

# Astro Blast

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017



## Next Week at Carr (6/12-6/16)

6/12	Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly	Auditorium
6/12	Monday	SSC Meeting	Room 301
6/12	Monday	Joven Noble Awards	9-11
6/14	Wednesday	Carnival	
6/14	Wednesday	Department Meeting	
6/16	Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade MAP Event	
6/16	Friday	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dance	5:30 - Valley
6/17	Saturday	Armstrong Foundation Event	Auditorium

It's hard for me to believe that we are close to the end of the 2017-18 school year already. As I have settled in as principal this school year, I want to first acknowledge the work that our individual teachers and staff are doing in classrooms and out of classrooms and all of the teamwork that we have participated in to help make Carr a better place for our students every year. This year, our ILT encouraged us to implement Professional Development primarily in the areas of Literacy and Canvas. We also implemented Homeroom and a Socio-Emotional Curriculum, Second Step. With these programs, our teachers became familiar with Canvas. I am particularly proud of all of our staff this year because we studied our data more than we ever had in the past which led us to implement REWARDS and myON. Our science department took on the Discovery TechBook, and our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math teachers kept kids accountable through ZAP (Zeros Aren't Permitted). We have improved our communication with the home and through our efforts including Canvassing, our enrollment has grown. Our MAP Assemblies and Carr-nival encourage our students to do their best academically and for the school community. Last 2016-2017 school year we welcomed back Connie Franco in the front office to our Carr family. However, we will be losing another Carr family member at the end of the 2017-18 year. Carolyn Mendoza has decided to retire and walk down a new path. One step that Carolyn has taken is to sign up for a program called OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) through Cal State Fullerton which offers classes to retired or semi-retired people. Olli offers a variety of classes from strategies of poker, conversational German, to Ted Talks, Warren Buffett's Investment Methodology to yoga and meditation. One of the first classes she wants to take is a watercolor painting class, although she has her eye on other classes such as yoga, longevity stick exercises or around the world, travel while learning. She has a small week trip planned to go to Sedona, Arizona with her eye on more expansive travel eventually to Europe. Carolyn is also interested in focusing on gardening and spending more time in that area with a long term goal of re-landscaping her yard. Now that she will have unscheduled time, she hopes to increase her exercise routine and become more fit. Carolyn also hopes to spend time with her sons and daughter, and her granddaughter, who attends first grade in an elementary SAUSD school.



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While Carolyn has spent much of her life giving back, even in retirement she intends on giving back as a volunteer in the community. She loves being involved in the Santa Ana community and we know she has a lot to offer as well. Carolyn has given so much to Santa Ana's students, and we are fortunate to have had her at Carr. Carolyn's last day will be June 27<sup>th</sup>. All the best to Carolyn as she begins a new chapter in her life!

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Four hard-working Carr students have been chosen for the Summer SunPower Science Solar Academy at Santiago Canyon College this summer. They will be working on hands-on experiments, taking field trips and competing as a team while learning about solar and renewable energy and green technologies. Congratulations to Kylie Chandler, Angel Hernandez, Andres Ledezma Toledo and Melany Morales!



From left to right: Angel Hernandez, Melany Morales and Andres Ledezma Toledo



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Room 801—Timothy Linehan – far left and Gilda Zinzun (right) and Carlos Amezcua (far right)

This is Tim Linehan's third year at Carr. He was previously at Regency High School for 10 years in an ED class. However, when the school lost funding, he found his current position at Carr and is very happy that he did. Tim loves the Angels and the Ducks, going to live music concerts and clubs, and plays softball with two of his four sons, aged 20, 17, 16 and 14. His 16 year old plays for Sunny Hills High School's Varsity team as both pitcher and shortstop. His oldest son is in acting. Tim has always worked in social services, was a counselor for at-risk youth and developmentally disabled adults but absolutely loves teaching. For Tim, there is no looking forward to retirement because he loves what he does every single day. There's no job he would rather have.

Carlos Amezcua has been at Carr for five years as an Instructional Assistant. An alumnus of Saddleback High School, he has also been coaching Boys Soccer, Cross Country and Track at Saddleback for 14 years. He started his career helping out with RSP in Saddleback but moved over to Carr when the full time position opened up. Carlos received a full academic scholarship from Concordia and earned a BA in Art. However, he is more interested in PE and pursuing a PE Credential because he enjoys sports and kids, especially work with kids.

Gilda Zinzun has been in SAUSD for 23 years and at Carr for 20 years. She is originally from Guatemala where she was an elementary teacher for 7 years. She has two kids at Goldenwest College and enjoys travelling a lot with her family. They have a trip planned to Mammoth. Gilda and her family enjoy hiking, seeking the lakes, views and relaxing in nature. Even though Gilda had a chance to finish her credential, she loves her job and being with her family.

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Room 802 – From left to right: Brett Guthrie, Patricia Wedekind, Maria Nichols, Stephanie Acevedo.

Brett Guthrie is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Carr with a total of 10 years in the district. He previously worked at an elementary school one on one. He has been involved with social work and has a BA in Sociology. Brett had considered going into Adaptive PE but is pursuing a teaching credential. Brett has learned a lot from Ms. Wedekind including signing and finds working in the classroom very fulfilling. Some hobbies he has are yoga, ice hockey (#MrGHeartsTheDucks!), running, going to the beach, riding his motorcycle on PCH and watching documentaries. Brett's brother also works in SAUSD as the school psychologist at Adams.

Stephanie Acevedo just started in January and loves kids. She had never worked with kids with disabilities before but was interested in the field because she is currently working towards a degree in Nursing. She worked for two years in the Engage 360 program at Greenville and since coming to Carr loves it. She enjoys all of the different personalities the kids have and loves how much she is learning from Ms. Wedekind. In her free time, she enjoys going to the gym and watching reality TV like Basketball Wives.

Maria Nichols is a former student at Carr who has also worked at Carr for 20 years in the same position. She loves being with the kids and being able to help them. She enjoys being with the kids, helping them to realize their potential and just helping them out. She has one daughter at MacArthur Fundamental and they enjoy outdoor activities such as camping and hiking as a family. She can see herself working at Carr for the next 20 years as well!



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Patricia Wedekind is in her 11<sup>th</sup> year at Carr. When she was first hired, she worked in the PE department for three years. However, when she received a RIF notice, she saw that as an opportunity to move into a field that she really felt a lot of passion for. Even though it meant working full time and getting a brand new credential, she loves her job now. Her younger brother had a brain tumor as a child and she had been exposed to the needs of kids with disabilities. Tricia is very involved with the Girl Scouts, having started when she was 6 and working as an adult volunteer still 36 years later. She had Girl Scout groups at Taft's DHH program, where she learned her Sign Language skills, and Ability First, a nonprofit for adults and children with special needs. She worked for three summers at their camp, and became certified in sailing and other nautical activities. She is now a weekend instructor, a lifeguard instructor and volunteers at their weeklong residential camp. Tricia also has two kids, plays the guitar, loves Angels baseball and likes to trailer travel all around the country. She and her family have travelled to the Sequoias, Redwoods, Grand Canyon, Mount Rushmore and stayed at the Laura Ingalls Wilder house. This summer Tricia and her family will be travelling to Portland to see the eclipse. In the future, Tricia would love to adapt technology to work better for her population of students, such as making an all visual password or a visual way to search within Google. Tricia is also an advocate for St. Baldrick's and shaves her head to battle childhood cancer every year.

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Room 803 – From left to right: Elena Amador, Alma Zamudio, Jocelyn Castellanos, Alvaro Nuñez

Alvaro Nuñez has been at Carr for 7 years and currently coaches Girls Basketball at Valley. He has also coached for 5 years at Carr and plays basketball recreationally. He has the background for the kind of work he does now with Ms. Zamudio because he previously worked at a retirement home. Currently in the process of earning his Bachelors degree in Kinesiology at Cal State Dominguez Hills, he eventually hopes to become a PE teacher. The opportunity to coach has opened doors for Alvaro and has given him the opportunity to meet people and make connections. In his free time, Alvaro likes to go to his ranch in Riverside. Even though it's a lot of hard work taking care of the farm animals, it's relaxing for him because there's no pressure and no stress. He goes out there and is able to ride horses for pleasure.

Jocelyn Castellanos has been at Carr for three months as a Student Support Paraprofessional. She is in the field of Human Services and has experience with kids with autism and Down's Syndrome. So far the whole team in Ms. Zamudio's room has helped her a lot, trained her in the services the kids need and Jocelyn has loved learning new skills. She also has two other jobs – waitressing on the weekends and working with an autistic girl. In her free time, she spends time with her family.

Elena Amador started as a bilingual Instructional Assistant in 2001. She would also assist with translation and then eventually transitioned from RSP to Special Ed. She remembers when the first intermediate medically

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fragile class was opening and Connie told her that she would be perfect for the position. She trained for the position, learning suction and tube feeding. She has been with the class for nine years now and believes that the kids need her. She rides the bus with the kids as they are dropped back home after school (Alvaro takes the morning bus route) and speak with the parents about the kids every day. She loves to provide assistance and guidance for the parents who also need her support. She loves her job, loves the team she works with and loves giving the kids some happiness in their lives. From 2004-2015 she worked for the after school program at Carr though she is quick to say that she loves her job in Ms. Zamudio's room the most. Elena's 3 kids all work in SAUSD. In her free time, Elena spends time with her kids and her parents.

Alma Zamudio is in her 9<sup>th</sup> year at Carr and she wouldn't go anywhere else. She worked as an ELD Instructional Assistant for three years in GGUSD. However, one day, she visited a Moderate/Severe class and loved it. She made the decision to get her credential and even though her children were very young at the time, she would do her homework with her boys and stay up late. She remembers that sometimes she would be up until 3am and her older son would wake up at night and keep her company as she was finishing her homework. He would fall asleep on the couch next to her but wake up every once in a while, his eyes still half closed and encourage her. He still remembers his mom's persistence and also became very disciplined, believing he could accomplish everything through hard work and dedication. Her older son is now anticipating starting his PhD program in Literature in the fall at UCLA. Though she had tears of frustration, she is still a proud and happy mother and so thankful that she loves what she does. She found her element and every morning wakes up happy and excited to have the job she does. She absolutely loves it. Her younger son has just finished high school. Alma loves to read, especially poetry and Spanish literature Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Her other passion is travelling and makes it a point to visit a new country every year. She has visited all of the countries in South America, Central America, North America, parts of Asia, and many countries in Europe where she has family members. When she visits different countries, she loves to talk to the people and really immerse herself in the culture. Through this, she has found that she has changed her mentality and her views reflect that now, seeing the positives and negatives in each country. When she had more free time, she used to dance in the studio for hours, having trained in ballet as a kid. This year Alma is working during summer school so she has already taken her annual international trip to Colombia and Venezuela. However, you can be sure she'll be planning out her next trip soon!