



Volume 28, Issue 1

November 2008

CARDEN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Knighly News

From the Director

Dear Carden Families

Another school year is well under way and God has again blessed us with many wonderful new students and staff members. The students are eagerly learning, and are already mastering new subject areas. I am enjoying the pleasure of spending time each day with your children, and as I do, I know that the students at Carden Christian Academy are very special. They are growing into children of strong Christian character and integrity.

Have you noticed our newly remodeled pre-school playground? The labor and materials were donated by one of our Carden families, the Rafefy's. We are very thankful for the generosity of the Rafefy's and so many others who have blessed our school, especially Kim Harvey and Leslie Mabbutt who worked tirelessly on the Pasta Feed

and Auction in September.

Team ExSL is off to a great start. They recently spent an entire day at the ACSI Student Leadership Conference in Modesto. They had the opportunity to share ideas with student leaders from several other schools, as well as listen to a presentation from Jim Jessup of William Jessup University. They also organized the recent chapel with our own Mr. Chase as the speaker.

Rehearsals are currently underway for the Christmas musical "Silent Night, Holy Night," which promises to be another inspiring program. The dedication of our parents and staff make all of these special activities possible for our children. Please note the date change to Wednesday evening on December 10th. The program will be at Bayside of Citrus Heights (formerly Sylvan Oaks Christian Church), located at 6540 Sylvan Road.

Mrs. Hass

We hope you will join us in sharing our blessings by participating in the canned food drive to benefit local families in need.

I am looking forward to the months ahead, as we strive to bring glory to God as we teach and guide the students that you have entrusted to our care.

Many Blessings
Mrs. Hass

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Colossians 1:2-3

Kindergarten

The Carden Christian Academy kindergarten class of 2008-2009 has been busy as bees this fall trimester. The beginning of the school year was very enjoyable getting to know one another in class. We have been learning our letters, sounds, and numbers and getting quite good at them. We have a monthly book reading contest in our class and I'm happy to report that our kindergarteners read 273 books in September! What an accomplishment.

October started out on a great note with a lovely field trip to the Pumpkin Farm across the

street from our school. We are moving along with reading and writing. We are writing our numbers, our eight c's (c, a, d, g, q, o, e, s) and our names quite well. We are also reading using the two-vowel rule and putting sounds together. We had a delightful harvest party where we decorated pumpkin cookies, colored turkey place-mats and had fun designs painted on our cheeks and hands.

November has been a busy month while we keep learning and get ready for the holidays. We have also welcomed two new students to our class: Em-

Miss Niemi

maRose Cook and Olivia Redmond.

In early December we have another field trip to the Granite Bay Art Center. There we will make some beautiful gifts to give to our families as Christmas presents.

I am very proud of the progress our class is making and I'm looking forward to a wonderful 2008-2009 school year!

Miss Niemi

Second Grade

Mrs. Roberts

As of the writing of this newsletter, we have been in school over 45 days! We are keeping track in second grade because we are planning to celebrate the 100th day of school (while learning about place value at the same time).

This year we are so happy to have two new students who joined our class: Jaime Escalante and Melina Martinez-Gagne!

In second grade, a high priority is developing students' emerging reading skills. We have been practicing comprehension, the rhythm of reading, and the Carden phonics chart using the

Carden "yellow book" reader. "Reader's theatre" provides another experience in reading fluency and expression, as we practice reading the same script many times. We started out with *Crow's Potlach* and are now on *The Great Pollinators*. We also read leveled literature books so that each child can be challenged but not frustrated. It is so rewarding to see the students' growth in reading in such a short time!

In science, we started the year learning about botany. How do seeds develop into plants? What do plants need to

grow? We learned about the squash family of plants (including pumpkin) and also corn on our first field trip to the Pumpkin Farm. Our next topic is vertebrates.

In Bible, we are learning about key biblical figures, beginning with Moses and Joshua. We studied how God helped Moses with his fears, and how can we learn from his experience.

I am honored to be a part of this key year in the second grade students' education. We are going to have an amazing year together!

Pre-school

Mrs. Maurer/Mrs. Gorney

We have learned so much since September. "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See" and "Chicka, Chicka, Boom Boom" are our two favorite books. We know them from memory. During Bible we have started with the Old Testament in Genesis. We have learned about God's promises and how much He loves us and is always with us.

September, October, and now November are speeding by. We have learned so much: school rules, attitudes, French lessons, art and cooking projects.

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who joined us on our first field trip to the Pumpkin Farm. We have started our pumpkin project: cutting, scooping and cooking. We will make pumpkin cookies, bread, and of course,

pumpkin pie. We are getting ready for our "Stone Soup" day by learning the difference between fruits and vegetables.

The four year old class is working hard on mastering the *Language of the Blocks, Learning to Listen, Learning the Letters, and Learning the Numbers*.

Mrs. Maurer

The three year olds have been working hard at their lessons. They have been busy observing the world around them and learning so many new concepts. So far this year, they have memorized six poems, learned to recognize four differ-

ent shapes, practiced several letter sounds, finished one book, and worked on coloring side to side. Wow! They are keeping busy and working hard to do their very best. I am so proud of them.

On a side note, the children recently learned that a baby turkey is called a poult. I brought in several books about turkeys, and they had the best time looking at them and learning new facts about the fascinating creatures that God made. We look forward to sharing our new and upcoming experiences with all of our friends.

Mrs. Gorney

First Grade

Mrs. Petrissans

Happy Fall everyone! It has been a pleasure getting to know my class this first couple of months. They have been working very hard. It is fun to see the quick progress already in learning math, spelling and reading!

In science we have been learning about fingerprints and magnets, among other things. Right now we are studying the skeleton; the students do a great job recognizing the bones and how they connect together with different joints.

Coming up, we will be learning about animals and different species in our world. This will be accompanied by an in-class visit from a docent at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Mrs. Bickford has been teaching some great art techniques in her visits and the children are creating some beautiful pieces for their portfolios.

It hasn't been all work though; we had a great time at the Pumpkin Farm in October! Thank you to all the family

members who joined us to ensure a successful outing. It was interesting to learn about all of the different squashes and gourds, but the hay maze was hands-down the favorite.

As you can see, we have had a very exciting few months, and I am looking forward to a successful year of learning, sharing, exploring, and growing with God for each of my students!

Mrs. Petrissans

Third/Fourth Grade

Mrs. Henderson

The autumn chill is in the air (in the mornings anyway, it seems) and the third/fourth grade class is off to a great start this year! Since the first day of school I have observed a growth in self-determination, independence, and enthusiasm for learning from my lively students and it's only November!

The third graders look forward to relishing the last of the Carden reading book and delving into the *Sarah, Plain and Tall* series by Patricia MacLachlan. The fourth graders have just completed their adventures with Omri, Little Bear, and Boone as we have come to the end of *The Indian in the Cupboard*. In the weeks to come, we will be entering the magical land of Narnia as we step into reading *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. We are also working on the skill of creative writing using Chris VanAllsburg's intriguing works as an inspirational spring board to create our own stories.

In math, the third graders are practicing their times tables 0-12 as they sing along to a catchy mathematical tune; they are also using daily timed tests to ensure mastery. The third graders are also working on double digit division and unit conversions. Fourth graders are learning about basic fractions, multi-digit multiplication and division, and averaging – their most favorite! In our language curriculum we have been studying parts of speech, how to write a friendly and formal letter, and now we are on to use of the encyclopedia. Science allows the third graders to explore the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates and between mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish. Fourth graders have just completed their work on plant life and have begun the study of birds.

Third grade American History is exciting with Mrs. Roberts, as the students are learning about the colonization of

New England and the arrival of the Pilgrims! Mrs. Roberts brings the facts off the page and gives them life as the third graders reenact a play about Christopher Columbus!

In fourth grade, as part of our study of California, we are concentrating on European Explorers and their contributions and hard work which began our great state. On our recent highly anticipated field trip through Voyages of Rediscovery, we boarded a replica clipper ship, and took a step back in time and become explorers ourselves!

We are looking forward to the many celebrations and opportunities for learning we will have in abundance this year! Thank you to all the families at Carden who have made the first few months of school so wonderful and have made me feel so welcome!

Mrs. Henderson

Fifth/Sixth Grade

Mrs. Owen

September, the month of fresh beginnings, has quickly come and gone; the cooler autumn weather invigorates us to delve even deeper into that "back to the books" mode. Fifth and sixth graders are on the move, eager to demonstrate their academic successes and the joy that is to be found in learning. Relationships are being built as we strengthen old friendships and welcome new members to our class: Ha Yean Joo, Dylan Marino, Anissa Smith, and Jed Tolentino.

Our students are making great headway in spelling, reviewing the Carden controls and gaining proficiency on the word lists. We are preparing for the Sacramento Bee spelling contest in December and are hoping that one of our class members will represent our school at the thirteen county competition in February.

In language, our students can dissect simple sentences and have become quite adept at identifying verbs and subjects. They are also making great gains in punctuation and grammar. The students' first book reports have been completed, with another report

"looming on the horizon." I have been pleased with the writing skills demonstrated in the reports, and with the creativity displayed in the presentations. We have made much headway in our literature book, "Bud, not Buddy," an award winning book about an African American boy orphaned during the Depression. This novel gives the students a great opportunity to learn about life in the United States over seventy years ago, when living conditions were difficult and prejudice was prevalent. Our entire class seems to really enjoy mathematics, and they are all moving "full speed ahead." Some of our sixth graders are proficient enough to be grouped with Mr. Chase's seventh grade math class. I can't wait for our fifth and sixth graders to get ready for the Math Olympics early next year! Sixth grade science is taught by Mrs. Emmett, while Mrs. Rash teaches sixth grade history and fifth grade science. Madame Merz is the instructor for "American history." The students all seem to really enjoy going to other locations for their science and history

lessons.

In Bible we focus daily on the importance of following Jesus and developing a deeper relationship with him. We add to our class prayer journal daily, and we find encouragement when we look back to see how God has answered our prayers over time. We have already participated in three field trips this year, one to the Pumpkin Farm, another to the Magic Circle Theatre to see our own Danielle Caravella perform in an original play, "Writers of the Storm." Thank you to Mrs. Bacchi, Mrs. Haynes, and Mrs. Underwood for giving your time to help transport our children to and from the play. Our last field trip was to the Folsom History Museum in early November.

The Thanksgiving holiday will soon be upon us, and I wish each of you a very happy and memorable celebration. Our heartfelt thanks go to you for your support, your kind words, and your prayers. God bless each and every one of you.

Mrs. Owen

Seventh Grade Homeroom

Mr. Chase

It has been another amazing trimester at Carden Christian Academy! God has blessed us with a wonderful group of students. After knowing the students' names on the first day, I have been on my typical trek of forgetting each name, which will culminate in the spring when I will undoubtedly call them the names of members of my family and of people on TV.

The junior high really got off on the right foot this year. We had the privilege of attending a team building field trip at Sac State, where we played games, climbed ropes, jumped off of high places (with harnesses of course), blind folded each other, passed around furry stuffed animals, and had a grand time. This was book ended by discussion at Carden where we brought it all back to Jesus Christ, our Lord and the ultimate team player.

Science has been quite interesting. The seventh grade has learned about Sir Francis Bacon's scientific method, which is a series of steps we use in

every scientific experiment (the boys were upset to learn that "blow stuff up" was not included in Bacon's system). The eighth grade has been getting an education on the universe and how it relates to the Lord's goodness. Among many things, we've computed our weight on different planets (which went over really well with the girls), learned about elliptical orbits by making our own ellipses, and created cakes that looked like (but did not taste like) planets.

Bible is a constant blessing to me, as I see so much passion for the Lord in the eyes of my students. The 7th and 8th graders are both utilizing the Character Quest curriculum, where we learn about different character traits from a biblical point of view and how each trait relates to our lives. Seventh grade is completing one their parents' favorite (and one of their least favorite) projects, as students are graded by their parents on areas where they need to be more obedient (like "needs to clean her

room when asked" or "needs to stop using his sister as a recliner"). Eighth grade is currently working on forgiveness by considering who they need to forgive in their lives. If we forgive others, God will forgive us!

The students and I are very blessed to have Mrs. Emmett with us this year. Gifted with an infectious positive attitude and a passion for teaching, she has been a constant source of encouragement to the students as well as to me. The students just love having literature with her!

Overall, I'm most encouraged by the faithfulness of the Lord, and pray that the students come to understand that faithfulness. Even during these difficult economic times, God has been gracious to enable our little Christian school to endure.

Mr. Chase

Eighth Grade Homeroom

Mrs. Emmett

Greetings from the wacky, wonderful world of junior high! I am pleased to report that we have settled into the new school year with a passion and drive for learning that is beyond compare. The 2008-2009 junior high department began its time together with an amazing day-long retreat spent at the CSUS Challenge Course. During this retreat, the students learned to rely on and appreciate the virtues of teamwork, patience, grace, and joy in one another in entirely new ways. We extend our thanks to both the CSUS Challenge Course staff and to the parents whose chauffeuring services made our day both possible and unforgettable – without you, that day could not have happened!

On the academic front, both the seventh and eighth grade classes are greedily gobbling up their lessons in literature and language with a fervor of which I have yet to see the like! The eighth graders are currently wrapping up *The Giver*, an insightful work of

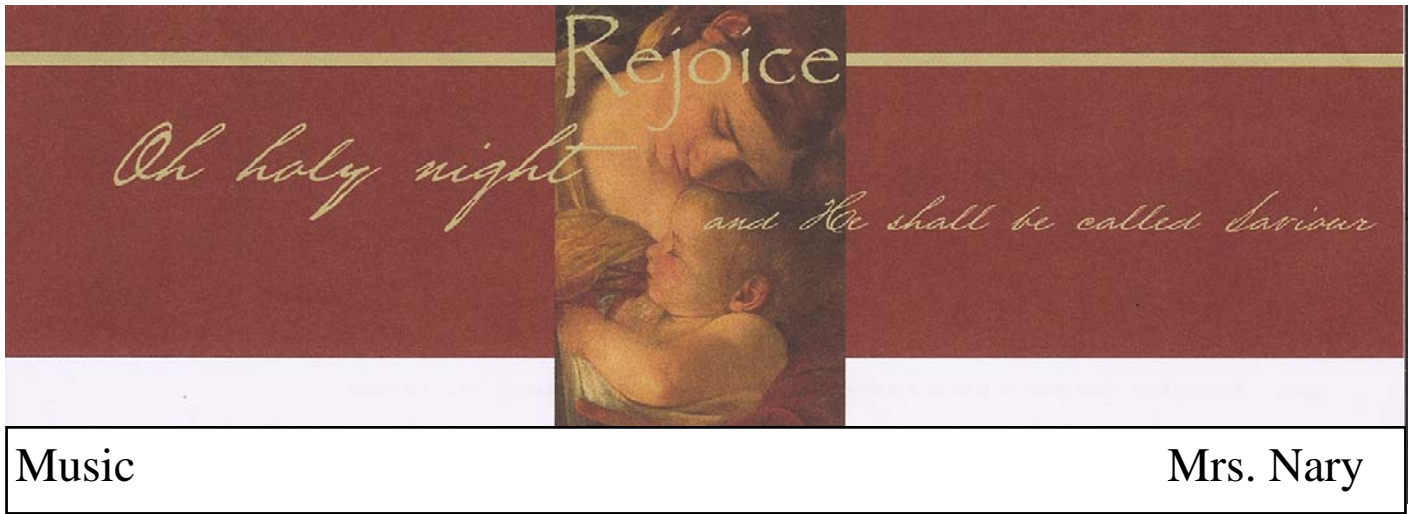
dystopian fiction that only impresses further upon us the necessity of God's guidance, love, and wisdom for the existence of a perfect society. The seventh graders are well on their way toward finishing up *The Outsiders*. From this book, we are learning many important lessons about social differences and the importance of loving one another as unique and valuable creations of God. In language, the seventh grade class is wrangling with the differences between linking and action verbs, while the eighth graders are dissecting the parts of the sentence. Both classes are demonstrating great dedication and hard work in their studies to master the intricacies of the English language.

Furthermore, the eighth graders are transferring that diligence to their studies of American history; we have progressed forward from the initial discovery and settlement of America all the way up to the establishment of the original thirteen colonies! In addition to reading all about these his-

toric events, we have also completed our "Mayflower Manifests" project, which allowed the eighth graders to imagine life as a Pilgrim preparing for a new life in a new world. With the creativity of these remarkable students, you can imagine what fun we had discussing all the possibilities!

In future news, both classes will soon be embarking on new works of literature, as well as continuing their studies in language and grammar. Eighth grade history has the Great Debate to look forward to, and the spelling bee will also be making a return this year! We enjoyed our recent field trip to the Pumpkin Farm and are looking forward to seeing the play "A Christmas Carol". I cannot wait to enjoy the months ahead with these fantastic young men and women of God. Blessings to all as we enter the holiday season!

Mrs. Emmett



In music classes we are very busy preparing for our Christmas program (which is right around the calendar corner). The program will be on Wednesday evening, December 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at Bayside of Citrus Heights Church. This is the same church (with a new name) where we have had our programs in previous years. All families and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

The title of our program is significant – “Silent Night, Holy Night.” Significant, because the program will tell the true story of how the song “Silent Night” came to be written in 1818. The inspiration for the words and tune resulted from what might have seemed an insurmountable problem and disappointment to the people of Oberndorf, Austria as they prepared for the Christmas Eve church service. The true story, and a lesson from our program, is that our problems are God’s opportunities to work miracles in our lives.

We have a wonderful cast, depicting the historic figures (including some mice). Other important characters, created from the imagination of the play’s author, demonstrate the fact that the song “Silent Night,” down through the ages, has been an inspiration for many, caused warring enemies to cease their hostilities, and has been a spiritual turning point for some who hear the song.

In the program, our children are townspeople in the town of Oberndorf, in the Austrian Alps. They are preparing for the Christmas Eve service which is to be a highlight of the year in the small town. The year is 1818 and therefore, costumes for the program should simulate attire of the 1800s. Pictures and some suggestions for clothing sources will be available in the school office.

My wish is that the experience of our Christmas program will be a special blessing for our children and for all who can be with us to experience the miracle of God’s gift of music, and of the one most “Holy Night” so long ago.

French **Mme. Merz**

Bonjour!

National French Week was an incredible week. *C’est fantastique!* I hope your children enjoyed their lessons and the fun activities.

Our next few months will include studies of Switzerland and France. We will study Christmas in both countries and a fun celebration that only takes place in Switzerland.

Merci beaucoup!

Mme. Merz

Upcoming Events

November 24-28*	Thanksgiving Break
December 8, 9	Christmas Program Rehearsals
December 10	Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m. Bayside of Citrus Heights 6540 Sylvan Road Citrus Heights
December 18	Minimum Day for k—8th
*November 24, 25, 26	Daycare available Pre-school open 8:00 am. - 6:00 pm

Costumes for the Christmas Program kindergarten—six grade

Setting for the program— A small town in Austria in the year 1818 during winter.

Girls: Long skirts or dresses (ankle length). High necks with long sleeves. Scoop necks are acceptable, bearing in mind modesty of the period and winter weather.

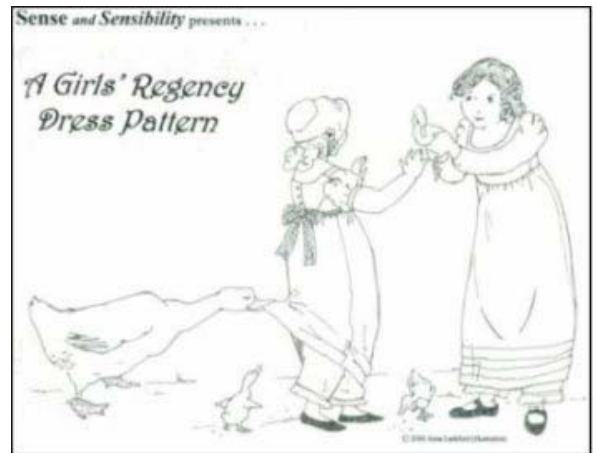
Boys: Dark slacks, with shirts that can be belted outside to give a blousy effect, or vests and jackets. No tee shirts.

Colors: Preferably solid and dark—no pastels.

Shoes: Girls and Boys: Boots preferred, or all black or all brown dress shoes. Please no tennis shoes unless they are solid black.

Note: I believe that costumes for the program can be assembled by mixing and matching clothes that are already in your closets at home. If not, I suggest shopping for suitable attire at a thrift store. There are several located in the vicinity of our school, and all have racks and racks of clothes at very reasonable prices. All Goodwill and Salvation Army thrift stores will have a 50% off sale the day after Thanksgiving.

Thank you for helping make our story of Silent Night authentic.



No crutches please.

