



Stallion News

Carbon Valley Academy's Online Newsletter

March 2010

Teaching Kids How To Save Can Be Fun For Everyone

If the last year and a half taught us anything, it's that knowing how to save money is important. It's never too early to start teaching our kids this important lesson. It can even be enjoyable for both the kids and the adults. I have to admit that the most fun I had over the holidays was helping my seven-year old niece open her first savings account.

A couple of times a year, the clothes my niece has outgrown are taken to a consignment shop and she gets to keep the money earned. She always takes in over \$100. And, she and her father save all the spare change he has in his pockets at the end of every day. After seven years, they had two HUGE jars of coins. So between her bulging wallet and the coin jars, it was definitely time to open a savings account. Being a single father, my brother just hadn't found the time to do it so I resorted to bribery. I told my niece that if she convinced her father to meet us at the bank the next day, I would give her a \$25 check to help her open a savings account.

On the trip home that night, my niece asked her dad what probably seemed like a million questions. What happens to her money if a bank robber steals all the money from the bank? How does she get her money out of the bank? And on and on. Finally satisfied, we all met at the bank the next day.

Forty-five minutes later, the coin counter told my niece that she had \$522.01 in change! Adding her clothes money, birthday money, and my \$25, she opened a savings account with \$1,022.01. She was so proud of herself!

The bank representative treated my niece like an adult. The bank representative explained how the account works, instructed my niece about how to endorse the check I gave her for deposit, and let her pick her own account password. The only downside to the whole deal is that banks are paying almost nothing in interest these days, but I have a feeling that will slowly be changing and soon my niece will be learning about the advantages of compounding interest.

The real icing on the cake came about a month later when my niece and her grandmother were playing. My niece wanted to play "bank" and she would be the teller. She showed her grandmother how to complete a deposit slip and put money in the bank. I think she might just be on her way to becoming a good saver!



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From Principal Percy's Desk

CSAP is a four letter WORD or acronym in this case!! Once again it's time for this annual high stakes test that all public school students will partake in. The Colorado Student Assessment Program or CSAP is administered to 3rd-10th grades in February and March of each year.

CSAP is designed to measure student progress towards meeting Colorado Model Content Standards in the areas of math, reading, writing, and science (5th and 8th grades only). Results for the majority of these tests are not returned to schools until mid to late summer.

Ideally, these test results are used by teachers and administrators to look at mastery towards content standards and make curricular adjustments for students who are advanced or need additional support. It is important to recognize that this is a standardized test and timed.

The actual CSAP test will be in place for the next two years. The Colorado Department of Education is looking at revising the testing process to include school readiness and postsecondary and workforce readiness. According to the state, the new assessment system will be in place during the 2011-2012 school year.

While many believe that the CSAP is going away, that simply isn't true. There will still be a systemized assessment process for schools with the goal of school accountability as essential to this process.

Whether or not you are a fan of CSAP, it is important to understand that student progress does need to be measured by schools and educators. It is also vital to recognize that standardized assessments are only one "slice of the pie" when looking at a student's overall progress.

Parents can certainly track individual school performance through a Colorado Department of Education's new website called Schoolview at www.schoolview.org. You can compare your child's school with similar schools in the neighborhood.

So, as we head into the testing period, all I can say is let the testing begin!!

Important Dates

March 1st – No School – Professional Development Day

March 4th – 3rd Grade Discovery Night – 5:00 pm

March 18th – 6:00 pm Board of Directors Work Session; 7:00 pm Board of Directors Regular Meeting at CVA

March 19th – Free Dress Day

March 23rd & March 25th – Parent/Teacher Conferences for all schools – 4:00 – 8:00 pm at CVA

March 26th – Deadline for submitting application to run for Board of Directors vacancy

March 29th – April 2nd – No School – Spring Break

April 5th – No School – Professional Development Day



From the Preschool Director Jansen's Desk

It has been an exciting month for me and I am sad that there are less than 3 months of school left. I am always looking for ways to make learning meaningful and fun for our preschool students. We have focused on not only teaching our young learners what they need to know to be successful in kindergarten, but we have also been focusing on how to teach our students about the character traits that will help them be successful in life. I spent a day in the pre-kindergarten classrooms teaching about our monthly character trait FRIENDSHIP. I hope the kids had as much fun as I did.

We changed our daily schedule this month and instead of letting our students choose which centers to work in, we put them in assigned centers for the first 10 minutes of center choice time. We have witnessed students working in centers that they had never visited before and students making friends with people they have never played with before.

I have spent many hours in the classroom this month and I am proud of how hard our students are working. It is also an honor to work with a creative and dedicated team of preschool teachers who have the same desire; to make learning meaningful and fun for the students that walk through our doors everyday.

During the month of March, Dr. Seuss will be on the loose at CVA Preschool. We have planned an entire month of Dr. Seuss activities around our Core Knowledge objectives. I am also looking forward to teaching a lesson on our March character trait HONESTY. I will be bringing my life size puppets in to help me. If you don't want to miss out on the fun, you are welcome to come spend a day with us as we show our students how much fun learning can be.

Character Corral Winners

At our February board meeting, four of our pre-kindergarten students received Character Corral Awards for our character trait WORK ETHIC. All of our students work hard and the students selected are not only hard working individuals, but they go above and beyond to help their teachers and classmates. Please join me in congratulating **Kendall Dirksen, Josef Hergert, Kambrie Payne, Jenica Lamph**, and their parents on a job well done.

Enrollment for 2010/2011

We have currently filled over half of our preschool/pre-kindergarten spots for next year. Preschool enrollment is on a first come basis, so please help spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Enrollment information and enrollment forms can be found on our website: www.cvapreschool.org.

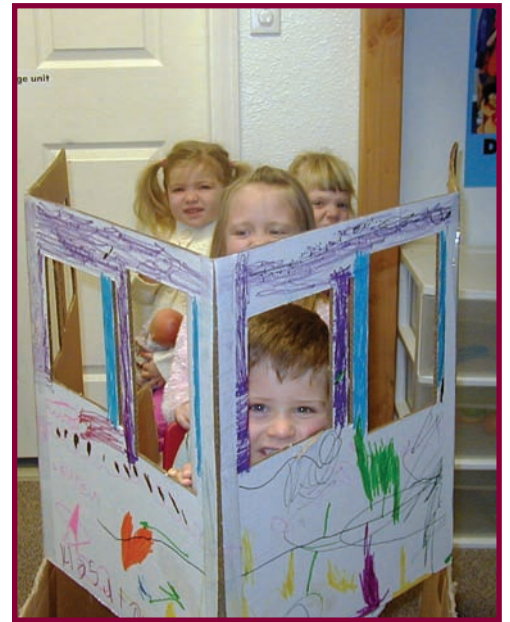
Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled for March 23rd and March 25th from 4:00 until 8:00 pm. All three of our campuses will be holding conferences at the same location. We will be joining the elementary and secondary teachers in the elementary school gym and are excited to share with you how hard your child has been working. Sign up sheets will be posted at the preschool and the conferences will be held at the elementary school.

Photos of Preschool fun can be viewed on page 4.



Preschool Character Trait Winners with Board of Directors



Boat Travelers



Valentine Day Fun

