

Arthur E. Canty School

3740 N. Panama Ave., Chicago, IL 60634

Telephone #: 773.534.1238

Website: www.cantyschool.org

January 2019 Newsletter

A Note from the Administrator in Charge

Dear Canty School Families,

The students performed impressively both vocally and instrumentally on December 13th and 14th during the winter performances. A big thank you to the teachers and students for all the hard work and dedication put towards this event. Thank you to all the parents for your support!

School resumes for all students and staff on January 7th. After winter break, the primary grades will be taking the DIBELS, TRC, NWEA Math tests. The ELs will take the ACCESS test. **Second quarter ends February 1st.** *Please encourage your children to read every day for half an hour. Also, please try and discuss the books they read. We appreciate your help.*

Ms. Laurencell and I wish the entire Canty community a wonderful winter break, healthy holidays and all the best in the New Year.

In Mr. Beach's "The Counselor Corner", you will find information about Calm Classroom and Restorative Practices. These are two programs that have started at the beginning of this school year.

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

Sincerely,
Sandra Carlson
Administrator in Charge



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 a few weeks ago. 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 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter.

Honor Roll Omission

Luke Brogdon from Second grade should have been on the A-B Honor Roll for 1st quarter.

Chicago Public Library Winter Learning Challenge "Reading" Program 2018

"Design your World" at the Dunning Branch from December 17th through January 7th for the Winter Learning "Reading" Challenge! Students 13 and under can come in and participate and enjoy books, programs and activities to keep their brains active during Winter break. Students that complete the program, will get extra credit with Mr. Yak. For more information, call the Dunning Branch at 312.743.0480 or stop by and visit at 7455 W. Cornelia (Next to Dever).



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.



Attendance ~ Website Link



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

Friends of Canty

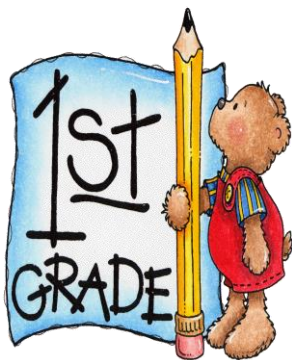
Thank you to all the students and parents that came to purchase and to volunteer their time to make the Holiday Shop a success. Thank you to the parents that bought a box of candy. All money raised, goes back to the school for materials and supplies that the students need to be the best school in the city! In January, we will have no activities as we plan for the rest of the school year. Friends of Canty meeting is Tuesday, January 29th at 5pm in Room 114. Please follow us on Facebook at Friends of Canty.

Grade Level News



Welcome Back! The preschool rooms whirl into winter with a continuation of the study of clothing as well as discussions about snow, hibernation and cold weather. We will look at trees and note their differences. All classrooms will be experimenting with snow by observing it melt and playing in the snow. *If there is a snowfall of 3" or more, please send mittens (they keep us warmer than gloves) so that we can play in the snow.* Due to the extreme cold in January, we will bring the snow in the Classroom! It's lots of fun for everyone. Also, dress your child in fleece or sweaters as it is chilly in the classrooms.

We had a very busy December. We enjoyed all kinds of holiday activities, especially our trip to see Mrs. Claus and tasting gingerbread cookies. In January we will settle into our routine again. In Reading, we will continue to work on decoding words and expanding our writing. We will work on spacing our words, using sight words in our sentences and using punctuation. Please remember to practice the second quarter sight words with your child. We will also be testing reading levels for the Second Quarter. In Math, we are beginning to gear up for our 100th Day Celebration which will be here very soon. We are also working on more and fewer and numbers to 20.



Happy New Year Everyone! January will be a very busy and exciting month. In Science, we will be conducting our first Science Experiment. Our little scientists will be filling out parts of the Scientific Method as well as conducting their own hands-on experiment. They are sooo excited! We will also start our exciting unit on The Solar System. In Social Studies, we will be learning about a great American, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In Reading, the students will be completing the middle of the year (MOY) TRC benchmark assessment this January. We will continue discussing non-fiction and focusing on comprehension using the Main Idea journal responses. The students should continue reading their RED folder daily and practice reading fluently with expression.

In Writing, the kids have been doing great writing sentences and will continue working to build skills by adding details and descriptions in their writing. We will continue with more quick writes this month to encourage student writing. In Math, we have finished doing subtraction problems and started our unit on Shapes and Geometry. We have been learning about 2 dimensional shapes like circle, square, rectangle, and triangle and 3 dimensional shapes like cone, rectangular prism, cylinder, sphere, cube, and pyramid. Students were able to use these shapes to create other shapes. Students are also learning how to break these shapes apart into fourths/quarters, thirds, and halves which is the first step for learning about fractions. Students are then taking these shapes and creating patterns. Our next chapter is going to focus on ordinal and position numbers.

Welcome back Second Graders! To start off the New Year let's remember to have a full supply bag of pencils, crayons, scissors and glue sticks. In Math, we will be working on bar models and multiplication. In Science, we finished Animals Grow and Change unit. We will begin the next unit on Balance and Motion. We will also be working on many in class experiments. In Social Studies, we will be learning about the United States government. In Reading, we will continue studying different topics such as comparing and contrasting different characters, main idea and details. We will continue our study of Magic Tree House books. We will also study the Flat Stanley series as well as the *Clementine* series.



3rd Grade

Welcome to 2019! In **ELA**, we will continue to work on understanding cause and effect and identifying text structures when we read. Mid-month, we will start our next novel; *Bunnycula!* We use this novel to understand point of view! This will carry over into fun writing activities as well! ***Please be sure you are working on the Six Flags Read to Succeed! All forms are due by February 15th to earn a FREE ticket to Six Flags for the summer!***

In **Math**, we have been working on multiplying and dividing through 9. We will begin working on multiplying larger numbers this month!. Everyone should continue practicing their multiplication flashcards and working on IXL! In **Social Studies**, we are learning all about different types of maps and landforms. In **Science**, we will be discovering how and why these landforms can change!

Happy New Year! The 4th Graders are excited about 2019 and looking forward to making it the best year ever! In **ELA**, we will begin a new novel *Because of Winn-Dixie*. The novel explores themes of friendship, acceptance and tolerance. The novel will culminate with a movie day for all of the 4th grade as we will watch and compare and contrast the book vs. the movie.

4th Grade

This month in **Science**, we will continue our study of "Energy." We will focus on Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): 1) 4-PS3-1. Use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object. 2) 4-PS3-3. Ask questions and predict outcomes about the changes in energy that occur when objects collide. In **Social Studies**, we will continue our study of the Mid-West region of the United States with a particular focus on the history and economy of the region. Also, we will study the Native American tribe called The Lakota. In **Math**, two of the groups will be working on fractions, and then graphs. One group will be working on graphs and factors. This group will then work on fractions.

5th Grade

In **Social Studies**, we are continuing to study the geography song, "Fifty Nifty United States", in our classes. After the holidays, we are going to be studying colonial life. In **Science**, we are progressing nicely with our unit on Earth's Place in the Universe. We are continuing learning about the solar system, the moon, the sun, and Earth's systems. In **Language Arts Class**, students should finish reading their December approved books and list the books on their log. *The December reading logs will be collected/due on January 8th, 2019; our goal is three books read every month.* I am not assigning a related book project for December books, instead please enjoy the holidays with family.

The January book genres are a biography for the green rit band, a science fiction book for the orange rit band, and a historical fiction book for the purple rit band; please have these ready for our January independent reading. The due date to approve the books will be January 10th, 2019. Enjoy the time away from school and plan to work efficiently in the new year. In **Math**, we are continuing to work on fractions, which should help us transition to a little of algebra, ratios, and decimals. We still need to work on memorizing our multiplication and division facts. After the holidays, it will be full speed ahead to finish the first half of the math book. Please continue to practice solving math problems even if there is no homework assigned. IXL is a great tool to use in improving math skills.



In **Science**, students will build upon their knowledge of cells to learn the functions and interactions of the circulatory, muscular, nervous, digestive and respiratory systems. To apply their knowledge, they will complete a case study on diabetes. In **Social Studies**, students will read an article about present-day immigration, comparing it to previous waves of immigration by reading a graph. Additionally, students will read an article on the effect of plastic on the environment. Students will construct an argument on the plastic problem citing text evidence. Finally, students will debate whether the President should be allowed to block people on Twitter.

In **ELA**, we will be exploring narrative nonfiction suspense and conflict along with understanding chronological order. We will also be back to our vocabulary workbooks now that our first novel is finished. Toward the end of the month, we will be looking closely at Argumentative Writing and going through that writing process. On a side note, ask your students about *The Breadwinner*. If they enjoyed it, I encourage you to get the next several novels in the series for them to read on their own (*Parvana's Journey*, *Mud City*, and *My Name is Parvana*). In

Math, the sixth graders have been focusing a lot on multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals. As a culminating activity, we are going to see if we can differentiate between fraction multiplication and division word problems. It is sometimes difficult to read a word problem that involves ONLY fractions, and know if one has to multiply or divide. The New Year will start off with algebraic expressions and equations.

Last month in **Science**, we finished up our unit on cells and will be moving on to talk specifically about photosynthesis. We will discuss what are the products and raw materials of photosynthesis and we will compare its equation to the equation of respiration. While looking at the equations we will also talk about how to balance scientific equations in general. Towards the end of the month we will move on to talk about DNA and genetics. In **Math**, we are finishing up balancing algebraic equations and moving onto direct and inverse proportions. From there, Geometry looms. In **Social studies**, we will start to apply all the knowledge we learned the first half of the year about the Constitution and how it relates to

current day issues. 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. We are taking incremental steps towards the reading of this play (We read, annotated, and analyzed Act I, Scene I together, and students will be responsible for completing Act I, SC 2 over the holiday break). Students continue to work on their new Vocabulary series (We just finished the first six lessons), and are working on incorporating some on 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 and Grammar**, 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 **ELA**, we will begin our poetry unit and dive into figurative language. We will also start the process of argumentative writing. In **Math and Algebra 1**: We will be learning about Linear equations, Absolute value, and graphing the Inequalities Equations. In **Science**, after Winter Break, we will begin studying the solar system and universe!

English Language Learners will take the ACCESS test which begins on January 17th and lasts until February 8th. All bilingual students from K-8th grade, who have not yet reached the exit criteria of 4.8 (Literacy Access Composite Score) will take it. The test consists of four parts, and is taken in two sessions, Listening/Reading and Speaking/Writing. Students will take the test in two sessions each day. Kdg to 2nd graders have a paper version, 3rd to 8th graders take the test on computer. We wish all students the best results on the Access Test. **Good Luck!**



Canty Student Council wants to send a **big thank you** to all the students and parents who contributed to our Toys For Tots drive. Our box was overflowing with toys! We have received approval for the use of a DJ, and are currently working on scheduling a dance for the upper grades. We continue to move forward on the events for all the other grade levels.



Counselor's Corner



Restorative Practices—A New Way of Doing Business

As parents, you entrust us, the teachers and staff of Canty Elementary, with educating and caring for your child or children. Not only is it our responsibility to broaden their knowledge, we must also lead them to learn personal responsibility for their actions and develop strong social emotional skills.

Recognizing this, Canty Elementary is transitioning toward a school climate rooted in Restorative Practices. Described briefly, Restorative Practices are methods for proactively creating a school community welcoming to all students. Developed throughout the year, this community is meant to provide a supportive foundation attentive toward social and emotional needs. It is upon this foundation that robust, rigorous learning is meant to take place. Further, harm done to the community is intended to be handled with the assumption that students can learn from their mistakes, take ownership for their actions, repair the harm they caused, and re-enter the community.

It is our responsibility as teachers and staff to move away from traditional punishment and move toward methods that are beneficial toward the well-being of all students. To be clear, consequences will not go away. However, the nature of the consequences will change so that they are both relevant and restorative.

For now, know that we have a team in place to help transition our school toward Restorative Practices. This team is being trained through the Chicago Public School's Office of Social Emotional Learning. As time goes on, please look out for more information regarding these efforts.

Calm Classroom ~ A great way to start our day!

A group of schools in the district were asked to pilot a program called "Calm Classroom". Canty School was one of the chosen schools to incorporate this program into the daily schedule.

Calm Classroom is a program that uses simple research-based mindfulness techniques to help students and teachers develop self-awareness, mental focus and inner calm. It is a way to manage stress, regulate emotions and relax. The Calm Classroom program is composed of breathing, stretching, relaxation and focusing techniques. These techniques are done two to three times during the school day led by teachers. Each technique is about three minutes long.

We also invite students to practice these techniques outside of school, as stress in each of our lives, and the need for these skills, does not begin and end with the school day. Thank you to all parents and guardians for your continued support of, not only your student's academic learning, but also their social-emotional well-being too.

Mr. Beach/School Counselor

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