

# CARTER COMMUNICATION BLOG

M. Williams, Principal

## MAY ALREADY???

**\* Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Teacher Appreciation Day! I encourage our students to write a letter and/or make a card to say "thank you" for your teachers' support, efforts, and commitment to our students' social and academic success. As a site we will be celebrating the entire staff the entire week of May 8th-12th.**

**\* State testing starts this week for 3rd-5th. We will be testing for the next three weeks. Please make attendance and punctuality a priority!**

**\* Students should be charging their Chromebooks every night in preparation for the state test, i-Ready, and other classroom activities.**

**\* Per site policy, cell phones are to remain off or silent in student backpacks on a daily basis. This is particularly important during our state testing weeks. ALL cell phones and personal electronic devices MUST be turned OFF and put in backpacks and/or set away from students during testing!**

**\* Any cell phone confiscated during the testing period will ONLY be returned to a parent/guardian. NO exceptions.**

**\* Please try your very best for yourselves and for our school!**

**\*We will host "Morning with Misses" on May 11th for TK-2nd grade and May 12th for 3rd-5th grades. Please feel free to join us and have a donut or muffin with your students. Anyone can come to represent with your child as needed, grandmas, Aunts, Sisters, etc. etc.**

**\*We are accepting TK/Kinder registrations now. Please feel free to call or stop by the office if you have any questions.**

**\* Summer School: Within the next week, you'll be receiving a notice letting you know if your student/s have been accepted to Summer School and if they are also accepted to ELOP. Currently, we are no longer taking applications for ELOP but you may still turn in an application for Summer School from 7:45-12:20 starting Tuesday, June 6th and ending June 22nd. We have approximately 90 students signed**

up for summer school. Unfortunately, we only have space available for 50 students in the ELOP program. The wait list is long too.

\* We will offer bus transportation from Carter elem. To Lincoln elem. For families that want it. Stay tuned for more information regarding summer school bussing. Please note that summer school is optional. Therefore, bussing at all normal stops is not required/provided.

\* It is heating up! Please make sure your child is coming to school with a water bottle. We are getting many students in the nurse's office with headaches. The number one cause for headaches is dehydration.

\* We have a HEAT MITIGATION plan here at Carter. When we hit temps of 105\* or better we will have students stay inside for morning and afternoon recess and bring them inside for lunch activities such as board games, art, movies, etc. To help with the increasing temperatures, we will also set up pop up shades at the dismissal areas and have our misting systems running in the lunch area. We have also ordered large water cooled fans with the money we raised from our last fundraiser and will put them in play as soon as they arrive.

\*End of year activity schedule for our outgoing 5th graders:

\* May 22-24: Promotion Practices

\* May 25: 3rd Trimester Awards Assembly 11:00-12:00

\* May 26: AR Party

\* May 30: Field Trip to Boomers 9:00AM - 2:30PM Cost will be \$35.00. This will include entrance and lunch( 2 pieces of pizza and med. soda) Field trip notes will be sent out shortly.

\* May 31: 5th Grade Promotion 11:00-12:15P.M

\* June 1: Yearbook Signing Party: 11:00-1:00P.M in MPR

\* June 2 : Last Day of School!!!!!!

**\* There is no school on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Memorial Day.**

**\* The last day of school is Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**\* Please check our Lost & Found on a regular basis. All remaining items will be discarded or donated.**

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## **April 2023**

**\* Congratulations to our very own Cassandra Horwitz for being selected by her peers as our Teacher of the Year!!**

**\* Parent conferences are going well this week. Please be reminded that you can view your child's report card through your parentvue account. I would like to thank all family members who attended our Parent Teacher Conferences. Please feel free to reach out to your teachers whenever you have a question, concern, and/or compliment.**

**\*Our drop off and pick-up procedures, on the whole, have improved significantly this year. Thank you all. A few reminders though as we end out the year:**

- Our bus zone is for drop off of our special needs students and buses ONLY.**
- Kindergarten parents should park in our regular lot and walk to the dismissal gate for their students.**
- Please be reminded that our fourth/fifth grade students' bell rings at 3:15 for dismissal. They are usually out and ready for pick-up by 3:20. Please do not arrive early as this ends up blocking our third grade parents who are picking up their students at 3:00 and disrupts the flow of traffic. When we all do our part we are able to clear each group in about 15 minutes.**
- Lastly, The sheriff dept has mentioned that cars were parking in red zone areas reserved for emergency vehicles. They will be looking to write tickets beginning April 3rd.**

\* **Our ELOP afterschool program 4th session will run, April 17 through May 19th**

\***New student registration will begin April 17.**

\***School Site Council meeting will be Thursday April 27th.**

\* **Spring break is April 10th through the 15th.**

\***2nd grade field trip to the aerial tramway on Wednesday, Apr. 19th.**

\* **We will be sending home COVID test kits with students this week. We are asking that you use that test kit before returning from Spring Break. Thank you!**

\* **Our current data reveals that we have an issue with excessive tardiness and absenteeism. Missing school is the leading cause of students' academic delays and lack of understanding standards. When students improve their attendance rates, they experience academic success and improve their chances for graduating High school and beyond. Students with chronic absences (10% or more) will lead to a School attendance review board meeting at district office, and students who are a transfer could have it revoked. Please make every effort to get your child to school daily and on time. We will also be implementing some reward type activities to support this as well.**

\* **Each spring-starting May 1-19th, our students in grades three through fifth participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). English language arts/literacy, mathematics, and science-(5th only) tests are included in CAASPP. The CAASPP measures what students know and can do. Results help identify and address gaps in knowledge or skills early on so the students can get the support they need.**

**3rd-5th Grade Teachers are practicing with students to help familiarize students with the test format, to help increase mental stamina, and to increase their confidence.**

The CAASPP practice tests, which can be found on the CAASPP Web site at [https://login5.cambiumtds.com/student\\_core/V90/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=California\\_PT](https://login5.cambiumtds.com/student_core/V90/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=California_PT) are another good resource. Practice tests are a good way to preview the test and view sample questions.

\***DAY OF AWESOMENESS is Friday Apr. 7th. This day is to celebrate our most recent fundraiser. We met our goal thanks to so many of you and will be updating our mister systems and purchasing 2 industrial type cooling fans to offer cooling stations during recess and lunch times.**

**ALL students will be allowed to participate in the day of awesomeness. Please be sure your student wears socks on Friday so they can participate in all of the activities.**

\***We are still accepting pictures of our 5th grade students to incorporate in our yearbook and end of year slide presentation. Please send them to your child's teacher.**

**\* Remember to check the Lost & Found before leaving on Fridays. During Spring Break, all remaining items will be donated or discarded due to safety precautions, odor, bugs, and mold. As a Reminder, please mark your students' water bottle/lunch box/and jackets. If they are marked we can get them back to your child.**

## March

In an effort to better communicate with you all, I will be starting a monthly CARTER COMMUNICATION BLOG. We will add it to our Carter website, as well as send you all an email. They will not all be this long, but I want to offer another form of communication to everyone.

\* The third trimester begins on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will be completing report card grades this week. Grades are accessed via ParentVUE.

\* Parent-Teacher Conferences for the second trimester will be from March 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. During this round of conferences, teachers will target families of students who are performing below grade level in curricular areas, have academic concerns, and/or have behavior concerns. However, teachers will schedule a meeting with any family requesting to meet.

**\* There will be no after-school enrichment or intervention classes during the week of Parent-Teacher Conferences (March 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>).**

\* Daylight savings time is Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead (spring forward).

\* Gum is not allowed on school grounds! Please do not allow your child to bring gum to school. Mints serve the same purpose and don't stick to shoes and get spread throughout the site. Also, please be reminded that food items such as cupcakes, donuts, pizza, etc. are not allowed to be sent in by parents to celebrate birthdays. Many parents choose to create goodie bags with pencils, erasers, or other small items that can be handed out at the end of the day to their classmates.

\* Our spring fundraiser is in full swing. Thank you all for the support. We are raising funds to purchase some indoor/outdoor industrial cooling fans to keep our breakfast-lunch area, and upgrade our misting systems in our Kindergarten yard during hot days. The fundraiser will be followed by "A DAY OF AWESOMENESS" on Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>, which will include multiple inflatables (examples include bouncy houses, ob, and a DJ). This will be a great day and ALL students TK-5 are invited to participate.

\* Our school takes a strong stand against bullying/harassment. I cannot stress to you enough that we cannot fix issues if we do not know they exist! Please encourage your child to speak up and let us know if something is happening to him/her or to someone else. You can also e-mail me at [michael.williams@desertsands.us](mailto:michael.williams@desertsands.us) or our counselor at [hristina.bonev@desertsands.us](mailto:hristina.bonev@desertsands.us). Finally, we also have a district adopted anti-bullying website you can access, [www.PSSTWorld.com](http://www.PSSTWorld.com).

\* **Spring pictures will be taken on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. This one will help to get students who may have not been with us early in the year and add them to our class pictures in the yearbook. There is no obligation to purchase these photos unless you want them.**

\* **We will have a School Site Council (SSC) meeting on thursday, March 16th at 4:30 p.m. SSC meetings are open to the public for attendance and information. SSC meetings are in-person meetings only.**

\* **5th Grade families... Time is running out! You are not guaranteed a spot at Palm Desert Charter Middle School! You must complete the attached link if you want to be considered for the PDCMS Enrollment Lottery for the 2023/24 school year. The timeframe to apply to be considered for the School Lottery ends on March 17, 2023. Students who apply after this day will be added to the waiting list in the order of applications that are submitted. Link: [PDCMS 2023-2024 Lottery Application](#)**

\***Our modernization project is moving along. We were able to move our TK-K students into their new rooms the first week of March and have the 4th/2nd grade area underway currently. We are hoping to move those classes back into their new rooms in early May. The next phases will begin right after that with our third grade wing. Over the summer we have a lot of work planned, such as, new Heating/AC units installed, roof replaced, portables removed and begin work on a new building to replace them. The new building is expected to be complete by April of 2024.**

\***These past few years have been challenging for all of us. Teachers and staff at Carter have been working extensive hours to be ready to educate our students. To this end I would like to share that our district has a program called "[When you see IT, Recognize IT award](#)" that can be accessed through our district website as well as on our Carter website. This is an easy way to celebrate any staff member on campus who exemplifies our district values. Any member of our community can fill one out and we will celebrate them with a certificate at our staff meetings. As we all know, it is nice to be recognized for the hard work we put in and it helps to create a culture of excellence.**

\* **As part of DSUSD's annual Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) review, we request your input on LCAP Goal 3 which states: "All students will develop and consistently demonstrate responsible, respectful and ethical behavior in a safe, clean and orderly learning environment." With your feedback, we can learn what's most important to everyone as we move forward together.**

**We will use your thoughts to analyze the actions and services designated to support students' growth/success. We will utilize the ThoughtExchange platform in an effort to allow everyone to share their perspectives and to better understand the perspectives of others. Participate in this Exchange by navigating to [tejoin.com](https://tejoin.com) and entering the following 9-digit code: 566-095-574 OR Click here to participate: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/566095574/welcome>**

**\* Please remind your students to check the Lost & Found on Fridays, we currently have over 100 jackets or sweatshirts on our stage since we cleaned and donated in December. All remaining items will be discarded or donated due to safety precautions, odor, bugs, and mold. If the items have student names written on the tag or in the lunch box it makes it much easier to get back to the student.**