

Carver Elementary School

March, 2011 Newsletter



“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go!”
from *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!* By Dr. Seuss

Dear Families,

No matter what your age, Dr. Seuss’ stories are fun to read. His simple but sage words have helped many a child, as well as grownup, along the complex path of life. Dr. Seuss’ real name is Theodor Seuss Geisel, and Wednesday, March 2nd was his birthday. In honor of his birthday, the Cat in the Hat (who looked so much like kindergarten paraprofessional, Mrs. McCarron) paid a visit to the kindergartners during their lunchtime. It was great to see the students’ reaction to one of Dr. Seuss’ best known characters! You may want to read some Dr. Seuss books with your child. Remember: they are not just for kids!

Report Cards: *Please note the change of date.* Due to the fact that we have had several snow days and a delayed opening, we have decided to extend the second marking term. Marks close today, Friday, March 4th and report cards will go home next week on **Friday, March 11th**. Please take the time to sit down with your child to review the report card and discuss his/her strengths and areas that need improvement in a calm and positive way.

READ-A-THON has begun! Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are participating in our annual READ-A-THON to promote and foster reading in school and at home. The READ-A-THON runs from Monday, February 28 through Monday, April 11. Those students who participate every week will earn a special reward in a READ-A-THON ceremony which will be held in June.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place during the day and evening of Thursday, March 24th. Please take the time to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss his/her progress in school. We respectfully ask that you refrain from discussing placement for the next school year. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Notices for making an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher will be going home in the report cards.

Book Fair News: On Thursday, March 24th, the same day as parent/teacher conferences, the book fair, sponsored by the PTO, will be held in the Erwin K. Washburn building gym from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please note that individual classes will not be visiting the book fair.

Math Facts: One of the most important things you can do to help your child succeed in math is to help him/her learn the math facts. By the end of second grade, students should know their addition and subtraction facts. By the end of fourth grade, students should know their addition and subtraction facts as well as their multiplication and division facts. Please help your child by using “math mad minutes” and flash cards.

A friendly reminder: When your child is absent from school, a note written and signed by the parent/guardian must be brought to the homeroom teacher when returning to school. The note should specify why the child was absent; indicating the specific type of illness, so outbreaks of common illness can be monitored. If the child is absent for five or more consecutive days, a doctor’s note (certificate) is required when the child returns to school.

Spring is just four weeks away. After such a long, cold and snowy winter, let’s hope that more spring-like weather will be coming soon. Enjoy the changing seasons with your child. Take some time to discover the early crocuses and hyacinths as they begin to peek out of the earth~ a sure sign of spring!

Sincerely,
Candace E. Weiler
Principal

Paula Foley
Associate Principal

Ruby Maestas
Associate Principal

MCAS English Language Arts Schedule

Grade 3 Wednesday, March 31 and Friday, April 1
Grade 4 Tuesday, March 22 ~ Long composition
Tuesday, March 29 and Wednesday, March 30
Grade 5 Wednesday, March 23 and Friday, March 25

**Please be sure that your child comes to school on time, is well nourished, and well rested.
Read the attached Parent Report, *Standardized Testing*, for more tips on how you can help your child at testing time.**

A Reminder for students in grades K, 1, and 2:

Please have your child send in his/her reading log from the February vacation a.s.a.p. We will be giving out certificates and books to those students who have returned their reading logs.

Turn Your Clocks Ahead

A reminder to turn your clocks ahead on **Sunday, March 13th**. Also, remember to change your fire detector batteries.

March, 2011 Calendar of Events

<p>2/28 Building Committee Meeting 4:30 pm</p> <p>Advanced Trumpet & Trombone Lessons</p> <p>Grades 3, 4, & 5 Read-A-Thon Begins – Week 1</p>	<p>3/1 Kindergarten Registration (by appointment)</p> <p>Elem. Chorus</p> <p>Gr. 4. New Bedford Zeiterion Theatre – 8:45 am</p> <p>Flute Trumpet & Trombone Lessons</p> <p>Chess Club – Tournaments Begin</p>	<p>3/2 Kindergarten Registration (by appointment)</p> <p>Gr. 3 Planetarium Visit - 10:45 am</p> <p>Advanced Band</p>	<p>3/3 Kindergarten Registration (by appointment)</p> <p>Orff Rehearsal</p> <p>Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum Lessons</p>	<p>3/4 Marks Close for Term II</p> <p>Snow Day Make-Up Lessons for Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum</p>
<p>3/7 Drum Practice Only</p> <p>Grades 3, 4, & 5 Read-A-Thon Continues – Week 2</p>	<p>3/8 Elem. Chorus</p> <p>Flute, Trumpet & Trombone Lessons</p> <p>Chess Club - Tournaments</p>	<p>3/9 Advanced Band</p>	<p>3/10 Kindergarten Registration (by appointment)</p> <p>Orff Rehearsal</p> <p>Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum Lessons</p>	<p>3/11 Report Cards Issued</p> <p>Kindergarten Registration (by appointment)</p>
<p>3/14 Kindergarten Registration (by appointment)</p> <p>Advanced Band</p> <p>Grades 3, 4, & 5 Read-A-Thon Continues – Week 3</p> <p>School Council Meeting 3 pm</p> <p>Building Committee Meeting 4:30 pm, IMC</p> <p>School Committee Meeting 7 pm, CMHS</p>	<p>3/15 Elem. Chorus</p> <p>Flute, Trumpet & Trombone Lessons</p> <p>Chess Club – Tournaments</p>	<p>3/16 Kindergarten Registration (by appointment)</p> <p>Advanced Band</p>	<p>3/17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!!</p> <p>Orff Rehearsal</p> <p>Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum Lessons</p>	<p>3/18</p>
<p>3/21 Advanced Band</p> <p>Grades 3, 4, & 5 Read-A-Thon Continues – Week 4</p> <p>First Full Day of Spring</p>	<p>3/22 Elem. Chorus</p> <p>Flute, Trumpet & Trombone Lessons</p> <p>Chess Club – Awards Ceremony – 2:45 pm</p> <p>MCAS Testing – Gr. 4 ELA</p>	<p>3/23 Advanced Band</p> <p>MCAS Testing – Gr. 5 ELA</p>	<p>3/24 Early Release Day</p> <p>Parent/Teacher Conferences</p> <p>PTO Book Fair (8 am-8 pm)</p> <p>Kindergarten Registration (by appointment)</p> <p>Orff Rehearsal</p> <p>Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum Lessons</p>	<p>3/25</p> <p>MCAS Testing – Gr. 5 ELA</p>
<p>3/28 Advanced Band</p> <p>Grades 3, 4, & 5 Read-A-Thon Continues – Week 5</p>	<p>3/29 Elem. Chorus</p> <p>Flute, Trumpet & Trombone Lessons</p> <p>MCAS Testing – Gr. 4 ELA</p>	<p>3/30 Advanced Band</p> <p>Grade 5 Science Fair 6:00 – 7:30 pm</p> <p>MCAS Testing – Gr. 4 ELA</p>	<p>3/31 Orff Rehearsal</p> <p>Clarinet, Saxophone & Drum Lessons</p> <p>MCAS Testing – Gr. 3 ELA</p>	<p>4/1</p> <p>MCAS Testing – Gr. 3 ELA</p>

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration is currently underway at the Carver Elementary School. If you have not done so already, please call the EKW office at (508) 866-6210 to make an appointment. Please remember that your child must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2011 to enter kindergarten per Carver Public Schools' School Committee Policy.



Community Readers Day

To celebrate Read Across America Day, members of the community were invited into the Carver Elementary School to read to students. Thank you to all who participated. The students enjoyed having community members reading stories to the different grade levels.

YMCA Summer Program Information

The Old Colony Y will be offering its Summer Fun Club, because it will be here before you know it, for children 5 to 12 years old at the Carver Elementary School. This summer's themes will take us to Sherwood Forest, around the world, back in time, to carnivals, zoos, beaches and on many exciting adventures. Register by the day, week, month or the entire summer to ensure your child has the best summer ever.

Don't forget the Y also will be offering our April Vacation club, April 19-22. Our trips will be roller-skating and laser tag at Laser Gate for our trips. The other days will be packed with fun and exciting curriculum, games and activities. To find out more about these programs or other offerings by the Old Colony Y, contact 508-833-4796

CARVER ELEMENTARY PTO NEWS

RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE – IT'S TIME TO EDUCATE THE KIDS!

The *Spring Scholastic Book Fair* will be taking place March 24th (day of parent/teacher conferences); it will be held all day from 8:00am-8:00pm. Volunteers will be needed – help wanted notices to go home soon!

We will be kicking off our "RECYCLING" initiative during the book fair. We are pleased to announce that we have organized a textile collection with [Bag2School](#). [Bag2School](#) helps to divert unwanted textiles away from landfills. It is a fact that as a nation we send 1,081,000 tons of textiles to landfills every year. By getting involved in our [Bag2School](#) collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in a bag that will be sent home with your child prior to the book fair– this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, bags and soft toys. We will receive **\$200 per ton** which will be a great boost for our fundraising. In addition it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reusing. Our scheduled collection date of these bags is the day of the book fair, March 24th (additional information will be sent home soon).

We have also created a customized "GO GREEN" recycled tote bag that we will have available for sale at the book fair!!!

Along with the above mentioned recycling efforts, we have also teamed up with the Paper Retriever Recycling Program. This program is a simple and free service for communities to use for paper recycling. A distinctive green and yellow Paper Retriever bin will be setup at the school and we are going to encourage the community to bring their paper and dispose of it in the conveniently located bin. Working together to maximize the benefits that recycling provides helps keep our communities clean, improves our quality of life, and raises dollars to fund projects. The company accepts catalogs, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, office paper, fax paper, school paper, notebooks, and folders. This will be an on-going effort...More detailed information about this program will be coming home this month!

OTHER NEWS:

- Cristoline Spring Fundraiser (spring chocolates/candy) – The fundraiser begins this week. All orders are due back by March 14th. Pickup dates will be set up for the week of April 11th (notices will be sent home with specific pickup date information).
- We have tentatively scheduled the SPRING PICTURES with Hayward Photography. Weather permitting; the spring picture date is scheduled for Friday, April 14th. This year you will have the option of having a sibling picture taken. Providing sibling photography at the time of school portraits is an easy way to save parents time and money. It can also be a great cost savings by providing parents with the option to purchase one portrait of all their children.

Please check our website, www.carverpto.org to keep up to date with all of our efforts!!

Congratulations to Mrs. Champignie's 4th grade class on collecting the most box tops for the month of February!



REPORT TO PARENTS

Standardized Testing

Standardized tests. They're on the increase and the stakes are high. In many states the results of standardized tests determine whether children are promoted to the next grade or graduate from high school. Sometimes just thinking about these tests makes students—and their parents—nervous and angry. But hating them won't make them go away. In fact, a bad attitude can actually hurt your child's test performance. Here are some ways you can help your child at testing time:

Tips for Parents

- **Talk to the teacher.** Find out when the tests are scheduled and whether there are any weak areas where your child needs extra help.

- **Set your own standards.** Make sure your child knows it's important to take the test seriously, follow the rules, and do his or her best.

- **Are you ready?** Check to make sure your child has the correct kind of pencils, calculator, or other supplies needed for the test.

- **Early to bed.** A good night's sleep is very important the night before a big test. Most children need at least 10 hours of sleep to perform their best.

- **Prepare a good breakfast.** Test morning is not the time for a high-sugar snack—or no breakfast at all. A nutritious and filling breakfast is a must.

- **Keep things in focus.** Standardized tests are just one of the ways that schools evaluate children's abilities. Don't believe—or let your child believe—that poor test results mark him or her as a failure.

Tips for Students

- **Take it seriously.** Schools use standardized tests as a way to identify students' strengths and weaknesses, so do your best.

- **Relax.** Try not to be nervous before the test.

Take a few deep breaths. Close your eyes for a moment and tell yourself to just stay calm and focused.

- **Ask ahead.** Find out beforehand if you're expected to finish the entire test. Many timed tests have far more questions than most students will be able to answer in the time allowed.

- **Listen up!** Pay close attention to the teacher's instructions and carefully read the test instructions to make sure you understand exactly what you're supposed to do.

- **On your mark, get set—whoa!**

There's no need to rush, so take your time before answering each question.

- **Watch out for tricks.** On multiple-choice tests, consider all the choices before selecting the one best answer. Beware of choices that are close to the right answer—but aren't.

- **Keep track.** Make sure that you match the number of your answer to the question number on your answer sheet. When answering question #3, fill in the #3 circle on the answer sheet.

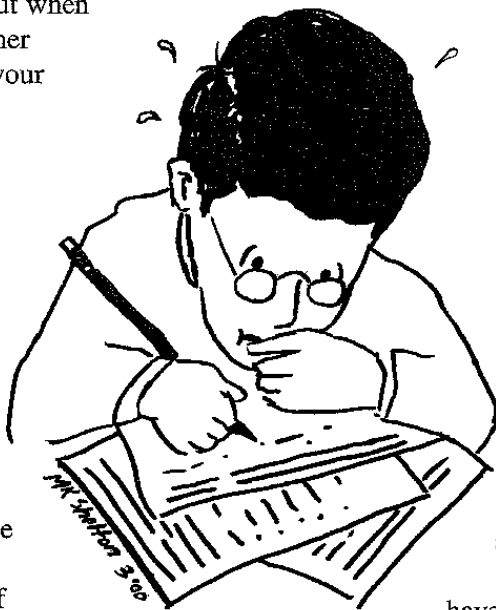
- **Doodle bugs.** Completely erase incorrect or accidental pencil marks so the sensor doesn't record them as answers.

- **Double jeopardy.** Make sure you haven't accidentally filled in two answers for the same question.

- **Move on.** If you're having a hard time with one question, leave it and go on to the other questions. Come back later to the hard one—if there's time.

- **Change it.** As a rule, you should stick with your first answer. But if you've thought about it afterward, and now think that another answer is better, go ahead and change it.

One of the best things about standardized tests is that when they're over, they're over. The results won't be known for weeks or months, so the best thing to do after the test, for both parents and students, is to breathe a big sigh of relief—and then celebrate. ☺



LUNCH MENU

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

March 7	Chicken patty on a bun Baked potato puffs Steamed carrots Fruit cup	Chicken Parmesan on a bun Baked potato puffs Steamed carrots Fruit cup
March 8	Italian Sub Ham, salami & cheese Lettuce, tomato & pickles Celery sticks w/ ranch dip Baked Doritos Diced apricots	Crispy fish sandwich Celery sticks w/ ranch dip Baked Doritos Diced apricots
March 9	Toasted cheese sandwich Baked potato puffs Green beans Strawberry mousse w/ topping	Tuna salad wrap w/ lettuce Baked potato puffs Green beans Strawberry mousse w/ topping
March 10	Hot chicken Fajitas w/cheddar cheese in soft tortilla wrap Seasoned rice Carrot sticks Salsa Pineapple chunks	Chicken salad roll Carrot sticks Baked chips Pineapple chunks
March 11	Whole grain stuffed crust pizza- cheese or pepperoni Garden salad Strawberry cup w/ topping Tuna salad roll Garden salad	
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March 14	Beef Taco's in a hard shell Shredded lettuce, tomatoes & cheese Oven baked fries Salsa Pineapple chunks	Tuna salad in a pita pocket W/ lettuce Baked Doritos Pickles Pineapple chunks
March 15	Waffle sticks w/ syrup for dipping Crispy bacon strips Scrambled egg patty Applesauce or yogurt cup	Breakfast sandwich Egg & cheese on a bagel Side of crispy bacon Applesauce or yogurt cup
March 16	Baked chicken tenders w/ dipping sauces Seasoned rice Mixed vegetables Fruit cup	Chef's salad Wheat pita bread Fruit cup
March 17	Creamy baked macaroni & cheese Peas Dinner roll Green Jell-O w/ topping	Crispy chicken wrap w/ lettuce & ranch dressing Baked Cape Cod chips Carrot sticks Green Jell-O w/ topping
March 18	Sal's pizza – cheese or pepperoni Garden salad Peaches	Tuna salad wrap w/ garden salad
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March 21	Chicken patty on a bun Baked potato puffs Green beans Pears	BBQ chicken patty on a bun Baked potato puffs Green beans Pears

March 22	Spaghetti - plain or w/sauce Green beans Dinner roll Fruit cup	Italian sub w/ lettuce Baked Doritos Pickles Fruit cup
March 23	Baked Chicken Dinner Whipped potatoes w/ gravy Peas Cranberry sauce Diced Pears	Chicken teriyaki salad Wheat pita bread Diced pears
March 24	Early Release Day	
March 25	New Item French bread pizza – cheese or pepperoni Pasta salad Peaches	Tuna salad roll w/ pasta salad
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March 28	Hot dog in a bun BBQ baked beans Tiny twist pretzels Apricots	Buffalo chicken wrap Celery sticks w/ ranch dip Tiny twist pretzels Apricots
March 29	Nacho supreme plate Seasoned ground beef & cheddar cheese sauce Steamed rice Mixed vegetables Salsa Cinnamon sugar apple slices	Sliced turkey sub w/lettuce Baked chips Veggie sticks w/ dip Cinnamon sugar apple slices
March 30	Baked Popcorn chicken w/ dipping sauces Oven baked fries Corn Lemon dessert w/ topping	Ham & cheese on wheat Carrot sticks Smart Food popcorn Lemon dessert w/ topping
March 31	Toasted cheese sandwich Baked smiley fries Carrot sticks w/ dip Raisins	Toasted ham & cheese sandwich Baked smiley fries Carrot sticks w/ dip Raisins
April 1	Cheesy pizza sticks w/ sauce for dipping Pasta salad Fruit cup	Crispy fish filet on a bun w/ pasta salad
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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

**Bottled Water or 100% Juice
SNACKS & ICE CREAM \$.75**