after school program that goes from 2:30-4:30. Encore is taught by Carrington teachers and staff. Encore provides a portion of time for homework. Additionally, Encore will be doing some EOG preparation during the second semester. Applications for this program are available in the front office. The program does have a cost. There are scholarships available for ESL students.

**ZAP/Morning Lab** – “Zeroes Aren’t Permitted” – In an effort to help students get all assignments turned in, we are opening a new morning lab to help provide students a location to finish assignments and for students to have access to computers, if needed. The morning lab will be Monday-Friday from 7:00-7:30. Students may get passes from their teachers or from Ms. Taylor in S4.

**Literacy Lab** – We have a Literacy Lab that is available to 8<sup>th</sup> graders during lunch. The Literacy Lab schedule is written on the door of A-5. Students may even take their lunch to the Literacy Lab. Students may use this time to read a book, get help with an assignment, or finish their homework.

In other words, Carrington has numerous opportunities and resources for students to use to get ahead in their academics. We have faculty and staff all over the building that will extend a helping hand to those students who need it and seek it. Please encourage your child to take advantage of these opportunities. We have created them to help our students.

### Computer Skills Testing

**Computer Test Preparation Sessions** – We will offer several afternoon computer test preparation sessions for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during the second semester. Approximately 70% of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders passed the test in the fall. The students who did not pass the test may attend these preparation sessions in the afternoons to get ready to retake the test later in the year. Also, we will give the Computer Test to 7<sup>th</sup> graders later in the spring. So, 7<sup>th</sup> graders may also want to participate in the Computer Test Preparation Sessions.



**Computer Online Test Preparation Websites** – Next year we will give the NC Computer Skills Test to all students in all grade levels. If you would like to help your child prepare for this test, then check out the Carrington website. Go to Links and then to Computer Skills Test Preparation. We have a variety of resources – from study worksheets to practice tests – available online for our students to use in preparation for the test.

**Can't Hide That COUGAR Pride!**