



# KNIGHTLY NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2008

## From the Director

Mrs. Hass

The gray skies of winter are behind us at Carden Christian Academy. Our students are full of energy and enthusiasm as we prepare for Open House. It is always a joy to open our school and share the successes our students achieve year to year. We are looking forward to sharing a very memorable time with you. If Thursday March 13, is not already highlighted on your calendar, please do so now!

Each day I have the privilege of interacting with your children. I love nothing more than walking through the classes and observing students as they are engaged in learning. I had the pleasure the other day of listening to the first graders read sentences out of their books. The looks of pride and accomplishment on their faces are priceless. On the other end of the spectrum the Jr. High students are learning algebraic formulas and preparing for

their Washington D.C. trip. It is such a blessing to see the growth as our students progress through the school year.

It is amazing to think that we have surpassed the half way mark of this school year. Elementary and jr. high basketball seasons have just ended, the Math Olympics Team is busily preparing for their competition, and the Science Fair is in the planning stages. The dedication of our staff and parents make all of these worthwhile activities possible for our children.

Registration information for the 2008-2009 school year has just been mailed. Please join us in prayer as we begin planning for the upcoming school year. If you were unable to attend our recent general parent meeting, we are asking parents to join with us in sharing with others the beauty and real value of a Carden education. As you see the

results with your children everyday; be vocal in promoting our school with your family, friends and business associates. Our goal is to fill our classes with more children who will have the opportunity to learn, grow and become strong Christian leaders.

As we look forward to the months ahead, let us always remember to thank God for His abundant blessings, for our wonderful children and families, our teachers and our school. "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1



## Third and Fourth Grade

Mrs. Owen

The cold and rainy days of February haven't chilled the spirits or enthusiasm of our intrepid third and fourth graders. They are all experiencing great satisfaction in seeing the many gains they have made in learning and improving study skills since the beginning of the year. Tasks they once looked upon as daunting are now being accomplished with ease. Cursive writing, math and science facts, spelling, language, and reading skills have greatly improved, helping build that excellent Carden foundation.

Third graders have almost completed their Carden third grade reading books and will soon begin reading the literature series "Sarah, Plain and Tall," by Patricia MacLachlan. Fourth graders have begun the classic "Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame and are enjoying learning about the animals which possess human characteristics, such as pompous Toad, and introverted Mole, and gregarious Rat. They are also enjoying the challenge of learning Greek Mythology in their Carden Graduation book.

We are continuing to build skill in spelling the Carden way. Each day we listen to the sounds that build our words and connect them with the appropriate "Carden Control." The words we are tackling are increasingly complex and the children are building vocabulary as well.

In math, the third graders are beginning to master long division and multiplying with double digits, and are completing increasingly difficult addition and subtraction problems. Fourth graders are progressing into fractions and more challenging word reasoning problems. Language has us considering nouns, verbs, prepositions, adjectives, adverbs, clauses, conjunctions of verbs, complete sentences, sentence fragments, and much more! Science leads the third graders into the world of the invertebrates, as fourth graders finish up on the study of plant life. History in fourth grade focuses completely on California studies, while the third graders are learning about early American heroes.

We celebrated St. Valentine's Day with a whole class Valentine exchange. It was a good reminder that Jesus commands us to

"love one another." Everyone enjoyed the sweet treats and sweet messages. Thanks to Jennifer Cooper and Cindy Kelley for their help in organizing this wonderful party, and to all the parents who provided the scrumptious treats which we so enjoyed. We appreciate all you do for us.

-Mrs. Owen-



Praise God for another great trimester in junior high!

Bible is a time of wonderful discussion, and building each other up in godliness. As I write this article, our eighth graders are studying purity. This is always a difficult topic to tackle. Fortunately, our eighth grade class is really open to seeking the Lord's direction in their Christian walk. I am thankful for their interest and hope that Carden has helped to establish a firm spiritual foundation that they can build on for the rest of their lives.

In seventh grade, we are currently focusing on joyfulness—a trait that comes quite naturally to the majority of our class! Thankfully, God gives us a number of gifts to focus on. Next we will be doing an in-depth study on self-control. Considering the nature of junior high students, I may decide to extend this unit!

In science, our seventh graders are learning about the human body. Maintaining classroom maturity during these lessons is like going through an immaturity minefield. Tiptoeing around topics with the greatest of ease is extremely important when covering the intricacies of *certain* systems.

Soon the seventh grade will be delving into the world of cells (both human and plant) and DNA, one of our most difficult units. When we marvel at the wonders of the finely woven fabric that makes up our genetic code, it is plain to see that there truly is a master programmer at work in each of our lives. Toward the end of the unit, our students will be creating edible cell models to share with the rest of the class. This day always proves to be a fun time, but sometimes I have difficulty telling little Bobby why his carrot cake cell with Cheese Whiz membrane, licorice cell wall, and open-faced taco nucleus isn't getting eaten as quickly as the other students' cells.

Our eighth graders are about to be introduced to the power of magnetism (though not the type that junior high students usually think about). Students will participate in a number of labs and will (hopefully) discover that magnets are all around us! Even our Earth is a giant magnet!

In U.S. History, the eighth grade class has the privilege of going where few eighth graders have gone before. Most classes stop with the Civil War, but we are already covering the Great War (World War I) and might even make it to World War II! The classic mixes with the contemporary as we study current events

and trace them back to happenings in history. Students need to know that U.S. History is relevant to America today, and thus significant in their everyday lives.

Here come the Math Olympics! We are thrilled to have thirty students representing Carden Christian Academy on March 7th at the ACSI Math Olympics at Forest Lake Christian School. We are hoping for another good showing. More importantly, we trust that this will be a valuable experience for budding mathematicians.

We are looking forward to another wonderful trimester. We pray that it is fruitful and meaningful for the eighth grade class of 2008. We wish them great future glory.

"Remember to look back fondly and reflect on God's past gifts to you."

-Mr. Chase-

## Junior High Math/Language/Literature

Greetings from Junior High!

This is a wonderful group of students this year; they are happy, motivated and fun to be around. I would like to welcome our new seventh grade student, Cody.

I would also like to thank the fantastic group of parents who have provided party food, coached our teams, driven on field trips, and helped out before even being asked - you have really blessed me and our students.

In English, both seventh and eighth grade students have begun to master the intricacies of grammar and are applying those skills to their outstanding writing assignments. The seventh grade students are writing children's stories to share with the younger children during our "Read-Read-A-Thon" week, while the eighth

grade students are tackling difficult issues like the death penalty and immigration in their persuasive essay writing. This is what makes my job so special - I have the privilege of watching these fine young people develop their critical thinking skills. The fifth and sixth grade language students are also working hard. They are the most enthusiastic class I have ever taught!

In Math 8/7 we are studying geometry and pre-algebra. The Saxon method does a great job of teaching math strategies for real life - need someone to calculate how much concrete you will need? The eighth grade is learning Adobe "Photoshop" as their elective. At Open House you will get a kick out of the student "portraits" they have created from snapshots. Those hair colors are definitely not "Carden approved."

Mrs.

Thank you for sharing your children with me.

In Christ's love,  
Mrs. Reed



## Pre-School

Mrs. Maurer & Mrs. Wilson

What is your favorite book? This pre-school class' favorite thing to do: read books! The four-year-old class has started Mary's Home and the three-year-old class finished their first section of rhythmic verses. Together we are reading Good Night Moon, The Runaway Bunny, and Ask Mr. Bear.

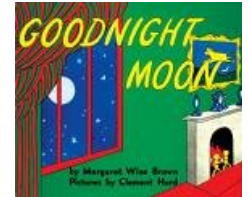
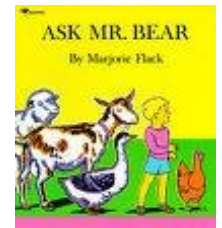
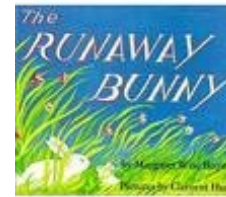
Wow—Jesus did so many amazing and great miracles. We are having fun learning all about the miracles and the lessons we can learn from them. We welcomed 2008 as we learned about winter, hibernation and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The best part about January was our field trip to the Sylvan Oaks Library. The librarian did a wonderful job reading to us—in fact we all want to go back again.

Did you see that groundhog on February 2nd? We did. Looks like six more weeks of winter

(that's what the news people said). Presidents' Day in February always gets me thinking about our special pair of heroes: Washington and Lincoln!

Thank you Moms, for the "Best" Valentine party on February 14th! February is also dental hygiene month and we learned how to take good care of our teeth.

We are looking forward to springing into the Spring season, St. Patrick's Day and Easter. We are working on learning our phone numbers and address—just in case we get lost!



## Kindergarten

Miss Niemi

Here we are, approaching the end of the second trimester and the kindergartners are growing so quickly! I am so proud of the progress they are making and the hard work they are accomplishing. The children are reading many lovely stories in our reading book, Joan. They are perfecting writing letters, numbers, words and names. Also, on Fridays, they are creating beautiful pieces of art with Mr. Panek.

We have many exciting events to look forward to in the near future. Open House is right around

the corner and I am excited to display the children's hard work for all to see. In early March we are going on a field trip to the Discovery Museum. Later in the spring, we will go on another field trip to Maidu Park to learn how the native Californians lived. I am excited for the students to experience all the learning and exploring we have planned for the rest of the year! I want to thank all my room parents for their help—you are all greatly

appreciated.  
-Miss Niemi-

## First Grade

Mrs. Petrissans

Wow—Spring is coming and our awesome first graders are blooming into some smart flowers. We have been working hard on our cursive writing and reading many fun and inspiring books. Our unit on sea life has been very educational and interesting. In science, we will soon be making coral, so be sure to ask your little scientist how it goes! Everyone is working so hard at

learning new math concepts like time and measurement, and we are getting ready to begin multiplication which will be very exciting!

The children are looking forward to sharing all of their hard work with their parents at Open House on Thursday, March 13th. I am so proud of their progress and know

you will be too.  
Happy Spring!  
-Mrs. Petrissans-

## Second Grade

Mrs. Hake

The second graders had a delightful trip to the Discovery Museum Planetarium on Thursday. The astronomer helped the children identify several constellations, as well as locate Mercury and Venus which are visible in our night sky this month. The children learned many other facts and were able to hold a three pound meteorite. We have finished our "Junior Book" (the first reader in the second grade) and are beginning the "Bluebird Book." It is a delightful story about a

bluebird family which relates the joys and sorrows of their life experiences. Reading thermometers, graphs, and counting money is a daily activity in math. However, multiplication has added new interest.

We appreciate and want to thank our drivers Mrs. Raffety and Mrs. Mello for taking time from their busy schedules to drive us

to the planetarium. Also, a special thanks to Mrs. McDonnell for providing the delicious treats on Valentines Day.

-Mrs. Hake-

## Fifth and Sixth

Mrs. Roberts

Winter in the fifth and sixth grade is...

- Volunteering as a class at the Sacramento Food Bank
- Sharing a Thanksgiving feast
- Singing in "Christmas on Gloria Street"
- Packing a backpack with supplies for a needy student
- Enjoying Christmas brunch in our classroom, prepared and served by our wonderful class parents
- Being reminded to "honor Christmas (in our hearts), and try to keep it all the year" when we saw the Sacramento Theatre Company's production of "A Christmas Carol"
- Hoping it doesn't rain at recess time
- Growing crystals and "stalactites" in science
- Writing essays on courage and creating our own stories
- Creating diorama book reports
- Learning about ancient China and Egypt
- Making ceramic leaves and drawing the human face with Mrs. Cheatham, art docent extraordinaire
- Discovering the rich culture of

Uganda when we saw children from the country performing in the "Spirit of Uganda" at the UC Davis Mondavi Center

- Using our Bible concordances to find verses about love
- Painting with watercolors

"Winter is a joyous time to celebrate in our class. It's time to let Winter fill us with joy, to laugh with friends. Winter is a magical time for me."

-William Stachniuk, 5th Grade-

## French & History

Madame Merz

Bonjour!

Our Mardi Gras celebration was très magnifique! Merci beaucoup to all the students for using their French to order.

I believe the name Mme. Merz has become the synonym for "all things French." Angelina in kindergarten accompanied Miss Niemi to a class birthday party earlier this month and noticed that Miss Niemi's navigation system in her car "speaks French!" When Miss Niemi asked Angelina what they should name the system, Angelina replied, "Madame Merz!"

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children. I love opening their eyes to a new culture.

I hope to see you at Open House in the French classroom.

-Mme. Merz-

## Music

Mrs.

"Irving Berlin has no place in American music—he is American music." -Jerome Kern-

In music classes this year, we are studying the life of this composer and his many contributions to 20th century music and theater. His career spanned half a century and gave us some of the most recognizable and enduring songs of all time.

Our children are enthusiastic about the songs they are learning, and will be performing in the spring program on June 13, 2008. Our program will be titled "A Salute to Irving Berlin." One of the songs on the program will be "God Bless America." It is a very special favorite among our children. As part of the grand finale, you, our audience, will be invited to join in singing the chorus. In the meantime, I am sure that any of our children will be happy to coach you on the words and tune. Our program will feature other Irving Berlin music ranging from comedic to sentimental.

On the evening of the program, which is also graduation for our eighth graders, our children have the honor of singing a special song during the ceremony, marking this milestone event for our graduates. The song they will sing is "I May Never Pass this Way Again." We are using the lyrics of the song to discuss in class the importance of doing nice things for others when we have the opportunity.

"I'll give my hand, I'll sing my song, I'll share my faith... I may never pass this way again."

-Mrs. Nary-

## Computer

Mrs. Wells

PLEASE BRING IN PICTURES, PICTURES, AND MORE PICTURES from this year's events. Time is running out for yearbook deadlines.....

We would love to see more of our children's smiling faces and candid photos of Pasta Feed, Mardi Gras, class parties, etc.

Please e-mail your pictures to: [cardenchristianacademy@comcast.net](mailto:cardenchristianacademy@comcast.net) or bring them in to the office as soon as you can. Thank you for your help in making this year's yearbook a successful one.

-Mrs. Wells-

