



**THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**  
**CARMAN TRAILS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**PARKWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**FEBRUARY-MARCH 2009**  
 DR. CHRISTEEN RAEKER, PRINCIPAL  
 BETH WENDLING, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
 PHONE (314) 415-6100

"TO REACH AND TEACH EACH STUDENT, ALL STUDENTS, EVERY DAY...TOGETHER"

**PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE:  
 OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND**

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 5**

Later this month you will receive a notice from your child's teacher with the date and time for your parent-teacher conference. Your child's 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester progress report will be reviewed at this meeting. Please notify teachers as soon as possible if you cannot make the scheduled appointment. We believe strongly in the power of partnership between home and school and have set a goal of 100% participation.

**NO-SCHOOL DATES IN FEB-MARCH**

February 13.....Records Day  
 February 16.....Presidents' Day  
 March 13, 16-20 ..... Spring Break



**PARKWAY PARENTS INVITED TO HELP**  
**"DESIGN THE FUTURE"**

The Parkway School District is undertaking an exciting strategic planning initiative called "Project Parkway: Designing the Future." Any district resident who is interested in serving on one of three long-range planning goal committees is invited to apply.

Under the direction of the Parkway Board of Education, these committees will review the district's progress and develop objectives as they design Parkway's future through 2015 and beyond.

Goal committees will focus on the following areas:  
 1) Academic achievement and student engagement;  
 2) Student safety, healthy behaviors and positive

relationships; and 3) High quality learning environments, technology and school finance. Applications and more details are available at [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/projectparkway](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/projectparkway) or call (314) 415-8070. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2009.

**HOW WILL OUR SNOW DAYS IMPACT THE**  
**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL?**

Now that Parkway has cancelled school for three days of inclement weather, **the last day of school is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 28. Students will attend for a half day.** If additional inclement weather days are needed, that date could change, and additional school days could be added. *Think Green!!*

**GENDER-SPECIFIC LEARNING AT**  
**CARMAN TRAILS:**  
**PARENT INFORMATION MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT 7:00 PM**

On Tuesday, February 10 there will be an informational meeting for all interested parents regarding gender-specific learning and single gender opportunities at Carman Trails. Dr. Raeker will describe the differences and similarities between male and female learners. We also want to hear your input regarding plans for single gender classrooms in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades for 2009-2010. Administrators, counselors, and teachers will be on hand to answer your questions.

**DR. RAEKER'S NEWSLETTER, PG. 2**  
**"TRUST AND OPPORTUNITY"**

Dear Friends and Families of Carman Trails,

**“The people, when rightly and fully trusted, will return the trust”** Abraham Lincoln



Trusting relationships between parents and teachers are a key component in student success. When you watch your daughter zip her coat, hoist her book bag and walk out the door, your heart goes with her. As your son boards the school bus, you want to believe that he will be kept safe, and that those who work with him will look past his active nature and seek ways for his talents to shine.

We greet your children as they arrive each day, hoping you know how much we care about their safety and success. With every interaction and each lesson taught; in our phone calls, e-mails, and conferences with you, we put our professional pride and reputation on the line. Teachers reflect deeply about the feedback received from parents, understanding that your trust is essential to our work.

In my roles as a teacher, administrator, parent, and grandparent, I've had an opportunity to experience the impact of trust and distrust from every perspective. Trust is not easily gained, and is so easily lost. **The surest route to mutual trust is to work side-by-side for a common purpose.** Carman Trails and Parkway have established multiple opportunities for that collaborative work to take place.

#### **During the month of January, alone:**

- Our school offered a workshop to support parents who volunteer in literacy learning.
- Another workshop was held to help parents understand Parkway's approach to math instruction.
- Two meetings have been scheduled to share our knowledge and listen to your ideas about gender specific learning.
- 261 parents participated in our "Bring Your Parents to School" event. Many of you had an opportunity to observe, first hand, what happens within our classrooms each day.
- A planning meeting was held for parents and teachers wishing to work together to create a "Spotlight on Success" event for our school.
- Parents and children are reading books together to prepare for the "Ladies Literature Club" and "Dads, Dudes and Other Guys" book club at our school.
- **Parkway will kick off "Project Parkway," a long-range planning effort that includes employees, parents, and community representatives.** (see p.1 for more information)

Of course no one can participate in all these activities. We offer many opportunities, hoping that you will find one that will work for your family. If you are not already doing so, I encourage you to explore one or more parent-teacher activities that fit your interests and schedule. If you have a different idea, we are always looking for new ways to collaborate. Thank you for your trust, and your willingness to work side-by-side on behalf of our students. The partnership we share is one of the reasons why Carman Trails is a great place to learn.

In Trust,

*Chris*

## Counselors' Corner

Starting when children are very young, most media use takes place in the home. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents can help their children make better use of the media by doing the following:

**Set limits.** Limit your children's use of TV, movies, and video and computer games to no more than 1 or 2 hours per day. Do not let your children watch TV while doing homework. Do not put a TV in your children's bedrooms.

**Plan what to watch.** Instead of flipping through channels, use a program guide and the TV ratings to help you and your children choose which shows to watch. Turn the TV on to watch the program and turn it off when it is over.

**Watch TV with your children.** Whenever possible, watch TV with your children and talk about what they see. If your children are very young, they may not be able to tell the difference between a show, a commercial, a cartoon, or real life. Be especially careful of "reality-based" programs. Most of these shows are not appropriate for children.

**Find the right message.** Some TV programs show people as stereotypes. If you see this, talk with your children about the real-life roles of women, the elderly, and people of other races.

**Help your children resist commercials.** When your children ask for things they see on TV, explain that the purpose of commercials is to make people want things they may not need.

**Look for quality children's videos and DVDs.** There are many quality videos and DVDs available for children. Check reviews before buying or renting programs or movies.

**Give other options.** Watching TV can become a habit for your children. Help them find other things to do like playing; reading; learning a hobby, a sport, an instrument, or an art; or spending time with family, friends, or neighbors.

**Set a good example.** As a role model, limiting your own TV viewing and choosing programs carefully will help your children do the same.

**Express your views.** When you like or do not like something you see on TV, make yourself heard. Stations, networks, and sponsors pay attention to letters from the public. If you think a commercial is misleading or inappropriately targeting children,

write down the product name, channel, and time you saw the commercial and describe your concerns.

**Get more information.** The following resources can provide you with more information about the proper role of TV in your children's lives: Public service groups publish newsletters that review programs and give tips on how to make TV safe for you and your child.

You can ask the parent organization at your child's school.

Parents of your child's friends and classmates can also be helpful. Talk with other parents and agree to enforce similar rules about TV viewing.

Respectfully,

**Anitra Bratcher, Counselor (Grades K, 2, 3, 5)  
415-6108**

**Shannon Hoelscher, Counselor (Grades 1, 4)  
415-6109**



## Specialists' Spotlight

### ESOL News

In ESOL 2, the third, fourth and fifth graders have recently been exploring aspects of the Chinese New Year as part of our emphasis on international cultures. Earlier in January, the students were learning more about Martin Luther King Jr. and why we celebrate his birthday, as a component of our curriculum which supports understanding of American history and culture. Prior to that, they followed an in-depth study of Native American history, including both North American, Central and South American

groups. This coincided with many of our own students' country's heritage as well.

In ESOL 1, the Kindergarteners have been working on stretching out sounds to write or read beginning books, in addition to learning more vocabulary in English. The first graders have made excellent progress with both reading and writing their own ideas in English. They are also improving in grammar and pronunciation. These students are very proud of how much English they have learned this year so far! The second graders are all independent writers. They are, overall, really stretching out sounds in unfamiliar words, and doing this type of "work" is helping them to read and write at a level we hope all second graders will attain. We have been emphasizing non-fiction in ESOL as a good way to really improve their knowledge of English concepts in history and science. Our fifth graders have also been learning about non-fiction topics in addition to studying English vocabulary related to math. Welcome to our newest students: Aime, in 4th grade, from Mexico, and Lydia, in first grade, from Ethiopia; we are so glad you are here!

**Kathryn Auclair, Linda Christley and Kim Lahr**

## **News From the Art Room**

Hello Carman Parents,

It is important to be a part of your child's learning and to do that through art is an essential way to equip yourself with the whys and whats of what art teachers teach. Our district has provided for you, via online resources, curriculum guidelines for which art teachers must follow. This year we have incorporated a set of vocabulary words per grade level that students should familiarize themselves with and what we talk about in art class. As you have noticed on the report cards there are specific objectives that we try to meet. The art world is changing and we are updating our ways to accommodate better learning. Please take a look at our online curriculum guide at under "Fine Arts" Courses by Area.

Fifth grade just finished up their lesson on George Caleb Bingham. Did you know he was considered a Missouri artist? Our next visit is going to be with Pablo Picasso.

Fourth grade was working on a wonderful opportunity to help children with cancer called the Red Thread Project.

We were able Lindsay Obermeyer come us about community and



They all to have and teach how we

are all linked together. For more information on the Red Thread Project visit:

[http://www.lbostudio.com/redthread/red\\_thread.html](http://www.lbostudio.com/redthread/red_thread.html)

Thank you parents for your help over the holidays. This project was funded by PTO – thank you. At the beginning of 2009, we traveled to Turkey and made Iznik Dishes. Our next stop is Greece and we will make wire sculptures. If you are ever wondering where we have gone or where we are, there is a world map in the cafeteria that documents our travels.

Parkway is sponsoring its first Gifted Art Summer Program. This program is only for those students entering fifth grade and have a passion for art. The process of choosing only four students was a difficult one for me. We have many gifted art students. The program coordinators will send out acceptance letters to those chosen. Those creative students will have a chance to demonstrate their art giftedness this summer July 13-24.

Third grade has really been concentrating on the principles of design, which are Balance, Emphasis, Contrast, Rhythm, Unity, and Proportion. If you get a chance check out our third grade hallway art bulletin board. Our third graders are great at proportion! Currently we are finishing our lesson on Balance. Ask you child if they were able to balance their shapes.

Second grade participated in the Picture the Music Contest. We are still waiting to hear if any of our students were accepted. If you remember Erin O'Brien's artwork was displayed in the Sheldon Art Gallery two years ago. We just finished a lesson on texture and how we can create our own.

First grade recently created a composition about what we like to do in the snow. We read *The Snowy Day* and learned about Ezra Jack Keats.

Kindergarten loves Piet Mondrian. He taught us about primary colors – red, yellow, and blue. These are important colors because without them we wouldn't be able to make the other colors. We created our own Mondrian pictures using horizontal and vertical lines. Then we colored with crayon, markers and painted our primary colors in the squares.

\*\*I need your help. Time has flown by so quickly this year. I am currently looking for a volunteer to help with bulletin boards once a month. I need help with matting artwork and set up for the up and coming art shows – South Regional Art Show and Queeny Park Art Show.

I will be teaching summer school this year. The two classes will be Clay Creations and Fiber Art. I look forward to having a full class!

We truly have a great community here at Carman Trails Elementary . I appreciate all that you do.

Your favorite art teacher,

**Amy Sampo**



## Nurse's Notes

Several of our students experienced sore throats during the month of January. A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Many reported strep throat infections after a visit to the doctor. What is strep throat? Streptococcal sore throat is a contagious infection. Symptoms may include fever, reddened sore throat, throat and tonsils may be swollen, tender enlarged lymph glands in the neck, and white spots on tonsils. Headache and/or nausea may also be present. Symptoms may be minimal or absent. Strep is transmitted by contact with respiratory droplets of infected person or carrier. The incubation period is short, usually 1 - 3 days. If your child develops these symptoms, please keep them home, notify your doctor and the school nurse. If strep is diagnosed, antibiotics will be prescribed by your physician. Children should not return to school until 24 hours after beginning antibiotic therapy, and until they are fever free. It is very important to complete all prescribed antibiotic therapy. If untreated, complications following streptococcal

infection may include rheumatic fever and kidney damage.

Do NOT administer aspirin or aspirin containing products to your child without the consent of your physician. Please call me for questions.

Here are some additional guidelines for NOT sending your child to school.

Do not send to school if your child has:

- a temperature of 100 degrees and above. Fever is an important symptom. Your child could be carrying something contagious. Keep student home until the temperature is less than 100 degrees for 24 hours, without the aid of a fever reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Advil.
- diarrhea and/or vomiting the night before or morning of school.
- coughing that kept child awake most of the night
- wheezing from asthma.
- rashes of unknown origin.

**Connie McCluskey, RN/BSN/CSN**  
**314-415-6110**

## Student Council

Student Council is sponsoring *Jump Rope for Heart*. All the students watched a short video about *Jump Rope for Heart* in their health classes. They will all be jumping during their P.E. classes, Feb. 9-13 for 60 minutes.

On February 6 we would like all students to wear red to honor the American Heart Association. If your child collected money for the American Heart Association, the envelopes are due back by February 13. Please return the envelopes to Sarah Rakers or Kim Lahr.

Please keep bringing in the **BOX TOPS for Education**.

Thank You,  
**Sarah Rakers and Kim Lahr**

## String Sensations

We look forward to the upcoming



spring concerts. All strings classes are making fine progress. Please see the web site for updated information. It is always my honor and privilege to be your child's strings teacher.

**2009 February and March  
String Concerts**  
<http://www.galaxystrings.com>

**Parkway Fourth Grade String Day-Saturday,  
February 7, 2009, Parkway Central High School,  
3:45 p.m.** All fourth grade string students are invited.

I can hardly wait to see Carman Trails fourth grade stringers with all the other fourth graders from other schools. We will have a grand time. Keep checking the web site for additional information.  
<http://www.galaxystrings.com>

**Parkway All-District Orchestra Rehearsal-  
Wednesday, March 25, 2009, Queeny Park, 4:00-  
5:45 p.m.** This is a required rehearsal for participation in the Parkway All-District Concert.

**Parkway All-District Orchestra Concert-Thursday,  
March 26, 2009, Queeny Park, 7:30 p.m.** This incredible concert is for fifth, eighth, and twelfth grades only.

## Carman Trails Carnival

One of the school's most favorite events is just weeks away....

Carman Trails Carnival  
**Saturday, Feb 28 11:00am-2:00 pm**  
Games, Prizes, Food, and Fun!



Lots of volunteers are needed to make it happen. Volunteers will receive 6 free game tickets for working a 1-1/2 hour shift. Two liter sodas are also needed for the Soda Toss, one of our most popular games. You may donate new bottles of soda beginning Feb 9th to the office in exchange for 2 tickets. Please attach your child's name and teacher to each bottle of soda donated.

Please contact Melinda Davis at [melindadavis37@hotmail.com](mailto:melindadavis37@hotmail.com) or Beth Speckman at [speckman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:speckman@sbcglobal.net) to help or for further information.

## Read Across America

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

Read Across America is a national event that celebrates Dr. Seuss and his birthday. This will be a school-wide event with several activities planned. Some of these activities may include: designing a favorite book cover, reading with a buddy class, and wearing red, white and black with a stove pipe hat (like the *Cat in the Hat*). Look for more information about our celebration at the end of February!

## Spirit of Excellence



Congratulations to the following students who will participate at the Spirit of Excellence evening.

Kennedey Douglass	4 <sup>th</sup> Miss Roper
Jordan Doyle	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mrs. Seddon
Taylor Grooms	4 <sup>th</sup> Mrs. Lynn
Eboni Jones	5 <sup>th</sup> Mrs. McGovern
Braxton McGee	4 <sup>th</sup> Mrs. Lynn
Lyndon McKay	5 <sup>th</sup> Miss Wiese
Evan Martin	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mrs. Seddon
Leasia Sanders	4 <sup>th</sup> Miss Roper
Kendall Smith	4 <sup>th</sup> Miss Roper
Sparkle Watson	5 <sup>th</sup> Miss Wiese

This event honors our African American students who have succeeded in academic excellence. We are very proud of you!

## Book & Toy Drive



The Carman Trails Kindergarten classes are sponsoring a Book and Toy drive for the St. Louis Children's Hospital. We are collecting new or gently used books, new or gently used DVDs, and new toys and stuffed animals. Toys and stuffed animals must be new for infection control reasons. The drive will begin on Monday, February

9<sup>th</sup> and end on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Containers for collecting the items will be located at the entrance of the school and in the hallway outside the kindergarten classrooms. For a detailed wish list please visit the St. Louis Children's Hospital website

<http://www.stlouischildrens.org/content/ourwishlistgiftsinkind.htm> . Please join us in filling these containers with many wonderful items for the children of Louis.

## Parkway Internet Safety Fair Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Please mark your calendars and save the date for the Parkway Internet Safety Fair on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 7:00-8:30 pm at South Middle School.

- **Keynote Speaker: Lt. Joe Laramie** of the Glendale Police Department and Director of Missouri's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
- **Booths and vendors** providing information on a variety of topics related to computer/internet use

## January Was Fantastic Recycling Month!



We had a fantastic paper recycling commission for the month of January. Our commission was more than double what we usually earn. Thanks so much to all our parents and staff who have made this such a success. Keep bringing up your paper, aluminum and clothing to the recycle bins.

## Welcome New Students

Please extend a warm Carman Trails' welcome to:

Aime Zamora                      4<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Lynn



## Scholastic Book Fair

The hours for the Book Fair are:

Monday, March 2        8:30 to 4:00  
Tuesday, March 3       8:30 to 4:00  
Wednesday, March 4   8:30 to 4:00  
Thursday, March 5     8:30 to 9:00

If you are able to volunteer for any of these dates, it would be most appreciated! Please call **Kristi Urbeck at 636-207-6933** to sign up for a time to help with the fair.

Please note: Students will not be shopping at the book fair during class time.

## Carman Trails' Expectations for Student Use of Personal Electronics



The following guidelines have been established to maintain a high quality learning environment, and protect the personal property of students at Carman Trails.

- Cell phones may not be brought to school, or on a school bus. There are phones in each classroom that students may use, with permission from the teacher.
- Hand held electronic games or DVD players, or any other personal video electronics may not be brought to school, or carried on the bus.
- Stereo headphones for listening to tapes, CD's or radio may be used, with permission from a teacher or administrator, for long bus rides. Students who bring such equipment to school must turn the item into the office for safekeeping when they arrive at school, and pick it up at the end of the day. No such equipment may be used during the school day, or on the playground. **Do not bring costly items, such iPods, to school.**

School personnel will not take time away from learning activities to track down missing electronic items.

## Attendance Line Reminder

### Summer School

Look for the large attachment in this newsletter showing the summer school sites. We will host summer school here at Carman Trails. The dates and times are Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00-noon. There will be a lot of great classes. Watch for the brochure that should come in your mail the last week of March.

Please remember to take a moment and call the **attendance line at (314) 415-6126** when you have a child who will not be in school due to illness, a doctor appointment, etc. This number is an answering machine in the school nurse's office, and you may call and leave your message at any time of the day or night. Thank you!

### IEP Tips and Techniques

Tuesday, February 24 (Rescheduled Time)  
7:00-9:00

Please join the Carman Connections group as we host an informational session led by Byron Koster, from the Missouri Protection and Advocacy Agency. Byron has a wealth of information and experience to help us support our children through the IEP process. There will be time for questions, and the opportunity to speak individually with Byron after the presentation. We encourage all of parents of children with IEPs, and those without that believe their child may need extra support to attend. Please RSVP to Melinda Davis at [melindadavis37@hotmail.com](mailto:melindadavis37@hotmail.com).

### Lost and Found

Please check the Lost and Found when you have a moment. There are many, many coats, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, lunch bags, etc. just waiting to be claimed.









