

McCarty Elementary School – MISSION POSSIBLE!  
*2006 Illinois Honor Roll School Academic Achievement Award Winner*

# Chuck Wagon Chatter

January 24, 2009

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Kimberly A. Earlenbaugh, Principal

**\*\*Please read the attachment to the email regarding  
ISAT Super Saturdays for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. \*\***

## **CHARACTER COUNTS! EVERYWHERE ALL THE TIME!**

### **CHARACTER COUNTS! Everywhere and All the Time!**

On Monday, February 2nd, we will be celebrating our fifth pillar of CC, CARING. Please have your child wear red on Monday to support our pillar. Some of the vocabulary words we will be learning are; sensitive, charity, altruistic, empathetic, considerate, gratitude, and compassionate.

In the primary grades the CHARACTER COUNTS! Carousel is used to assist the children in understanding and associating what behaviors build positive character. Karina (derived from the Spanish for caring) is the kangaroo who has a seemingly endless supply of things inside her pouch, including a special box of little hearts for children she meets on her travels.

Please continue to have healthy conversations and congratulate your child when they demonstrate positive behaviors and also redirect them to the pillars when they make inappropriate choices. Research shows that a solid Character Education program promotes student achievement.

Our students do understand and demonstrate the qualities of good character on a daily basis. To date, the number of detentions and office referrals are down 36% compared to the same time last year. I sincerely believe this is due to the efforts of our students to encourage themselves and others to be T-R-R-F-C-C!

### **End of the First Semester**

Our first semester came to a close on Friday. Report cards went home with students via backpack mail on Friday as well. It is unbelievable how fast this school year is going. Please take the time to congratulate your child on his/her efforts this quarter. The students are truly making great gains in their education. As always, if you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or me.

### **Progress Monitoring**

In order for teachers and support staff to create differentiated lessons to reach and teach all students, we must regularly assess students to monitor their progress. It is a continuous improvement cycle of plan...do...check...act. This month we have had several assessments occurring. During the first two weeks of January all students completed the winter curriculum based measurements (CBMs) in reading and math. The box and whisker chart will be sent home with your child showing the progress they have made since the fall benchmark within the next two weeks. We will be completing a third benchmark in the spring. The ACCESS tests are being administered to all English Language Learners in our building. These assessments will show the improvement for each child in learning the English language.

ISAT is scheduled for the weeks of March 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please do everything you can to help your child prepare to do their best of these assessments by providing them support with their reading, math, and writing. Stress the importance to do their best to show what they know.

Please see the informational flyer and permission slip attached to my email regarding the ISAT SUPER SATURDAYS we are introducing this year for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **McCarty Dates to Remember – Month of Jan., 2009**

Wk of Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Jump Rope for Heart – during physical education class
Sat., Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Market Day – 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the gym
Mon. Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wear Red to support the pillar of CARING
Tues., Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	General PTA meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the MPR
Thurs., Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten 100 <sup>th</sup> Day Celebration
	Family Reading Night from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> grade curriculum party
	Girls' Sweetheart Dance from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL
Thurs., Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Open House 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00-8:00 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL – District Institute Day
Sat., Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Market Day 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the gym

### **Reading, Math and Writing Connection**

**Q** - My daughter needs to work on reading smoothly. How can I help her?

**A** - Knowing how to read common words, sight words, will help your youngster read without stumbling. You can find these words for each grade level by looking on the district website under grade level curriculum. Also your child's teacher would be able to provide you with a list.

To help your daughter notice the words, have her keep track of a few each week. She can make a tally mark on a piece of paper whenever she sees the word on a sign, in the grocery store, or when reading a book. Make a chart to post in the kitchen or in her room to celebrate her progress. List the words on the piece of paper she needs to read easily and put a sticker by the words she can demonstrate she knows and can read well.

If you have any ideas you'd like to share with other parents about how you connect math, reading, or writing at home, please email them to me. I'd love to share your creative ideas with everyone.

**Help your child reach for the stars. When we ponder the stars, when we reach for our dreams, we're never bothered by how far away they seem. Instead, we are inspired by the beauty of our vision.**

**EMPOWER YOUR CHILD TO SUCCEED!**

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**\*\*Note Ms. Tutton's new extension**