



# Knightly News

## From the Director

Mrs. Hass

Dear Carden Families,

Our students are hard at work as we head into the third trimester. The children are full of energy and enthusiasm – and that mood is contagious. Their eager and smiling faces give Carden Christian Academy its unique and inviting atmosphere.

As the director, I have the privilege of interacting with your children, from pre-school through eighth grade. The look of pride and accomplishment on their faces is priceless. In June, it will be time to say good-bye to our eighth graders. It will be bittersweet to see them go. Although we will

miss them, we know with confidence that they will be prepared to move on and be successful in high school.

Even though Carden Christian Academy is a small school, there are plenty of activities to offer our students. Currently, the basketball season just ended and the jr. high soccer season is just beginning. The third through eighth graders just participated in the A.C.S.I. Math Olympics, bringing home eight ribbons, and the International Country Fair is in the planning stages. The dedication of our staff and parents make all of these worthwhile activities possible for our children. It is amazing to think that

we have already passed the half way mark of this school year.

Registration information for the 2009-2010 school year was recently mailed. We thank God for each of you and appreciate your sacrifice, your help, and your encouragements. It is truly a blessing to work in partnership with you and to serve our Lord as we teach, guide, and protect your children.

*Mrs. Hass*

*“Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

## Fifth/Sixth Grade

Mrs. Owen

The overcast skies, cold weather, and occasional “torrential” downpours of the last few weeks haven’t diminished the positive dispositions of our hard-working fifth and sixth graders. Each student is encouraged to see how the skills that once seemed so difficult at the beginning of the year are now being accomplished with ease! I am amazed to observe such a tremendous growth (academic, social, emotional, and spiritual) in each student in our diverse, talented, and most certainly, personality-filled class! We are all learning so much together, and have come to really enjoy the feeling of being a part of a “Carden family” in our class this year.

We have some long-term assignments looming on the horizon for our class. Our fifth graders are preparing their first research report on a selected state in the U.S.A. Our sixth graders are writing a comprehensive research report on their country of choice; the report includes chapters involving the history of the country, geogra-

phy, government, culture, economy, etc. I’m sure the students will benefit from learning the fundamentals of writing research papers, as the process will help prepare them for excellence in junior high school and beyond.

In literature, we have all been enjoying “The Witch of Blackbird Pond”, a novel which takes us back to Puritan New England. The author depicts in rich description the lifestyles and beliefs which were such a part of the early Americans. This novel is very beneficial to our fifth graders who are studying this very subject in American history.

Sixth grade history has covered this trimester the ancient civilizations of India, China, and Egypt; our unit on the fascinating world of Egypt culminated in a field trip to the IMAX theatre to view a film on the “Mysteries of Egypt.” Other field trips we have recently enjoyed have been a visit to the Folsom History Museum and the State Capitol.

Both fifth and sixth grades are making huge strides in mathematics, and in early March, ten of our classmates competed in the ACSI Math Olympics held at Forest Lake Christian School. Marcela Bandala and Donnie Bacchi earned third and fourth place ribbons, respectively.

We celebrated Valentine’s Day with a whole class Valentine’s exchange. It was a good reminder that Jesus commands us to “love one another.” Thank you, Cindy Kelley, for planning our wonderful party, and for all you do for our class. You are a gift to us all.

In closing, as winter continues and we survive the gloomy skies and intermittent rain, we can be very grateful for our Lord’s protection and blessing. How fortunate we are to enjoy His love and grace each and every day.

*Mrs. Owen*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26	Open House
April 6-13	Easter Break
April 25	International Country Fair
May 29	End of Year Picnic
June 4	Spring Prog./ Graduation

## Pre-school

## Mrs. Maurer/Mrs. Gorney

4's:

Our class has been learning about opposites. We have been practicing counting to 100 and memorizing our phone numbers. Soon, we will start learning our addresses. In literature, we are moving along in "Mary's Home." One of our favorite activities to do in class is art. Recently, we experimented with shaving cream and paint mixed together. You should have seen the fun we were having!!! Also, thanks to a generous donation from the Rutan family, we have been having a great time with our Do-A-Dot Art! We look forward to many more exciting activities in the coming months.

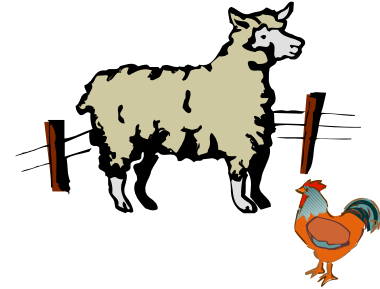
*Mrs. Maurer*

3's:

Our focus in poetry has been on farm animals and how much each farm mom loves her baby. The children had so much fun making their animals. We learned about and made a lamb, a calf, a chick, and a piglet. Each week, a new farm animal was added. In addition, our very own Moms created loving poems about their child. We are finishing up our math books and moving on to higher concepts such as: counting past ten, sorting, classifying, patterning, etc. We are continuing to practice saying the letters in our name and cutting with our scissors. The students are working so hard, and I am so proud of them. It is a joy to watch them grow more confident both in themselves

and in their abilities each week.

*Mrs. Gorney*



## Kindergarten

## Miss Niemi

The Carden Christian Academy's Kindergarten class is moving along quite nicely with their academics. They are reading every day in their book called "Joan". You may be hearing about Joan and her dog Duke and their little adventures at home. The children began reading single words and now they are reading entire sentences and short stories about Joan and her dog Duke. In math they have mastered writing their numbers and they are now adding and subtracting one and two from their numbers quite well. They can count easily to 100 and they are practicing counting by five's and ten's also. Every day we learn about God



during our "Scripture" time. They talk about the story and what it can mean for them in their lives. They have been learning some history too. We have been talking about Martin Luther King, Jr. and how important he was for equality. They are also learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington and our National Monuments such as the Lincoln Memorial and Mount Rushmore, in hopes they will be able to go on our D.C. Dreaming trip one day.

The Kindergarteners have many exciting activities and events coming up on the horizon. Open House is our next big event on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your families and friends to see all the hard work the Kindergarteners and the rest of the school have done this year. There will be all areas of

learning on display in the classroom, it is quite impressive. Our next activity is a field trip to see the play, *Pippi Longstocking*, on March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Crest Theater in Sacramento. We will be joining the first graders on their trip to experience the performing arts together. On April 25<sup>th</sup> we will be having our International Country Fair. The Kindergarteners have chosen the country of Ireland for our classroom. We will be re-creating the green countryside. If any one has any Irish posters, pictures, or artifacts that we may borrow for the fair please let us know. Please feel free to come see what's going on in our classroom anytime, their beautiful work is always on display.

*Miss Niemi*

## First Grade

## Mrs. Petrissans

Spring is springing in First Grade! We had a great time at our Presidential Valentine's Day party. The children did an amazing job constructing pretzel and peanut butter log cabins. Thank you so much to the parents who helped out.

Our class has been hard at work perfecting their cursive writing, and expanding their vocabulary with a multitude of reading opportunities. They have enjoyed mastering math facts with daily minute math quizzes. At times their rate of improvement has been so rapid that I think it even surprises them! It is really great to

witness.

We are just beginning a bug unit in Science. We'll be learning about all things creepy and crawly. You may have already heard about the worm encounter, this week we'll even get to taste some (gummy of course). We will soon have some new classmates (not children, unfortunately but we're praying for those too) from the Phylum Arthropoda-look for them at Open House!

Congratulations to the first grade class for completing the Blue Book! This is a

great accomplishment and you should be very proud! Let's not forget Math, where we are moving along very successfully as well.

The children are looking forward to sharing their hard work at Open House, and I can't wait to observe the joy and pride they will have when everyone is there to appreciate what they have accomplished!

*Mrs. Petrissans*

## Third/Fourth Grade

## Mrs. Henderson

The winter chill is in the air and the students are busy! Settling right into work after Christmas break we have been growing as learners and completing new and exciting projects!

The third graders are reading the *Sarah, Plain and Tall* series by Patricia MacLachlan and are learning to write in complete sentences and paragraphs, which they demonstrate on tests, quizzes, and in their literature notebooks. The fourth graders have just completed creating their very own kingdoms after reading *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. Not only did we enjoy the beloved tale of Narnia but we also enjoyed discussing the Christian symbolism. Fourth grade language brings new challenges as they are learning how to dia-

gram sentences, recognize subjects and predicates, and label verbs and helping verbs.

In math, the third graders are plugging away at long division and word problems, in addition to unit conversions and measurement. Fourth graders are learning about mixed fractions, reducing, adding, and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Upcoming in Science we look forward to learning about the rock cycle and all its components, including hands on experiments and visual aids.

Third grade American History is exciting with Mrs. Roberts, as the students are learning about the building blocks of America, focusing now on Noah Webster and

Daniel Boone! Mrs. Roberts also incorporated fun into learning, when the students had a Dictionary Party in honor of Noah Webster!

In fourth grade, as part of our study of California, we are concentrating on California Missions and those who founded them, as we begin our Mission Reports. We look forward to various fieldtrips surrounding our state's rich history.

Even though more than half of the year is over we anticipate all the new and exciting opportunities for learning. Thank you to all the families at Carden who have blessed our class with donations and time. It means so very much to me and to your children!

## Second Grade

## Mrs. Roberts

The second trimester has been busy in the second grade! We have been reading, reading, reading! The students have come so far in their word recognition, reading fluency, and cursive! We reached a milestone when we completed the foundational Carden *Yellow Book* and began the *Bluebird Book*.

We had some special activities this winter. In December, we (along with first grade) had an in-class presentation on "Reptiles, Mammals, and Birds" by a naturalist from the Effie Yeaw center. We learned to classify furry, feathered, and scaly creatures, compared animal skins and bones, and even saw a live snake and owl! In February, we read *The Ugly Duckling*



and then saw a creative adaptation of this classic tale in a play at the Magic Circle theatre.

On February 19th, the second grade celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. In addition to many other fun activities having to do with the number 100, students brainstormed 100 things they like about being in second grade at Carden Christian Academy. Here are some of their answers:

"Learning about animals!" -- Alyssa Black

"Our small class; learning about God. I like that the classroom looks nice!"

-- Jaime Escalante

"Drawing and science" -- Dylan Acoba

"The trip to the pumpkin patch and the nice teachers. I like that we are able to learn about Jesus." -- Jaime Mabbutt  
"I like the Bluebird book." -- Hunter Gomes  
"Math is fun!" -- Jahron Samuels  
"I like the people and learning about birds." -- Kiara Ingle  
"The books!" -- Hayley Smith  
"It's fun to learn about Bolivia" -- Melina Gagne Martinez

We've had a lot of fun in the second trimester of the year, and the second graders are showing how much they have gained in skills, stamina, and knowledge! We invite you to visit our "bluebird" classroom during open house on March 26th.

*Mrs. Roberts*

## Music

## Mrs. Nary

"There's gold in them thar hills!!" ...not exactly good English. Nevertheless, that was a common cry in 1849 when folks came west from all over the world to seek their fortunes in gold and silver. Our spring program this year will feature songs that tell the story and celebrate that historic movement. While retelling that piece of our unique western history, our program will feature songs like "How The West Was Won", an American folk song, "On The Banks of the Sacramento", and a new song composed for the sesquicentennial celebra-

tion of Virginia City, Nevada.

Our spring program will be at the end of the school year in conjunction with the eighth grade graduation. It is an honor for our younger students to be invited to sing at this milestone event. The song we will sing for the graduation is "Come Follow Me." The words are God's invitation to us to "Follow Him" in our journey through life. The lyrics tell us of His promise to "see us through" and together, with Him, "there is so much that we can do."

**Please be sure that this important date is on your calendars:  
Spring Program and Graduation  
June 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.**

*Mrs. Nary*



## Eighth Grade

Mrs. Emmett

Just as the much-needed rain soaks into and nourishes the ready soil, so knowledge and learning nourish and infuse the fertile minds of our Carden junior high students. I find myself thanking the Lord daily for the hunger and thirst for knowledge and truth that possesses our young men and women, for such desires are truly blessings. It is my pleasure to report that each and every junior high student is "blossoming" well - their interest in learning makes teaching not just a calling, but a true delight!

In a wonderfully inspiring turn, it would seem that the Christmas break has not dampened my students' enthusiasm, but rather encouraged them to stay the distance. The eighth grade literature class has laughed and cried with Ebenezer Scrooge as we learned the valuable lessons of love and giving that only Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* can teach. We have recently begun *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and have already fallen in love with the irrepressible Tom, the mischievous Huck, the lovely Becky, and the hapless Muff Potter. As we enjoy Tom's antics, we also learn valuable lessons about the importance of following God's commandments, no matter what the occasion. On the seventh grade front, we have enjoyed the novella *Winter*

*Thunder*, a brief story about a teacher whose class is trapped in a blizzard. We have continued on this "cold front" with a classic piece of literature: *The Call of the Wild*. As we roam the frozen Northlands with Buck the sled dog, we are learning about the "law of club and fang" and the necessity of God's love to survive the challenges doled out by life. In language, the seventh grade has finished up a unit on nouns and has embarked on the (seeming) mystery that is adjectives. In eighth grade, we have vanquished the challenge of verbs, and have moved onwards to the intricacies of nouns. In both classes, I am delighted to report enthusiasm, inquisitiveness, and determination to master truly the English language.

On more historical matters, the eighth graders have progressed from the events leading up to and surrounding the Revolutionary War all the way up to our nation's first two presidents! We are currently wrapping up our lessons about the Constitution; it has been a marvel to see the students' comprehension of how this document's ideas actually play out in real life. As we ready ourselves to move to our third president and beyond, we are constantly

amazed by the greatness God has bestowed upon the United States of America.

In addition to their academic pursuits, the junior high sensibly has been tempering their work with a little bit of play! In December, we were privileged to attend a rollicking performance of "A Christmas Carol," which was enjoyed by all. The department also recently celebrated Valentine's Day with a trip to the ice skating rink and Leatherby's - it was a joy to see the students enjoying some quality fellowship with each other. Our thanks go out to all the wonderful parents who made these trips possible. The junior high department was also privileged with our recent participation in the 2009 St. Francis Art Show. The top three winners in the Carden division were as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> - McKayla Beavers, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jack Vaughn, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - Shaila Furtado. In addition, McKayla Beavers also won the coveted title of "Best of Show," winning a summer scholarship to St. Francis' art program. We are exceedingly proud of all our students who participated - they truly have demonstrated the excellence we aspire to at Carden Christian Academy! I look forward to witnessing more triumphs in the months to come. Until next time, in the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one!"

## Seventh Grade

Mr. Chase

God has truly blessed us with another wonderful trimester at Carden Christian Academy! Over the last three months, we have delved into the world of cells, and found them to be gross, fascinating and confusing, in equal measures; we have had the opportunity to study the structural integrity of gingerbread and the adhesive power of frosting while creating mini-houses (our Christmas party); and we have added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided, until we could no longer tell the difference between our A,B,C's and our 1,2,3's, all to prepare ourselves for the ACSI Math Olympics on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Paul admonishes the Philippians to "Do everything without complaining or arguing..." (Philippians 2:14). In Bible, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are learning to put that simple command into action as we study the controlled speech chapter in our Character Quest Book. Mrs. Emmett and I have teamed up to grade each student this week on their daily speech. We have encouraged kindness and gentleness, and have discouraged sarcasm, rudeness, and speaking out of turn. At the end of the day, each student receives a controlled speech point total. The experiment has been a mixed blessing, as a few of the students have taken

to blurting out, "GOOD JOB!" to every person in the class, calling me "the best teacher in the world" and eyeing me carefully to see if I give them a positive mark, and telling others how wonderful they are in very creative (though perhaps not entirely sincere) ways. Yet, despite the silliness, this is a class filled with students who are growing in the Lord daily, and who truly have a lot of love to offer this world and to each other. The class of 2009 will be missed when they go their separate ways!

Seventh grade Bible has been a story of projects, projects, and more projects! We have been studying thankfulness, and have populated our own Thankfulness Island, with all of the people, possessions, and intangibles (like faith, our health, etc.) that we just could not live without. None of us would desire to be voted off of this island! While we are on the topic of thankfulness, I must gush: I am so thankful for the faith of these students! The vast majority of them truly desire the things of God. They are even working on starting a Bible study (actually two, as they are going to break up by gender). The Lord calls each of us by name, and I am thankful that so many

Carden students are answering that call.

Science has been an adventure this last trimester! The seventh grade has been investigating cells and the human body. There have been a number of snickers and guffaws over interesting internal organs, but for the most part, it has been a very worthwhile, very mature experience. Also, studying DNA really has been a convincing proof that we are not just products of time and chance, but that we were truly created by an amazing God. The eighth grade science class has been introduced to the crazy, exciting, and sometimes frustrating world of physics. Fusing math and science together to study simple machines, Newton's laws of motion, and the acceleration of gravity has been a fun challenge, as students have participated in labs where they were able to drop things, watch me blow up balloons, and generally cause mayhem in the name of science. Doesn't that sound fun?

We are looking forward to finishing the year strong, and sending our class of 2009 out with a bang!

Mr. Chase