



Wildcat's Roar

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Volume 10, Issue 10

May 2008

Principal's Message

Carver Family,

It's hard to believe we are in the last quarter of school and headed down the back stretch to the end of the year. I want to thank the Carver Community, Students, and Staff for a great year. We've worked hard and had a very successful year.

We are completing our end of instruction testing and the students are performing well. We will be having finals the last three days of school, May 27, 28, 29. Please make sure your student is well rested and has studied to be prepared for those class finals.

As we are in this final stretch of the school year I just want to emphasize the importance of good attendance. When students miss school they miss lectures, notes, class discussions, homework ex-

planations, assignments, quizzes, and tests. For these reasons it's imperative that students consistently attend school. We understand that there will be unavoidable circumstances that will arise, but let's remember that attendance is essential.

If a student must be absent from school, remember that it is the responsibility of the student to make up any work missed during the absence. Students are also responsible for arranging to make up any quizzes or tests that occurred during the arrangements with the teacher (s) to complete any missed assignments.

I wish all of our Mothers a beautiful Mother's Day.

Kind regards,
Micheal D. Johnson, Principal

Congratulations to Ms. Laura Barnes on being selected Tulsa Geological Society's Teacher of the Year!

1st Tee Golf Program

The following Carver students participated in the 1st Tee Golf Program every Monday through April 28 at Mohawk Golf Course.

Billy Boyd
Josiah Vann
Jeremiah Vann
Tayla Smith
Arella Fields
Nicole Welker
Will Kozicki
Jonathan Willis
Marsel Jones
Terraisha Barnes
Troyleesha Brooks

Have some extra time on your hands and want to get involved?

Volunteer for a committee for the 2008-2009 Carver PTSA!

There are **MANY** positions available and one will surely fit your interests.

Contact Jill Drummond at jill@mdrummond.com or 592-1908.

Thank you!

PTSA Meeting

May 13

7pm

Election of
Officers

**THANK YOU TO
THE PTSA
BUILDING AND
GROUNDS
COMMITTEE AND
THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO HELPED AT
CLEAN UP DAY
ON APRIL 19.**

Wildcat's Roar

Carver Students Get Fit

The following students participated in the Get Fit Tulsa Fun Run/5K on April 12.

Hannah Baucum

Melody Baucum

Desmond Wesley

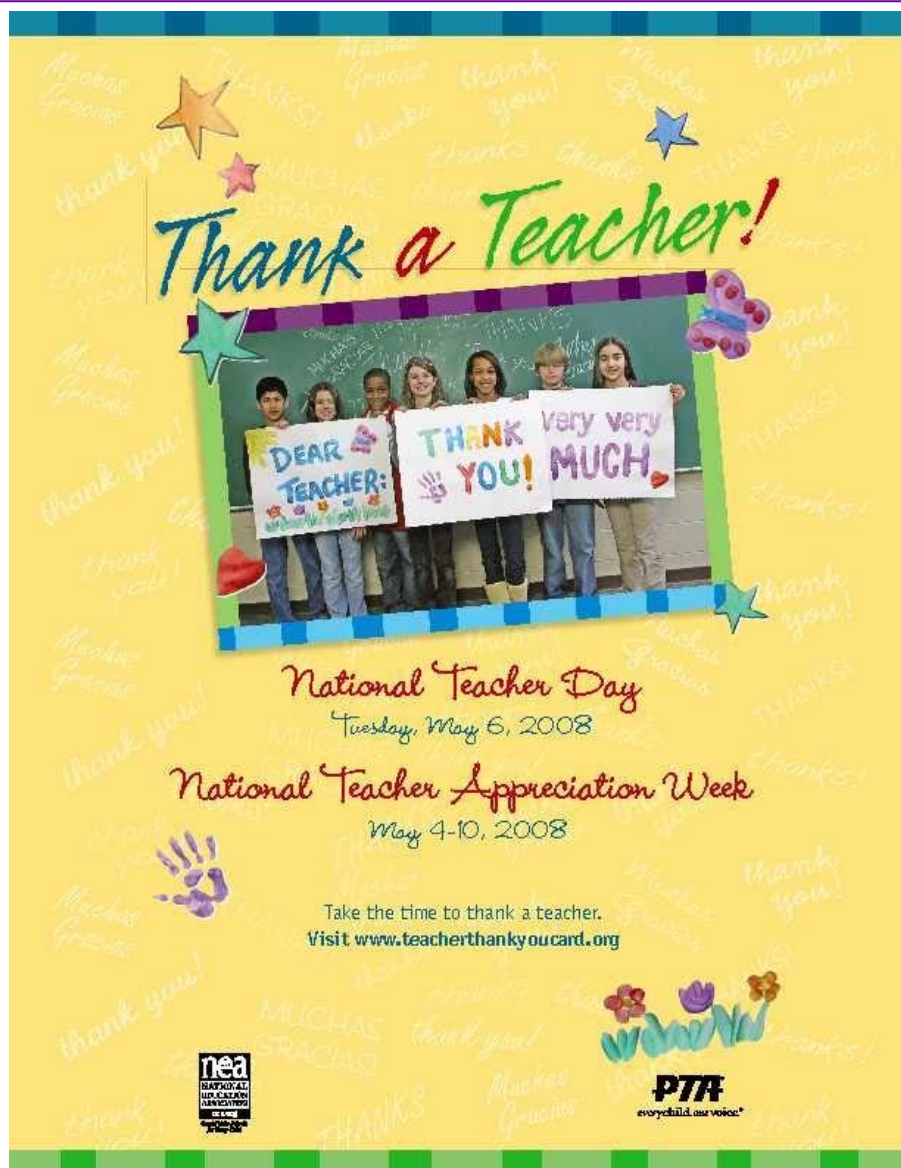
Diana Martinez

Cale Fussell

Noah Lewis

Taylor McIntosh

Austin Bashaw



All-City Middle School Track Meet

May 6

9am to 2pm

East Central High School Stadium

Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools

National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-10. Thank a teacher for making public schools great!

Teachers at Carver Middle School and in communities across the nation will be in the spotlight during National Teacher Appreciation Week as students, parents, school administrators, and the general public learn how teachers are making Great Public Schools

for every child.

Few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do. National Teacher Appreciation Week is a good time to learn about the contributions educators make to our community every day. Teachers work to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams. Teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for

good citizenship. Teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators and mentors, and continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories.

Take time to recognize and acknowledge the impact of teachers on our lives. Take the time to thank a teacher!

Carver's Arts Alive Program Presents:

Willy Wonka

Thursday May 15

10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Tyrone Wilkerson Theater



Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy Man and his quest to find an heir comes to life in this stage adaptation of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," which features the songs from the classic family film. Willy Wonka is a scrumdilyumptious stage musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth. In a troubled world looking for escape, let Willy Wonka take you on a fantasy ride into the land of pure imagination.

Prizes Needed!

I would like to have some drawings for nice prizes at the end of the year for our Million Word Readers. If they are a one million word reader, they would have their name in the drawing once; two million word readers would have their names in twice, etc. Please consider contributing! You may have something nice that you don't need anymore that could be recycled as a prize that students would be delighted to win. Thank you!

Book clubs:

Mr. Johnson's Book Club for Boys is generating interest in reading beyond the book club! Other students are interested in reading in a book club too. I am suggesting to students that they and a group of their friends choose a book that they all want to read and then communicate about the book through e-mail, instant messaging, blogs, phone calls, visiting in person, etc. This would be a fun thing to do over the summer as well.

The Media Center has sets of "book club books" that are on the shelf by the glass door. These are just extra copies of books that would be available for students to check out to read with friends.

Attention Carver Families:

Please remember to donate uniform clothing your student has outgrown or no longer needs to the Carver Uniform Closet for other students.

Thank You to Designer Showcase Volunteers

Special thanks to the following individuals who will represent Carver PTSA at the Designer Showcase on May 6: Jill Drummond, Tracy Shears, Julia Leifeste, Daven Tackett, Tony Brinkley, Anita Beller, Marianne Kennedy, Darla Allen, Cheryl and Al Sweet, Jen Haning and Kara Folkins.

8th Grade Carver Student Wins Piano Competition

Chris Powell won the TAMTA Spindler-Lynch Piano Competition on April 26. Chris was one of twelve finalists from the Junior Division (7th and 8th grade) and Senior Division (9th and 10th grade). First place winners received \$100. Chris will now advance to the next level of TAMTA competition to be held on May 21. Good luck, Chris!

Caution – Speed Zone!

Please note the new speed zone flashers that have been installed on Pine Street just east of the intersection with Greenwood Avenue. Drive carefully and watch your speed.



Wildcat's Roar

Best Wishes to Ms. Barger and Ms. Givens

With regret, we will say good-bye to two wonderful and dynamic individuals on Monday, May 12. Ms. Billie Barger and Mrs. Debbie Givens will be recognized for their contributions to the educational field in sharing their knowledge with a vast number of students. These two exceptional individuals will retire after a combined 71 years of service. True, they do not look their age. They could probably do a commercial selling "youth."

Ms. Billie Barger has been at Carver for 14 years. During her Carver tenure, she has been the Assistant Principal and 7th Grade Counselor. Prior to that, she was an English teacher at other schools. At Carver, Ms. Barger is highly respected and the respect is well deserved. She has provided a good ear to listen and give sound advice to many students and parents. She has imparted a strong sense of evenhanded and just discipline; has been instrumental in arranging a multitude of school tours; has spoken enthusiastically to many elementary fifth grade students and their parents about Carver; has assisted with the bookstore, the Time Management book, Saturday School, and fund-

raisers; has been on the selection student committee; has chaperoned many student functions; has recorded documentation of Carver's many student achievements; has represented Carver and Tulsa on a fact finding trip to China with the Oklahoma governor and Oklahoma delegation; has unselfishly donated items to a number of students in need; has conveyed words of wisdom and guidance at parent/teacher conferences; and, most of all, has been an influential and stable presence at Carver Middle School.

Mrs. Debbie Givens has been at Carver since 1976. She has taught Language Arts to a multitude of 7th and 8th grade students. She has achieved the well-earned distinction of being **Tulsa Public Schools' Teacher of the Year**. Mrs. Givens began the Tulsa-Sister City School relationship between Tulsa and Tiberias, Israel. As a result, many Carver students have been introduced to another culture, exchanged pen pals, tried different foods, learned Hebrew songs and dances, and experienced live teleconferencing between the Tiberias students and Carver students. Mrs. Givens has been an anchor in guiding the Outdoor Shelter Project; in arrang-

ing many worthwhile field trips --- from plays, to museums, to opera, to listening to dynamic speakers, such as Holocaust survivors, to the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial, to Anne Frank Exhibit, to St. Louis, to Dallas, to Branson, and others trips. Moreover, she has constantly encouraged all students to read, read, and read. Also, she has instilled a strong sense of how to write, write, and write; and, again, to develop a love for reading. Her patience, knowledge, leadership, calmness, diverse teaching styles, caring ways, creativity, and fairness will be greatly missed.

You are invited to attend this celebration on Monday, May 12. The event will be held in the Carver Media Center. It will begin at 4:00 P.M.

If you want to assist with the celebration with food, arrangements, decorations, clean-up, etc., please contact Patty M. Jorgenson at jorgepa@tulsaschools or Carver Middle School (925-1420). Thank You. If you want to send letters to these women, please send them to Patty M. Jorgenson at Carver.

Priscilla Cummings, Sequoyah Winning Author

Priscilla Cummings won the Sequoyah Award this year for her book, *Red Kayak*. She visited Oklahoma in April to receive that award. While in Oklahoma, Ms. Cummings visited Carver April 24th.

In preparation for the author visit, some teachers read one of Ms Cummings' books aloud to their students. In the library, students are learning how to search effectively and efficiently to find information about authors. This lesson can be applied to other search interests as well. We have some copies of *Red Kayak* on sale for \$7.00 each.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTSA Board of Directors, the PTSA membership, the Carver faculty and administration, and the many volunteers who have generously contributed their time, money, effort and ideas to making Carver the best it can be. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated. I have enjoyed working with each of you this year.

Francine J. Fisk
PTSA President
2007-2008

And the Survey says...

On March 24, 2008, a CMS PTSA Membership Survey was emailed to approximately 440 Carver families and faculty/staff. Twenty two (22) surveys were returned. Of those responding seven (7) had a 6th grade student, seven (7) had a 7th grade student and five (5) had an 8th grade student. One (1) family had more than one Carver student in the household. Four (4) faculty/staff members responded. Of those responding twenty (20) were current members of Carver PTSA and two (2) were not. Fifteen (15) respondents were also members of another PTA [Barnard, BTW (4), Cascia Hall, Eisenhower (2), Lee, Mayo, Monte Cassino, Peary, Patrick Henry (2), Remington, Zarrow (2)]

Survey summary: The respondents believe the purposes of PTSA include fundraising, communication between school and home, volunteer activities, and general school support. The respondents joined PTSA to support Carver, to be involved in their child's school, and to receive information.

The survey asked for input on what PTSA does well. A majority of respondents cited that communication of information was done well. Support of school programs, fundraising, and providing volunteer opportunities were also mentioned. When asked what PTSA could do better the resounding answer was increasing parent involvement and more participation by our members. One respondent suggested providing more casual, small-scale opportunities for parents-only events and providing opportunities for parents of varying social backgrounds and geographic locations to get to know

one another. Two (2) respondents requested more volunteer opportunities in the classroom.

When asked to outline PTSA's weaknesses, lack of participation and parent involvement were again cited. The need for increased diversity among PTSA participants was also mentioned.

The biggest challenges for our parents, according to the survey, are keeping communication open between parent and child, and between parent and the school. Child development and growth, dealing with peer pressure, and time management are also concerns. The greatest challenges facing our school community were listed as dealing with outside influences, keeping our students safe and out of trouble, increasing parent involvement, teen violence, disrespect for authority and fellow students, changing demographics, perception of exclusion, and keeping the standard of excellence high.

When survey participants were asked to outline what new activity they would most like to see implemented by PTSA their answers were wide-ranging. An after-school program, more community service opportunities at school for the students, and outreach opportunities to under funded schools in north Tulsa were all suggested. Several respondents stated they were satisfied with what our PTSA is doing currently.

Not many respondents answered the query about activities PTSA should end. One respondent stated they liked everything the unit does. Another respondent

suggested exploring book fair vendors for companies who offer comparable or better programs with more funds allocated to the school. One respondent used this query to state that unit meetings are so small and always the same group of people, and posed the question as to how to get more people involved with PTSA.

Many respondents attended either Jazz and Jeans or Carver Carnivale or both. When asked what other type of fundraiser PTSA should consider one respondent suggested a walkathon and one respondent stated they did not want to sell anything.

Regarding meeting times and schedules, six (6) respondents suggested conducting monthly meetings. Other suggestions included quarterly meetings or every other month. Several respondents requested lunch meetings, four (4) respondents requested 7:00 p.m. and two (2) respondents stated they never attend PTSA meetings. The majority of the respondents believed that PTSA is very helpful/helpful, and that meetings and projects are very helpful/helpful. One respondent stated that the PTSA and the meetings and projects were not helpful. Of those respondents who had requested assistance from PTSA all stated they received a prompt response. All respondents but one believed that the PTSA has been working on behalf of all children and youth.

Thank you to all those who took time to share your ideas and concerns about Carver PTSA. Your feedback will be very helpful to our unit as PTSA plans for next year.

SAFETY REMINDER

Parents, please remember that the bus loop is for buses only. Students may be dropped off and picked up in the parking lots north and south of the bus loop. **Thank you for keeping the bus loop "car-free" and making Carver safer before and after school.**

Box Tops for Education

The Student Council collects Box Tops for Education points. There is a container in the office, or students may turn them in to their teacher who will give them to Ms. J. Smith, Student Council sponsor. Thank you.

Fundraising on a key chain at Foot Locker stores:

Key tags will be available at PTSA meeting on May 13. Each is coded to automatically support our school and is accepted at all Foot Locker, Kids Foot Locker, and Lady Foot Locker stores. Present your School Rewards Key Tag at check out and 5% of what you spend will be earned by our school.

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Editor-Dawn Lowe, dawn@mecgs.org

Kudos to Dawn Lowe, Newsletter Editor

It has been my distinct pleasure to work closely with our outstanding newsletter editor for the past two years. Dawn Lowe's design and publishing talents have provided our Carver community with attractive and informative monthly newsletters. I commend her dedication and commitment to excellence. Dawn is stepping down from this position at the end of the school year. Thank you for a job well done!

Francine J. Fisk
PTSA President

Carver Middle School Chapter of National Junior Honor Society

Inductees – 2008

Sponsor – Mrs. Frakes

EIGHTH GRADE

William Beller
Stephen Brower
Paige Clark
Jessica Velasquez-Clackler
Allen Collins
Phoenix Cooper
Mary Cordell
Claire Milburn

SEVENTH GRADE

Taylor Acosta
Jonathan Altemose
April Bollinger
Riley Brett
Antwan Brown
Alexius Burton
Garrett Carter
Alicia Chong
Katherine Clary
Raina Coleman
Kyle Colvin
Grace Cuellar
Brennan Davis
Amonn Dean
Kyle Deford
Lauran Drummond
Jane Eagleton
Adam Enriquez

Alexa Escoboza
Arella Fields
Elissa Foust
Victoria Fowler
Taryn Foxx
Cale Fussell
Denisha Garner
Grace Garrison
Katherine Goin
Trevor Grant
Tamera Gray
April Green
Alexandria Hogg
Ryley Johnson
Marsel Jones
Courtney Leach
Lauren Leifeste
Heather Leitch

Noah Lewis
Tajh Lowe
Toan Lu
Kaylan Mayberry
Claire McGeehan
Walker Miracle
Madison Mobley
Jack Orme
Calvin Ponder
Jasenia Sanchez
Zoe Sherman
Evan Skaggs
Veronica So-Seing
Stephen Slater
Shelby Stephenson
Jessica Swicegood
Ali Tackett
Joseph Tran

Jack Walker
Adam Watkins
Desmond Wesley
James Williams
Michella Wilson
Audrey Yu
Beverly Ziegler

Carver Wins Academic Bowl

Students from Carver Middle School won the 2007-2008 TPS Middle School Academic Bowl competition. Teams representing 13 Tulsa middle schools competed in one-on-one matches during the school year, and all teams were seeded into the final round based on their win/loss record. Nearly 180 students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades participated in their school's Academic Teams this year. The Championship Round came down to Carver Middle School (seeded #1) vs. Thoreau Middle School (seeded #2), with Carver taking the title 320-180.

Carver's winning team members are: Jonathan Aston, Tyrance Billingsley, Stephen Brower, Caleb Christie, Peter Folkins, Katie Grantham, Gabi Inhofe, Ricky Jones, Taylor Joyner, Adam Morgan, Basir Mujiamin, Max Root, Cody Tucker, Kryste Turley Nick Vandivort, Jeremiah Vann, and Rachel Victor. The team is coached by 8th grade Language Arts teacher Nancy Christy.

Academic Bowl competition teams, consisting of four members each round, answer questions that range across the curriculum. Toss-up rounds (in which students attempt to "buzz-in" first with the correct answer) alternate with written rounds. Here are some sample questions from this year's playoffs.

1. If the area of a triangle is 6 units, and two of its coordinates are (1,1) and (5,1), what are the coordinates for its apex?
2. Because iron working was introduced directly by colonization, there was never an Iron Age on Antarctica or on what three other continents?
3. The U.S. Congress was a unicameral body under what law of the land?
4. Wave amplitude relates to the brightness of light and what property of sound?
5. What is always the subject of an imperative sentence?

Answers:

1. 1, 4
2. North America, South America, Australia
3. Articles of Confederation
4. Loudness
5. You

Article courtesy of TPS website www.tulaschools.org

Spring Book Fair

The Spring book fair was another success! Our goal is always to sell \$3001.00 worth of product. That gives us a 50% profit that we take in books for the library. This really helps the library out. The students get to add to their personal libraries as well. Thank you for your support!

Thanks also to all of the volunteers! I'm always impressed with the parent support! Special thanks goes out to Lenore Brown. She doesn't even have a child here at Carver this year, but still managed the entire book fair! Stunning! (She has four children in four different schools in Tulsa Public Schools, and she still took on this big job at Carver. She stays busy in her children's schools also!) We are looking for someone to take this position for next year. If you have experience from working in your child's elementary school, please consider volunteering.

Wildcat's Roar

Reading Counts is a Thermometer!

The research says that students often stop reading independently in middle school. They *might* start reading again in 10th or 11th grade. We don't want this happening to our students! With this in mind, we encourage students to read books that we have Reading Counts quizzes for and then to take those quizzes. We use Reading Counts as a reading thermometer to make sure that our students are

maintaining the healthy habit of independent reading.

We have around 2,000 quizzes. We could use a lot more too, but with this number of quizzes, it doesn't limit students' choices. Students read books that we don't have quizzes for as well. We want students to find and choose books of interest to them. No one would learn to love reading if all

they ever read was textbooks.

We want students to continue independent reading if they are already readers when they come to Carver. If they are not independent readers, we want them to discover the joy of reading while they are here and before they leave.

Carver Reads!

We have 141 million word readers so far this year! Last month all of the million word readers received a \$5.00 coupon to spend toward a book from the book fair. Some students didn't come get their coupons, so books were picked for them. We are still delivering those.

I will check progress again May 1st and again May 15th. We should reach over 400,000,000 words read this year!

	Words Read this month (3/31/08)	Words Read Cumulatively	% Participa- tion this month	% Participa- tion Cumu- latively	Million Word Readers
6th Rogers	12,813,999	53,802,059	99%	100%	14
6th Ford	6,573,737	75,177,021	66%	100%	26
6th T Smith	8,660,401	83,354,609	80%	100%	33
7th Duvall	8,288,598	71,882,554	69%	100%	27
7th Grimes	3,120,871	44,246,984	41%	98%	16
8th Bishop	3,490,310	39,310,696	18%	83%	13
8th Christy	3,090,608	30,953,816	16%	58%	9
Faculty					3
School-wide	46,038,524	398,727,739			141

Summer Enrichment Reading Lists:

The sixth grade has added to their reading list for this summer. 7th and 8th grades will have summer reading lists for the summer as well this year. They will be posted on the Carver web page as soon as they are completed.

Carver 8th Grade Student Wins 2008 Oklahoma Geographic Bee

Imagine standing in front of a crowded room and being asked to name the biome consisting mainly of evergreen trees and typically found south of the tundra in the Northern Hemisphere -- with only 15 seconds to answer. Could you do it or would you be lost without your map or almanac?

By knowing the correct answer of taiga, Nicholas Vandivort from Carver Middle School of Tulsa emerged as the 2008 Oklahoma Geographic Bee Champion in a tie-breaking championship round. On Friday, April 4, 2008, more than one hundred 4th - 8th grade contestants met at the University of Oklahoma to compete in the Oklahoma Geographic Bee, a program organized by the National Geographic Society and sponsored by Plum Creek.

As the state champion, Vandivort, an 8th grade student, received a \$100 cash prize, a National Geographic globe, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Geographic Bee Finals in Washington D.C., this May. At the National Geographic Bee, the 55 state and territory winners will meet at National Geographic headquarters to compete for \$25,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000 college scholarships. The second place winner was Nick Morgan of Central Middle School of Bartlesville; while Victoria Mooers from Summit Middle School of Edmond took third place honors.

"Nicholas gave an exemplary performance in the state Bee," said William E. Amburn, Oklahoma Geographic Bee State Coordinator. "This year's Bee was one of the most competitive in the history of our state, and the hard work and dedication that he put into preparing for the competition is apparent. Nicholas will be an outstanding representative for Oklahoma at the National Bee."

Each of the 101 contestants who competed in the Oklahoma Geographic Bee won a school-level bee before being invited to participate as a semifinalist at the Oklahoma Geographic Bee based on their high scores on a qualifying test. The contestants competed in a preliminary round of questioning exploring current events, physical geography, cultural geography, historical and political geography and the use of geographic skills, with the top ten contestants advancing to the final round of competition. This year's Bee experienced a heightened level of competition, with five of the semifinalists receiving perfect scores in the preliminary round and automatically advancing to the final competition. Twenty-five semifinalists missed only one question in the preliminary round and advanced to the largest tie-breaker in the history of the Oklahoma Geographic Bee. Seven single elimination questions were required to break the 25-way tie and determine the additional five students who would move forward in the competition..

Each competitor in the Oklahoma Geographic Bee received a National Geographic Bee t-shirt, a certificate, and a citation from their member of the State House of Representatives.

Each year, thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee, a contest designed to spark student interest in and increase public awareness of geography. For more information about the National Geographic Bee, visit national-geographic.com.

Article courtesy of Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education

www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybees

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Our next meal for the teachers is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 during their regular lunchtime. We would like to provide them with lunch to show them how very much we appreciate all they do for the Carver students. .

We have selected a Spring Salad theme. We need your help. We need you to help provide the salads, breads, drinks, desserts, and paper products. All items should be delivered to the Carver Main Office by 10:00 am on May 7. (If you are dropping them off earlier, please leave them in the Teacher's Workroom and mark them "Teacher Dinner.")

We are also in need of volunteers for set-up and clean-up. If you are interested in helping with this year-end event, please contact Karen Bruns, Hospitality Chair, at kfbruns@cox.net or 744-1730.

Let's show the teachers and staff how much we really appreciate all they do for our kids!

Mr. Micheal Johnson and a Carver teacher will take a group of students to Mianyang, China, in September or October, 2008. This will be the second year that Carver Middle School and Puming Middle School will exchange students.

Facts to know:

- The trip will be for two weeks....at this time, the trip will take place in September or October.
- Carver students will stay with a host Chinese family.
 - *In exchange, the Carver student's family must be willing to host the Chinese student when the Chinese exchange group visits Tulsa in the spring.*
- Carver student's family will pay for **all** expenses: flight, spending money, passport, visa, etc.
- Carver teacher will be with the students in Mianyang, China, for the length of the trip.

Does my child need to speak Chinese?	No
Does my child need to have taken the Chinese class at Carver?	No
Does my child need to have an interest in learning Chinese?	Yes
Does my child need to be willing to try new experiences, food, and cultures?	Yes
If my child went on the 2007-2008 trip, can he/she go again?	Yes

There will be an informative meeting about the China trip in May. The Carver office will contact you when the date has been arranged.

If you are interested, please let the Carver office know. We will need the following information.

Please have your child bring this information to the Carver office.

Or, Fax the information to the Carver office (925-1450 = Carver's FAX number).

Student's Name _____

Parents' Names _____

Student's grade for 2008-2009 _____

Has taken a Carver Chinese class Yes or No What grade? _____

Home address _____

Home phone number _____

Cell phone number _____

Work phone number _____

Parent's email address (Please Print) _____