

# Astro Blast

March 22, 2017



## Next Week at Carr (3/27-3/31)

3/27-30	Mon, Wed, Thurs	Board of Review Meetings for all grades – 6-8	8:30/6
3/28	Tuesday	St. Baldrick's Event	Periods 1-2
3/28	Tuesday	AVID Meeting	2:45pm
3/29	Wednesday	Collaboration	

In the midst of all of the sad news we have received in the last few weeks, I wanted to share some really great news with you. Your hard work is paying off! The overall academic performance improved last year as indicated on many of the academic and social emotional measures just released by the state. Although we have a long way to go, we have made significant progress. Last week the California Department of Education unveiled their new Dashboard. Based on the SBAC data just released we have moved up quite a bit from where we were two years ago. The 2014-15 baseline SBAC data indicated we were dead last in the county and in our District. Our SBAAC performance for last year indicates we have surpassed Lathrop, Sierra, Spurgeon and Willard. We are on the heels of McFadden and several other District schools. The best part of all of this is that when you look at the data, we had strong gains across all subgroups, especially students with disabilities.

## English Language Arts

<u>Student Group</u>	<u>Status Level</u>	<u>Change Level</u>	<u>CURRENT STATUS - Average distance from level 3</u>	<u>CHANGE - Difference between current status and prior status</u>
All Students	Very Low	Increased	-71.5	18.7
English Learners	Very Low	Increased	-86.7	15
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Very Low	Increased	-71.6	18.5
Students with Disabilities	Very Low	Increased	-138.3	18.8

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## Mathematics

<u>Student Group</u>	<u>Status Level</u>	<u>Change Level</u>	<u>CURRENT STATUS - Average distance from level 3</u>	<u>CHANGE - Difference between current status and prior status</u>
All Students	Very Low	Increased	-110.5	13.2
English Learners	Very Low	Increased	-127.1	7.6
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Very Low	Increased	-110.7	12.9
Students with Disabilities	Very Low	Increased Significantly	-172.1	21

As you can see, our students had significant improvement in both English Language Arts and in Mathematics. We can see that the work we do on a daily basis does make an impact in the big picture of how our students are doing. I think that our staff embracing the programs that we put into place last year has absolutely contributed to these improvements. Many of you used Google Classroom, Actively Learn, Kahoot and Slides to help our students to enrich their learning using the 1:1 Chromebooks. We are continuing to help our students to be successful by meeting them where they are. There are two curricula, REWARDS and System 44, available to students based on their ELA level. Additionally, there are Khan Academy/NWEA materials which show RIT to Content. I believe that this year with the strong leadership of our ILT, their intent for us to focus on literacy, an increased awareness of our students' skills and limitations, we will be even more effective in helping our students to reach level 3 proficiency. This means that they will be on track to demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary for college and career readiness. I don't want to jinx it, but based on our strong performance on the MAP test in Math and ELA, we are going to kick some butt next year. Fundamentals need to watch out for Carr, here we come.

If you are interested in looking through the site yourself, you can look up any California school at:

<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/#/Home>.

Thank you for those staff who have contributed to this Astro Blast.

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## Ms. Solares's Mariachi Club



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What is St. Baldrick's? And why did it come to Carr Intermediate?

The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-powered organization that funds pediatric oncology research by asking the simple question, "How much money would you donate to help kids with cancer if I shaved my head in solidarity?"

Everybody knows someone who has had cancer. Mrs. Lathus became active in the cancer community after her mother passed away after a 7-month battle with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia in 2002. Mrs. Lathus' son was just three months old. She was teaching at Wilson Elementary at the time and began walking marathons to raise funds to fund cures for blood-related cancers.

Mrs. Lathus learned of St. Baldrick's through her network so when a friend challenged her to grow her hair out to donate to Locks of Love, she considered shaving her head with St. Baldrick's and being able to donate her hair sooner than if she simply got a haircut.

By this time, she was teaching at Carr, and she approached Mr. Patrick (the principal at the time) with the question "How would you feel about a female teacher walking around campus bald?" She explained what she wanted to do, intending to fly to Denver to join another team for the shave.

Mr. Patrick looked up the St. Baldrick's Foundation and when he discovered that there were no Events scheduled in the area, he said, "Why don't you go ahead and set up an event here at Carr? I'll even shave my head with you!"

And so it began. On June 4, 2010, Mrs. Lathus (who was Ms. Hefner at the time), Mr. Patrick, and nine students shaved their heads at lunch. The students were mostly sixth graders, including one girl who would be moving away at the end of the school year. They came short of their \$5000 goal, but managed to raise \$3456 that year. They sent three ponytails to Pantene Beautiful Lengths that year.

Every year since then, the event has grown and we have raised even more money to fund childhood cancer research.

In 2013, the Carr event became even more personal. An 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Fernando Gallegos, had been diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma in August, 2012. His lower leg was amputated the following month. Since then, Carr's St. Baldrick's event has been dedicated to him. We have had two more childhood cancer survivors on our campus since then.

This year, our goal is to raise \$10,000 to fund childhood cancer research. Several teachers and students are registered to shave on March 28. <https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/carr2017>

Mr. DeSantiago will join the League of Extraordinary Heroes this year, when he becomes a Squire, signifying his third fundraising shave. He joins Ms. Wedekind and Mr. Brincks, who will be shaving for the fifth time this year.

You can help by joining us to shave on March 28 or donating to one of our shavees and/or volunteers. Please contact Mrs. Lathus in Room 608 at any time if you have any questions.

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Ashley Wieland



Hi, my name is Ashley Wieland and I am one of the new sixth grade math teachers here at Carr. I am originally from Texas. I grew up in Austin then attended Baylor University, Sic'Em Bears!! I moved to California in June 2015 and while I do miss home, my family, friends and Tex-Mex, I love living down the street from the beach and the amazing weather here. I am really into health and fitness, I love sports, huge Cowboys and Baylor fan, outdoor activities are my favorite, I also enjoy reading and puzzles. This is my eighth year teaching and I could not be happier with the position I am in here at Carr to help educate and mold such amazing young minds.

Edward Buenrostro



Hello my name is Edward Buenrostro and I am one of the new math teachers here at Carr. I grew up here in Santa Ana, and attended SAUSD schools: Remington Elementary, Villa Fundamental Intermediate, and Middle College High School. I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in Math with an Option in Education in 2013 and received my credential from California State University, Long Beach. Go Beach! This is my third year teaching, I taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grade math (and eighth grade science) at El Sol Academy here in Santa Ana. My hobbies include playing basketball, videos games, watching movies, and playing catch with my three dogs.

As the sixth grade math team, we are working together to build unity and consistency across the entire grade level. We have worked together to implement the Zeroes Aren't Permitted Program. We are holding all sixth grade students to the same, high expectations, and it begins with their work habits. We differentiate in our classrooms to accommodate all academic levels to ensure growth for all scholars. We push our advanced scholars towards challenging and meaningful math experiences, while working to close the gaps with other scholars. We are very excited at the growth our students have shown so far this year and look forward to the continual growth of our scholars.

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Elizabeth Solares



Elizabeth Solares graduated from Cal State Fullerton with degrees in Flute Performance and Music Education. From the time she first started playing the flute at 10 years old, she knew that she wanted to pursue music as a career. She connected with her music teacher in elementary school and was also influenced by her admiration for the flutist who played at her church. Elizabeth still performs at her church and participates in weddings and funerals which are held at the church. Elizabeth's two kids, ages 6 and 7, also participate in the church performances in the percussion section. They also are learning to play the piano. Elizabeth worked for three years at Willard, heading the Band, Orchestra and Choir there. She then moved to Santa Ana High School where she worked with the Men's Choir, Orchestra and was an Assistant Marching Band Instructor. She made the decision to move back to the middle school level because of her young kids and established the Mariachi Club. Elizabeth was able to build the program by soliciting for and receiving about 30 string instruments. Elizabeth's love for her students truly shows. One particular student, Gabriel Cruz, not only plays in her Advanced Orchestra but also sings for the Mariachi Club. He is a natural leader and brings a unique quality to the performances. Thanks to Elizabeth, Carr's Mariachi Club, the only one at the middle school level in Santa Ana Unified, is frequently requested by the district to play at district events. Even though she's busy with family, church and Carr, Elizabeth loves it and has truly achieved her childhood dream of working in music. She is able to pass on her love of music to her students, just as her first teacher did for her.

Dan Amosa



Mr. Amosa has been teaching at Carr for five years. He is currently teaching 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade AVID, and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade AVID. He loves teaching at Carr and feels honored to work with the kids at our school. Along with teaching, he appreciates the opportunity he has every year to take kids on camping trips, journeys to the East Coast, and college visits.

Mr. Amosa has grown up all over the South Pacific. He is very thankful for having the opportunity to travel a lot and speak different languages. His favorite sport is rugby, favorite activity is hiking, favorite music is reggae and 1990s Hip Hop, favorite ice cream is Cookies and Cream, favorite place to visit is Turks and Caicos, favorite college is UCLA, favorite place at Carr is Room 401, and his favorite people to be around (other than his students) are his wife, two daughters, and new son.

Mr. Amosa's most beloved literary passage is as follows: "I shall be telling this with a sigh, Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two Roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all of the difference." Your journey starts today Astros, make the best of it!

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## Mr. Amosa's Nature Club Trip



Gerald P. Carr Intermediate School - February 15-17, 2017

 NatureBridge | Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area



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