



Carver Elementary School December 2012 - Newsletter

“May the candle you light at this season be repeated in all the windows of the world.”

Dear Families,

The holidays have arrived and our school hallways are buzzing with the sounds of happy students. We have many exciting events taking place this month at our school beginning with our annual PTO sponsored Winter Wonderland. It will be held on December 1st, from 10:00-2:00 in the EKW cafeteria. There will be an array of fun activities for your children including a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. We hope to see you all there!



Our Winter Concert will take place on Wednesday, December 12th at 6:30 in the Carver Middle/High School auditorium. Our 4th and 5th graders have been preparing for this annual performance. The Holiday Songfest will take place in the EKW gymnasium on December 21st with our 1st graders performing at 11:10 and our 2nd graders performing at 12:30. You are all invited to attend. It will surely put you in the holiday spirit!

School Elections- Students in Grades 1-5 participated in a mock election on November 5. Students placed their vote for President/Vice President and Massachusetts State Senate. In addition, our students, including Kindergarteners, placed their vote for a school mascot. We are pleased to announce that we are now the Carver Elementary Coyotes! The top four selections were, Carver Cranberries, Carver Coyotes, Carver Hawks and Carver Knights with an overwhelming vote for the Carver Coyotes.

Thanksgiving Songfest: A special thanks to our music teachers, Mr. Barakat and Mrs. Giokas for the great job they did preparing our students for the Thanksgiving Songfest. In addition, thank you to the Kindergarten teachers and paraprofessionals for helping to make this event a success. It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents and friends at our school!

Thank you to all who are helping to make our Annual Food Drive a success. The Carver Elementary School community will donate these non-perishable items to the local food pantry during this holiday season.

Thank you to our School Adjustment Counselors, Mary Langner and Ellie Sirk for providing us with an informative session on bullying at the PTO meeting in November. It is our hope to continue to provide you with information about important topics and we hope you can make time in your busy schedules to attend. Please plan to attend an evening session on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports next year. More information will be forthcoming.

Upcoming Events	
Friday, 11/30/12	Report Cards Issued
Saturday, 12/1/12	Winter Wonderland, 10-2 pm
Tuesday, 12/4/12	Early Release Day, 11:45 am dismissal
Monday, 12/10/12	School Council Meeting, 3 pm
Monday, 12/10/12	School Committee Meeting, 7 pm
Wednesday, 12/12/12	Winter Concert, 6:30 pm, CMHS
Friday, 12/21/12	Winter Songfest 11:10 Grade 1 12:30 pm Grade 2
12/24/12 through 1/1/13	Winter Recess
Wednesday, 1/2/13	School Reopens

Parking Reminder- Please remember that parking in our bus circle is not permitted, as it is reserved for buses and it is a fire lane. If your child is late to school or you are dismissing your child early, you must park in one of the school parking lots. In addition, when there is a school event, overflow parking is allowed at the Sedell's parking lot adjacent to the school. We ask that you reserve the parking spaces outside the front door of Sedell's for customers. We also ask that you do not park on the grassy area at Sedell's. Thank you for your cooperation!

Transportation Reminder- Children must be ready at their bus stop each morning. We realize that the mornings are getting a bit colder and it may be difficult to have your child standing outside. However, the buses are on a tight schedule and therefore, the children must be ready.

Happy Holidays from us to you! Everyone at Carver Elementary School wishes you and your family a happy and healthy new year. We hope you enjoy the school vacation. We look forward to seeing your children back at school in January 2013, refreshed and ready to continue with learning. We thank you for all the support you have given to us, whether it is through volunteering at the school, donating your time and efforts on the PTO or contributing to our annual food drive. We also thank you for collaborating with us to improve your child's education. Educating our children is easier when both home and school are working together.

Lost and Found - The items in our lost and found continue to increase. If your child is missing an item, please check one of the lost and found locations. The EKW location is in the front foyer near Pod 1 and the GJC location is near the cafeteria. There are many winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves and lunch boxes in the growing lost and found. Please remember to label all of your child's items for easier identification.

Sincerely,

Ruby C. Maestas
Principal

Paula Foley
Associate Principal

Zachary Waddicor
Associate Principal

SAVE THESE DATES!!
MCAS Dates for the 2012/2013 School Year

The testing dates for the 2012-2013 MCAS sessions are as follows:

Grade 3		
	English/Language Arts Reading Comprehension	3/20 & 3/22/13
	Mathematics	5/8 & 5/10/13
Grade 4		
	English/Language Arts Composition	3/19/13
	English/Language Arts Reading Comprehension	3/25 & 3/27/13
	Mathematics	5/13 & 5/15/13
Grade 5		
	English/Language Arts Reading Comprehension	3/21 & 3/26/13
	Mathematics	5/14 & 5/16/13
	Science and Technology/Engineering	5/7 & 5/9/13

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South Shore Parent Classes-Classes for parents are offered through the South Shore Community Action Council, Inc. and the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Council. The CFCE Program sponsors a variety of Parenting Workshops that engage and support parents in understanding and promoting their children's development, school readiness, and early literacy. For more information, please visit their website, www.sscac.org/cfce/events.html.

Carver Elementary PTO

Square 1 artwork orders will be available for pickup on Friday, December 14th from 2:45pm-6:00pm in the EKW cafeteria.

Box Top Update Mrs. Champignie's 4th grade class was the winner of the first collection of the school year with a total of 604 box tops collected! Congratulations! Mrs. Johnson's 3rd grade class came in 2nd place with 499 collected and Ms. Mancini's kindergarten class came in 3rd place with 454 collected! Great job by all of the classes! Between the summer box top contest and the first collection deadline, we have collected a total of 19,393 box tops (\$1,939.30)! That is fantastic - these little things that you cut out may appear to you as only being \$0.10 but when everyone is collecting, they do add up! Let's keep this momentum going!

THE PTO WISHES EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Old Colony YMCA

The Old Colony YMCA and Carver Elementary School are pleased to announce the collaboration with the Reebok Foundation to pilot a "free" BOKS (Build Our Kids Success), a before school physical activity program, at the Carver Elementary School for children in grades 3-4-5 starting the end of January. BOKS prepares children for a day of learning and is an important step in helping children gain an appreciation of the benefits of exercise and healthy choices that will last a lifetime. BOKS was inspired by Dr. John Ratey, of Harvard Medical School, states that "exercise is the single most powerful tool that we have to optimize the function of our brains." Classes are filled with team oriented games and provide plenty of opportunity for play, since the program focuses on fun!

BOKS will run 30-40 minutes, two days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, TBA) from 7:30 am until school begins. The session will start the week of January 28, 2013 and end the week of April 8, 2013. Parents will be responsible for transporting their children to the school. Children who attend the Old Colony YMCA Before School program are eligible to enroll and participate. BOKS is designed to involve the whole community and family.

The BOKS program will be lead by a Y staff member, however parent volunteers are a very important part of showing the children and the community that we care. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or finding out more, please contact Donna Keller, 508-833-4796 before December 21st. You can also visit the BOKS website at www.bokskids.org for more program details.

Registration forms will be sent out separately, after the December vacation break. I hope that you will share our enthusiasm for this program and you will, in turn, see a positive impact on your children.

★ Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

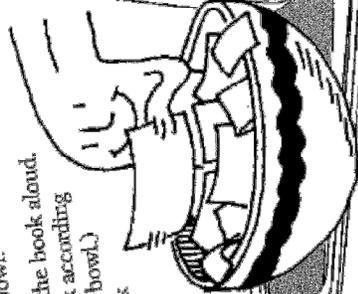
READING Pass It On

Everyone in the family takes a turn reading with this fun activity.

Ingredients: storybook, paper, pencil

Choose a book the entire family will enjoy. Then, brainstorm 15 instructions with your child. Examples: Pass to any other reader, sing a song while passing to your left; pass to your right while standing on one leg. Write each instruction on a slip of paper and put the slips in a bowl.

Then, pick someone to read the first page of the book aloud. That person draws a slip and passes the book according to the instructions. (Return used slips to the bowl.) Continue drawing slips and passing the book until you finish the story.



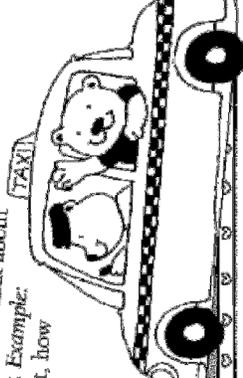
WRITING Stories with a Twist

Encourage your youngster to stretch her writing muscles by giving stories a new twist.

Ingredients: favorite story, paper, pencil

Together, read one of your child's favorite stories, such as "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." When you finish, work together to rewrite the story with a different setting. Perhaps it could take place in another country or in the middle of a big city. Ask your youngster to think about how the setting will change the story. **Example:** If the three bears live in an apartment, how will Goldilocks get inside?

Invite your child to share her new story with the rest of the family at dinnertime.



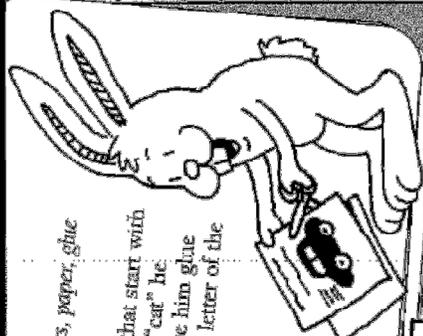
SPELLING Picture This!

Your child can practice spelling and phonics by making these spelling pictures.

Ingredients: spelling list, old magazines, scissors, paper, glue or tape

Let your youngster cut out magazine pictures that start with each letter of his spelling words. **Example:** For "cat" he could use a (c)at, an (a)pple, and a (t)rain. Have him glue the pictures on a piece of paper and write each letter of the spelling word under the pictures.

Variation for older children: Glue the pictures on separate pieces of paper. Then, scramble the pictures for a word and have your youngster put them in order.



Refrigerator Poster

Just hang your Recipes poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the "recipe."

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ask your youngster to look up your state flower in an encyclopedia. Let him draw the flower on paper and cut it out.

Tape on a drinking straw "stem." He can make a bouquet by adding flowers from states he would like to visit.



SCIENCE

Have your child pretend she is a magnet. Can she find three things she would stick to? Examples: soup can, paper clip. Can she think of three things she wouldn't stick to (crayon, comb)?

Let her use a refrigerator magnet to check her answers.



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MATH Pocket Change Toss

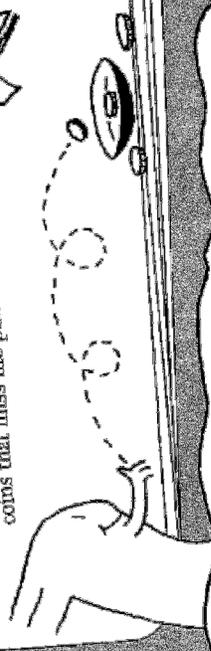
Here's a way for your child to practice addition and subtraction using money.

Ingredients: 4 coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter), small plastic plate or bowl, paper, pencil

Each player starts with 25 points. Take turns tossing the four coins at the plate. Coins that land on the plate are added to a player's score. If any coins miss the plate, players subtract the coin with the largest value from their scores. **Example:** If your youngster missed with the dime and the penny, she subtracts the dime's value (10) from her score.

Whoever has the highest score after three rounds wins.

Variation for younger child: Don't subtract coins that miss the plate.



Character Corner

RESPONSIBILITY

Have your child list his responsibilities. **Examples:** "Do my homework," "Feed the dog." Then, discuss the duties of others, such as teachers or policemen. Talk about what happens when responsibilities aren't taken care of. What if the policeman decided not to direct traffic when the traffic light broke?

INDEPENDENCE

Teach your youngster a new skill, like how to fix her own lunch or lay out her clothes for school the next day. She will gain a sense of accomplishment when she doesn't have to ask you for help.

GIVING

Instead of buying gifts, encourage your child to give "tickets." They can be good for things such as playing a game with a sibling or helping a parent with housework. He can draw the tickets on paper and decorate them with markers.

VOCABULARY

Start with a short sentence, such as "I went to the store." Toss a ball back and forth with your youngster. With each toss, change one word of the sentence without changing its meaning ("I jumped rope to the store"). See how long you can keep going without getting stuck.

PERCENTAGES

Have your child figure out how much money you'll save when buying something on sale. To compute percentages, he should multiply the amount by the discount (for 25 percent off, multiply by .25). **Hint:** Suggest that he round the price to even dollars before multiplying. **Example:** \$15.95 less 25 percent. Answer: \$16.00 x .25 = \$4.00 saved.

PATTERNS

Understanding patterns helps kids with basic math skills. Try this. Ask your youngster, "What comes next in this pattern? The pattern is paper clip, pencil, paper clip, pencil." Let her line up the objects to check her answer.

HISTORY

Go to the library together and check an almanac for facts from the year you were your child's age (the cost of a stamp, who was president). Look through old pictures for toys and other things you used. What does your youngster have that wasn't around when you were her age?

Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member) _____ Signed (child) _____

Lunch Menu
Week of: 12/3 ~12/7

Meal Choice 1 - \$2.00	Meal Choice 2 - \$2.00
Monday ~ Brunch for lunch W/G French Toast Crispy sweet potato bites Yogurt cup Apple juice cup	Chicken Caesar salad
Tuesday ~ Teacher's Professional Day	
Wednesday ~ W/G chicken tenders Seasoned brown rice Corn Wheat roll Chilled peaches	Greek salad
Thursday ~ BBQ beef (Sloppy Joe's)on a wheat bun Baked beans Celery sticks & tomato wedges Chilled pears	Buffalo chicken on a wheat bun Celery sticks/dip Gold fish crackers Chilled pears
Friday ~ Girlardi's Pizza- cheese or pepperoni Fresh tossed salad w/ Spinach Chilled strawberries	

Week of: 12/10 ~12/14

Meal Choice 1 - \$2.00	Meal Choice 2 - \$2.00
Monday ~ Brunch for lunch W/G Pancakes Baked sausage links Crispy sweet potato bites Cinnamon applesauce	Chicken teriyaki salad
Tuesday ~ W/G chicken patty on a wheat bun Dark green leaf lettuce & tomato slices Potato wedges Fresh orange halves	Tuna wrap Side of tossed salad

<p><i>Wednesday ~</i> <i>Grilled chicken in a soft taco wrap</i> <i>Seasoned brown rice</i> <i>Baby carrots</i> <i>Bean dip salsa w/ W/G tortilla chips</i> <i>Chilled pineapple chunks</i></p>	<p><i>Southwest salad</i> <i>Seasoned grilled chicken & cheddar cheese</i> <i>Side of Bean dip salsa w/ W/G tortilla chips</i></p>
<p><i>Thursday ~</i> <i>Italian Pasta bake</i> <i>(baked elbows w/ meat sauce & mozzarella cheese)</i> <i>Green beans</i> <i>Wheat bread stick</i> <i>Chilled diced pears</i></p>	<p><i>Popcorn chicken wrap</i> <i>W/ BBQ dipping sauce</i> <i>Side of tossed salad</i></p>
<p><i>Friday ~</i> <i>Sal's Pizza Day - cheese or pepperoni</i> <i>Fresh tossed salad w/ romaine</i> <i>Jell-O</i> <i>Chilled fruit cup</i></p>	
<p><i>Alternate Choice Lunches for Grades 1-5</i></p> <p><i>Garden Salad</i> <i>Wheat Bagels w/choice of light cream cheese, margarine, jelly or sun-butter</i> <i>Cereals -</i> <i>W/G Cinnamon Toast Crunch or Multi-Grain Cheerios</i> <i>Smucker's Uncrustables – Grape or Strawberry</i></p>	<p><u>All lunches include</u> Choice of TruMoo Fat Free Chocolate Or 1% White Milk Juice/Fruit Menus are subject to change upon Availability of products Available for purchase separately – Milk .50 8 oz. Bottle Water .75 Ice Cream & .75</p>

Free or Reduced Priced Meal Applications are available in the school office,
on our website www.carver.org
or by calling (508) 866-6137

***SURPRISE YOUR YOUNG MUSICIAN WITH AN INSTRUMENT ORNAMENT OR A
CUSTOMIZED GLASS BALL ORNAMENT AVAILABLE AT CARVER'S WINTER
CONCERTS!
(\$10 each)***



(All proceeds benefit the Carver Music Boosters)

Elementary Concert

Wednesday, December 12th

6:30 pm

Middle School Concert

Thursday, December 13th

7:00 pm

High School Concert

Thursday, December 20th

7:00 pm

Carver Middle/High School Auditorium

\$2 admission charge at all concerts. Family cap \$10. Five and under free. Families will only be charged to attend one concert.