

INDIAN NATION

Carlisle Local School District

Spring 2021

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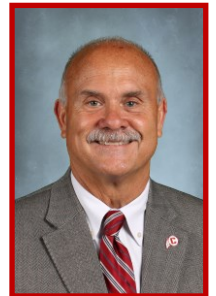
Website:
www.carlisleindians.org



Covid led to adaptations, but it could not stop us

By Dr. David Vail,
Superintendent

As we draw close to the 1-year anniversary of when the COVID-19 virus forced all of us to adapt to new routines, new expectations, and new procedures, we can hopefully look back and be amazed at all we accomplished since that day last March. We had to make a lot of sacrifices while we worked together to try to make sense of it all and to make it work. The students gave up a lot to end the year and as the year wound down, some things were done to help to recognize their achievements and accomplishments.



We had hoped that we would return to our regular routine and our normal way of life for this school year but when the time came, that was not to be. We made considerable compromises and adjustments to make it work as best as we could. It appears as if the end of this year might be a little different than what we experienced last year but still not where we would like to be but that remains to be seen. We make plans for what we would like to happen, and we make contingency plans, just in case.

We were able to salvage our fall and winter activities and seasons to some degree, which helped our students to feel more involved and be a part of what they have come to expect. Our students showed their resolve by following all of the restrictions and guidelines necessary to allow us to continue to offer these opportunities. We dealt with setbacks – quarantines canceling practices and games, limited fans, shortened seasons – but in the end, the students proved their resiliency and their commitment. We are hoping that with the better weather ahead and our being able to move outside, the conditions will be more favorable for continued activities and events while we get our spring underway.

Along with the end of the year comes many things that every school anticipates and holds in high regard as to the culmination of a year of hard

“Covid adaptations” continued on Page 2

Covid adaptations ...

... continued from Page 1

work and time spent. Whether it be group trips, prom, awards and scholarship ceremonies, or graduation, you can rest assured that the staff at Carlisle has nothing but the best interest of their students at the top of their priority list. We are working to put plans into place that take into account the possibility of having limited activities of this type but still retain the hope of having what we are used to having take place. We will continue to communicate any and all changes of plans of any type as quickly as we can.

We feel privileged that you have entrusted us with the most valuable commodity in our community – our youth. You have allowed us to remain open during this time, which we believe was the safest place for them but will also serve them well in the future, both academically and personally. To overcome obstacles and to continue to work toward one's goals are traits that will be an outcome of what we have endured that we did not anticipate but should certainly aspire to instill in our students. While it was not without its challenges, this year has shown us what teamwork, cooperation, flexibility, communication, and patience can help us face adversity, especially when we work together.

Please continue to keep the lines of communication open and active among parents, staff and students. We cannot address issues unless we know about them and we cannot expect others to know what we feel without our expressing ourselves. Do not hesitate to contact any staff member when there is a question or concern and do so by starting at the level where it can best be addressed. Most problems can be solved by working together on the solution.

Take care and stay well.

***Be sure to check out our
district website***

- www.carlisleindians.org -

***for updated information,
such as flyers on community events,
Covid-related information,
and more!***

School Nurse Notes

ATTENTION 6th GRADE PARENTS

The Ohio Department of Health is now requiring that your child receive a **Tdap** (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine **AND** the Meningococcal vaccine **prior to entering 7th grade**. If your child has already received this vaccine, please send in a copy of his/ her record so that we can update your child's record. For questions please call Rebecca Baker, RN at 937-746-8969 extension 242.

ATTENTION 11th GRADE PARENTS

The Ohio Department of Health is now requiring that your child receives a Meningococcal vaccine **prior to entering the 12th grade**. If they have had a meningococcal vaccine already it must have been administered after their 16th birthday to count as this requirement. If it was administered before the 16th birthday, a 2nd dose is required at this time.



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Quarantine After Vaccination

New guidance from the CDC indicates that individuals who are vaccinated and are a close contact of a case DO NOT need to quarantine granted they meet the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

For more information, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#phrecs>

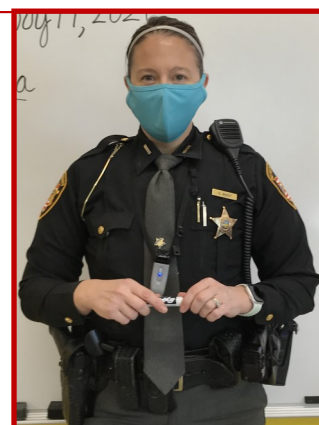
D.A.R.E. Program at Carlisle Elementary

By Jennifer Dearwester,
Carlisle Elementary Principal—grades 4-6

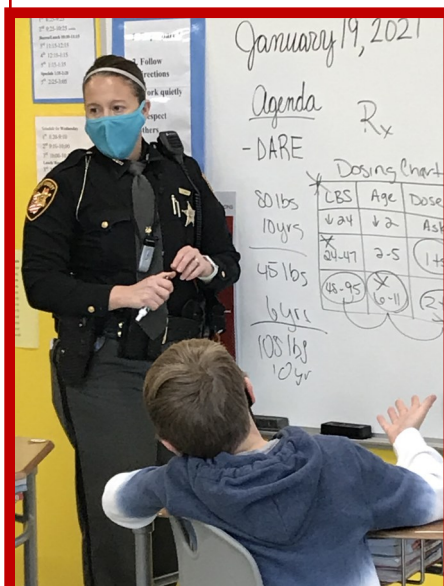
We are lucky to have the D.A.R.E. program return to Carlisle Elementary this school year. This program is instructed to 5th graders by Deputy McKay from the Warren County Sheriff's Office. She comes over a 12-week period every Tuesday and she just started after Winter Break. Deputy McKay has been teaching D.A.R.E. in Carlisle for seven years.

D.A.R.E. stands for "Drug Abuse Resistance Education" and was founded in 1983. This program gives the skills students need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. The D.A.R.E. Mission is to teach students good decision – making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives.

This definitely goes along with Carlisle Local Schools' mission that all students are respectful, responsible, and safe. We are fortunate to have Deputy McKay and the program in our school.



Deputy McKay



*Photos by
Tanya Wells*

Deputy McKay
from the
Warren County
Sheriff's
Office
heads up the
D.A.R.E.
program at
Carlisle
Elementary
School.

Food Service Updates from the Director

By Gail French,
Food Service Director

We are already halfway into the school year and it has been very busy here in the Carlisle cafeterias. Don't forget that breakfast at school is a great way to start the day and can make your morning go easier.

As winter is upon us, I wanted to share our delay policy with you. If school is delayed one hour, we will serve the students breakfast as we always do. If it is delayed two hours, the Jr./Sr. High school will have breakfast as usual. Elementary will be served breakfast on an individual basis, as requested, to eat in their room.

Remember that if your financial situation changes, you are welcome to fill out a new free and reduced form at any time during the school year. If you qualify, it can help with your school fees. Also, our staff has stayed relatively healthy and we appreciate your continued help by putting money on accounts for extras using EZPay.com or sending money in before lunch.

As always, we welcome questions you may have; just give us a call.

PTO offers support to Carlisle Elementary

By Andrea Neff,
Carlisle Elementary PTO President

Carlisle Elementary PTO has been busy helping our staff and students this year pandemic style! Even though routines and school looks a little different this year, they have been busy trying to keep student life as normal as possible.

This fall, the PTO purchased lanyards for all our students to help keep their masks clean and off surfaces during mask breaks. They also provided staff with “Welcome Back” bags, which included pandemic essentials like chapstick, gum, snacks, and mints. They also purchased additional outdoor recess items to help with social distancing and to provide fun while we anxiously waited for our new playground equipment to be built.

Students were excited for our in-person Fall Book Fair. Kids were able to shop in small groups and select their new books in-person or they could shop with their family from home.

Field trips are different this year, too. Since students are unable to leave the building, they’ve been working with the different grade levels to help purchase Virtual Field Trips. Third grade students were the first to attend a Virtual Field Trip to The Boonshoft Museum. Each student received a hands-on kit and worked with the instructor to complete their kit. They also watched some really cool experiments on the classroom SmartBoard.

The PTO also decided to host Santa Shop virtually this year. Students were able to purchase their family and friend Christmas gifts online and have them delivered in time for the holidays.

December also wouldn’t be the same without much-anticipated visitors! Santa brought a special friend along this year ... The Grinch! Although students couldn’t take pictures or tell Santa their wishes for the year, Santa brought every student a smile and small treat.

The PTO also helped teachers purchase craft supplies to make a holiday craft before winter break.

Before we know it, spring will be here and our students will be ready for the Spring Book Fair

and fundraiser.

Supporting our PTO through various fundraisers allows them to provide events like those mentioned in the article for our schools, as well as maintain their normal activities, such as monthly student rewards, Student of the Month certificates and prizes, assemblies through COSI and Mobile Ed, in addition to other teacher and principal requests.

Please watch for information coming home soon on our first fundraiser for this school year!



Submitted photos:

Santa & the Grinch stood outside waving to students in Mrs. Leah Pulskamp’s class.

The Grinch and Santa Claus were happy to come to Carlisle Elementary School to visit our wonderful students before winter break.



Carlisle High School perseveres despite Covid

By Dave Slamer,
Carlisle Jr./Sr. High School Principal—grades 9-12

We are in the midst of a very busy time at CHS. Our winter sports season is in full swing with wrestling, boys/girls' basketball, and swimming all participating. One thing that must be recognized during this time is the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of our staff and students. We have been one of very few schools that have been able to stay in school full time all year long. That would not have been possible without the work of our staff and the willingness to follow guidelines by our students. Staff and student have been through many ups and downs throughout this pandemic, but in the end we have continued to forge forward with a semblance of "normal" for everyone.

As of right now, we are still planning to have state testing this school year. All students, including those that opted for the virtual option, will be required to take any state test required of them. For test security purposes, any student on the virtual platform will be required to come into the school to take their state test(s). We will be reaching out to all virtual students to schedule a time for them to come into the building and take their test(s). We also have not been given any information to this point on whether or not the state will allow for grade exemptions on testing as they did last year.

We are looking forward to a strong push through the winter and into spring. We hope that we are beginning to turn the corner on the virus. We are still awaiting information from the state or county on events such as graduation and prom. At the moment it is our full intention to hold both of those events; however we are unsure exactly what they will look like. As soon as we can guidance on how we are allowed to carry those events out we will develop a plan and pass it onto all community members. As always, please feel free to stop in or call if you have any questions or concerns.

6th graders learn about finance with cookies

By Julie Lee,
6th Grade Social Studies Teacher

On Friday Jan. 15, the 6th grade social studies students studied personal finance, as well as learning about profit and loss.

Each student had a budget of \$25 to purchase rocks (chocolate chip cookies) as well as purchasing "tools." They could choose from a



flat toothpick, a round toothpick and/or a paper clip. The tools were used to "mine" for the chocolate chips. Each chip was worth \$3. They then had to calculate whether they made a profit or not. They added their expenses, and subtracted them from the money they made from the chips to determine their loss or profit. They ALL made a profit! Those cookies were loaded with chips!

They had a great time and quickly learned about making business decisions and how those decisions effect profit.



Springtime offers promise of exciting time for junior high students

By Dan Turner,
Carlisle Jr./Sr. High School Principal—grades 7-8

As we begin to look at the spring months, Carlisle Junior High School teachers are preparing for state testing in April and May. Currently, the Ohio Department of Education still plans on having school districts administer mandatory state tests. Carlisle Jr. High students will be taking the assessments online, as they have previously. More specific information will be provided closer to the testing dates.

One of the upcoming events in our closing months will be the annual Washington, D.C. trip. Classic Student Tours has graciously moved the dates of this year's 8th Grade D.C. trip from the middle of November until the end of May. This will allow our students to be able to visit and see our nation's capital. It will be a different trip for sure, having to follow all the necessary protocols to ensure everyone's safety and health. Mr. Brian Sprandel is excited to take students for the 16th year now and show them all the different buildings, monuments, and museums. He will be taking several teachers along with him to help chaperone the 85-90 students who are planning to attend.

Math and Science Day at Kings Island will be in May. Seventh & 8th grade students who earn an 87% or higher average over the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 9-weeks in both math and Science will receive an invitation to Math and Science Day at Kings Island. This annual trip is a great way for students to experience science and math concepts in action and have fun while learning! The tentative date for the trip is May 12, 2021. Please note: the trip itinerary is subject to change due to COVID restrictions that may occur.

Mrs. Heather Conger's 7th grade math classes and Mrs. Sara Ward's 6th grade math classes will be participating in a Mathathon fundraiser this March for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The students will be completing math Funbook problems and will be asking their friends and family to sponsor them in order to collect donations for St. Jude. Our school has been participating in this fundraiser for several years and has been able to donate a few thousand dollars over the years in order to assist the families who have children who are receiving treatments at St. Jude.

Primary students at the Elementary had a fun start to the winter months

By Mike Milner,
Carlisle Elementary Principal—grades PK-3

I wanted to use the district newsletter this quarter to share some learning activities and experiences (some unique) that our students have taken part in over the past several months.

In Kindergarten classes, students are working hard on word building, sight words, rhyming, and sentence writing. They are also working on decodable readers and learning new words. In math, students are working on addition and subtraction. Students are also focusing on 3-Dimensional shapes as well as 2-Dimensional shapes (including drawing 2-D shapes), attributes of shapes, and comparing and classifying numbers.

In November, our first graders learned about the voting process! They even participated in a mock election. After teaching the students about voting through books, a Scholastic News magazine, and classroom discussion, first grade teachers turned a small room into a "polling location." Each "precinct" (classroom) voted! The students made their choice on a ballot and placed it in a ballot box. Each classroom counted their votes and revealed the results. It was a great learning experience!

Second grade classes have been doing a variety of STEM activities in the classroom. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) engages students with hands-on investigations and encourages critical thinking and problem solving. This fall, students made toothpick towers with gummy candy to see how tall and sturdy they could make their structure. After winter break, we studied force and motion using marshmallow shooters and catapults.

During the second quarter, 3rd grade students learned about matter and forms of energy in science and local government in social studies. They also had a virtual field trip with The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, which sent materials to our students and led them in several hands-on activities to review the states of matter and demonstrate physical and chemical changes. of experiments to show chemical and physical changes on a larger scale. Carlisle's Mayor and Village Manager spoke to our students through Zoom about the structure of Carlisle's local government, their jobs, and answered students' questions.

As you can tell, the teachers and staff members at Carlisle Elementary are not letting the challenges of the pandemic stop our students from learning and growing in exciting and unique ways.