

Arthur E. Canty School

3740 N. Panama Ave., Chicago, IL 60634

Telephone #: 773.534.1238

Website: www.cantyschool.org

February 2019 Newsletter

A Note from the Administrator in Charge

Dear Canty School Families,

Believe it or not, the first semester is over. *You will be receiving your child/ren Report Cards by Monday, February 11, 2019.* We have also completed the winter sessions of NWEA (for certain grade levels) and Dibels testing. Please review and discuss both the Report Card and test results with your child/ren and set goals for a successful completion of the school year. If you need to talk to a teacher, please schedule a conference via email or phone call. Let's work together to help our students succeed. As the first semester comes to an end, some students will be switching color groups to better accommodate their educational learning. This switch will be communicated to you soon.

I know there have been complaints about the heat and snow removal. We are working with our maintenance contract staff to correct these problems. Please remember that Heat/Air and Snow Removal have been contracted out to a company for all of CPS over the last few years.

Due to the Snow Days, the last day of school is now Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Please feel free to contact me with concerns (skcarlson@cps.edu) or drop in to say hello.

Sincerely,

Sandra Carlson

Administrator in Charge

Attendance ~ Website Link



Every student. Every day.

We are happy to introduce our **NEW** attendance notification link located on our website. This new option allows you to notify Canty of your child(ren) absence via email (Instead of calling the school's attendance line). *Please submit the morning of your child's absence between the hours of 6am to 9am.*

This attendance email notification **DOES NOT** serve as an official excused absence, all students **MUST** bring a signed absence note upon their return to be fully excused. **Emailed absence notes will NOT be accepted.**

To access the attendance link:

⇒ Visit www.cantyschool.org

Go to the parent tab

Click Absence Notification

Complete the Required Information

⇒ Click Submit



Gradebook to Aspen Update

As you might know, CPS Gradebook/Parent Portal will close on Friday, April 12, 2019 at 5pm forever. The new grading system program that will be implemented is called "ASPEN". We hope that you have read the flyer about ASPEN that was sent home in the Fall. Teachers have been receiving professional development on this new grading system throughout the fall. We will be sending out an **email blast** on where to login, how to login, how to view grades and etc. when that information is provided to us by CPS. Please continue to use the current Gradebook application for the rest of the 3rd quarter.

Student and Science Fee

The Local School Council has set the **Student fee of \$80 dollars**. The Student Fee is \$80 dollars and can be sent to your child's homeroom teacher. The Student Fee helps Canty School buy **additional curriculum materials like novels, magazines and online educational materials**. Also in order to provide a complete science program including labs and experiments, the science department, with the approval of the Local School Council, has approved a **Science fee of \$5 dollars for Kindergarten to 5th grade students** and a **\$10 dollar fee for 6th to 8th grade students**. Please submit this fee to the grade level Science Teacher. Cash only.



Recess/Outdoor play clothing and weather guidelines

As winter has begun, **all students must have a coat, a hat and gloves**. Students will go outside for recess depending on the below temperature guidelines.

Above 32 degrees F with or without wind chill:

Recess held outdoors

Between 31 degrees F and 15 degrees F with or without wind chill:

School discretion

Below 15 degrees F with or without wind chill:

Recess held indoors



Attendance ~ Absent Call In

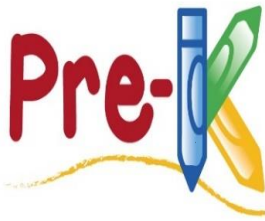
If your child will be absent, parents/guardians are required to call the attendance office each day. Please call the **Attendance line at (773) 534-1238 and press option 3**. Calls should be made between the hours of 6:30am to 8:30 am. CPS will still send an automated message when your child is absent.



Friends of Canty

Please join us for the **February meeting on Monday, February 11th in Room 114 at 3:10pm**. All are welcome! Valentine's Day is coming! Friends of Canty is hosting its **first babysitting night called "Valentine Date Night"**. Drop your kids off on **Friday, February 15, 2019 from 5pm to 8pm** and enjoy a night out. Kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome. The **cost is \$12 for the first child and \$10 for each additional sibling**. We'll have pizza, movies and activities for the kids. More details will be sent home soon!

Grade Level News



The preschoolers have been busy studying clothing, snow, hibernation and cold weather. We have had our first snowfall and enjoyed our play. We will continue to play in the February snow. February brings a new study of buildings, so take a look at the different structures in our area. We will also learn about friendship and exchange Valentine cards with our classmates. President's Day falls in the middle of the month so expect a short lesson on past and current presidents. *Please continue to read with your children. They learn so much from you, their first teachers.*

The Kindergarten Classrooms are preparing for the **100th Day of School** which will be on **Wednesday, February 20th**. Each student is preparing a special 100th Day project, which he/she will share with their classmates. We are excited to see all the projects! Each classroom will be having a party, which will include making a 100th day snack and many other activities related to 100. We will also celebrate Valentine's Day in our classrooms. We are exploring the winter season, learning about clothes and animals in the winter. We enjoyed a special **science** experiment, learning about how salt melts snow. Thank you to Mrs. Luckring (Grandmother of Katelyn Rm 128) for donating supplies and helping us with the experiment. In **Language Arts**, we continue to work on letter sounds and decoding words to read and write. In **Math**, we are working on spatial concepts and numbers 1-20.



With the start of February, we are now halfway through First Grade! The first graders have been working very hard on their middle of the year assessments and showing great progress! Coming up this month students will be working on several projects. With the 100th day of school coming mid-month, they will be completing their 100th day project in **Math**. Also in **Math** this month, students will be focusing on identifying and comparing numbers 1-20 and adding and subtracting them. Students will be making groups of 10 to make it easier to add or subtract them. The next section will be about length and ordering objects by length.

In **Science**, the students are completing a Solar System project due at the end of the month. They will also continue building their writing skills in **ELA** as they work towards writing and illustrating their own stories. In **Social Studies**, students are working on studying presidents Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

In **Reading**, we will continue studying various reading strategies. We will implement graphic organizers to help in better understanding the text we are reading. We will do various readings on famous African Americans concluding with a novel study on George Washington Carver. We will also begin working on our persuasive essays in **Writing**. In **Social Studies**, we are learning about the achievements of American Presidents as well as other famous Americans. In **Science**, students are studying the properties of materials. They are investigating a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties. Students are also reading *Scholastic News* and *Time for Kids* articles and are enjoying discussing current events. In **Math**, we are all focusing on the various ways to show multiplication. We are practicing our 2's, 5's, and 10's times tables and will be assessed throughout the unit to show fact fluency. Please practice IXL concepts Y and Z as we continue to learn multiplication skills. Flash cards may be purchased and practiced at home for extra reinforcement. A newsletter was sent home regarding the 100th day of school. Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in dressing like they're 100 years old.



3rd Grade

In **Math**, we have been working on multiplying and dividing through 12. We started working on dividing larger numbers, and will continue working on division with remainders. Everyone should continue practicing their multiplication flashcards and working on IXL! Next up...fractions:) This month in **ELA**, we will continue to work on our novel, *Bunnacula!* This is a fun novel that helps students to understand different points of view. They will write a diary from a different character's point of view as well. We will also continue to work on our writing skills and writing from a different perspective other than their own.

In **Social Studies**, we have been learning about the physical and human features that make up our environment. We will continue our study in Science by learning about how landforms and features can change, sometimes over time due to weather and climate, and sometimes because of sudden natural disasters. In **Social Studies**, we are also looking forward to reading the novel, *Let's Dream, Martin Luther King, Jr.!* to learn more about the childhood and life of Dr. King.

In both ELA and Math we have completed our mid-year NWEA Winter testing.

In **ELA**, we will begin Biographies for Black History Month and begin the novel *Because of Winn-Dixie*. In **Math**, students will be working on factors and multiples. This will lead into adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators. Lastly students will begin to work on decimals. In **Science**, we will dig deeper into the Next Generation Science Standard about obtaining and combining information to describe how energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and how their uses affect the environment. In **Social Studies**, we will explore and focus on the History and Economy of the Southeast Region of the United States.

4th Grade

5th Grade

In **Science**, we are wrapping up our unit on "Earth's Place in the Universe". Our next unit is on the "Ecosystems". The students will be working on how Earth has multiple ecosystems around the planet, and how they intertwine. In **Social Studies**, we are continuing our unit about "Life in the Colonies". The students are learning the geography, culture, and civics about 18th Century Life. There will be an upcoming culminating project; the students will create their own Colonial Cookbooks. More information will be sent home with the students. After we conclude "Life in the Colonies", we will continue with the "American Revolution".

In **Math**, we are progressing nicely in our first half of the math book. We are still working on fractions, which will help us transition into ratios, decimals, and percent. We will continue working on word problems, which are sometimes hard to understand and where to begin when solving them. Please feel free to practice IXL at home as much as possible, especially the recommendations section given by the IXL program. In **Language Arts**, we are reading the novel *Holes* during classtime; Louis Sachar is a wonderful author of many other great books your child may choose later to read. *In addition, we have completed our mid-year NWEA winter testing, which should help refocus some of our literacy goals.* Review the results with your child and make a plan for improvements and growth. Please have your child read often, plus keep in mind, they need to talk and discuss what they are reading with you, schedule a book talk at least once a week. I suggest reading the books along with your child and reviewing their spiral work. Our goal is three books every month; logs are collected the last day of the month and recorded as a homework grade. ***Reminder: If you participated in the recreational reading program, Read to Succeed, please remember to submit the required signed paperwork by February 4th, 2019.***



For **Science**, all sixth graders should have a pair of scissors, glue sticks, and headphones. Some of these materials may have depleted since the beginning of the school year because they are used frequently. Please check with your students to ensure they are prepared for class each day. After learning about insulin and completing our diagrams of the diabetic pathway, we will complete a cellular respiration investigation. In **Social Studies**, we will read an article to spark a discussion about recent immigration topics in the news, then analyze the cause and effect of controversial crossings. Geography skills will be reinforced through a map reading activity. Students will continue to practice reading a graph, analyzing primary sources, and prepping for multiple choice tests with other current events articles. Finally, we will debate whether the Post Office is still needed. In **Math**, sixth graders have started Pre-Algebra!!! They are having fun exploring Expressions, the Distributive Property, Simplifying, and Factoring. Although it is challenging, they are all persevering!!! They have realized that they need to communicate with their peers and teacher. They feel comfortable admitting when things are challenging and when they need another explanation. The sixth graders are learning mathematical concepts as well as skills that will help them become successful learners. After all, we all learn from failure. In **ELA**, we will be reading several new short stories in our Literature Text, along with new articles from Achieve 3000. These stories and articles will help us to focus on topics dealing with Predicting, Characterization, Point of View (1st and 3rd), Personal Connections to literature, and Argumentative writing. We will continue to build on vocabulary with new words for each short story and will even incorporate some of these words into our argumentative essays. The research and writing process is time consuming, but wait till we finish our essays! It will be time well spent. In **SEL**, we are continuing to work on empathy and communication by focusing on disagreeing respectfully.

In **Math**, we are continuing to work on one-step and two-step algebraic equations through direct and inverse proportions. Next up, we are going into the world of angles (complementary, supplementary, and vertical). In **Science**, we have wrapped up our unit on photosynthesis and respiration. Students did a lab in which they compared the two equations and balanced scientific equations using the distributive property.

Students also got to be creative and apply to a photosynthesis factory by writing an application cover letter for the job. Next, we will be learning more about DNA (which was previously talked about) and why we are the way we are. Don't be surprised if your child has a sudden interest in your family history as genetics and heredity will also be addressed. In **Reading**, students are continuing their focus on Short/Close Reads in order to increase their ability to think critically and analytically. Individually, students have annotated poems and short passages, and then as groups, have met and analyzed their answers based on a series of discussion questions in order to obtain different perspectives and clarify their thinking. As a class we then go over any 'faulty thinking.' (Students are assessed on the Common Core State Standards for Listening and Speaking (7th Grade). As part of an emphasis on increased rigor within the curriculum, students have also read and annotated more intense passages such as "Darkness at Noon" by Harold Krents in order to continue to challenge their analytical thinking. We have begun our analysis of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Students seem to be enjoying the play and we are tracing the many different themes that appear throughout the play (Friendship, Love, Women's role in a patriarchal society, etc) as well as making connections to what is occurring in the world today. Students continue to work on their new Vocabulary series and are working on incorporating some of their new words into their writing. We are continuing the study of analogies and the relationship of words being compared, as well as text structure, and author's purpose. In **Writing**, we have begun our review of Prepositional Phrases and how they are used within writing. Students are Peer Editing their Personal Narratives and making their corrections before turning in their final copy.

Seventh
GRADE

8TH GRADE Rocks!

In Reading, students are continuing to work on figurative language and poetry. We will begin to read and analyze Shakespeare's "*Romeo and Juliet*" as well as continuing to analyze speeches and passages. Math and Algebra 1, we will be exploring linear equations and system of equations.

In Science, the lab received half a pound of new students: Redworms! These new students occupy the compost bin in room 117 and will begin eating their weight everyday in fruit and vegetable scraps- even Mr. Callaghan's daily coffee grounds! Students are learning about the benefits of worm composting and becoming more aware of the impact they can have on their environment and the positive changes they can introduce.

English Language Learners will be working on personal narrative, writing parts of a story, finding cause and effect. The 7th and 8th graders will be practicing the formal letter to High School. In Reading class, students will be making inferences from stories. Make up for ACCESS Test is scheduled for the first week of February.



STUDENT COUNCIL



Student Council is currently planning an after school card playing activity for students in grades three through five. Our members are presently teaching each other how to play a variety of different games including Go Fish, Garbage, War, and Kings in the Corner.

They will be prepared to enjoy an afternoon of card playing with other Canty Students. A date will be announced soon.

Happy
VALENTINE'S
DAY