

Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High School

315 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Carbondale, Kansas 66414

**A Message from Mr. Flax:** Wow, September came and went in a blur. I am not sure how you all feel about it, but summer has all but disappeared, and I am amazed that we have been in school for five weeks. Things are moving along, and the students and staff have settled in. Classes are engaged, activities are already nearing the end of the first season, and the daily routines seem well in place. I have appreciated hearing from some of you in regards to questions, concerns, and positive feedback about the way the year is going. I remind teachers consistently that communication is vital to the success of our students, and sometimes conversations are not as pleasant as we all wish. But those conversations are necessary and very important to have. Please do not hesitate to contact the teachers or myself when you have a question. Enjoy the autumn!

**PTO News:** The PTO Carnival is back, and plans are well under way for a great afternoon. This year the carnival will be held here at Carbondale on Saturday, October 22. There is a lot of need for more parent participation, and the PTO would appreciate any volunteers. Contact Jamie Clark, Chrystal Rogers, or Dawn Sitz to find out how you may contribute. I am sure they have lots of ideas. The Carnival runs from 1:00-4:00 pm. Be on the lookout for more information to come your way from the PTO. We are also going to have the library open for the annual Book Fair during the Carnival. There will be no activities in the library during the Carnival, but you may come in there to look at the books available for sale. Mrs. Peggy Kunkel is managing that Book Fair again for us.

**Activities:** The fall sports season is drawing to a close. The volleyball teams completed their season Saturday, October 1 with competition at the Big Seven League Tournament. The seventh graders entered the tournament as the 7<sup>th</sup> seed. At the end of the day, they came away with the fifth place win. The eighth grade team entered as the number 2 seed. They finished the day winning the league championship. Congrats to the volleyball teams. The runners are finding much success for the cross country team. At each meet our student-athletes are improving on their personal times, with some runners placing in several of the meets. They will finish their season at Osage City next Thursday, October 6 with the race beginning at 4:00. The football teams have two more games remaining on their schedule. Next Thursday they travel to Perry, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October they host Jefferson County West. Both of those remaining games begin with the seventh grade team kicking off at 4:30, followed by the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at approximately 6:00. They are enjoying a good season as well.

**Student Council:** The Student Council elections are finished, with a new group ready to lead the student body for the year. Mrs. Tina McIver is the student council sponsor. One of the activities that the StuCo has taken on is to participate in the Character Education efforts. Each morning during the morning assembly, I address an aspect of character with the students and staff. StuCo has agreed to provide an announcement at the beginning of each month with a "Word of the Month." For the month of October both StuCo and I will be addressing Responsibility, with Morgan Makowski reading the first entry. The student council members are: Haley McMurphey, Kyle Hug, Morgan Makowski, Jessica Moore, Dominic Schrempp, Leah Finley, Jesse Busby, Hailey Hall, Kelsey Hug, Sarah Ralston, Otis Costlow, Isabel Bousson, and Trevor Beavers.

**Power School:** I have had a few requests for parent identification and passwords for the Power School access. That reminded me to make mention of the availability of those to you. If you do not have that information to look at your child's grades, please be in contact with one of us in the office. We can provide those for you with no problem. I encourage all of you with Internet access to look at the Power School information regularly. Students also have access codes to check their own grades. You can get to Power School rather easily. Just go to the district website (<http://www.usd434.org/>) and click on the Power School link. That will open the page you need to enter your personal information and access the grades. That also provides a link to email any of your child's teachers. When you have questions, don't hesitate to give those

teachers a phone call or an email. For the most part grades are updated at least two times per week by the teachers.

**Communications:** In the district we are trying to send out our parent information communications via email for all of you who have registered an email with us here at the office. Each month, and when special circumstances arise, you should expect to receive this newsletter via email. For those who do not have email access, we do send this home with the students in paper copy. Each student on my list for that is specifically handed the communications sheets. Also, as we get into fall, we will begin thinking about the winter weather coming in. (Not rushing into that; fall is my favorite season of the year.) School closings for any reason will be announced on the radio station, television stations, and via the K-12 alerts over the phone. And as always, I encourage parents to contact the office, teachers, or me when you have a question or concern. Thanks for being good partners with us on the Santa Fe Trail.

**Conferences/Report Cards:** To follow up the Communications piece of this newsletter, I wanted to remind you all of the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences. At the Carbondale building we will have conferences on Tuesday, October 25 and Wednesday, October 26. On both days, teachers will be available from 4:00-7:00. The junior high teachers will be in their classrooms taking parents on a drop-in basis. The teachers in grades five and six will have a scheduled time for each student/parent to conference. Grade cards will be handed out during the conferences. Conferences are a good time to discuss concerns, issues, and student successes. Please put those on your calendar and plan to attend. Thanks.

**Halloween:** The elementary teachers are making plans for the Halloween parties. This year, we are not in school on the actual date of Halloween nor on the Friday previous to that. We plan to have the parties on Thursday, October 27, with the actual times of parties not yet settled. You can be looking for a note from the classroom teachers in the next couple of weeks.

#### **For Your Calendars:**

October 4	First Day of Girls' Basketball Practice
October 4	PTO Meeting at CAC 6:30
October 6	Cross Country at Osage City 4:00
October 6	Football at Perry 4:30
October 10	No School – Staff Development Day
October 11	Football vs. Jeff West at SFTHS 4:30
October 12	BOE Meeting at DAC 6:00
October 20	End of First Quarter
October 20	Picture Retakes
October 20	Girls' Basketball at Hiawatha 4:00
October 21	No School – Teacher Prep Day
October 24	Girls' Basketball vs. Sabetha at SAC/CAC 4:15
October 25	Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00
October 26	Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00
October 26	BOE Meeting at DAC 6:00
October 28	No School
October 31	No School – Staff Development Day
October 31	Girls' Basketball at Jeff West 4:00