

Communication

Good communication with your child's teacher is critical. However, keep in mind, the primary job of the teachers is to teach your children. This involves planning and preparation, assessment and providing feedback for your students on their work. While we believe communication to parents is a component of a good education, sometimes immediate response to dozens of e-mails each day takes time. Here are a few realities:

- The classroom environment does not allow teachers to check their e-mails regularly throughout the day. At Carson, I ask teachers to check at least three times during the day; before school, after school, and sometime during the day. (This could be lunch, recess or planning time)
- A teacher's response time is varied due to lesson planning, teacher trainings, meetings, illness, etc. A rule-of-thumb however at Carson is a teacher (principal) should get back to a parent w/in 48 hours. If you don't get an answer the same day, it doesn't mean you are being ignored. If it is an urgent matter, you should call the school.
- Think about the reason of your communication before you send it; what is your purpose. Sometimes you may just want to share information and your communication does not dictate a response. Sometimes you may be asking a question and it may require the teacher/principal to gather information. Sometimes if you are doing two-way communication, it is important to meet face-to-face rather than rely on e-mail.
- Communicating by e-mail leaves a lot of room for misunderstanding. Issues can often be resolved much faster and more effectively if people can hear each other's tone of voice and can respond immediately to questions or misinterpretations.

Rachel's Challenge

It was amazing to see some familiar faces last Tuesday at Blackwell for the adult Rachel's Challenge presentation. It was a very impactful presentation and now parents know exactly what we're trying to do here at school. If you missed it, ask your child about their version of the student assembly. Our kindness chains are growing at school! How can you help at home?

- Encourage little acts of kindness at home. (making cookies for a sick neighbor, making a card to make someone feel good, raking leaves for an older neighbor, donating their allowance to buy a new toy for a needy child) should be things that are not normally expected. Normal expectations would be to take out the trash, clean their room, etc.
- Talk about what kindness looks like, feels, while eating dinner.
- Encourage your child to write in a journal/computer journal.
- Talk about your child's goals; could be school goals or personal goals. How are they doing with their goals etc.
- Write thank you letters to local our Sammamish fire department, police department.
- Talk w/ your child about making a goal to meet 3-5 new people each week.
- Call a family member they don't get to see often.
- Open the door for someone at the grocery store.
- You and your child make a "care package" for a local nursing home, children's hospital.

Family Math Night

Our school family math night will be here in a few weeks; **Thursday, November 17th from 6:30-8:00** in our commons/gym. It is also the PTSA ice-cream social. The evening is for parents **AND** children, therefore all children in attendance must be with their family or under the guardianship of another family. Parents will participate with their children in fun math games at a variety of stations set up around the gym.

Principal Coffee

I will have a principal's coffee on Tuesday, November 1st at 9:00 AM in our school library. The topics will include: 5-6 transition to middle school and what that means for Rachel Carson students, MSP test scores, and other items parents wish to discuss. If you have a particular topic, please call or e-mail me ahead of time so I can prepare.

Lost & Found

How does someone lose their shoes?? We have boots in our lost and found and jackets w/ no name. Please come by and take a look, and please put your child's name on their clothes.

Quest

Students who are in grades 5 or 6 will attend Middle School next year and must apply to Middle School Quest. Applications are available from October 24-November 18th at 4:00 pm. You can go to www.lwsd.org/quest for more information.

2012 MSP Testing

The window for MSP testing next year for students in grades 3-6 will begin the second week of May and continue for a two week period. Some grade levels will NOT have that long of a time frame, but that is the "window" for testing. Teachers will release a more accurate testing schedule at the beginning of the year.

Important Dates

October 28- Vision /Hearing
November 9 – Picture Retake Day
November 11 – Veterans Day – No School
November 17th – Family Math Night
November 23- School out at 11:30
November 24 – No School- Thanksgiving
November 25- No School