

CARTER BUZZ



CARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

DECMEBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

OWEN'S ORACLE~

A Busy Time!

The next couple of months will be a busy time with ballgames, concerts, field trips, and the normal school work. On top of that, a lot of students will be doing programs or family activities outside of school. It can be a stressful time of year for parents and students. At the school level, we will do our best to get dates and times for all events to you ahead of time to help your planning. Most activities for the coming month are in this newsletter and I will also go over the schedule of events on my weekly messages.

Choose Kindness

This past month, students who chose to do so, signed our Choose Kindness Pledge. One challenge we have is defining the characteristics of bullying for the students. In order to do this, we have posted a chart that helps students to understand differing behaviors. I have found this informational video from the National Bullying Prevention Center that helps define the difference between bullying and other undesirable behaviors. This site is a good resource for parents to use in helping students understand the difference between bullying and conflict.

<https://www.pacer.org/bullying/video/>

Chronic Absenteeism is when a student is absent more than 10 percent of the school year. This includes excused and unexcused absences. Last year 23 percent of our students were chronically absent, which means they missed more than 18 days of school. That is unacceptable. Unfortunately, talking to our feeder school Principals, Chronic absenteeism is an issue at all our schools, which means it is a community issue. Students need to be in school to receive necessary instruction and to learn. Research shows that students who are chronically absent are more likely to drop out of school. We are putting some interventions in place to address the situation, but the best and most effective intervention is the parent. Encourage your child to come to school and give their best. Our average attendance for the week of October 21,2019 was 94.23!

PBIS is a program we have implemented to encourage positive behaviors and attendance. Students receive points for demonstrating good behaviors, going above and beyond expectations, and attending school each day. These points can be used at our PBIS auction and store held each year at the end of the first semester. The week before Christmas break they get to attend the auction and store to purchase items for themselves and their families. This event is donation based. If you would like to donate items or make a monetary gift to help support this event, please contact the main office. We also would love volunteers to help monitor tables, stock tables, and wrap presents. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office.

Hope you and your family have a wonderful Holiday Season!!

Go Hornets!

Jack Owen, Principal

"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you."

~Coach John Wooden

STANLEY'S SECTION~

To the 7th Grade Parents/Guardians

As the holidays come quickly upon us, here are a few things to remember. The 7th grade field trip to the Mayfield Dairy Factory is scheduled for Friday, December 13th. All monies and permission forms are due by December 9th. Any student who has received 2 RLCs or OSS will not be able to attend. On Tuesday, December 17th, the 7th grade will have their Winter Chorus and Band Concert at 7:30 P.M. Students who are enrolled in these two electives are required to attend. On Tuesday, December 19th, the Christmas store and auction will take place. If anyone would like to make a monetary donations, please contact the school. The semester grading period will end on December 20th and winter break begins.

On Monday, January 21st we will celebrate Martin Luther King Day. As we celebrate this holiday, let's remember what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for, combating racial inequality through nonviolence. We, at Carter Middle School, believe in teaching tolerance. The Carter Middle School students focus on their social side of the middle years and getting along with each other. In order for our students to grow socially, it is important to understand how to have positive relationships and be able to coexist with each other. Students must know when it is okay to tell an adult when he or she may need help. Students must develop self-confidence within themselves, take ownership of their actions, and accept the consequences. Parents, please help us to help our students mature into responsible citizens.

Happy Holidays
Jennifer Stanley
7th Grade Assistant Principal

RAMSEY'S REVIEW~

Hello Hornet Fans,

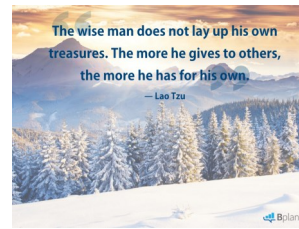
The end of the semester is quickly approaching and we want to finish strong. Encourage your students to complete their work and finish all projects and turn them in. With the busy holiday season approaching, it is a great time to teach your student the importance of prioritizing projects and activities as well as time management. Pass the responsibility to your student. Instead of telling him to get dressed for the chorus concert, say "What do you need to do to get ready?"

The schedule of activities for the school is included in this newsletter. Be sure to add these activities to your calendar.

For students going on the NYC/DC trip, your next payment is due December 6th.

Once again I would like to thank you for continuing to support and encourage your students to be the best they can be. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Joey Ramsey
8th Grade Assistant Principal



The Carter Christmas Store and Auction is set for December 19th. We are looking for donations of many assortments. Individuals, churches, businesses, etc... can participate in donating gift cards, money, items to sell, tickets, and/or filled baskets.

If this is something you are interested in knowing more information about you can call the school or email Mrs. Henderson at lauren.henderson@knoxschools.org.



"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."
— Mother Theresa

GOFORTH'S GAB~

Carter Family,

As we enter the Holiday Season, my hope is that everyone takes time this season to be with family and make some good memories. When Break is over we will be hitting the ground running in a new semester. For some students returning from a long break is difficult due to the break in the routine. Let's continue to remind our students how valuable education is and the devastating consequences of not getting a High School Diploma. Let's continue to strive for excellent school attendance by returning to school after break rested and ready to learn. Our goal is still to "go 175" by not missing more than 5 days of school this year.

Remember that being frequently absent from school leads to gaps in learning for most students and this can endanger their chances of graduating from high school. According to several studies, not graduating from high school often leads to issues with the Justice System, reduced income, and lack of job choices.

I hope that we all continue to take school attendance seriously so that we can give our kids the tools to be successful.

Go Hornets!!

Merry Christmas!

Scott



Scott Goforth, MSSW
Social Worker
Knox County Schools
scott.goforth@knoxschools.org

LIBRARY NEWS~

-The login for our MackinVIA ebook service will be changing from the students' student ID number to their full student ID email (Ex: s987654@student.knoxschools.org).

-Due to an update at our school website, the location of the Library/ Media website will be moving. Students will now be able to access it under the "Student" drop down channel.

-The library has just received our annual book order for the year, so please encourage your child come to the library and see what's new!

Rachel Smith
Librarian - Carter Middle School
@CarterMSReads #CMS_Lib

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

- Dr. Seuss



Visitors from Leadership Knoxville~
"Strengthening the ties that bind our community to our schools"
Mike Odom, Sien Moon and Mr. Owen



Preparing for Beta Convention in Nashville



Camille Gabbetta
Adeline Rankin
Kaitlyn Rutherford

If you see these ladies around the building congratulate them! They wrote a proposal to apply for Lab Space on the International Space Station. Because they were in the top 3 for the district, their proposal is being submitted for the second level of judging which happens at the Smithsonian.

Thank you, Mrs. Whipple -
SSEP (Student Spaceflight Experiments Program) Advisor

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

A cozy tradition

Family traditions give tweens a sense of security as they deal with the ups and downs of adolescence. Here's one idea: Have hot chocolate parties on cold winter days. Set out toppings like marshmallows, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Then, chat about your day while you enjoy your treat.

Welcome, second semester!

Before your child goes back to school, remind her to check her schedule for any changes second semester will bring. She should make sure she knows where new classrooms are and what supplies she'll need. *Tip:* Send an email introducing yourself to any new teachers she has.

Middle school dating

If your tween mentions classmates who are dating, ask him what that means in middle school. Often, tween relationships start with "talking," which means texting or chatting on social media. Ask your child whether he's interested in anyone, and share your expectations, such as only exchanging messages and photos he'd be okay for you to see.

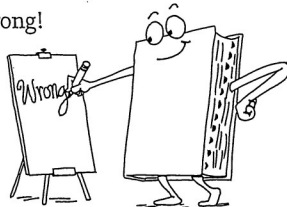
Worth quoting

"There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going." *Beverly Sills*

Just for fun

Q: What word is spelled wrong in every dictionary?

A: Wrong!

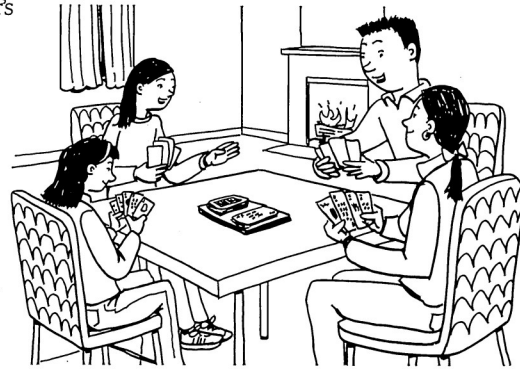


Healthy technology habits

Limiting your middle grader's screen time encourages her to interact with people in real life and focus on schoolwork. Try these tips.

Join in

Setting limits on electronics use for the whole family may make your tween more likely to cooperate. Ask everyone to silence and put away devices during game nights or car rides. You can enjoy conversation and pay attention to each other. Also, set up a charging station where everyone leaves devices at night so that sleep isn't interrupted.



Socialize face to face

Suggest that your child brainstorm screen-free activities to do with friends. *Examples:* Make up dance routines, work on a giant jigsaw puzzle. Or they could use electronics in ways that don't involve staring at screens. Maybe they'll sing along with a free karaoke app or go

outside and see who can take the coolest nature photos.

Stay focused

When your middle grader uses electronics for homework, have her close all apps or windows that she doesn't need for the assignment. She should also turn off notifications so she's not tempted to reopen the apps she closed. And if she takes a break, encourage her to make it screen-free. Perhaps she'll go for a short walk or play with her dog. 👍

Developing a growth mindset

Does your child know that learning actually makes his brain grow? Help him adopt a *growth mindset*, or an attitude that he can develop his abilities if he works at them, with this advice.

■ **Find alternate routes.** Say the dialogue in a story your tween is writing sounds unrealistic.

Rather than thinking, "I'm just not a good writer," he could look for ways to improve his writing. Perhaps he'll ask someone to act out the story with him and decide how the characters would really talk.

■ **Aim for variety.** Encourage your child to strengthen the growing connections in his brain by learning new information in multiple ways. For example, to study Spanish vocabulary, he could choose a picture book and listen to an audiobook version of it in Spanish while he follows along in the book. That way, he'll see, hear, and say the words he's learning. 👍



Meaningful math

Math isn't just for the classroom. Numbers help to determine professional football team rosters, which TV shows stay on the air, and how new cars are designed. Your child can work with data, ratios, and percentages in areas that interest him. Share these examples.

Sports

Let your middle grader compare stats of teams and players in his favorite sport. He might look up and chart a hockey team's win-loss record and the star player's goals, assists, and total points. What percentage of the team's goals has that player scored so far this season?

TV shows

Television networks and streaming services decide which shows to keep based on how many people watch them. For a



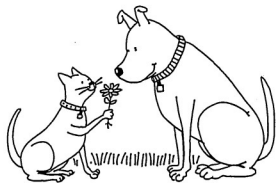
month, suggest that your child follow weekly Nielsen ratings online for your family's favorite shows (see nielsen.com/us/en/top-ten/). By what percentage do viewer numbers change from week to week for each show?

Cars

Engineers use math to design fuel-efficient cars. Ask your tween to look up the weight and gas mileage for various cars and calculate the weight-mileage ratio. He'll discover that lighter cars generally get better gas mileage. 👍

Spread kindness

Q I recently overheard my daughter and her friend making mean remarks about another girl. How can I encourage my child to be kinder?



A Being kind has benefits that matter to tweens, like helping them make and keep friends and feel good about themselves.

Suggest that your daughter challenge herself to do at least one kind act each day. Maybe she could smile and say good morning to the bus driver or custodian, or invite someone who's sitting alone in the cafeteria to eat lunch with her.

When you ask your child about school at the end of the day, be sure to include, "Who were you kind to today?" and "Who was kind to you?" Tell her what you did that was kind, too—you'll give each other ideas to try another day. 👍

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5540

Ready, set, debate

When would you want your tween to argue with you? During a friendly debate! Knowing how to make a strong argument can help her write persuasive essays and participate in class discussions. Here's a fun way to practice.

- 1. Choose a topic.** You might debate whether it's better to shop online or in stores, or whether we should colonize Mars or the moon.
- 2. Prepare arguments.** Have each person write down facts that support each side. *Examples:* Shopping online saves time because you don't have to drive to a store, and you can quickly compare options from several sites. But in a brick-and-mortar store, you can choose the vegetables you want or try on clothes, and you'll get in more steps for the day.
- 3. Hold a debate.** Assign half the family to one side and half to the other. Then, present your arguments for your side. Next, swap sides—each person argues the opposite position. Did anyone's opinion change as a result of the debate? 👍



Parent to Parent Nervous? Try this

My son Ben loves to play piano, but he was nervous about this year's recital. I recently gave a big presentation at work, so I knew how he felt. I decided to talk to him about strategies I used to calm my nerves.

I told Ben that I practiced a lot. That helped me feel more confident because I knew the material better. Then during the presentation, I looked for friendly faces in the crowd. I

also kept going even when I stumbled over a few words.

Ben has been practicing for his recital, and he has also asked me to listen so he could play in front of an audience.

He said that on recital day, he plans to glance at our family for a boost of confidence before he sits down to play. I'm hoping that following my advice will make him a little less nervous. 👍



Spirit Week December 2nd - December 6th

MONDAY

ELF DAY

wear your

GREEN & *Bling*

INSCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME

PISA will be selling
elf hats and bells
@ the basketball game



TUESDAY

HOLIDAY
CHARACTER
DAY

HOME BASKETBALL GAME
DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY
CHARACTER

Charlie Brown Christmas, The Grinch, ELF, The
Christmas Story, etc.



WEDNESDAY

SNOW DAY

WEAR WHITE
OR
PAJAMAS

IN HOPES OF LOTS
OF SNOW THIS
YEAR!

THURSDAY

Family Photo
Day



wear your
FLANNEL

FRIDAY



Dress your Best
and
wear a tacky sweater



CHRISTMAS TREE

by Joseph Bruchac

The smell of Christmas is a tree,
a real tree brought inside.
It stands there in our living room,
its green branches spread wide.

Popcorn and candy both smell fine,
but not as good as that.
Covered with colored balls and lights,
it wears a star for a hat.

That tree makes me think of the woods
and walking in the snow.
I'm glad it's come to stay with us
for just a week or so.



From *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Celebrations* compiled by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong (© Pomelo Books 2015)

"Christmas Tree" poem © Joseph Bruchac all rights reserved



December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	SPIRIT WEEK					
	BB @HOME (In-School) SOUTH DOYLE	BB @HOME NORTHVIEW		BB @ HARDIN VALLEY	8TH GRADE TRIP PAYMENT DUE HOLIDAY DANCE	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	GEOGRAPHY BEE BB @ CEDAR BLUFF			BB @HOME W/ WEST VALLEY	7th GRADE FIELD TRIP	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	6th GRADE FIELD TRIP BB @HOME W/ WHITTLES	Pre-ACT test for 8th Grade BAND/CHORUS CONCERTS 6th Grade 6:30 7th/8th Grade 7:30		CHRISTMAS STORE & AUCTION BB @GRESHAM	1/2 DAY FOR STUDENTS	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Christmas Day	Kwanzaa Boxing Day	BB TOURNAENT @ CMS	
Winter Break 12/23/2019 - 1/06/2020						
29	30	31				
		New Year's Eve				
Winter Break 12/23/2019 - 1/06/2020						

2019-2020 CMS PEP SQUAD

ABIGAIL BROWN
 PRESLEY BUCKNER
 RACHEL CLABOUGH
 ELIZA JANE COFFMAN
 SKYLAR GRIFFITH
 GRACE PALEMR
 EMMA PHILLIPS
 EMMA ROACH
 HAILEY SARTIN
 MCKALA SATTERFIELD
 ASHLYN SCARBOROUGH

JULIANNE SHIPPERS
 GABRIELLE SHORES
 RYLIE SMITH
 OLIVIA SPECHT
 JESSIE THOMPSON
 GABRIELLA VARBANCOUVER
 MAKAYLA WARREN
 EMILY ZELLER
 LILLY ROMANSZKY






January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4
Winter Break 12/23/2019 - 1/06/2020						
5	6 In-Service Day for Teachers and Staff	7 Students Back to School! BB @HOME W/VINE	8	9 BB @POWELL	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Schools Closed	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Snowman Soup

*When it's so cold that you holler and whoop,
It's time to bring out the snowman soup!*

*Pour the chocolate in a mug, add the snowballs too.
Throw in the kisses from the snowman to you.*

*Now add a cup of hot milk; use the cane to stir it.
Sip slowly and soon you'll feel the warm winter spirit!*

DivonneParks.com

Did you know?

January is National Soup month.

January is the coldest month in the northern hemisphere.

The birthstone for January is the Red Garnet.

"It takes strength to be kind; it's not a weakness."

~Daniel Lubetzky