

## Carbondale Attendance Center Parent Informer – November 2017

**A Message from Mr. Flax** – One quarter of the school year down, and it is so hard to believe that Thanksgiving is right around the corner. And who else was surprised that the forecast for Halloween had included snow. When I got back to Topeka after school yesterday I was amazed at the trees and grass. When the weather changes the leaves I try to notice the change each day on my drive. Well I had just started to notice the color in the trees and then that color is covered in white. It was a beautiful view. I am still taking the students outside at lunch time every chance we get. (They do have the option of staying in if we are going out for any extended time.) Please remind them to come to school dressed for the weather. I hope the month of November is one of good things for you and your family. Know that I am continually grateful for how your children impact my life every single day.

**Spirit Week** – Well, our Red Ribbon Week and Spirit Week activities were quite the hit. So many students and staff took advantage of the opportunity to dress up and share Charger spirit here, and there were tons of smiles and laughs shared throughout the week. I appreciate that you took the time to help your children celebrate this school. We did load several pictures from the week on the district Facebook page. Take a look, and enjoy the images that we got to live with all of last week. Thanks for encouraging your children to be active in their school.

**Veteran's Day Assembly** – Next Friday, November 10, we will be celebrating our local veterans with our annual Veteran's Day Assembly. The event will begin at 1:30 in the school gymnasium. We would like to invite all current and former military to attend with us, and ask that students (with your help) invite any of their family members that have served in the military to join us. The guest speaker this year will be Ms. Summer Walters. We hope to see many of our current and retired military folks here.

**Halloween Events** – What a great day we had to celebrate Halloween here at CAC! The weather was cold, but the students had a really good time parading in front of our junior high students and then down to the local business for some trick-or-treating. The staff mentioned how well the students did on the long trip, and I didn't have to deal with any discipline issues (which always makes a day better) from that event. We discussed in a meeting yesterday that we needed to do a better job letting you all know about the parade route and the event well in advance. Next year I am hoping it is publicized better for you all. And personally, I enjoyed that the end of the day had some snowy weather. It reminded me that fall is always a mixture of summer weather and winter weather. That is probably why it is my favorite season.

**Activities Update** – The late fall activities are well underway. Volleyball, football, and cross country are behind us, and girls' basketball and wrestling have begun. The basketball teams have lots of games in the next few weeks, and the wrestling schedule is full as well. I will have the pleasure of a fifth trip to Prairie View this year, as next week the girls play basketball there. ☺ For those who don't know, that is a long trip... We also have a very active FBLA. They are installing officers this week during a ceremony with the high school chapter coming over. StuCo is also

very active, having opened our student council to anyone who wanted to participate this year. They have already sold Boo Bags for Halloween, started the school recycling plan, and will be managing a food drive for the upcoming holidays. It is really awesome to have so many students active. They learn so much through their participation, and research bears it out that students who participate in school activities are better able to earn good grades and showcase leadership qualities in their roles. Please encourage your children to be active even through high school years.

**Book Fair** – Be looking for an attachment to this newsletter email for information about the Book Fair we are holding next week. Mrs. Michele Herren, our librarian, will be hosting students and families throughout the week. All books sold earn the building credit for books for our library. I appreciate Mrs. Herren making this happen this year. The Book Fair begins Monday.

### **A Couple of Reminders:**

**Calls Home to Change Plans** – We do not allow students to call home to ask you if they can change their plans for after school. We do check off lists for students getting on buses, and there just isn't time to alter those because students want to go to a friend's house rather than do what they are scheduled to do.

**Attendance** – We will never deny parents the right to take their children out of school, provided we don't have paperwork to say otherwise. However, unless a child is sick (or due to another of the state-approved excuses for absence) those absences are unexcused. Please read the district policy about what is and isn't excused as an absence.

**Recreation Basketball** – I am also sending with this email a link for information regarding grades 3-6 Youth Basketball. It will contain information about registration and other information. Mrs. Heather Kirby, a district teacher, is managing the program this year, and there will be games in a league comprised of teams from Osage City, Americus, Olpe, Council Grove, Mission Valley, Burlingame, Lyndon and SFT. I hope many of our younger students will participate. **SENSITIVE NOTE HERE:** I do not want any SFT student to not be able to participate due to not being able to pay the registration cost. Stop in at my office if you are in that situation and are comfortable visiting with me about that. It would be a private conversation, and it will be handled confidentially.

**Site Council** – We had a very small group of parents here for the first Site Council meeting of the year. I presented some questions/talking points to the group and got some great information from those present. I am going to send out some of those talking points to you via alert later this month, and I would be glad to have you respond with your personal thoughts about them. I desire to make this school and district an even better place for the students, their families, and the staff to spend their time. Be looking for that alert later in November.

**Items for your Calendars:** (I am always worried that I will leave a bunch off since we don't have the paper calendar anymore. 😊 Please check the district website for a more complete list.)

11/2 Basketball at Burlington 4:00  
11/2 FBLA Officer Installation 12:10  
11/3 Jr. High First Quarter Celebration  
11/4 Wrestling at Emporia 9:00  
11/6 Book Fair Begins (Through the 10<sup>th</sup> – See the Additional Attachment for Details.)  
11/6 Basketball at Prairie View 4:00  
11/7 PTO Meeting at SAC 6:30  
11/8 Breakfast and Books at CAC Library 7:00  
11/8 8<sup>th</sup> Grade to Second Generation Speakers Bureau in KC  
11/8 BOE Meeting at SAC 6:00  
11/8 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting for End-of-Year Party at CAC 6:00  
11/9 League Wrestling Tournament at Wellsville 3:30  
11/10 Veteran's Day Assembly in CAC Gym 1:00  
11/11 Wrestling Tournament at Silver Lake 8:15  
11/13 Basketball at Osawatomie 4:00  
11/14 Wrestling at Seaman 3:30  
11/15 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and Choir Concert in CAC Gym 7:00  
11/16 Wrestling at SFTHS 4:00  
11/16 Basketball vs. Wellsville here 4:15  
11/20 Basketball at Anderson County 4:00  
11/22 Thanksgiving Break  
11/27 Basketball at Wellsville 4:00  
11/28 Wrestling at Shawnee Heights 3:30  
11/29 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and Choir Concert in CAC Gym 7:00  
11/30 Basketball vs. Prairie View here 4:15

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.