

The Carden Chronicle



ISSUE 01 / SEPTEMBER 2020



From the Director's Desk: Ms. Ghonouie

Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and started the new school year refreshed, energized and ready to be back. Here at Carden Conservatory, we are excited to commence the 2020-2021 school year for both our in-person and virtual students.

We are thrilled to welcome our new students to the Carden family, and with another year of excellent staff, I am confident that we will not only provide a vigorous academic program of Carden curriculum, but also foster a safe and nurturing environment for your children to learn and grow.

We are looking forward to not only starting yoga up for this school year, but planning fun themes for Spirit Days, Red Ribbon Week and Halloween next month for the students. Although we will not be able to have group activities and events this year, we are very grateful for all of our staff's hard work implementing various modifications and requirements, which has allowed us to offer in-person and virtual learning.

Our strong academic school day, balanced with all of our wonderful enrichment classes for the children, in a safe and healthy environment for all, has allowed for the growth of our school's student body this unique school year. We are thankful and appreciative of the support of our current Carden families for the tireless effort by all of our staff that goes into each school day. We are off to a fantastic and promising start to our school year. I encourage you to get involved and continue to foster a love of learning in our amazing children!



September

- 3 Parker Lincoln-Adam
- 4 Brayden Escobar & Dylan Statton
- 7 Carlos Miranda
- 9 Alexandria Cunningham
- 10 Cash Baca-Bressler, Alan Oldfield & Michelle Remington
- 11 Joely Vahdat
- 13 Zoey Egan
- 15 Cole Ward, Heart Perez & Jameson Shiao
- 20 Jacqueline Perdomo
- 22 Adam Gvinter
- 28 Theo Durano-Agan
- 30 Charlotte Ward

October

- 11 Maya Hopkins & Owen Cunningham
- 12 Sienna Silverman & Kalia Luu
- 18 Christine Truong
- 19 Shirin Morakkabi
- 22 Mrs. Lambert
- 24 Avery Ross-Ryan
- 28 Sabastian Fatemian
- 29 Mrs. Flores
- 30 Ayden Bernal & Blake Brodsky
- 31 Ms. DeLoa & Sophia Cayco

Upcoming EVENTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| October 12 th | Columbus Day Observed (All School) |
| November 11 th | Veteran's Day Observed (All School) |
| November 23 rd - 27 th | Thanksgiving Break (Elementary/Junior High) |





Preschool

Young children are in a constant period of learning about themselves and their environment and it will be our privilege to guide them in this process. We have been very busy this past month and all the children have been adjusting very well to their new classrooms and routines. We started to learn new shapes, letters, numbers and we also introduced new vocabulary. The two year olds are learning shapes, colors, and important self-help skills. Our pre-primary class is enjoying the "I am a Mouse" lessons and the junior kindergarten class is working on the "Keep Running, Allen" lesson and started working in their letter books. Everyone is also enjoying their daily music lessons and weekly Spanish lessons. We are looking forward to a great school year and seeing the children grow and mature!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Metz

The Kindergarten classroom has been a busy place. The students are enjoying being together again in the classroom with their old friends and our two new friends Arya and Blake. The students are learning how to work independently at their desks and at the Teaching Table. The consonant letters and their sounds have been learned, along with the two vowel rule (generally the first vowel in a word says its name and the second vowel is silent) and how to read words with two vowels in them. The K students like their afternoon classes. We have Spanish with Ms. Garza, art with Ms. Ghonouie, yoga with Ms. Aileen, music with Ms. Murga and P.E. Classic children's literature is important in our classroom. The students have enjoyed "Jack and the Beanstalk", "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "The Little Engine That Could". In math, the students are learning to count from 0 to 100 and by tens to 100. The names of the flat and solid shapes have been learned, along with looking around us and naming the different shapes we see. They have noticed the poles around our school are called cylinders. For science, the students are learning about the four seasons, how apples grow and names of the different types of apples. Our class has a special event in October, the Kindergarten families are meeting at Tanaka Farms in Irvine. Each family will drive thru the farm in their own cars, and also thru the pumpkin patch and barnyard exhibit. The highlight of the day will be when we can pick out our pumpkins, grown at Tanaka Farms, to take home to enjoy for Halloween. I am grateful we are back at school. I wish everyone a wonderful fall season!

1st Grade: Ms. Vardeman

I am happy to welcome you to the 2020-2021 academic year. What a great start we have had. I look forward to a productive partnership to ensure the children will achieve their highest potential. First grade has been very busy learning about rules and laws in Social Studies, while applying them in their daily routine on campus and in the classroom. In Science, students learn about what it is to be a scientist. Our upcoming lessons will be focused on animals, garden planting and growing. Carden's reading program covers phonemic awareness, word skills, mental imagery for comprehension, vocabulary development, and rhythm and expression. The students actively participate in daily oral reading instruction. Carden math is designed to build a strong foundation and deep understanding of mathematical concepts. Children acquire mathematical abilities manipulatively, visually, conceptually, and sequentially. The goal is to develop, practice, assess and master concepts incrementally. Daily group instruction addresses the uniqueness of each child and ensures mathematical success on an individual level. We are at the beginning of a GREAT year!!



2nd Grade: Mrs. Lambert

Welcome back 2nd grade families! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children this first month of school. There are so many wonderful and unique personalities in this class. I look forward to building upon their strengths as the year progresses. We have been very busy learning our multiplication facts and cursive letters. The students have really enjoyed the Spanish, Music, and Art classes. We can't wait to start Yoga. We are all looking forward to a fantastic year!



3rd Grade: Mr. Henderson

Welcome to the start of another amazing school year! We are off to a flying start in third grade. The students have been learning at a fast pace as the workload increases at this grade level. We've established our rules and the students are comfortable with their routines. The students have been learning about the relationships between numbers and mastering multiplication facts. We've been sharpening our spelling skills, increasing our vocabulary, and studying grammar mechanics. Third grade is looking forward to an amazing year!

4th Grade: Ms. Letcher

Welcome back everyone! I have had an amazing time getting to know the students through our "A Ball About Me" project, and every day as they continue to show me their interests and personalities. We have dancers, musicians, engineers, artists, writers, mathematicians, historians, and so many more in our class; what a great group! With half of our class online and half in person, it has been a unique experience, but we have made the best of it, practicing our growth mindsets, and I am so appreciative of all the students and parents have done to make this transition as smooth as possible. We are about half-way through reading "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler," which the kids are loving! In math, we have explored probability, calculating combinations, place values, decimals, counting money and change, and word problems and have begun to get into multiplication, fact families, and fractions! In Fourth grade, we are studying California history and so far have learned about where California is, and its regions and resources; we are currently working on an interactive booklet on California's Four Regions! In science we are learning about producers, consumers, decomposers, food chains and food webs and will soon see how these play out across the state of California. We will also be working on a narrative writing assignment that I cannot wait to get into with the students! While this school year is different than years past, I see it as an exciting opportunity to have just as exciting and unique of a school year as well and can't wait for all we're going to do!



Ms. DeLoa

Welcome back to school, everyone! Welcome to our new students. I am so happy you are now at Carden. We are so fortunate that we can be back on campus for in-person and virtual learning. Many children across the United States are not getting that opportunity, but our Carden students are! The 5th grade class had an exciting first month of school as they began Jr. High. They've all adjusted well to their new schedules, new teachers, and especially to their classwork and homework. I'm very proud of all of them. Jr. High is very different from elementary school, but they're all handling these new challenges with ease. I am certain they'll all be very successful in their Jr. High careers. 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are doing an amazing job getting back into the swing of things. The entire Jr. High student body is an amazing group of very capable and talented children. I know it is going to be an amazing school year, despite all the craziness that is going on. I am excited to see what the 2020/2021 school year has in store for us!

Spanish: Ms. Garza

Hello Carden Familia! Welcome to an exciting new school year. This month has been very interesting and full of challenges. I am very proud of all the students who have shown an impressive resilience. With students at home and at school at the same time, we have all learned to be patient, tolerant, and flexible. The first week in Spanish class, all the students, according to their level, learned the basic concepts related to hygiene and health. We highlight the importance of hand washing and respecting your personal space. We also celebrate "Las fiestas patrias" learning about the independence of Mexico and El Salvador. Every student made a Mexican Flag and received Mexican candies. Junior high students recapped some basic concepts, such as greetings, the verb to be, and verbs in infinitive, as well as numbers, and personal pronouns. The little ones sang, colored and cut out learning the names of the farm animals, numbers and colors. I am also very excited because in October we will start the Spanish club for junior high students. Thank you for all your support. I hope you are safe and sound.

Mrs. Hashin

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and have come back excited to learn. I know I am excited about the upcoming year. Junior High is great! I have a fantastic year planned. I am so excited to have new students in our class. Fifth grade will be learning about American history and explore expanding and adding to their math knowledge. The students will have to get used to changing classes and having homework in more than one subject. Sixth grade will be delving into ancient civilizations and discover how geography and religion shaped that civilization's culture. Seventh grade picks history up at the Roman Empire and travels through time, analyzing the civilizations that flourished through the Scientific Revolution. Eighth grade's focus is on studying American history in depth. Eighth grade literature reinforces and expands on what was learned in history. Debate with all of the grades will be interesting. This is going to be a fun year!

Ms. Rohren

It has been so great to get to know all of the Carden students this September! After we had all been away from the actual classroom for quite some time, transitioning back into semi-normal academics was actually a breeze! The students are so excited to be back in the classroom and safely collaborating with their peers. In Earth Science, we have had a wonderful time studying maps, rocks, and the Earth's interior. In Literature, we have been discovering the artistry of Mark Twain's writing through the book of Huckleberry Finn, which has also led us to review the history of the pre-Civil War South. Through this text, we have been pulling quotes and truly dissecting their meanings pertaining to the novel, themes, and history of the time period. As for PE, we have been conditioning every other week (other than 8th grade who has conditioning every Monday) in order to get ourselves moving and back in shape! Everyone also had a chance to show off their soccer skills in the weeks we were not conditioning. We have had a wonderful kick off to the year, and I cannot wait for the months to come!

Music: Ms. Murga

Music gives truth, beauty, and goodness in a child's life. Welcome to another great school year! It is time again to sing, play, and make beautiful music. In the Preschool, the children will continue to explore the un-pitched rhythm instruments, developing rhythmic skills through music and movement, recognizing fast and slow, loud and soft, and high and low concepts of music. Kindergarten is learning to establish a steady beat by chanting the poem "Johnny Works with a Hammer". They are learning to clap and tap the steady beat on a drum, rhythm stick or an any rhythm instrument. The First, Second, Third and Fourth grades are learning the history of the song "Star Spangled Banner" by reading, listening and watching the story of the song, as well as memorizing and understanding the words of the song. This month, we are also revisiting the things we learned in Music Theory, as well as the Elements of Music, particularly rhythm and melody. Marvin Blickenstaff, a great music teacher and mentor, stated that "Beautiful music has the power to change us as human beings. The gift of beautiful lasts a lifetime."

Mr. Wilkinson

Welcome back to a new school year. September came and went so quickly, and we've already experienced historic fires while navigating a new normal for our teachers, students and parents. This has been at the very least, an unusual year. Thank you all for your continued support as we navigate through any bumps in the road that have or will come along in the near future. Parents should take comfort knowing that teachers are working hard and doing their best educating students through it all. I would like to thank parents for their continued support. The fifth grade students are learning what it's like to be in middle school. This includes a bigger workload than they experienced before and higher expectations. In science, we have started the year learning the scientific method and how to write a lab report using it as our guide. Students have also learned how to create and analyze graphs and data tables. Sixth grade students are off to a quick start to math this year. Much of the first few weeks of any new school year begins with a review of previously learned concepts. This helps students gain a solid foundation for further understanding of new concepts and standards. This past month the students have been reintroduced to variables, powers and exponents, decimals and place value, as well as products and quotients. I have seventh grade students for two classes: Life Science and math. In life science, we have started off the year learning about cells as the smallest unit of life. We are in the process of learning about the phases of mitosis and meiosis (cell division). In math, students are working out of Course 3 of the Glencoe series which focuses primarily on pre-algebra and algebra concepts. Among these concepts, students are learning that variables like being alone, to solve algebraic equations you always do the opposite, whatever you do one side of the equation, you do to the other, and growing up in the time of Covid is no fun at all. Over the summer, I had many of the eighth grade students in a summer school math class. We began working in our Algebra I book on the first three chapters. As we had new students begin this school year, we began with a review of Chapter 3 because it contains concepts that are vital for all students to understand in order to have a strong math foundation one needs to master Algebra I. In science, we started the year reviewing the scientific method and writing lab reports, creating and analyzing graphs and data tables. Students learned what a constant line should look like in a time/position (distance) graph and that Mr. Wilkinson has some weird fascination with graphing and analyzing data tables (and peanut butter).

Campus SHOTS



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5702 Clark Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
714.840.5127

www.CardenConservatory.com
www.CardenConservatoryPreschool.com