

Astro Blast

March 1, 2017



Next Week at Carr (3/6-3/10)

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|---------|-----------|---------------------------------|------------|
| 3/4-3/7 | Sat-Tues | Pedroza, Tang, Head- Conference | Sacramento |
| 3/6 | Monday | ILT | Room 301 |
| 3/8 | Wednesday | Department Meeting | |
| 3/11 | Saturday | Neighborhood Canvassing | |

I have emailed and invited you to the March 11th Canvassing Event several times, and I hope you will continue to join those who have already signed up to walk through our kids' neighborhoods and increasing our visibility. I believe we have many positive aspects of Carr to highlight which help us to stand apart from other intermediate schools. Our school culture, ASB, AVID and after school sports are very strong (Hockey Champions!), and we also take academics seriously. We keep our students and parents in the loop using Aeries grade checks, Google Slides and weekly phone calls home about grades. Students that come to Carr have the opportunity to be in the dual immersion program, take Film and Video Journalism from an ex-industry professional (Mr. Jack!), and to be a part of a school **community**. Each of you has so much you have offered Carr and Carr's students. I hope that you consider joining us in canvassing the neighborhood and letting our kids' community know how much you care for our students in and outside of class. Please click [here](#) if you are interested in joining us March 11th! I want to thank all of the teachers that have begun to contribute to the Astro Blast. I hope you enjoy this week's submissions.

Why I Love Carr

Katie Cox

When I first decided to be a teacher, I always knew I wanted to work in "at-risk" schools. My mom thought I was crazy. To be honest, "Freedom Writers" is one of the biggest reasons why. I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to be there for kids who don't have family support at home. I wanted to give them all the opportunities I had growing up. Getting my first full time teaching job was a journey. I subbed in three districts, went on over 40 interviews, and finally nailed an interview in South Central Los Angeles, two weeks before school started. My first year teaching was classroom management hell. I should have been fired. They brought me back for a second year with a chance to "prove myself" and I did just that. But this is when the school brought changes. I was at a charter school, commuting from Huntington Beach to Los Angeles. I would leave at 5am and not get home until 7pm. We were not unionized. Our work hours were 730a to 4p. We were required to host a club (I did ASB), hold a minimum of two tutoring sessions per week, teach math intervention, maintain SILENT hallways, all while teaching our content area and having impeccable management skills. Referrals were not allowed and you had to be ready to defend your reasons for why before they would talk to the student. Needless to say, I excelled in my second year but school was my life. I didn't have time for anything else. By the end of my third year, I was burnt out. My

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final trigger was a student who brought a bb gun to school and received no consequence.

Then there was the fateful, wonderful day that Mr. Pedroza and Mrs. Frias hired me at Carr. I was beside myself. I would be 15 minutes from my house, I would have a union (!!!), and I would still get to work with the kids who I love to be with. I haven't ever been happier. The changes have been noticed by my friends and family. I am constantly reminded by them how much better my quality of life is now. At Carr, my only job is to make sure that I am teaching my kids Social Studies (or now reading!). Anything extra is exactly that, extra. I get to choose what I want to be involved in and be passionate about. I'm not forced into doing something just because it is "required". If I'm having a bad day and send a kid to the office because I'm annoyed, I don't get criticized for it. I'm allowed to go home at 2:31 when I need too. I'm even allowed to take sick days.

Being at Carr has allowed me to find what I love about teaching. I couldn't imagine being anywhere else. As my husband and I prepare to welcome our baby girl this summer (YES IT'S TRUE!), I am so grateful to be at a school where I get to be me. A school where I am supported for being passionate about kids with behavior issues and maintaining a positive school culture. My kids know that I love my job because it radiates from me every day. I hope that each of you can remember why you first signed up for this job and find your why and remember that we are here for them.



Mr. Crawford's Drama Class

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Brian Crawford



Mr. Crawford's contributions at Carr are indeed numerous – 8th Grade Science, Drama, and Yearbook Teacher; Cross Country, Soccer and Track Coach – so it's hard to imagine that he has numerous hobbies outside of Carr as well. Brian, married with two children, coaches his daughter's soccer team, sings and acts with his daughter, and plays golf and fishes with his family. He loves to be involved in a variety of activities, especially with his family, and he is a true Renaissance man who does it all, including cooking all types of food but specializing in seafood – his favorite. Having been involved in plays and musicals since high school and throughout his adult life, Brian loves to act, pretend to be someone else, and perform in front of others. It is obvious to see that Brian's passion for the theater has been passed on to his students. You might have had the chance to catch part of the Drama class's performance recently, and for a group of students who were afraid to speak in front of each other at the beginning of the school year, it has been invigorating to see the progress the students made. It has been truly fulfilling for Brian to pass on his passions to students in the classroom and out on the field. You can try to catch Brian Crawford in 901, in the auditorium and on the field.

René Martinez



My name is Rene Martinez. I am a 7th grade Math/ Science teacher here at Carr Intermediate. I teach 7th grade Math and Science in a mild/moderate setting. I enjoy working with students and help them reach their potential goals and objectives. I believe that every child is capable of learning, should be valued, and treated with respect. An education should empower a child and make him/her a positive contribution to our world.

I received my Bachelor's degree in Fine Art from Cal State Fullerton with a minor in sociology. I continued my education and received my special education, multiple subject teaching credentials, and Master's Degree from National University. When I have some free time, I enjoy drawing, painting, going to museums, playing the guitar, going to jazz concerts, and watching old classic movies.

This is my second year teaching here at Carr Intermediate and it's been a great learning experience. I get to work with great teachers who encourage me and share great strategies that I can implement in my classroom. I look forward in getting to know all of the teachers here at Carr Intermediate.