



Carver Elementary School

Newsletter – April, 2011

The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.
--Dennis Waitley

Dear Families,

Happy spring to everyone! It's always good to have daylight last longer, to have the birds chirping and seeing the spring flowers popping up! These all are sure signs of spring. As soon as the temperature warms up, we can enjoy the many activities that take place inside and outside of school. Please remember that school should be your top priority. It is still important for your child to get a good night's rest and come to school ready to learn. We still have important work to do in the remaining two and a half months of school. Our last day of school is Monday, June 20.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: We were delighted to see so many of you at parent/teacher conferences. Thanks to all of you who came to talk with your child's teacher. Research tells us that children whose parents are involved in their education are more successful in school. We appreciate your involvement.

Many thanks to the PTO board members Dorene England, Thea Rowles, Marie Blotner, Tracy Condon, Joyce Macrina and Jani Donnelly for all their hard work in the many fundraising activities, including: the Scholastic Book Fair, Cristoline Candy, "Bags2School Program," and Juice Box brigade. Also thanks to PTO members Jen Reardon and Shannon Jablonski for all their efforts with the Box Top Collection and nation-wide Paper Drive.

Congratulations to all 5th graders for the successful Science Fair held on Wednesday, March 30. We also extend a HUGE thank you to all the 5th grade teachers and the parents of the 5th graders for encouraging the students to work hard on their science projects.

National TV-Turnoff Week 2011 is April 18 ~ April 24 which is during our April vacation. We encourage you to be creative and think of fun activities to do together as a family instead of relying on your TV for entertainment. Please read the attached suggestions from the TV Turnoff Network in this newsletter. There are many interesting TV facts, answers to 10 frequently asked questions, and some alternative activities for children and families.

Reading logs from the Red Robin restaurant for PK ~ 2 students will be going out during the week of April 11. We are very proud of all who turned in their reading logs for the February vacation. We have included their names in this newsletter. If your child did not participate during the February vacation, your child will have another chance during the April vacation. Please encourage your child to complete the Red Robin reading log and take it directly to Red Robin. As always, we appreciate you helping your child continue to read during vacation.

The READ-A-THON for grades 3, 4, and 5 continues until Monday, April 11. Please encourage your child to participate, and at the end of the year, (s)he will receive a medal at a grade level assembly.

Enjoy the longer days with your child. Take a walk and observe the wonders of nature as the earth warms and the days get longer. Sometimes it's fun to take a walk in the rain with boots and umbrellas! Whatever you do, enjoy being with your child.

Candace E. Weiler
Principal

Ruby Maestas
Associate Principal

Paula Foley
Associate Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION **MATH AND SCIENCE MCAS SCHEDULE**

Grade 4 Math Tuesday, May 10 and Wednesday, May 11

Grade 5 Math Thursday, May 12 and Friday, May 13

Grade 3 Math Monday, May 16 and Tuesday, May 17

Grade 5 Science Wednesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 19

February Vacation Readers

Acorn, Iris
Adams, Annabella
Adduci, Kevin
Arendt, Delaney
Aresta, Shane
Arnold, Quinton
Artiano, Chance
Attaya, Paul
Ayers, Aieronna
Barbosa, Olivia
Barkowsky, Anthony
Bellew, Jacob
Bellew, Victoria
Bent, Juliana
Benting, Brodin
Berkobein, Alexander
Berry, Josiah
Bertocchi, Victoria
Blair, Kyle
Blankenship, Carson
Borgesesen, Noah
Boughter, Jared
Boughter, Meghan
Bradford, Meadow
Bradshaw, Nathaniel
Brooks, Jillian
Bumpus, Allison
Burch, Camden
Burns, Emily
Burns, Victoria
Butler, Jack
Byrne, Savannah
Callahan, James
Camardella, Libby
Carey, Allyson
Carey, Chace
Carey, Ciara
Carpender, Tyler
Chandler, Madison
Cheney, Owen
Cipullo, Maxwell
Clark, Mckenna
Clark, William
Coletta, Matthew
Collins, Kailey
Colon, Reese
Condon, Ava
Condon, Charles
Connors, Maggie
Corea, Hannah
Corr, Alexxis
Costa, Isely
Cotter, Emma
Cotter, Madison
Cotti, Mattelyn
Craig, Avery
Craig, Dominic
Cretinon, Carly
Crump, Michael
D'Olimpia, Barret
Daniels, Sean
Darcy, Christopher
Darcy, Isabelle
De Almeida, Gabriella
Degregorio, Kaia
Delguidice, Azelin

Deluca, Jenna
Desisto, Lynsey
Desisto, Matthew
Devlin, Savannah
Dibble, Austin
Dion, Emma
Dion, Rebecca
Dishaw, John
Doherty, Tyler
Doll, Emma
Doll, Frederick
Donaldson, Samantha
Drum, Matthew
Dzierwa, Julie
Elias, Hope
Farrell, Cole
Farrell, Lauren
Ferrari, Lauren
Ferreira, Jakob
Fisher, Zachary
Fletcher, Autumn
Fontes, Dominic
Fox, Michael
Francis, Paige
Fratius, Patrick
Gadles, Justin
Gallagher, Lexi
Gardner, Travis
Gaynor, Lorelai
Gilbert, Caleigh
Gleason, Emma
Gould, Ryan
Greally, Maeve
Griffin, Alicia
Griffin, Aryan
Grimes, Emma
Grimes, Madeline
Grimes, Megan
Halunen, Deanna
Harrington, Sydney
Henderson, Julia
Herman, Nathan
Hermenau, Caroline
Higginbotham, Juliet
Holder, Terry
Hutchison, Alana
Ieronimo, Gianna
Ieronimo, Zachary
Izzo, Jack
Jablonski, Tiffany
Jacob, Keller
Johnson, Abrielle
Johnson, Abigail
Kaiser, Nolan
Kaslauskas, Devin
Kaufman, Laura
Kelly, Elizabeth
Kemlage, Justin
King, Nathan
Landolfi, Haley
Lauzon, Amanda
LeBlanc, Camille
Lemieux, Sage
Lucas, Brandon
Lucas, Joshua
Lydon, Ethan

Lynch, Jillian
Mackenzie, Amy
Macrina, Dominic
Magnussen, Maya
Mallon, Daniel
Mann, Ashley
Manning, Aine
Marino, Abigail
Marino, Hannah
Marois, Daniel
Mazzilli, Ryan
McAllister, Andrew
McCarthy, Grace
McDonald, David
McElroy, Ava
McGuiggan, Matthew
McGuiggan, Ryan
Mercer, Isabelle
Miller, Luke
Miller, Samantha
Minahan, Justin
Monk, Justin
Moore, Matthew
Morales, India
Morey, Jenna
Mossman, Emma
Mossman, Nicholas
Mueller, Madelyn
Mullins, Sara
Mulready, Siobhan
Murray, William
Nelson, Caitlyn
Nelson, Hailey
Nickerson, Chloe
Northrup, Cheyanne
Nunes, Travis
O'Brien, Raven
O'Connor, Casey
Olson, Jaden
Orzechowski, Abigail
Pangione, Mario
Paradis, Sage
Patel, Mahi
Patel, Priya
Paterni, Skylar
Pauze, Mckenzie
Pearlman, Jacob
Peirce, Claudia
Pelletier, James
Pelletier, Matthew
Perkins, Violet
Perry, Calli
Perry, Robert
Peters, Jay
Peterson, Austin
Peterson, Sydney
Place, Alana
Pompei, Isabella
Pompeo, Allyson
Prado, Madison
Preston, Andrew
Preston, Lucas
Quigley, Samantha
Ramsdell, Edward
Ramsdell, Timothy
Raymond, Nicholas

Reed-Davis, Morgan
Reed-Davis, Riley
Rego, Grant
Reichert, Brandon
Reopell, Ashley
Ritz, Justin
Rizzuto, Grace
Roach, Madison
Robbins, Grace
Roberts, Cara
Roussel, Jonathan
Roussel, Tyler
Rowles, Conor
Rowles, Erin
Rowles, Lindsay
Rubin, Emma
Rudnik, Sarah
Russell, Ella
Ryan, Caitlin
Sampson, Kevin
Sampson, Tyler
Sang, Aja
Sanna, Ryan
Sawicki, Michael
Sears, William
Seery, Gregory
Sheehan, Isabella
Sheehan, Sydney
Shott, Kyle
Silvia, Jacob
Simmons, Matthew
Simmons, Olivia
Sologaistoa, Isabella
Sontag, Olivia
Sousa, Cora
Souza, Stephen
Stidstone, David
Stone, Matthew
Strojny, Alison
Struski, Shana
Sturtevant, Abigail
Sullivan, Noah
Swain, Emily
Sylvester, Jackson
Tait, Connor
Tebagay, Gabriella
Thevenin, Zachary
Thomas, Allison
Thomas, Amber
Tibbetts, Gemma
Todd, Lauren
Toomey, James
Trudeau, Tyler
Tucker, Camille
Turner, Tyler
Velez, Olivia
Vincent, Ryan
Vitale, Anna-Marina
Vitale, Jordan
Wainio, Miah
Weston, Alyssa
Weston, Brenna
Weston, Holly
Weston, Mitchell
Wood, Shawn
Zaniboni, Brandon

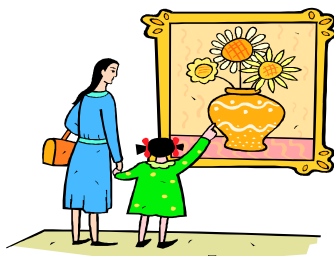
April, 2011 Calendar of Events

				1 Advanced Band Gr. 3 MCAS - ELA
4 Advanced Band Read-A-Thon Week 6	5 Elementary Chorus Early Release Day, 11:45 am dismissal	6 Advanced Band	7 Orff Rehearsal Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum Lessons	8 Advanced Band
11 Advanced Band Read-A-Thon Ends School Council Meeting, 3 PM Special Town Meeting, 7 pm, CMHS Auditorium	12 Elementary Chorus Flute, trumpet & trombone lessons Tuesday Elementary Rocket Club Begins	13 Advanced Band School Committee Meeting, 7 pm	14 PTO Spring Picture Day Orff Rehearsal Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum lessons Thursday Elementary Rocket Club Begins	15 Advanced Band
18 	SPRING RECESS			22 
				Saturday, April 23, 2011 Annual Town Election, 8 am – 6 pm, CMHS
25 Advanced Band	26 Elementary Chorus Flute, Trumpet & Trombone Lessons Tuesday Elementary Rocket Club	27 Advanced Band	28 Orff Rehearsal Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum Lessons Thursday Elementary Rocket Club	29 Advanced Band
PRESCHOOL SCREENING FOR THE 2011/2012 SCHOOL YEAR				

The Carver Public Schools' Preschool Program is seeking three year old role models for their Integrated Preschool Program for the 2011/2012 school year. Children must be three on or before September 1, 2011 and must be toilet trained. Models will be selected using a lottery system. Screenings will be held by appointment only on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 and Wednesday, April 27, 2011. Screenings will be held at the Preschool located at 3 Carver Square Boulevard. To schedule an appointment, please call the elementary school at (508) 866-6210. Appointments are limited.

<p>MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ANNUAL ART FESTIVAL</p>
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The annual Art Festival will take place on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 5:00 – 7:00 pm. We look forward to the buildings being decorated with all of the students' artwork.





NEWS UPDATE

We would like to thank everyone who helped out during the *Spring Scholastic Book Fair* which took place in March. We had another great turnout and couldn't have done it without parents like you!

Update on our "Going Green" Efforts!

Last month, we introduced a textile collection program **Bags2School**. We had an overwhelming response and truly appreciate everyone's efforts in cleaning out those closets, attics, basements, etc... We raised \$560 just by cleaning house (4,460 lbs)... Absolutely Amazing! Thanks to all who participated – if by chance, you missed out on this one, we will be holding another **Bags2School** collection at Family Movie Night in June.

The Paper Retriever Recycling Program is now in full swing! This program is a simple and free service for our community to use for paper recycling. A distinctive green and yellow Paper Retriever bin has been setup at the school (you can't miss it as you pull in) and we are encouraging the community to bring their paper and dispose of it in the conveniently located bin. **The company accepts** catalogs, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, office paper, fax paper, school paper, notebooks, and folders. This will be an on-going effort... We are looking for volunteers to help with the emptying of the classroom bins on a regular basis so please contact carverpto@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping us out.

And look what else is coming..... The Carver Elementary PTO has teamed up with the Middle/High School Environmental Club. They've asked us to work with them on an NSTAR Efficient Lighting Fundraiser. The purpose of this fundraiser is to educate students and their families on the benefits of compact fluorescent lighting. This fundraiser will only involve grades 3-5 and grade 6 at the Middle School. We have tentatively scheduled April 12th as our "kick-off" event. More information to come!

Other News

We would like to recognize two students for their outstanding efforts with the Cristoline Spring Chocolate Fundraiser: Sophie Christian of Mrs. Santerre's 4th grade class sold 38 items worth \$363.00 and Sarah Mahan of Mrs. Harju's Kindergarten class sold 24 items worth \$237.50. Great job ladies and congratulations on being the top sellers!!!

The PTO sent home a Fundraising Satisfaction Survey this week. We are in the process of planning out the 2011/2012 school year and are taking a look at everything we did this year as well as some things we did not do this year. We want to make sure that all families have an opportunity to provide feedback and to ensure that we are meeting the needs/expectations of our Carver Elementary families. Please make sure to return the survey to your child's classroom by Wednesday, April 6th!

The **Spring Photos** will be on **Thursday, April 14**. Based on the popularity and success of the fall photos, they will be outdoor nature shots, hopefully with some spring flowers! There will be the opportunity to have sibling photos taken, as well. The package options will be going home with the students at the beginning of next week, and parents will be able to note if they want their children to be photographed together. We will also be sending home a flier for parents to volunteer on picture day, as help is always needed and greatly appreciated!

April 14th is our next PTO Meeting from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm in the EKW Building IMC. It is election time so if you are interested in becoming a member of the PTO, please come!

As always, please feel free to contact us about anything, carverpto@hotmail.com.



The achievements of an organization
are the results of the combined efforts
of each individual.

--Vince Lombardi



TV Turnoff Network's National TV-Turnoff Week

Purpose: To re-think the role of television, why we use it and how and what for. To assess its impact on students, teachers, parents, children, individuals, etc.

How: Simply switch off or unplug your TV set for seven days and engage in a wide range of substitute activities.

Who: Individuals, children, families, students, groups, etc.

Where: In your homes, schools, libraries, businesses, congregations, etc.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TV

- Number of 30-second commercials seen in a year by an average child: 20,000
- Number of minutes per week that parents spend in meaningful conversation with their children: 38.5
- Number of minutes per week that the average child watches television: 1,680
- Percentage of children ages 6-17 who have TV's in their bedrooms: 50
- Percentage of day care centers that use TV during a typical day: 70
- Hours per year the average American youth spends in school: 900 hours
- Hours per year the average American youth watches television: 1500
- Percentage of Americans that regularly watch television while eating dinner: 66

ABOUT TV-FREE AMERICA AND THE NATIONAL TV-TURNOFF WEEK

TV-Free America is a national nonprofit organization that was founded in 1994 to raise awareness about the harmful effects of excessive television-watching and encourage Americans to reduce the amount of television that they watch--and replace TV time with activities that lead to more literate, productive lives and engaged citizenship.

National TV-Turnoff Week is the first nationwide effort which targets the medium of television and asks that people reassess the role TV plays in their daily lives as entertainer, pacifier, babysitter, time filler and background noise.

Television is generally a passive "non-activity" which often detracts from more healthy, interpersonal, productive, rewarding and community-oriented activities.

National TV-Turnoff Week is about having more fun and turning "on" your life. It's an opportunity to rediscover the wide range of activities that exist when one unplugs from the sedentary, image-based, simplistic and commercial world of television.

ANSWERS TO 10 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) "Why turn off the television completely? Can we do it for just one day?"

Turning off the television for seven full days helps participants realize that life without television is not torture and may actually be more fun. A multi-day TV "fast" allows sufficient time for the development of habits likely to be more productive and rewarding. A one day turnoff provides too little challenge.

2) "Is all TV bad? What about the Discovery Channel or PBS?"

All TV is passive, sedentary and non-experiential. Most viewers tend to watch show after show--not individual programs. Instead of watching a documentary about birds, go out (with binoculars if you have them) and see how many real birds you can identify in your neighborhood. The purpose of National TV-Turnoff Week is to leave behind judgments about the quality of television and focus instead on creating, discovering, building, participating and doing.

3) "What about media literacy and teaching critical viewing skills?"

By going without television for a week, people will learn a great deal about their television habits and will likely be more critical viewers if and when they decide to return to the tube. A TV "fast" is a path to media literacy.

4) "I can't give up my programs! Don't interfere in my home!"

Remember that a TV-Turnoff is voluntary and meant to be fun.

It's intended to build family and community spirit. Coordinate your turnoff in a way that does not alienate or offend parents--they already have their hands full! Send a letter to parents that ask for the family's participation in the turnoff. Indicate the support of the principal, the teachers, PTA or other groups that you have. Parents are more likely to sign on if they know that school professionals support the project.

5) "Do we have to plan an activity every night?"

Some organizers feel providing an activity every night doesn't mimic real life and allows for a big letdown after the turnoff, so some people plan just a few. Plan activities that you might consider doing the following week. In-school activities are a possibility also, and most organizers agree it is good to have at least one family activity during the turnoff.

6) "What about the name TV-Free America? Are you advocating the complete eradication of television?"

TV-Free America encourages Americans to watch less television and replace TV time with activities that lead to more productive and rewarding lives. A TV-Turnoff is an effective way to help break the television habit. While it may be unrealistic to think participants will never watch television again (although a few won't), many will regard the medium in a much different way henceforward.

7) "How can we best appeal to teenagers?"

Make the turnoff fun and provocative. Copy and distribute articles and essays about the environmental and social issues surrounding television and have had students debate the opposing views. Some teachers have awarded extra credits to participating students who keep a journal and write an essay about their week without television. Past TV-Turnoff organizers have asked local businesses (theaters, skating rinks, miniature golf courses, bowling alleys, etc.) to offer discounts to students, families and individuals who show a signed TV-Turnoff "Pledge Card."

8) "I need some peace and quiet when I come home. The television occupies the kids while I fix dinner." Invite the children to help with simple tasks or have them talk with you while you prepare dinner. Developing a few special (and regular) pre-dinner activities and habits for children is a very worthwhile investment. Some parents also find playing with kids for just a few minutes helps relax the kids as well as themselves.

9) "Our neighborhood is unsafe. Better that my kids sit in front of the television at home than risk harm outside." There are many indoor activities that are fun, productive and TV-free (see list). Work with neighbors or a local community center to develop indoor and outdoor activities for participating families. Point out that neighborhood improvement will never occur as long as residents merely retreat to the fictional, vicarious world of television.

10) "I can't afford the cost of these "substitute" activities!"

There are many free and simple activities (see enclosed lists) sponsored by libraries, environmental groups, museums, universities, etc. Local newspapers, radio stations and community organizations will have listings of free, public events. Outdoor recreation is an activity that is generally free--as well as healthy!

SOME ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

1. Volunteer in a school to teach reading, math, computer skills.
2. Learn to play the guitar or other musical instrument.
3. Attend community concerts.
4. Organize a community clean-up.
5. Put together a puzzle.
6. Visit the library. Borrow a book. Attend library activities.
7. Go ice skating or roller skating.
8. Listen to the radio.
9. Visit the zoo.
10. Paint a picture, a mural or a room.
11. Attend a high school sporting event.
12. Find out about your area's community center or park's activities.
13. Go swimming. Join a community swim team.
14. Read a book aloud to your younger sister/brother.
15. Plan a picnic or barbecue.
16. Go bird watching.
17. Volunteer for a community organization or charity.
18. Play with your pet.
19. Go dancing.
20. Write a letter to a friend or relative.
21. Learn to cook.
22. Plant a flower, vegetable or herb garden.
23. Read magazines or newspapers.
24. Plan a slumber party.
25. Start a neighborhood basketball, soccer, or kickball game.
26. Go camping (even if it's just in the backyard!).
27. Join a choir.
28. Go through your closets and clothes. Donate surplus items to Goodwill, the Salvation Army or a local rummage sale.
29. Start a diary/journal.
30. Go to a museum.
31. Take a nature hike. Collect seeds and leaves. Make a collage with the materials you collected and post it on the refrigerator.
32. Play cards.
33. Start a community exercise group that power walks, runs, or bikes.
34. Read a story to your younger brother or sister.
35. Get out the family photo album. Research your family history.
36. Go listen to a local band.
37. Make crafts to give as gifts.
38. Make up a story and write it down.
39. Learn to say simple phrases in a few different languages.
40. Ask an older family member to tell you a story about his or her childhood. Write about it.
41. Learn some new riddles or jokes.
42. Bake two batches of cookies; one for your family and one for a neighbor.
43. Watch the night sky through binoculars; identify the different constellations. Observe the moon.
44. Visit a local bookstore.
45. Go to a movie with your family or friends.
46. Walk to work or school.
47. Start a kids bowling league.
48. Train for a 5K race.
49. Teach a neighbor about a computer program.
50. Go fishing.
51. Begin a family project.
52. **HAVE A PARTY TO CELEBRATE A TV-FREE WEEK.**

Carver Elementary School

LUNCH Menu

We will be adding soup of the day with Bagel & Salad lunches

April 4	Oven baked chicken nuggets Dipping sauces Baked potato puffs Peas Fruit cup	BLT on wheat bread Baked Doritos Pickles Fruit cup
April 5	Early Release Day	
April 6	Sliced turkey wrap Cape Cod chips Veggie sticks w/ dip Peaches	Cup of Chicken noodle soup Warm bread stick Cheddar cheese wedge Veggie sticks w/ dip Peaches
April 7	Sal's Pizza – cheese or pepperoni Garden salad Chocolate whip dessert w/ topping	
April 8	Red Sox Day Hot dog in a bun Smart Food popcorn Carrot sticks w/ dip Ice Cream sandwich	Tuna salad roll Smart Food popcorn Carrot sticks w/dip Ice Cream sandwich
April 11	French toast w/ syrup Sausage links Scrambled egg patty Applesauce	Spicy chicken tenders in a sub roll Baked Doritos Celery sticks w/ dip Applesauce
April 12	Cheeseburger on a bun Lettuce & tomatoes Oven baked fries Diced pears or banana	Bacon/cheeseburger on a bun Lettuce & tomatoes Oven baked fries Diced pears or banana
April 13	Italian meatball sub w/ cheese Pasta salad Tiny twist pretzels Wild blueberries in a cup	Italian cold cut sub Pasta salad Tiny twist pretzels Wild blueberries in a cup
April 14	Baked chicken tenders w/ dipping sauces Seasoned rice Corn on the cob Pears	Bologna & cheese sub Baked chips Pickles Pears
April 15	Whole grain stuffed crust pizza- cheese or pepperoni Garden salad Strawberry cup w/ topping	Tuna salad roll Garden salad

Available Daily Alternative Lunches - Grades 1 & 2

Peanut butter and jelly sandwich (Smucker's Uncrustable)
Bagel Lunch (2.5 oz bagel w/ choice of cream cheese, margarine, or jelly)
Assorted cereals

Included with all the above are: milk, juice, fruit, and vegetable of the day

All menus are subject to change upon availability of products.

LUNCH \$2.00 MILK \$.50 SNACKS & ICE CREAM \$.75 Bottled Water or 100% Juice