

Cougar Chronicle

Andrew Carnegie Elementary School
Marlene P. Heath, Principal

September 2010
Jean Pate, Assistant Principal

Dear Carnegie Families,

On behalf of the Andrew Carnegie School faculty and staff, welcome back! The start of a new school year never fails to bring with it a sense of excitement and promise of good things ahead.



It was wonderful to see everyone arriving on the first day of school with smiles on their faces and a spring in their step. The summer was clearly enjoyed, and the new school year has begun with enthusiasm. A very special welcome is extended to all of the students and families that are new to the Andrew Carnegie School community.

The staff did a wonderful job of preparing the school for opening on September 7th. Mr. Terry and his team had the building gleaming and the teachers ensured that classrooms were organized, bright and welcoming for students. Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a smooth opening!

Make sure your child attends school daily!

As the school year begins, help your child get into the habit of going to school every day. Research shows that missing school regularly can hurt both the students who miss class— *and* their classmates. When students miss school, they miss out on learning. When they return, they have to work harder to catch up. After a while, it gets more difficult to catch up, and then kids are even more likely to miss school. As a result, kids who miss school have lower levels of achievement throughout their school careers.

A decorative calendar for the month of September. The word "SEPTEMBER" is written in large, green, stylized letters across the top. Below it, the days of the week are listed in small boxes: SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY. The calendar is framed with a border of autumn leaves and pumpkins.

14	LSC, 6:00 p.m.
15	Back-To-School Night 5:30 General Meeting 6:00 Classroom Visits
24	Staff Only Day No Classes



Playground Supervision

Playground supervision does not begin until 8:15 a.m., and students are expected to leave for home immediately after school unless they are involved in an extra-curricular activity supervised by a teacher. The school cannot take responsibility for students who are left on their own before 8:15 am or after school is dismissed



Study finds three ways to help your child succeed in school

Parents want their children to do their best in school. But what works? A study by researchers at Indiana University found that children do better in the classroom when parents:

1. Are positive. You know that your child is sensitive to your emotions. Not surprisingly, the study found that to also be true for parents' attitudes about schoolwork. Parents who thought their child could do an assignment successfully had a child who believed that, too. In addition, the study found that encouragement from a parent led a child to be more motivated. Model positive attitudes, and your child will copy them.

2. Break it down. A long assignment can overwhelm your child. One of the easiest things you can do to help is to break that big task into smaller pieces. The study found that when children worked at a task they thought they could handle, they did better at it.

3. Teach the importance of a final check. One of the best habits to instill in your child is to look over his work before handing it in. Oops—he added when he should have subtracted. He wrote *their* instead of *there*. Correcting these minor mistakes can lead to a much better overall grade. In addition, the study found that children who were in the habit of checking over their work were more likely to volunteer to answer questions in class.

Visitors



Parents, please help us to ensure student safety by always using the main front doors to enter and exit the school. All parents and visitors to the school must report to the office upon arrival to sign in and pick up a badge to show students that you are a known visitor. When you leave the school, please return your badge to the office and sign out.

Teachers are not permitted to hold parent conferences after 8:55 a.m. or any time the children are present. Conferences held after 8:55 a.m. must be scheduled with the teacher during his/her break.

Important Forms

A package of forms will be sent home with each student. The package included Emergency Information Sheets, Lunch Applications, Walking Permission Slip and the Consent and Release Form. Your assistance in reviewing and completing and returning each item is appreciated.

Breakfast and Lunch Program

Beginning at 8:15 a.m., students are served breakfast. Lunch is \$2.25 (full price) or 40¢ (reduced price). Free breakfast and lunch is available for those who qualify.

Back-to-School Night

Please join us at Back-To-School Night on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be a general information meeting at 5:30 p.m. and parents will visit classroom beginning at 6:00 p.m. Parents, Back-To-School Night is an informational session for parents. This is not time for individual conferences. Make appointments with teachers if you need to schedule conferences.

Welcome New Staff Members

Ms. Nekia King, Pre-Kindergarten
Ms. Roseshetta Caffie, K/1
Ms. Alison Cunningham, 5
Ms. Vanessa Shackelford, Upper SpEd



The definition of cyber-bullying is when the Internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person. Cyber-bullying can be as simple as continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further



contact with the sender, but it may also include threats, sexual remarks, hate speech, ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact aimed at humiliation.

Cyber-bullies may disclose victims' personal data (e.g. real name, address, or schools) at websites or forums or may pose as the identity of a victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them. Some cyber-bullies may also send threatening and harassing emails and instant messages to the victims, while other post rumors or gossip and instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target.

Kids report being mean to each other, online, beginning as young as 2nd grade. According to research, boys initiate mean online activity earlier than girls do. However, by middle school, girls are more likely to engage in cyber bullying than boys do. Whether the bully is male or female, their purpose is to intentionally embarrass others, harass, intimidate, or make threats online to one another. This bullying occurs via email, text messaging, posts to blogs, and Web sites.

What can the school do?

The CPS Student Code of Conduct (SCC) lists cyber-bullying as a Group 5 Act of Inappropriate Behaviors. Section 5-14 states, "Hacking into the CPS Network or use of any computer or information technology device to stalk, harass, or otherwise intimidate others, to access student records or unauthorized information, and/or to otherwise cause a security hazard."

According the SCC Interventions and Consequences for Group 5 Inappropriate Behaviors, a student **shall** be suspended for five to ten days, and may be referred for expulsion and/or disciplinary reassignment.

Parents, the school can discipline for cyber-bullying not only during school hours, but after school and weekends, also.

So what can parents do?

- **Get involved and be aware**
 - Learn everything you can about information and communication technologies and how your child is using them. Talk to them about the places they go online and the activities that they are involved in.
 - Encourage your child to come to you if anybody says or does something that makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened. Stay calm and keep the lines of communication and trust open. If you “freak out” they won’t turn to you for help when they need it.

- **Take action if your daughter or son is being bullied online**
 - Watch out for signs that your child is being bullied online – a reluctance to use the computer or go to school may be an indication.
 - If the bullying is coming from a student at the same school, meet with school officials and ask for help in resolving the situation.
 - Report any incident of online harassment and physical threats to your local police and your Internet Service Provider (ISP).
 - If your child is bullied through a mobile phone, report the problem to your phone service provider. If it’s a persistent problem you can change the phone number.

- **Encourage your child to develop their own moral code so they will *choose* to behave ethically with the technologies**
 - Talk to them about responsible use. Teach them to never post or say anything that they wouldn’t want the whole world - including you - to see or read.
 - Work with them to create a contract or agreement with clear rules about ethical behavior.

Thank You

We received a much needed check for \$160.10 from the Take Charge of Education initiative. Take Charge of Education donations are accumulated when supporters of Carnegie make purchases using their REDcard. Target donates up to 1% of these purchases to the K-12 school they have designated. To learn more about Take Charge of Education, visit Target.com/tcoe.



Parents, please label your child’s belongings so they can be returned if they are lost. Tell your children to check with security immediately if they lose an item. The security guard will direct them to the Lost and Found locker, which is located east of the Main Office. Due to a lack of storage space, we will not be able to keep lost items for longer than a week.