

Astro Blast

May 17, 2017



Next Week at Carr (5/22-5/26)

5/22-23	Mon-Tues	MAP Testing – Lang Arts	Lang Arts Classes
5/25-26	Thurs-Fri	MAP Testing – Math	Math Classes
5/24	Wednesday	Staff Meeting	Library
5/25	Thursday	PBIS Meeting	

Even though we are winding down this school year, I am pleased to welcome Michelle Lugo from Turning Point Center for Families to Carr. Michelle will be with us on Mondays to provide individual and group counseling for our students in support of Aurora Oragel and Wendy Llamas's work. We are fortunate to have her assistance with Carr students. Even with the additional help, we have many students in need of mental health services on a waiting list. In this same vein, your Admin team visited Social Studies classrooms last week to emphasize Carr expectations and to introduce the online link to the counselors on the Carr website. We also talked to them about the use of spinners and reminded them that students are only permitted to use interior hallways during rainy days. Please reinforce these expectations in your classes. Please find a link to our presentation [here](#).

Looking forward to the next school year, our staff members are already preparing us for the 2017-18 school year. Our Scheduling Committee made up of Mr. Churnside, Ms. Lathus and Ms. Chapman are making important bell, block and elective configuration decisions. They will bring a recommendation forward and this will become a formal vote by all teachers that are expected to be here next year. We should have something more concrete to share at next week's staff meeting. The Budget Committee made up of Mr. Head, Ms. Magruder, Mr. Alegre, Mr. Rivera, and Ms. Chapman are helping to decide what to do given the reduction of Title I and General Funds budgets. I appreciate the time and work these teachers are putting into making decisions which will affect all of our students in addition to the direction that our school is moving towards. I hope that more of you will get involved with these committees so that we will be able to hear your input as well.

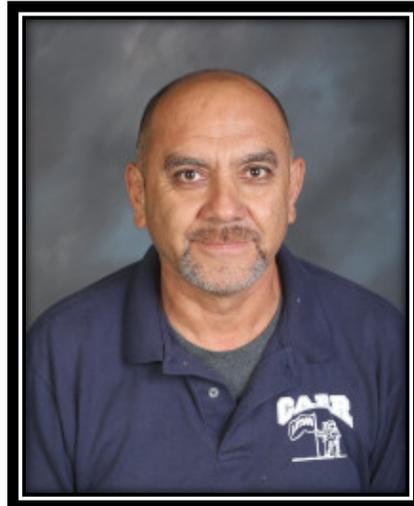
This summer we will continue on with Summerbridge for our incoming 6th graders. This week-long program will introduce our students to Carr and also ask them to take diagnostic tests so that we can more accurately set the master schedule. We look forward to continuing this beneficial program.

In 2017-18, one of the new programs we will have for next year is AVID Excel. In expanding AVID offerings, we are extending our program with AVID Excel which is targeted towards 7th and 8th grade EL students. To start this program, we have invited 6th grade EL students who had expressed an interest in AVID during elective selection. Mrs. Morrell and Ms. Ta have been busy preparing for the summer program that will help launch our AVID Excel program with much success.

As the 2016-17 school year comes to a close, and as we look forward to the coming school year, I strongly believe that the work we are doing for our students is just gaining in momentum. It is so fulfilling to have seen the gains our students have made, and I know that these gains are attributed to how you, our staff, has worked to help all of our students to grow to reach their own potential. Go Astros!

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Mario Alvarado grew up in Mexico City, but he spent his high school years in a small town. Eventually he went back to Mexico City where he started college. However, at 17 years old, he decided that it was time for him to go off on his own, and he went by himself to the US. He found a distant uncle who happened to live in Santa Ana. Arriving on a Wednesday, by Friday, he had found a job as a “bundle boy” at the Ocean Pacific (OP) factory where he carried fabric to the ladies who sewed the clothes. Of the \$120 he made per week, \$50 went to his uncle, he sent money back to his family in Mexico to help out, and he was left with and lived on his remaining \$10-\$20 per week. Meanwhile, Mario spent his nights learning English at Santa Ana High School and was speaking English within 3-4 months. Mario’s next job was as a framer for furniture but he found that he really learned a lot of skills as a Maintenance Helper at an apartment complex. The staff took him under their wing, and he was able to learn plumbing, electrical, and many other skills. Mario also took classes at Saddleback High School and completed the Automotive, HVAC, Electrical and Carpentry classes. Mario’s first position in SAUSD was at Spurgeon, and he was fortunate to earn the position of Plant Custodian at Carr 2 years ago.

In his personal life, Mario has 4 kids with his ex-wife, all of them having attended college, and he has 8 grandkids. His older son is a businessman, and his older daughter is a Marine. His two younger children are twins. His twin son flies all over the country opening dental/medical offices for a chain and is studying Mechanical Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. His twin daughter represents deaf children in court as a kind of social worker who uses ASL. When his kids were young, he volunteered for AYSO and was a Sunday School teacher. Mario’s wife is also a noon duty supervisor at Carr! On the weekends, Mario DJs at private parties and at El Calamar, something he has done for about 10-12 years. It is his third year DJing the 8th grade dance, and this year he will be DJing at Chavez’s dance as well.

When you hear Mario speak about his job at Carr, it is obvious that he loves it. He enjoys the staff and the kids are simply awesome. He takes much pride in creating not just a clean but a safe environment for the staff and students. He wants everyone at Carr to feel safe and to be safe.

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From left to right: Jose Sanchez, Carlos Sosa, Carlos Rodriguez and Jose (Chente) Mejia

The four night custodians are the seemingly magical elves that work every afternoon and night to make Carr shine every day. They joke around that it's easy to remember their names – there are two Carloses and two Joses. Jose Sanchez, Carlos Rodriguez, and Carlos Sosa have all worked together for the past 10 ½ years at Carr. Jose Sanchez started as a groundskeeper at Carr, and when the position was eliminated, he was able to move to the position of Custodian. He has four brothers, one daughter, two sons, and three grandchildren. Carlos Sosa similarly was in the groundskeeper position before moving to Custodian. He has a son and two daughters and six granddaughters. They all live together with his wife and him, so while he loves them very much, sometimes he enjoys coming to Carr and having some time to himself. Carlos Rodriguez is the Backup Lead and also works as a Custodian in Irvine Unified. Both he and Jose Mejia (who also goes by Chente) met each other while working as Substitute Custodians in Santa Ana Unified more than 10 years ago. They both got hired full-time at the same time and went over to HR together to sign their paperwork. While Carlos Rodriguez was assigned to Carr, Jose Mejia was assigned to Loren Griset. He enjoyed working at Griset for 10 years, but he was the only Night Custodian there. Chente loves the camaraderie that the team at Carr shares. They all obviously support each other, helping each other out, and being there for each other. Chente moved over to Carr when the Lead Custodian position opened up. He lives in Riverside with his wife (who works in Nutrition Services at Alvord Unified), two sons (ages 8 and 3) and a daughter (age 4). He loves spending time with his kids, and his schedule allows him to get them up in the morning and spend time with them. All four of the Custodians emphasize that they take a lot of pride in their work. They know that a clean school means more learning will occur. They also help to paint, set up other events especially in the auditorium and Back to School Night, clean up after events, move furniture, change out light bulbs, remove tagging, pressure wash the 600 stairs, wax the floors in addition to the typical mopping, sweeping, kitchen cleaning, carpet washing and taking out of the trash. When their shift is over, they love knowing that the school will look good for the kids.

A huge thanks from everyone at Carr for all the work our five wonderful custodians do!