



# KNIGHTLY NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2007

## From the Director

Although the winter weather has been blistery, the sights and sounds of children learning and playing warms my heart. The inquisitive minds, eager smiles, and joyful laughter of our students reminds me daily that there is no better place in all of Sacramento to educate young minds than Carden Christian Academy.

As we enter into the second half of our school year, it is fun to reflect back on what we have accomplished. In the classroom, the progress is evident as we look at the work of our students displayed on bulletin boards. To give you a sampling of what I have recently observed during classroom visits: the precious preschoolers are learning to recognize the letters of the alphabet and the sound each letter makes, our kindergarteners are now emergent readers, the first graders are beginning to write in cursive, second grade students are already mastering their multiplication facts, the third graders are learning long division, fourth graders are busy researching California history and U.S. geography, fifth graders have started their state reports, the sixth grade students are enjoying literature projects and presentation, and the junior high classes are busy writing essays, solving algebraic equations, and learning the basics of photography. In addition to the regular academics, all students are rounding out their curricu-

lum with music classes, French instruction, daily P.E. classes, and computer instruction. It is such a blessing to see the stepping-stones of learning as our students progress through their different grade levels.

The second half of the school year promises to be buzzing with activities. February started with our Annual Coin Drive. Proceeds will be used to fund an exciting and entertaining End-of-the-Year Family Picnic. Next on the calendar the students will enjoy the many activities planned for National French Week. Our Read-a-thon and Book Fair will begin the last week of the month. In March, we are excited about sending a team of students to the ACSI Math Olympics. We are confident that our mathematicians will shine as they did in last year's competition. Later in the month, our Annual Open House is planned. Please remember to invite your friends and family to come and see for themselves the outstanding work produced by our students. April brings with it our first "Country Fair". This is an event that you will not want to miss as our classes showcase different countries and cultures throughout our world. This fun and educational family day will include entertainment, ethnic food, vendors, and lots more. As you can see, for a small school, BIG things are happening here at CCA. With re-registration in full swing for the

## Mrs. Rash

2007-2008 school year, it is a good time to share with parents the many ways Carden Christian Academy is getting its name and reputation recognized in the community. Sacramento Parent Magazine will be running our print ad for the next couple of months. Open House invitations have been mailed to addresses in neighboring communities, and 103.9 The Fish is airing our radio advertisement. We also appreciate the many parents who are also spreading the word about our amazing little school. Word of mouth is our best form of advertisement, so be bold in boasting about the benefits of a Christian Carden education. The most important way you can partner with us is to join us in prayer as we begin planning for the upcoming school year. As we move forward, we place Carden Christian Academy in God's hands. We rest in His promise, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Mrs. Rash

## Kindergarten/First Grade

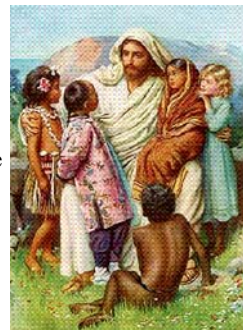
The kindergarteners have been busy perfecting their right-left coloring skills in the farm and reading workbooks. They are sounding out words much faster and are enjoying reading whole sentences in the Joan Book.

The first graders are delighted with the colorful math books. They are learning about the value of coins, measurements, how to read the thermometer, and telling

time.

Finding the key word in reading and then putting it into a category is a new challenge. This process enables the student to tell what the sentence is about and give it a title.

We have been learning about the miracles Jesus performed while



## Mrs. Hake

here on earth. It is a favorite time of our day and a blessing to watch the children discuss and relate to each lesson.

Mrs. Hake

## Fifth/Sixth Grade

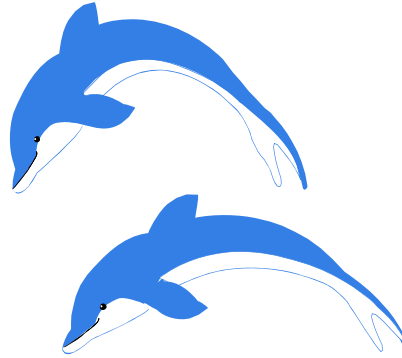
The past few months have been fun and festive for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We have experienced some great field trips! In November, we went to the Discovery Museum Science and Space Center for a field trip called "Digging up the Past." Our students not only learned about archaeology, but were able to make archeological discoveries of our own by digging up artifacts, doing research, and making hypotheses about what the discoveries might tell us about the people to whom the artifacts belonged. A very light sprinkle didn't dampen the students' spirits as they used teamwork and high level thinking skills to solve these problems and got to experience what it might be like to be an archaeologist. This will add a whole new dimension to our study of history.

In December, we sang Christmas carols and songs from the Christmas program The Christmas King for senior citizens at the Stanford Senior Settlement Center. Our students sounded great (thank you Mrs.

Nary!), and the seniors sang along. We then spent some time meeting the seniors and serving cookies. We had a lot of fun sharing Christmas cheer. Two days later, we got dressed up and had a Christmas brunch, then went to the play A Christmas Carol. We thoroughly enjoyed the production and had the opportunity to meet with the actors afterwards.

We've also been fortunate in adding two wonderful new friends to our class ... 5th grader Beth Lathrop and 6th grader Scott Homes. Welcome Beth and Scotty! We're glad you are here.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade history studies have taken us to the ancient and modern Middle East. In science, we've been studying mammals and invertebrates, and students chose one to



Finally, we've been studying and having great discussions about the Biblical definition of success in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke in our Bible curriculum. It's been a busy season, and we've learned so much!

Mrs. Roberts

## Seventh/Eighth Grade

Greetings from Junior High!

It is so hard to believe that nearly two-thirds of our year is over! I have such a wonderful class that time goes too quickly. The primary focus of our winter trimester has been developing high school level writing skills. The students have written two excellent "response to literature" essays and are currently working on "persuasive writing" and "historical research" papers. They have mastered the APA format and know how to research and properly cite their sources.

The hands-down favorite activity was our Bible Newscasts. The students broke into groups and presented a news story (complete with commercials) of a favorite Biblical story. We taped these newscasts into a professional DVD that will be passed from class to class for their enjoyment. I think several of our students may be ready for a career in the TV world. If any parent wishes to borrow the DVD, please stop by my classroom to check it out.

In history, we are studying the Biblical influences on the birth of our country as we learn about the *Articles of Confederation* and the writing of the *Constitution*. For February students are also participating in a

Presidential Trivia scavenger hunt. Do you know who was the first President born after the signing of the *Constitution*?

In science we are studying about matter and motion. One of our favorite labs was "sink or float", where students predicted whether random items would float or sink in a large bucket of water. It was harder to predict than you would think.

Finally, we are getting so excited about the continent of Asia and our exhibit at the Country Fair. We are studying about China, Japan and Thailand and have made several Asian art pieces for display. We will even be learning how to prepare sushi, chow mein, and pad thai. Be sure to stop by for a yummy treat!

When we aren't in the classroom you will find us ice skating for Valentine's Day, enjoying *Romeo and Juliet* at the Mondavi Center, and traveling to Alliance Redwoods for a week of science camp. Many thanks to our great



## Mrs. Roberts

study and present. We've finished the novel The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, and students worked in groups to create museum exhibits based on the novel (which is set at the Metropolitan Museum of Art). Then we opened our museum to visitors from other classes, which was great fun. We are currently writing essays comparing and contrasting characters in Mixed up Files, and we'll soon start our new novel, Hatchett.

## Mrs. Reed

room mothers for providing treats and activities for Thanksgiving and Christmas parties. It has been and continues to be a great year!

Mrs. Reed

# Fourth Grade

The second trimester has brought with it a host of new blessings and challenges! The Lord has truly been good to our class, and has made one thing abundantly clear: He certainly has a sense of humor.

Our students have been experimenting with the power of wind (in a mature fashion, of course). This last week, each of us attempted to see how long we could levitate a ping-pong ball using a straw. It proved to be a great success, though the number of students who were subsequently red and dizzy gave me a revelation: I should probably purchase the thicker bendy straws next year.

In the coming months we will be

moving on to the study of botany (plants), hopefully having the opportunity to grow some of our own flowers. Space is always a favorite chapter for boys and girls alike, and I look forward to each excited face as we map out the heavens during our trip to the planetarium. Though we have finished our study on insects, our students cannot stop thinking about them. One of our students has some newly hatched praying mantises, as well as another egg sack we keep in the classroom.

We have just finished our literature book, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and will soon be moving on to *Patty Reed's Doll*, a book that chronicles the trek of the Donner Party, (skipping some of the less appetizing details); our field trips will primarily concern

# Mr. Chase

the history of California, as we will be visiting both Sutter's Fort and Sutter's Mill before the end of the year.

The Carden Christian Academy Country Fair is coming up, and our class chose the African country Nigeria. I am looking forward to making the children more missions conscious, as we discover the many missionaries in Nigeria and surrounding regions who make an impact for the Lord every day.

I am thrilled to share this grand adventure of learning and growth with my 4<sup>th</sup> graders. It has been a constant joy, and I am anticipating a wonderful last trimester.

Mr. Chase

# Second/Third Grade

Now that the school year has more than passed the halfway mark, the second and third graders were queried as to what they have enjoyed about school thus far, as well as to what they look forward to in the months to come. We received a wide array of responses:

McKenna: I like the way we're so organized in our class and how we know just what to do.

Sean: I have really enjoyed the French lessons and the special projects we've done.

Christian: Computer is **really** fun; I get to learn math on computers!

Megan S.: I love coming to school each day and being with my friends. I especially enjoy math—I can't wait to go to the Math Olympics!

Megan R.: We have done great art projects this year and we have really decorated our room nicely.

Alicia: Science has been my favorite class, learning about plant life, the nervous system, and vertebrates & invertebrates is so interesting.

Madison: We start our day with Bible study and prayer; it is so good to learn

about Jesus and his Miracles.

Hannah: I am new to Carden this year, and I like the way everybody is so nice to each other.

Maggie: I like spelling and the way we use our vowel controls.

Joshua, May and Elaina: We love the Bluebird Book!

Sophie and McKenna: The math has been great—learning about long division, fractions and equations has kept us thinking, and we know our multiplication/division tables and Roman numerals backwards and forwards. Math Olympics, here we come!

Second and Third Graders: We all love literature and learning such classics as "The Secret Garden," "The Whipping Boy," "The Hundred Dresses," and "Sarah, Plain and Tall." We know that we have "Black Beauty," "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes," and "The Secret School" to look forward to in the months ahead.

Nicole: I like getting ready for Open House. We'll work on showing everyone our best work.

Stuart: It will be fun learning about our

# Mrs. Owen

"class country," Australia, for the Carden "Country Fair."

Finally, everyone in our class agreed that they have had fun participating in our classroom "Star of the Week."



Please come and visit our classroom to see all of the wonderful accomplishments of our second and third graders.

Mrs. Owen

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**NEED PHOTOS!!**

Cd's, memory cards,  
actual photographs.  
This is urgent as the  
yearbook is sent to the  
publisher by March 1st.  
Please don't delay!

# Computers Mrs. Wells

Well, what a transformation we have gone through and we are only beginning. We have converted from PC's to iMACs. Praise the Lord most of our software that we use for computer class actually works on the iMACs. However our game programs that we use for rewards when typing tests are passed do not run on Mac-Intosh OS9 or less, we could sure use them. We especially need games for the 4th—8th grades. (Often newer software will run on both PC's and Mac's just check the system requirements on the box.)

Soon the whole campus will be set up for windows networking with computers in each classroom and a traveling laptop cart with 20 computers capable of moving from classroom to classroom.

Thank you to all the donations of time and money to help make this all possible.

Mrs. Wells

## Music

Words like double bell euphonium, bassoon, counterpoint and tympani are words that may be slipping into your children's vocabulary and songs they sing. If so, do not be alarmed. The source is very likely music class and, in particular a song we are learning. . . The Music Man will be performed by our children at the spring program. The numerous instruments and musical terms in the lyrics of the music provide a wonderful backdrop and springboard for further study in music class. Also, "Seventy-Six Trombones" was the inspiration for selecting the group of brass instruments we will be studying this spring. Specifically, we will learn about the trombone. A guest will visit music classes to explain and demonstrate how the trombone makes music.

In the spring term, we will continue our study of the composer George Frederic Handel (1685-1759) and his wonderful music. I am still reveling in the memory of the sound of our children singing Handel's "Hallelujah

## Mrs. Nary

Chorus" at our Christmas program. Regarding this chorus from The Messiah, Handel said, that it was "as if I saw God on His throne, and all the angels around Him."

It is my belief that God and His angels rejoice when, in music, we "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." May He



continue to bless us as we study and sing expressing ourselves musically and returning to Him the beautiful gift of music.

Mrs. Nary

### Calendar

Feb 19	M	President's Day No School
Feb 23	F	End of Trimester
Feb 23 - Mar 2		Read-a-thon Book Fair
Mar 2	F	Report Cards go home
Mar 2	R	Boston Market Fundraiser
Mar 9	F	Math Olympics
Mar 23	F	Teacher-in-Service No School
Mar 29	Th	OPEN HOUSE 6:30—8:00 pm
Mar 30	F	Minimum Day
Apr 2-9	M-M	Easter Break
Apr 10	T	Return to School
Apr 17-20		Jr. Hi Science Camp
Apr 27	F	Minimum Day
Apr 28	S	"Country Fair" Family Day
May 11	F	Spaghetti Feed Silent Auction
May 21	M	Parent Conferences
May 22	T	Parent Conferences
May 28	M	Memorial Day No School