

Astro Blast

February 22, 2017



Next Week at Carr (2/27-3/3)

2/27	Monday	School Site Council	Room 301
2/28	Tuesday	AVID Meeting	Room 510
3/1	Wednesday	Professional Development	
3/2	Thursday	PBIS Meeting	Room 301 2:45 pm

This Thursday after school, staff and district members and I will be going to Lindsay. I hope they share with you what they see and learn while we're there and inspire you to join the next trip to Lindsay in April. We are also gearing up for the end of the school year with our 8th grade Parent Meetings which were on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. I know that last year when we set the bar high for the students (with the higher GPA requirement), our eighth graders last year rose to the occasion. This year's eighth graders and their parents, with an additional year of preparation about the expectations, will hopefully have a higher rate of promotion.

A Teacher's View from the Office by Wendy Tomala

Being next to the discipline office, down the hall from the decision makers at Carr, and sharing a room with Martin De Santiago has shown me more than ever how little I really know. I learn every day that I have a lot to share but even more to learn. Stepping away from the classroom, I feel that I have become more sensitive to the students and make better connections with them because I'm no longer desensitized to the barrage of student words, actions and drama. I learned that Sandra Pedraza went to a Vietnamese Convention to further her study of the language and that every week students in or out of high school visit to catch up with her. I learn from Martin that "grado" is a false cognate of the English word grade with the correct translation as año and don't forget the tilde. I've gotten to know David, our new tech guy, who said to me that he loves working at Carr because nowhere else had he ever been thanked for doing his job. He loves coming to Carr, helping all of us, and being appreciated. I'd have to say that I am endlessly thankful to be at Carr as well, to have this teacher's view from the main office and to be able to offer assistance to the students and administration, but mostly the staff. When any of you ask me to come to your classroom or if you visit me, I appreciate it so much because it takes me out of my bubble – my staring at the screen, thinking about words and numbers, which I also love doing, but it allows me to think about something different and see things differently. I realize that even when I was among the teachers, in the 400 building, I stayed in my bubble and thought that my problems were all on myself or that I would look weak if I asked for help. Now that I'm in the office I realize that everyone needs help – every administrator, counselor, office staff and I have called on each other, myself and even the office aides for help – and the more that I give, the more I end up receiving. I have been endlessly receiving the emails calling for an open forum, and I wish you could see this teacher's view from the office. What you would see are all the administrators, counselors, office staff, other teachers and me pulling for you and pulling for these kids every hour of every day at Carr. And we can use your help too.