



The Carden Lion

November 18, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

WASC Visiting Committee	Nov. 15-19
Thanksgiving Vacation	Nov. 23-27
Student Council Meeting	Nov. 30
4 th Grade to host Bake Sale	Dec. 2
Family Fun Night	Dec. 7
Student Council Meeting	Dec. 14
Winter Program	Dec. 17

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING IN THE LION!

Our 7th and 8th grade students, with the help of Mr. Blanks, our Middle School Language Arts teacher, will be writing a weekly profile of each of our faculty and staff for *The Carden Lion* throughout the rest of the school year. Each week look for the newest person to be profiled so that you may get to know each and every one of the truly dedicated people that teach and help our children on a daily basis. Adam Cooke, an 8th grade student, has profiled Mr. Blanks on the next page for our first in the series of, "Getting to Know Our Faculty and Staff."

"You can do anything you really believe you can do." -Mae Carden



READING BUDDIES RETURNS!

Our Reading Buddies program has returned to the absolute delight of the junior kindergarten and kindergarten children! The 5th and 6th graders make their way weekly to read to the younger students in their classrooms. Thank you to Mrs. Robinson for these wonderful photographs of the children!



“GETTING TO KNOW OUR FACULTY AND STAFF”

BY ADAM COOKE

Profile of Mr. Blanks

When one might think of English, one might think of grammar, spelling and papers to write. This is in some ways true of Mr. Blanks' class, but there is much more to one of Carden's newest teachers. As I walked into his room for our interview, I saw his desk with papers from his students and work strewn to read and correct. You could tell he loved to teach and from the way he sat you knew he thought hard on the subjects, exploring possibilities in his mind.

Mr. Blanks dresses in black shoes and slacks and a dress shirt. Being a writer, he has little things about him that change and expand much like the chapters in one of his stories. In our talks, he mentioned that he knew somehow from when he was young he wanted to be a storyteller, a writer. Stories are rich in Mr. Blanks, including one about a dark, weekend school, hunting and finding hidden treasures and clues.

He fondly remembers, as a seven-year-old, inventing detective stories with his friends; he saw red paint cast along a wall and called it blood, and he and his friends would then have to solve the mystery of how it got there, and why. Clues would range from a pencil box strewn across the playground to a smudge on the hallway floor. Even at such a young age, he was telling stories, and that carried into his adult life.

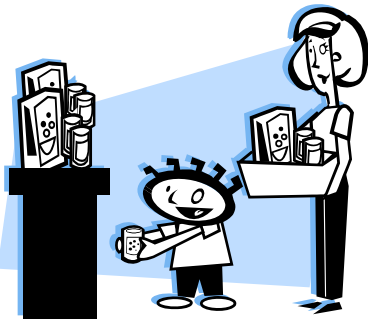
His education in the intricacies of grammar and writing was carried out in Montana where he wrote his first play to be performed and directed by himself. The play had only two actors and was performed over the course of a week. Even though the exploit was small and the notoriety as well he still takes much pride in the work.

His passion for writing comes through in his classes where students, including myself, write short prompts ranging from a question of inner thinking to improvement and even pictures inspiring one to a story. Analysis is heavy and writing a must in Mr. Blanks' English class. He takes pride in the stories his seventh and eighth graders write and the things they implore to ponder.

The best way to put Mr. Blanks is an onion with so many layers. One is seen as a teacher, another as a writer, one as simply a storyteller, and many more. I feel lucky as an interviewer to know my subject so well

ANNUAL CANNED FOOD DRIVE

The Parent Club will be holding its annual canned food drive to benefit The Community Food Bank from November 30 to December 11. The Community Food Bank will be picking up all of the donations on December 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Carden. The Community Food Bank is doing all that they can to help create a hunger-free Central Valley. Please help us make this a success by contributing any canned goods, dried goods or cash contributions during these dates. All donations may be brought to the classrooms, school office or school kitchen at any time during these dates. Last year we collected 860 pounds of food that was used in 3000 holiday meals and distributed on December 22, 2008. Let's see if we can break that record! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Caroline Wiehl at caroline_wiehl@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Mark your calendars for our next Family Fun Night. Monday, December 7 at California Pizza Kitchen in River Park is the site of our next Family Fun Night dinner. We will be sending out the flyer before the dinner which needs to be turned in to your server so that 15% of the proceeds can be donated to our school. Get out of the kitchen and meet friends, family, invite a teacher or do take out and help our school all at the same time! Hope to see you there!



THE CARDEN LION

The deadline for newsletter announcements is on the Saturday prior to publication. *The Carden Lion* is published on Wednesdays and emailed to all families along with being posted on our website. Information must be emailed to glikbarg@sbcglobal.com in order to be included.

FRENCH CULTURE IN FRESNO

The Fresno Metropolitan Museum is currently exhibiting *The Early Etchings from 1920s* by Marc Chagall till January 17, 2010 and an interactive exhibition, "*Chagall for Children*" till January 31, 2010. Russian-born Chagall (1887-1985) lived most of his life in France. In addition, you can see *The Art Books of Henri Matisse* on display till January 10, 2010. For more information go to the Fresno Met web site:

<http://www.fresnomet.org/exhibitions.html>

<http://www.fresnomet.org/the-art-books-of-henri-matisse.html>

HOT LUNCH

If you are interested in purchasing Hot Lunch from our outside vendor, Campus Cuisine, be sure to go to our website at www.cardenschooloffresno.com to get information. Just click on the 'Hot Lunch' tab and follow the directions. It's as easy as 1-2-3 to have a delicious hot lunch delivered to your child any Monday-Thursday of your choice.

WINTER PROGRAM

Mark your calendars now for the evening of December 17 for the Carden School Winter Program starring all of our children. Mrs. McMahon and all the children seem to be keeping very quiet about the specifics of the show so we're sure there will be lots of great music, singing, fun and surprises for all who attend! We look forward to seeing everyone there!

MAD SCIENCE AT CARDEN



THE CARDEN CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AT THEIR LAST MEET

