



Stallion News

Carbon Valley Academy's Online Newsletter

February 2012

From Principal Gjellum's Desk

Parents,

Happy February. We are now entering into one of the shortest months of the year although this year not quite as short. We are on the road to spring; hopefully the Ground Hog will cooperate this year. With spring comes state testing....

This month, February 27th and 28th, our 3rd graders will participate in the Colorado Student Assessment Program (TCAP) for Grade 3 Reading. The remainder of the TCAP will take place beginning March 12th for grades 3–8 and continue until March 23rd. Like all TCAP assessments, this test is based on the Colorado model content standards which outline the high expectations of academic achievement at each grade level.

In preparation for the test, we ask that your son or daughter comes to school well rested and eager to do their very best on the test. The school will be serving breakfast to the students each morning of the test to ensure that they go into the testing environment well nourished. During this first round of testing, only 3rd grade is assessed in reading with additional assessments in math and writing following in March. The TCAP reading results will be sent home prior to the end of this school year.

We do not want to put undue pressure on our students during the testing time. However, we do want them to take this test seriously and perform at their optimal level. The testing sessions will be approximately 90 minutes in length each morning, with a few assessments in the afternoon for our older grades. Should you have any questions about the TCAP testing, or about the Colorado Student Assessment Program in general, please contact your child's teacher.

I look forward to another year of great results!

Thank you for all your support and guidance this year it has been a pleasure to serve you and your students,

Lisa Gjellum
Principal
Carbon Valley Academy

Important Dates

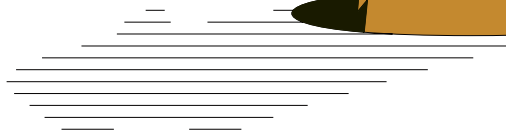
February 6th – No School – Staff Professional Development Day

February 16th – Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 pm Work Session; 7:00 pm Regular Meeting

February 20th – No School – President's Day Holiday

March 9th – End of 3rd Quarter

March 12th – Start of 4th Quarter



From Preschool Director Jansen's Desk

Dear Parents,

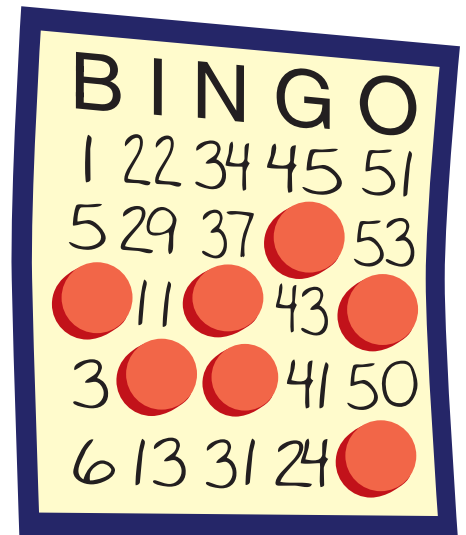
We have reached our mid-year point and have enjoyed watching all of our preschool and pre-kindergarten students' growth. The importance of reading to your child can never be stressed enough. Even in our 3 year old preschool classes, we are laying a foundation to help our youngest students learn to read. Reading independently is a skill that they will learn and a skill that will be used throughout their lifetime.

One of the ways that we prepare our preschoolers to be ready to read is to expose them to word play, rhyme, and alliteration. The Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence exposes children to songs, poems and nursery rhymes that help them build a solid foundation of pre-reading skills by listening carefully to words that rhyme and have repeated sounds. I found an article from the University of Wisconsin-Extension website that I would like to share. It not only explains what rhyming and alliteration are, it also offers many wonderful suggestions that you can do at home with your child to help build a strong foundation of pre-reading skills. The article is attached to page 4 of this newsletter.

Jodi Jansen
Preschool Director

Important BINGO News!

- 1 BINGO is moving! Effective February 18th, our new hall will be Bingo Oasis located at 10657 Melody Drive, Northglenn. We will have the same time, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm every Saturday, so please join us.
- 2 We are having a Bingo occasion at CVA on Sunday February 19th, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Please see the flier attached to this newsletter on page 6.
- 3 Please join us in our BINGO fundraising efforts!! All money raised by BINGO goes toward funding CVA's Technology Plan. We need volunteers to help run our Bingo occasions every Saturday and the special events at CVA, donations for our raffle at our Bingo afternoon, and most of all to encourage friends and families to play at our session. To get involved, please fill out a Friends of CVA Application (see page 7 of this newsletter), and return it to the front office at CVA's main campus.



For more information, please contact our Games Manager at goterm@cvamail.com. Thanks for being active members in our success!

Board of Directors News

The Board of Directors would like to congratulate all of the Character Trait of the Month winners. Keep up the great work!

Carbon Valley Academy will have an election in May for an open seat on our Board of Directors. We are seeking a parent volunteer to assist the Nominating Committee during the nomination process. If you are interested in assisting the Board, please contact Brandi Wilson at wilsonb@cvamail.com or 303-774-9555.

The Board would like to welcome two new staff to CVA. Coleen Pickett joins CVA as our new Kindergarten Aide and Kim Wagner joins CVA's Before School Care Program. We're excited that these two have joined our CVA family!

The Winter Board Retreat Agenda has been set. We will be discussing our long-range vision for the school and will be setting goals based on an academic data review.

Do you know students and families that would benefit from attending Carbon Valley Academy? Don't keep our award winning programs a secret! Please encourage others to check us out. All new families need to schedule an orientation meeting at the school prior to enrolling their child. Please have new families contact Stephanie Kajcienski at kajcienskis@cvamail.com or visit our website if they have questions or wish to arrange a time for an orientation meeting.

For more information, please plan on attending our Board Meetings. The meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month. We hope to see you soon!



Mrs. Pickett



Mrs. Wagner

Rhyme and Alliteration

When you use language, you most often pay attention to the meaning of the words. However, to be successful in the early stages of reading, children also have to learn to pay attention to the *sounds* of letters and words. This is because reading English requires matching sounds-”*buh*”-with specific marks on paper-”*b*”-the letters of the alphabet.

Young children who have had adults help them learn to pay attention to the sounds of language develop what is called *phonemic awareness* and are at a distinct advantage when they start school.

Children who have had caring adults spend lots of time playing with and enjoying the sounds of letters and words with them are particularly fortunate. Every time you chant along to a favorite children’s rhyme or read aloud from a book like *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* (by Dr. Seuss), you are helping your child develop phonemic awareness, a critical early literacy skill.

Preschoolers who learn alliteration and rhyming gain literacy skills needed for school readiness.

The easiest forms of phonemic awareness are rhyming and alliteration. Rhyming is learning to recognize and use words that sound the same at the end (for example, *bad, mad, sad*). Alliteration is the repetition of initial sounds (for example, *feel, fine, finally*). Besides supporting early literacy, rhymes and alliteration can soothe, entertain, and foster a positive attitude toward reading.

Rhyming

Children learn better and faster when rhyme is used from an early age. Rhymes are pleasing to the ear and they build listening skills which are helpful for later reading comprehension. Learning to manipulate words through rhyming and word games is an important reading skill. Rhymes also delight children and they are an introduction to the music and fun of language.

Nursery rhymes, lullabies, finger plays, and bath time songs can all offer simple rhymes and verses to delight your preschooler. Repeat your child’s favorite rhymes over and over again and invite your preschooler to chant them with you.

Enjoy fun rhyme activities with your preschooler. Share a string of words that rhyme such as *fish, dish, wish*. See if your preschooler is able to rhyme words with a word you say: ball (fall, haul, call, tall). Applaud your preschooler’s efforts even if the word they provide isn’t a real word—getting the rhyme is what you want.

Read a rhyming book you both enjoy. Stop before the end of a sentence and let your child supply the rhyming word, like in this example from Dr. Seuss’ *Green Eggs and Ham*: “I will eat them with a fox. I will eat them in a ____.” Again, don’t worry whether your child suggests the exact word provided in the book. Sometimes the silliest rhyming word is the most fun.

Reading or singing the same rhyme over and over helps children internalize the rhythm and hear the rhyme. One example that appeals to many young

children is the Banana Fana chant. For a child named Andrew, it would go like this:

Andrew, Andrew,
Bo Bandrew,
Banana fana fo fandrew,
Me, my, mo mandrew;
Andrew.

Alliteration

The nursery rhyme “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers” is a great example of alliteration, where initial sounds are repeated in neighboring words. For young children, alliteration of consonants is usually the easiest place to start, as used in clichés such as sweet smell of success, a dime a dozen, bigger and better, and jump for joy.

Help your preschooler recognize words that start with the same consonant sound such as *Sally sells seashells by the seashore*. Later on you can try initial vowel alliterations such as *Eels eat eagerly*. Alliteration is a great help to memory. It’s a powerful device that helps us remember such phrases as sink or swim, do or die, the more the merrier, watchful waiting, hale and hearty, and live and learn.

Use your child’s name to make up an alliteration. Your preschooler will find it delightful. For example:

Polly picked pears.
Yolanda yodeled yesterday.
Brett bought bottles.
Hillary hired hippos.

Tongue twisters can also be used to illustrate and practice alliteration. Start with simple ones. Then add repetitions or length to make them more challenging.

Bertha blew big, blue bubbles.
Greta Gruber grabbed a group of grapes.
Julie Jackson juggled the juicy, jiggly jello.
Karl Kessler kept the ketchup in the kitchen.

Alliteration Picnic. You and your child can come up with descriptors that have the same starting sound as the foods you are eating. Examples to get you started:

Tasty Tomatoes
Leafy Lettuce
Sassy Strawberries

Finish short sentences with alliterative words. Ask your child to come up with words that have the same starting sound. For example:

Funny (___fish, farmer___).
Many (___men, monkeys___).
Zany (___zoo, zebra___).

Be sure to check your local library or bookstore to find books with rhyme or alliteration that you and your child enjoy. Here are some to consider:

Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Jamberry by Bruce Degen
Laughing Out Loud: Poems to Tickle Your Funny Bone by Jack Prelutsky
Miss Mary Mach and Other Children’s Street Rhymes by Joanna Cole and Stephanie Calmenson
Peanut Butter and Jelly: A Play Rhyme by Nadine Bernard Westcott
Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw
Sing a Song of Popcorn: Every Child’s Book of Poems by Beatrice Shenk de Regniers
The Twentieth Century Children’s Poetry Treasury by Jack Prelutsky
Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shell Silverstein



Sources:

Alliteration lesson plans and resources. (2004). <http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/beford/harrisms/1allitera.htm>
Dawn Marie Barhyte. (2004). The power of poetry. [Parenting the Preschooler Newsletter](#).
Early literacy information and resources. (2004). Windsor Public Library. www.windsorpubliclibrary.com.
Akimi Gibson and Judith Gold. (2002). Tutoring our youngest readers. Corporation for national and community service.
Carol Ostergren. (2003). Parenting future readers. University of Wisconsin - Extension.

This document can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape, by contacting your county Extension office. (TTY 1-800-947-3529)

Prepared by: Joan E. LeFebvre, Professor, Department of Family Development, University of Wisconsin-Extension
Reviewer: Gay Eastman, Child Development Specialist, UW-Madison
Layout: Penny Otte, Program Assistant III, Family Living Area Office, Vilas County

For more information on Parenting and Child Development, contact: Joan E. LeFebvre, Area Family Living Agent, University of Wisconsin, Extension, 330 Court Street, Courthouse, Eagle River WI 54521-8362, 715-479-3653, FAX 715-479-3605, E-Mail joan.lefebvre@ces.uwex.edu
December, 2004



Sweetheart Bingo at Carbon Valley Academy



**Love your Sweetie?
Looking for a Fun Date?
Enjoy playing Bingo?**

Join us for Bingo at CVA!

- Sunday, February 19, 2012
- 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- at Carbon Valley Academy, 4040 Coriolis Way, Frederick, CO
- **\$700 Payout!**
- Pickle Bar
- Raffles
- Bingo Sheets 1 for \$10.00 or 2 for \$15.00 (7 games included)

Fun for the entire family. This is a community event so invite friends as well!

Contact Games Manager for more information: goterm@cvamail.com or 303-833-3345



Friends of CVA Application

For fundraising purposes CVA desires to hold bingo/raffle games of chance. “Friends of CVA” is an auxiliary association of CVA. The primary purpose of the Friends of CVA shall be to support and assist, through donations and uncompensated volunteer services, CVA. Friends of CVA will have no authority to pledge the faith and credit of CVA and may not enter into any form of contract or agreement for services with any third party. The Board has appointed the Games Manager(s) for CVA to serve as liaison between Friends of CVA and the Board.

Name

Phone Number

Address

Email Address

Bingo _____

Raffle _____

Bingo/Raffle Buddy Name & Phone

By signing this document, you agree to assist in a Bingo/Raffle occasion. If you are not able to attend your scheduled occasion, you need to find a substitute. If you are unable to find a substitute, you must let the Games Manager know 48 hours in advance.

Name

Games Manager: mjgoter@msn.com , 303-833-3345
