

Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High School
BOE Report – December 2016

The following is a report on the activities and updates for November and December at the Carbondale Attendance Center.

Activities Update – The wrestling team has completed its season. And what a successful season it was! The team won the Pioneer League Wrestling Tournament, and followed that up with several students placing in our regular season meets. Thanks to Coach Patrick Graham and Coach Josh Cauthon for their work with the team. Additionally, girls' basketball will finish their season tomorrow (December 8) with a home game against Iola. The seventh grade team is currently in second place in the league, and the eighth grade sits in fourth place. Both teams have been competitive and successful this season. Coaches are Tiffany Burget, Elizabeth Olorunfemi, and Dana Hoffer. Boys' basketball practices will begin next week. At the first meeting we have 48 boys signed up to play. I am sure this will require the use of two gyms at least part of the time over the course of the season.

Parking Lot Signage – We have received the parking lot signs, and are ready for them to be put up. Mrs. Hamit met with Jim Harris and Carbondale Police Chief Gordon Smith regarding the correct placement of them in the parking lot. Jim Harris is getting sign posts, as the current posts will not allow for angling the signs as Chief Smith believes to be best. I am hopeful these will be in place before we return from the holiday break.

Osage County Spelling Bee – We are hosting the Osage County Spelling Bee here at Carbondale. Gretta Hug and Allison Folger are our spelling chairs, and they will be managing the event. It will be on February 3, 2017. We are requesting that the auditorium at the high school is available to us that morning. I have not made that request yet, but will visit with high school administration about it. Our building preliminary meets will be next week, with the building finals to be in January.

Celebrations/Holiday Parties – All grade levels are making plans for the second quarter celebrations and the holiday parties for the students. Junior high students who qualify and have turned in the required paperwork will again make the annual ski trip to Westin sometime in January. Snow Creek is very strict with their requirements of deadlines and information. Some of our students struggle with returning things on time, but Snow Creek does not make exceptions to their policies. All CAC students will participate in the annual "Christmas Sing!" the last morning of school. Mrs. Jarrett does a great job of planning the events for that event. Then all grade levels will have some sort of holiday party/activity in the afternoon.

Staff Development Days – The staff took full advantage of the staff development days we had in November before the Thanksgiving holiday. We had two full days of school improvement and building work, and staff was fully engaged. As the school improvement plan will be completely teacher-driven it was exciting to see every teacher participate. The building leaders for CAC are: Tiffany Burget – Data Chair; Nicole Prochaska – Reading Chair; Josh Cauthon – Writing Chair; Courtnee Maichel – Math Chair; and Kayla Chiddix – Soft Skills Chair. Allison Folger is, at this time, our building chair. With her movement to the high school next year Josh Cauthon has agreed to become the building chair. A writing chair will be secured in the near future.

6th Grade – Kristy Hamit and I have begun an on-going discussion about a potential change for sixth grade. We have visited briefly with Dr. Pegram, and he has requested a written plan for his and your consideration. We hope to have that to you before the break for the holidays.

Student Movement – We have experienced much loss among our student body over the past several weeks. Seven students have left our school due to a death in the family or a change in family residence situations. Sadly, most of these students did not have the opportunity to say goodbye to their friends here. That impacts the morale of some students very drastically. Maggie Mead and I have been very busy with students who are having a difficult time with the changes. We have been in contact with two families who have moved, and the schools have reached out to us to help those students with their transitions as well.

Submitted by Michael Flax
7 December 2016