December 1, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for a wonderful first marking period of school! We experienced a challenging start to our school year with the staffing shortages and the quarantine of students and staff. However, great things are happening every day at Carnell, and we have many accomplishments to share with you:

- We conducted monthly student well-being surveys to obtain real-time, actionable information about our students’ connections with adults at school and their peers as well as their ability to apply social-emotional and problem-solving skills.
- Nearly 80% of our teachers are participating in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training to improve their delivery of high-quality reading instruction to our students.
- We implemented daily community meetings in every classroom to promote social-emotional health awareness and a positive school culture.
- The school held its first Parent/Teacher report card conferences on November 22-24, using the option of in-person or virtual meetings to ensure safety for everyone.
- We successfully kicked off our extracurricular activities, including a STEM/Lego class and a drumline course.
- Ms. Spalding, our extraordinary art teacher, has increased the level of art positivity and energy among our students has beautified the school with student artwork.

These accomplishments are just a snapshot of the excitement we experience at our school.

As we enter the final month of 2021, I want to thank each of you for your focus and commitment to our academic program. Thank you to our parents and families for supporting students as they navigate the return to in-person learning. Thank you to our teachers and staff members for creating a welcoming learning environment for our students to thrive. Most importantly, thank you to our amazing students for contributing to our school’s positive school culture and excelling in their social, emotional, and academic growth.

As a reminder, Winter Recess for students starts Friday, December 24, 2021, and school resumes on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Winter Recess for faculty and staff starts Friday, December 24, 2021, and resumes on Monday, January 3, 2022, with a full day of professional development.

I look forward to the next few weeks of school as we end 2021 with a strong finish. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school at (215) 400-3150. Be well and stay safe!

Hilderbrand Pelzer III, Principal