

Carbondale Attendance Center Parent Informer – December 2017

A Message from Mr. Flax – Three weeks! Three weeks! I can't believe we are looking at the Christmas Holidays in three weeks. The first semester is just flying by us. I made a list of activities that we have in the building, some for just staff and some for students and staff, for the remainder of the month. At this writing there are 43 meetings, concerts, ball games, and student trips before we break for the holidays. We are busy! I am sure there will be more things added to the calendar. We will do our best to communicate with you about what is happening. The first part of that communication is this newsletter every month. I hope you all have a great month, knowing that the weather is supposed to turn cold this next week.

Our Thanksgiving Meal Activity – I hope your children told you about the pre-Thanksgiving meal we had at school the day before school was dismissed that week. We heard lots of comments from students about sitting with students of other grades, how much food they were allowed, and lots of others. I know several pictures were taken and shared on the district's Facebook page. Lance Quilling, Gretta Hug, Maggie Mead, and Kristy Hamit were responsible for organizing the event. All the students and staff sitting formally at tables having interesting conversations was quite a sight to behold. Of course, not all students were as excited as most, but overall I think almost everyone enjoyed that lunch. I believe we will be doing that again later in the year as a semi-regular event.

Veteran's Day Assembly – On Friday, November 10, we celebrated our local veterans with our annual Veteran's Day Assembly. The afternoon event found us with a full gymnasium as our students and honored guests gathered. Six musical numbers offered tribute, and the guest speaker, Ms. Summer Walters, held our attention with her address. Thanks to Mr. Hug and Mrs. Hamit for their organization of the event. We were so glad to see many of our current and retired military folks here.

Halloween Parade Thanks – I want to take a quick line or two to thank our community businesses for their generosity to the students as we had our Halloween Parade through the streets of Carbondale. The students were so happy to show off their costumes on that snowy Halloween Day. Thank you all for your contributions to that fun day.

Activities Update – We are about to retire our fall sports for the semester. The girls' basketball team will have two games this upcoming week, Monday at home and Thursday at Iola. If you have a chance and any interest, it would be good to see a bunch of folks at the last home game. We begin home games at 4:15 with the 7th grade B-Team, and work our way through the 8th grade A-Team. The wrestling team wrapped up their season this past week. We will be hanging another league championship banner in the gym thanks to the wrestlers winning the league tournament held at Prairie View. Boys' basketball season will kick off the season with their first practice next Monday, December 11. Following that first practice, the coaches will hold a parent meeting beginning at 5:30 in the school lunchroom. I will send an alert to 7th and 8th grade parents sometime next week as a reminder.

Site Council –There will be a district-wide site council meeting this week, Wednesday, December 6. It will be held at the high school, and it begins at 6:00. I am inviting all parents and patrons to be a part of this meeting. As part of our district’s Strategic Plan, we are truly committed to hearing from you at these meetings. Please give this some thought. We will have a building site council meeting in second semester. I will send an alert and a notice in the Parent Informer the week previous to that meeting.

Students Out Of the Building – As mentioned previously, we have lots of activities going on in the next three weeks. I will try to get all of these below on the calendar items, but I did want to point out a couple here. On Friday, December 8 we have eight students joining Mr. Quilling in Kansas City at the annual Tuba Christmas. It is a great opportunity to showcase some of our student talent, and for those students to join others across the state in this performance. We had two students from CAC represent us today at the district Honor Band in Kansas City. Our entire fifth grade will be traveling to SAC later this month to read with the preschool students. The teachers selected this activity as a way to do some community service project with those who are beginning their educational experiences. It should be awesome! And also on Friday, December 8, the fourth graders will be headed to Topeka Performing Arts Center to see the annual production of The Nutcracker. I believe we have current students and former staff dancing in that ballet, so it will be good for the fourth graders to see. My whole point of this article is that we have students learning in many different venues and in many different ways. Not all of our learning takes place in the classroom, and I want to make sure the students have opportunities to learn and grow wherever they can. Teachers will make sure you are all aware that your children will be out of the building during the day.

Student Council – We have taken a different approach with the student council this year. Instead of limiting membership to elected representatives, all students who wish to participate in the student council are able. From that membership officers and committee heads were elected. They have managed several projects for the student body over the course of this first semester. The biggest undertaking so far was the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We were very appreciative of those of you who contributed, but even more excited that our students were able to help those in need. Students really learn that activity, and the spirit of that can impact students for their entire lives. They are also managing a building-wide recycling plan, and the members of student council do all the collecting of recyclables each Friday. The student council has two activities that they are kicking off this week. The student council will be selling candy canes to students before school. They are also sponsoring a door decorating contest throughout the school building. Both of these are very popular activities among the students and the staff. Mrs. Alicia Amborski is the sponsor for this large group of students, and she does a remarkable job organizing the students to make the activities successful.

Items for your Calendars: (I am always worried that I will leave a bunch off since we don’t have the paper calendar anymore. I am sure I did so in this list.☺ Please check the district website for a more complete list.)

12/4 Girls’ Basketball vs. Osawatomie at CAC 4:15

12/5 PTO Meeting at OAC 6:30

12/6 Lifetime Wellness Class to Jazzercise Center at 4 Corners 2nd Hour
12/6 District Site Council Meeting at SFTHS 6:00
12/7 Girls' Basketball at Iola 4:00
12/8 Tuba Christmas in KC 8:10 Departure
12/8 4th Grade to TPAC for The Nutcracker in the A.M.
12/11 Boys' Basketball Practice Begins; Parent Meeting at 5:30
12/13 BOE Meeting at SAC 6:00
12/13 Fifth Grade Musical at CAC Gym at 7:00
12/13 Kansas History Class to the State House
12/18 5th Grade to SAC to Read with Preschool Students
12/21 Christmas Sing! in Gym at 8:30 a.m.
12/21 End of First Semester – School Dismissed at Regular Time
Have you read to your child today? Have you read with your child today?

Something the children hear me say almost every day: Be kinder than you need to be; Everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.