



Stallion News

Carbon Valley Academy's Online Newsletter

September 2011

From Principal Gjellum's Desk

Greetings from Carbon Valley Academy,

Welcome back to another fantastic year of elementary school at CVA! Many of the positive changes that we have put into place in past years will continue this year. Students are now deep in the curriculum, have been assessed for learning placement, and are getting to know each other and build new relationships.

We are in full swing, students are actively learning, and teachers are enriching students' lives with knowledge and experiences.

We appreciate the fact that you have many choices for your child's education and are honored you chose us. We look forward to sharing with you all we have to offer.

Thank you to all who attended our Back to School Night. It was nice to have the "roar" of excited children ready to learn. The school has its own magic when the children arrive.

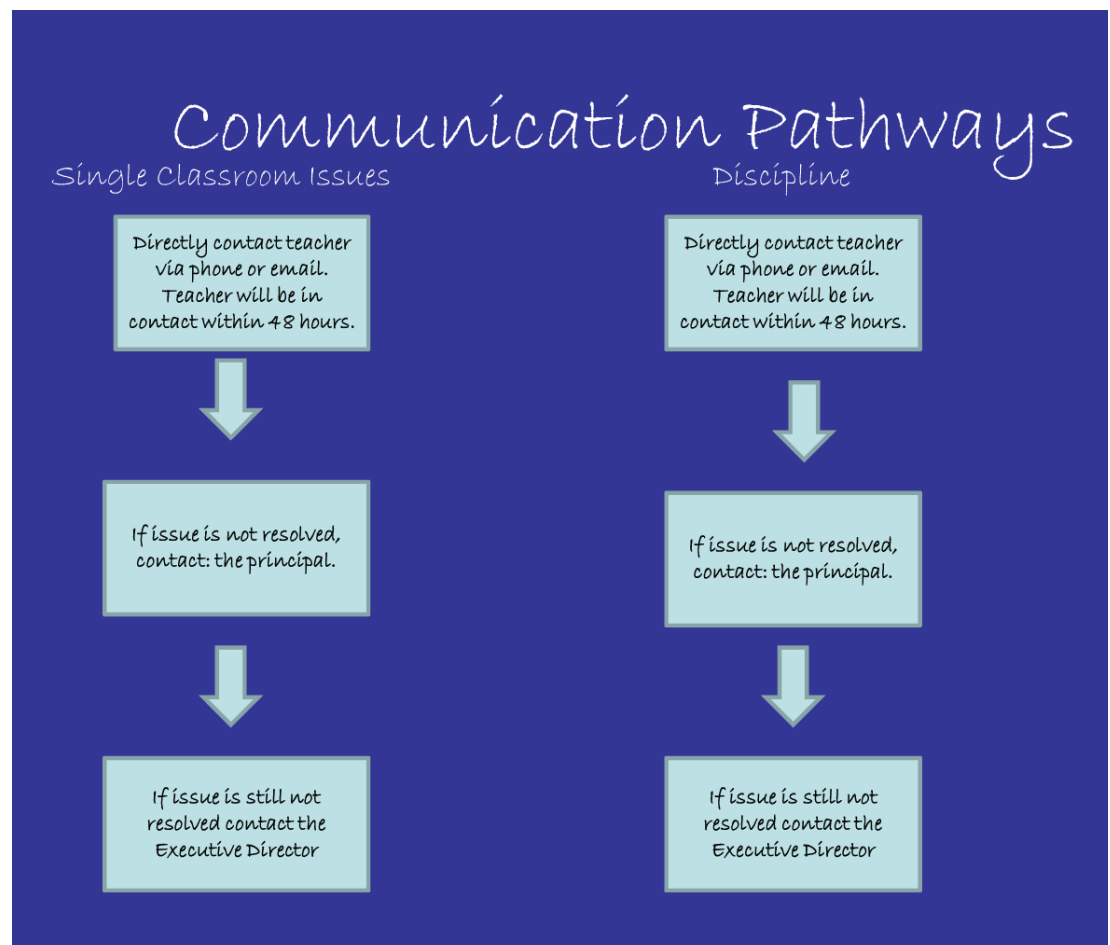
We love to hear from you, whether it is a concern or "kudos" for any of our staff. Please review our lines of communication (graphic below) so you know who to contact and when you may look forward to a response.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child.

Lisa Gjellum
Principal
Carbon Valley Academy

Carbon Valley Academy is on Facebook! It's a great way to get up-to-date information about what's happening at the school and connect with other members of the CVA Community. There is a link to our Facebook page on the home page of Carbon Valley Academy's website at:

www.carbonvalleyacademy.org.



From Preschool Director Jansen's Desk

Welcome Carbon Valley Academy Preschool and Pre-kindergarten families.

Preparing for a new school year often leaves me feeling overwhelmed and exhausted, yet I find it difficult to rest. I am too excited to sleep. It doesn't matter how old I get, I still get butterflies in my stomach and feel anxious about the first day of school. Then when I open the door to greet our youngest learners, all the weariness disappears and suddenly I am recharged and no longer in need of rest.

As educators and parents, we often ask ourselves, "What can I do to help my student/child be successful in school? I know the answer! As I worked to prepare for the start of the 2011/2012 school year I had a mother, her infant daughter, and her preschooler come in for a tour. On this particular day Mrs. Stein was in the building setting up her classroom. As we toured the building, the preschool child wandered off ahead into Mrs. Stein's room. When her mom and I made it to the classroom, we found them engaged in an activity that is so simple, so easy, and yet so crucially important. They were reading a book together!

So as we begin a new school year with new faces and new families, and continue the relationships we've built with our returning students and their families, I encourage you to join me and your child's teachers, as we make the commitment to help them be successful, by engaging in the simple activity of reading to them. I am sharing two articles that will help us with this crucially important, yet simple task (see page 3 of this newsletter and separate attachment to email).

Looking forward to successful year!

Jodi Jansen

Preschool Director

Volunteer Committee

The volunteers at CVA are excited for another great year and are looking forward to having you join us! As CVA continues to grow, we continue to add lots of new programs and opportunities for our students.

You can help enrich your school community by sharing your time and skills with students, teachers and staff. No matter if you have a lot of time or a little, you have something you can share to make our school an even better place for our children. Contact the Volunteer Committee by email at volunteers@cvamail.com. Let us know your interests and availability and we will help you find the ideal volunteer opportunity. We have all types of volunteer jobs such as helping in classrooms, office work, things you can do from home, extra-curricular activities, and more! Contact us or complete your Volunteer Application to get started today! (See page 4 for the Volunteer Application.)

Important Dates

September 2nd – Fall School Photos

September 5th – Labor Day Holiday – No School

September 15th – Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 pm Work Session; 7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Board of Directors News

The CVA Board of Director's wishes to welcome all parents and students to CVA! Over the summer, the BOD held a summer retreat. Goals of this retreat included:

- Orientation for new Board members
- Team building exercises
- Senior staff reports/goals for school year
- Discuss CVA's strengths and weaknesses
- Long range vision documents

For fundraising purposes, we will be operating bingo/raffle events this year at CVA. For more information, please plan on attending our Board Meetings. The meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 6:00 pm in our Library. We hope to see you soon!



TIPS | for parents of Preschoolers

Read early and read often. The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading. It's never too early to begin reading to your child! The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

■ **Read together every day.**

Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close.

■ **Give everything a name.**

Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that airplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

■ **Say how much you enjoy reading.**

Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favorite part of your day.

■ **Read with fun in your voice.**

Read to your child with humor and expression. Use different voices. Ham it up!

■ **Know when to stop.**

Put the book away for awhile if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

■ **Be interactive.**

Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions.

■ **Read it again and again.**

Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time!

■ **Talk about writing, too.**

Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.

■ **Point out print everywhere.**

Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing.

■ **Get your child evaluated.**

Please be sure to see your child's pediatrician or teacher as soon as possible if you have concerns about your child's language development, hearing, or sight.

Visit www.ReadingRockets.org for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future through reading.

Volunteer Application



<u>Volunteer Name</u> <u>Email</u> <u>Phone ()</u> <u>Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number</u> <hr/> Circle the Days and Times most convenient for you: <u>Mon / Tues / Weds / Thurs / Fri / Sat / Sun</u> <u>Before School / Morning / Afternoon / Evening</u>	<u>Student Names and Teachers</u> _____ / _____ _____ / _____ _____ / _____ _____ / _____ _____ / _____ _____ / _____
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Carbon Valley Academy encourages parents, guardians, relatives, and community members to volunteer their services. These services are considered valuable assets and are welcomed before, during, and after school hours under the direction and supervision of school personnel.

Volunteers may be involved in virtually every facet of the operation of the school, working with students on a one-to-one basis or performing tasks not involving children. Tasks may involve services in the library, classroom, music, plays, community activities, assisting on field trips and similar activities. Volunteers will not teach, but may reinforce skills taught by the professional staff.

Areas that I am interested in volunteering are (circle):

Classroom/In School	Before/After School	Community Events	School Events	Other Specialties
Class Help	Pick Up / Drop Off	Bingo	Santa's Shop	Solicit Donations
Office Work	Sports	Fall Festival	Book Fair	Teacher Prep
Field Trips	Clubs	Golf Tournament	Music / Plays	Food Donations
Playground	Music	Fundraising	Field Day	Graphics/Marketing
Lunchroom	Art	Cookbook/Cook Off	Dances	Print Publications
Library	Technology	Date Night		Website/eBay
School Store	Spanish	Silent Auction		Landscaping

Special talents and/or experiences I have that I am interested in sharing with the students, teachers, or staff are:

I have read and understand fully the volunteer policies and guidelines in the CVA Family Handbook. I do hereby give the Carbon Valley Academy assurance that I will comply with all school and district policies.

Signature _____ Date _____