



Knighly News

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From the Director Mrs. Rash

God has blessed us in so many ways. Where else can you find such a place as Carden Christian Academy? I watch our dedicated teachers and staff each day teaching and training and loving our children. I am in awe at their deep level of commitment to provide the absolute best in education. I also have the pleasure of spending time daily with our students, and as I do, I realize that the children at Carden Christian Academy are very special. They are learning to become students of integrity and character. I have been told that Carden Christian Academy is "Sacramento's best kept secret". Parents, please partner with us in promoting the school. Word of mouth is our most effective tool in marketing. Let's work together to fill our classrooms. That way, many other children would have the opportunity to benefit from a "Carden" education.

Did you have the chance to attend The Harvest Festival? It was absolutely wonderful! As I watched the children laughing and playing, I realized what a special place Carden Christian Academy truly is. This enjoyable event could not have happened without the many hours of planning and preparation of our parents. Thank you especially to Libby Vincent and Tricia Peters who co-chaired this entire event.

Team ExSL is off to a fantastic start. The group recently spent an entire day at the ACSI Student Leadership Conference. They had the opportunity to share ideas with other schools as well as listen to some motivational speakers. I think they came back excited about the positive impact they can have at Carden. I am looking forward to seeing how God can use this group of young people at our school.

As you read through the Carden e-bulletins each week, you see that, even though CCA is a small school, there are plenty of activities to offer our students. Currently, elementary soccer celebrated their second place victory, the Blue Crew Spirit Team is active, (and has made it to Nationals) and the Christmas musical cast is rehearsing for what promises to be another wonderful program. The dedication of our staff and parents make all of these worthwhile activities possible for our children. If you are not receiving the e-bulletins, please stop by the office and drop off your email address.

Thank you to all who have participated in the fall fundraisers. The money raised goes directly back to our children. PTA has set their goals for the school year. Please plan on attending the next meeting so that you can be involved in the exciting things happening on campus.

Mrs. Rash

Second Grade Mrs. Hake

The nip of fall is in the air and our class is very busy with the daily routine. Our two new second graders, Joshua Roberts and May Coyne, are adapting beautifully and we are thrilled to have them!

We want to thank Mrs. Harvey, who has volunteered to be our room mother, for all the time and energy she will expend on behalf of the children.

Our next scheduled field trip is the morning of December 13. We have reservations at the Crest Theater for the play "A Christmas Carol."

It is a joy to teach this eager and enthusiastic class! I'm looking forward to sharing their progress and experiences with you.



How nice it was to be on campus subbing in first grade recently. It was like coming home. The children all looked so happy and the campus was so pretty.

With Warmest Regards,
Mrs. Billing

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Third Grade Mrs. Owen

Autumn breezes are relentlessly working around us in efforts to pluck the leaves from the trees, while our third graders are eagerly jumping into piles of new material. Fall is truly here, and we are all in the "Back to School" mode. We are settling into a productive routine and are moving full speed ahead in our studies.

We begin each day with Bible Study and have learned that God has always had a plan for us, beginning in the book of Genesis. The children are learning the importance of following Jesus and developing a deeper relationship with Him. We add to our class prayer journal daily and find encouragement when we look back to see how God has answered our prayers over time.

Spelling is a whole new world for our third graders; the

word list for each lesson has increased to fourteen, with new and increasingly complicated spelling rules introduced. Reading also opens new vistas for the class; they have learned so much about the bee, the ant, the spider, the mole and the beaver; all such industrious creatures, although not half as hard working as our students.

Math is so exciting, with the students conquering Roman Numerals, weights and measures, committing to memory the multiplication AND LONG DIVISION PROBLEMS. This subject is a favorite in our class! Our students also enjoy delving into the areas of history and science. They are increasingly adept at taking quizzes and tests, and we have quite a few "Junior Professors" on hand!

The Pumpkin Farm was our first field trip destination of the

year, and it was the proverbial "good time was had by all". Thank you to the parents who joined us. Next, we had a delightful Harvest Party planned by Mrs. Galbraith, complete with storytelling and art activities, and not to mention, delicious snacks. Later this month we will attend an American Theatre Production of "Alexander, and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day". Stay tuned for more fun and exciting field trips to follow . . .

Parent conferences are coming soon, and I look forward to meeting with each of you to share your child's academic progress thus far. What strides they have already made! There is truly no limit to what these youngsters can achieve scholastically and spiritually as God's plan for them unfolds in the months ahead.

Mrs. Owen

Fifth/Sixth Grade Mrs. Roberts

How blessed I am to have the opportunity to teach in this wonderful school community! The 5th and 6th grade class impresses me daily. Bright and inquisitive, our class overall shows a strong desire to excel. In addition to the new teacher (me!), we welcomed new students Aaron and Andrew Vasquez and Samuel Cordos to Carden this year.

Our first field trip this year was a very rewarding experience at the Sacramento Food Bank, where we helped prepare food boxes for the hungry, organize donated clothing for the clothing closet, prepare items for needy mothers in the Mother-Baby program, and separate crates of bottled water for the Food Bank's Thanksgiving Run fundraiser. The students' joy at being able to help made this a field trip to remember. Many students asked if we could go back!



We have also has a very artistic first trimester. We have taken a field trip to the Crocker Art Museum which included a docent-guided tour and watercolor workshop. In class, we have been emulating famous works of art through the Monart method developed by art teacher Mona Brooks. This guided drawing method teaches students to view drawing in terms of the elements of design: straight lines, curved lines, dots, etc. We also sculpted angels out of clay as an extension of the novel we're reading. The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. (In that novel, a statue of an angel, thought to be the work of Michelangelo, plays a very important role.)

We've also studied insects (5th grade science) and

our students were very enthusiastic about studying and classifying insects brought to class in bug catchers. Sixth grade has been doing a unit on plants, and enjoyed dissecting flowers to identify their parts. We have also been doing a lot of writing and delving into ancient civilizations (6th) and U.S. History with Madame Merz (5th).

I love our class' lively Bible discussions. Everyone is so eager to participate!

I am deeply grateful to the wonderful parents in the 5th/6th grade class, who have been incredibly supportive, helpful, and kind. Thank you for the warm welcome!

Mrs. Roberts

Kindergarten

Ms. Lorance

Is your child really in kindergarten—already? Just a few years ago, you saw him or her take those first wobbly steps while learning to walk. Now you wave good-bye every morning as he or she walks (in line-order, with “Carden arms”) toward the kindergarten classroom. Your child has come a long way since those first baby steps!

Now that your child is an official kindergartener, he or she is experiencing another kind of first steps—academically. Your kindergartener is making significant progress in a variety of subjects, including reading, writing, arithmetic, and Bible.

Just a few short weeks ago I saw your child’s eyes sparkle with excitement as he or she read a word—without help—for the first time. One kindergartener even leaped from his seat, jumped up and down and yelled “wooo-hooooo! I did it!” (And there

was great rejoicing around the group table!) Each day your child makes progress in our first reader. *I See*, and becomes more and more confident in sounding our two-vowel words.

Your kindergartener is learning to print the lowercase letters of the alphabet, beginning with the Eight “C’s” (the letters c, a, d, q, o, e, and s, which can be formed around the letter c). Your child is also learning to recognize and write numbers every week. During the first week of school, he or she wrote wobbly number ones; now your kindergartener writes numbers zero through ten with increasing neatness.

Each morning your child eagerly lifts a personal copy of My First Study Bible from his or her desk and walks quickly to the group table to participate in a Bible lesson. Your kindergartener finds the page in the Bible storybook, listens well and

turns pages appropriately as I read the story, and then retells the story in his or her own words while looking at the pictures. Bible time is the most exciting time of my day! Your child is a great storyteller!

As your kindergartener takes first steps academically, he or she progresses socially and artistically. Your child enjoys special art projects with Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Harvey, and looks forward to special activities—such as our recent field trips to the Pumpkin Farm. Thank you, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Mabbutt and Mrs. Peters for joining us on our first field trip and for helping us walk across the street. You are still helping your child take first steps! Your kindergartener will be off and running in no time!

Ms. Lorance

Fourth Grade

Mr. Chase

What an adventure! In the last trimester we have braved the high waters of the Sacramento River in a schooner ship, and sent postcards from Hawaii and Lake Tahoe (from the comforts of Carden). We’ve opened our own bug zoo and bug cemetery (subsequently shutting down the zoo because it nearly took over the entire class). We have been through a number of class pets, including two praying mantises, and a Jerusalem cricket (rest in peace Sand and Juicy—you will be missed).

We have made ships in a bot-

tle, decorated turkeys while wearing 30-gallon trash bags and sporting Krispy Kreme hats (I have pictures), and painted pumpkins using the wrong kind of paint (F.Y.I.—tempera paint does not work well on vegetables).

Luckily, the students and I share a passion for learning, especially for Science and Literature. It has been wonderful to witness their interest in our last book, *Old Yeller*. Likewise, reading to them has been an absolute joy. A teacher can ask for nothing more than students who are

eager to learn. And in that, God has richly blessed us.

In the next few months, the students will learn hand motions to help them remember crucial Bible verses, read the book *A Wrinkle in Time*, and come to have a passionate appreciation (we hope) for encyclopedias and written reports.

I am thankful for every adventure that God brings our way!

Mr. Chase

French

Mme. Merz

Bon tout le monde!

The beginning of the school year is always so exciting and full of promises. All the students are trying so hard to build new skills and retain the ones they learned last year. Each grade is progressing well learning self introduction,

numbers, colors, farm animals, telling time and reciting Nursery Rhymes in Kindergarten—third grade. Fourth—sixth have new French names, are able to answer questions like “What month is after janvier?” Bible verses are next.

The junior high is achieving

amazing accomplishments including learning “Le Notre Pere” in French.

What a fantastic year this will be!

Merci beaucoup for the opportunity to teach your children.

Mme. Merz

Music Mrs. Nary

Hallelujah

Webster's dictionary defines hallelujah as "a word used to express praise, joy or thanks." For several reasons hallelujah seems an appropriate title for this article.

Our children are learning to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from George Frederic Handel's The Messiah. It is thrilling to hear their beautiful young voices singing this wonderful, classic song that celebrates our "King of Kings . . . forever and ever."

In conjunction with The Messiah, we are studying the life of Mr. Handel. The children found it interesting that The Messiah, in its entirety was composed in 24 days. Listen for the performance of "The Hallelujah Chorus" at our Christmas program.

Hallelujah! I am very pleased to announce our Christmas musical The Legend of the Christmas King. A record number of children auditioned for parts in the play and each child was cast in a special role. In music classes we are busy learning the songs from the musical. It is a joy to hear the tunes being sung around the school grounds. Several parents have reported they are

getting previews of the music at home.

And now a Hallelujah for parents. Following is the answer to the question I am most frequently asked each year. **The costumes for the children in the chorus of our Christmas program grades kindergarten through six will be Biblical attire.** Christmas card pictures are a good resource for costume ideas. Children in the chorus will portray Bethlehem Townspeople. Please mark your calendars for the date of the Christmas program, Thursday December 7, 2006.

As we move into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, I am especially grateful for the gift of music as it is expressed by our children.

Music—a gift from Heaven, a gift we can give back to Heaven and, finally, a gift we can take with us to Heaven.

Hallelujah!

First Grade Mrs. Van Winkle

Our fabulous first graders are working hard in their Reading lessons on long vowel sounds, consonants blends, vocabulary words, sentence analysis and other comprehension activities. We enjoy/discuss and individually recite the weekly poems we memorize, developing public speaking skills. We are beginning to learn cursive writing. We are thrilled! Spelling—Wow! We just wrote six sentences from dictation! In Math we are learning—&+facts, constructing/using number lines and identifying numbers less than and greater than a given number. We are learning to count by dimes, nickels and pennies. We can tell time to hours and half hours. We are using the calendar to learn about days on a week and months in a year, seasons, weather and patterns. In Bible we are journeying through the Old Testament. We began with creation and are currently learning of King Saul, (not a good role model), and the close friendship between Saul's son, Jonathon, and David. We have learned about Johnny Appleseed, Christopher Columbus and the true story of Pocahontas. We are learning about Squanto, with the story of the Pilgrims soon to follow. In Science we have learned about trees—how they change during the seasons as well as how apples & pumpkins grow. We have studied the human skele-

ton and can identify many of the major bones. We have decorated our walls with autumn trees, fall leaf collages, wide-eyed owls, and pumpkins. Speaking of pumpkins, we had a fabulous time on our first field trip of the year to the Pumpkin Farm. Upon return we estimated and then measured the circumference of our pumpkins. We compared our estimations to our measurements. Mrs. Van Winkle was so very surprised to see how close our estimates were! Calvin's estimation was exact! As you can see, in 1st grade, we have "fallen in love with learning" just as Mrs. Van Winkle has fallen in love with 1st grade. Each individual face and personality has become precious to me and they are precious as a class. I am sad to let them go, but know that they are in very competent hands with Mrs. Hake—who seems to be everyone's favorite teacher.

Mrs. Van Winkle



Seventh/Eighth Grade Mrs. Reed

2006-2007 is going to be a great year! I am so excited to be spending my fifth year at Carden – especially with our new building and beautifully landscaped grounds. God has blessed me with the most wonderful class of seventh and eighth grade students, including our new students, Danny Cordos (8th), and Trevor Rand (7th). This group of impressive young people positively challenges and encourages one another to do their personal best in every endeavor.

In Literature we have finished the Outsiders, a book about adolescent issues in the '60s. The students loved the book and gained an excellent perspective

on gangs, peer pressure and the consequences of poor choices. This blends nicely with our Bible program, *Character Quest* because together, we are searching for God's Truth in our personal choices. I feel so fortunate to be able to teach a Christian curriculum and hope that our students will take these values with them as they graduate and move on to high school.

For our elective, the students are studying and practicing photography while beginning to work on a DVD yearbook. They have been busily photographing their favorite subjects – the younger children on campus.

We have many field trips scheduled this year, including a trip to Alcatraz, *Romeo & Juliet*, the Planetarium and a week-long science camp near Bodega Bay.

Finally, I am thrilled to be teaching 4th and 5th grade math this year. Everyone is working hard and making the transformation from primary arithmetic to upper school mathematics. It is amazing to watch their brains blossom.

Thank you for sharing your children with me.

Mrs. Reed