

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

2007-2017



Thursday, April 20, 2017

Carver Family News

George Washington Carver Elementary
2007 Radford Rd
Dubuque, IA 52002
www.carver.dbqschools.org

A NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY CARVER STUDENTS

Celebrating 10 AMAZING years

Carver a Hosts Special STEM Event

BY SHREYA RAVADA

What better way to celebrate 10 wonderful years of learning than to honor our school's namesake, George Washington Carver, and his contributions to society as an educator, scientist, botanist, farmer, and artist. Staff at Carver and staff from Keystone Area Education Agency planned a FUN-filled Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) event on March 28th for students and their families. It was a very special day of celebrating all of the staff, teachers, and student's hard work throughout the years! Students rotated throughout the day to three special stations, sponsored by six Instructional Technology Integrationists from Keystone and one station lead by two Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Education Coordinators.

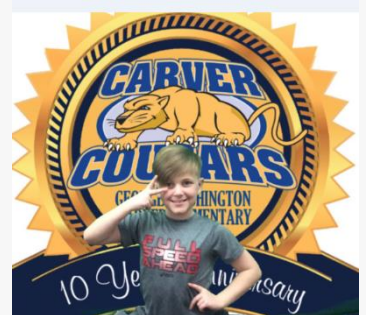
One of the stations that the students visited was called *Fun with Robots & Coding*! During this rotation, students experimented with controlling all kinds of robots including Dash and Dot, Code-A-Pillar, EV3, Mip, Vortex, and Ozobot. They also used an app called Tickle and wrote code using Kindergarten and 1st grade iPads.

Another rotation was called *Green Screen Applications*. In this rotation, students used the Keystone AEA iPads and the app *DoInk Green Screen* to help them create short videos about Carver Elementary School. Students also shared the created videos to a Seesaw Blog and shared the blog link so that parents could view their child's created green screen videos. Students chose from among the following activities: sing a special Happy Birthday song in celebration of Carver Elementary School turning 10 years old, share a favorite memory about being a student at Carver, share a few facts about George Washington Carver, or share why Carver turning 10 years old is a big accomplishment.

The third station that the students visited was the Starlab Planetarium System. The Starlab is an inflatable dome (16' diameter, 10' height) that up to 35 students can enter to observe a projected image. Students watched a show which mainly focused on what was currently visible in the night sky at the location they were at. Everyone attempted to locate the various constellations and then were given some tips on how to find them. Students also searched for planets that were visible (Jupiter) and were fascinated by images of a full moon. Discussion also centered around the solar eclipse that will be happening in August.

At the fourth rotation, students learned about basic flight dynamics, created "stomp" rockets and then launched the rockets.

The ISU education coordinators talked about what things can fly, how they fly, and the forces involved in the flight. Students were also very excited to eat cake during lunch and walk to the Roosevelt auditorium to watch a video Mrs. Steffens put together, complete with photos that Mrs. Schmitt had taken the past 10 years. While in the auditorium, the children listened to University of Dubuque theater student Ramon Riley, who acted the part of George Washington Carver. In the evening, Carver hosted a family STEM open house night from 5 to 7 p.m. Students and faculty from the University of Dubuque, under the guidance of Deb Stork, Professor of Education, planned all the activities focused on STEM problem-based learning. Some of the activities were related to the fields of biology, physics, technology, math, chemistry, engineering, health, and geology. After the day of the event, several students asked, "How are we going to celebrate Carver's 11th Anniversary?" That's a great question for our principal to figure out.



Cake Themes Celebrate the Life of Carver!

BY SHREYA RAVADA

Carver 4th grade students were challenged by their art teacher to collaboratively create an artwork that was meaningful to them. Mrs. Deppe thought that since we were celebrating our school's 10th anniversary, why not ask the students to make birthday cakes? Mrs. Deppe wanted these to be



more than just simple birthday cakes. She asked each student to pick a George Washington Carver theme to present on their cake. Why was that important? Dr. Carver started his life as a slave and worked his way to becoming an extraordinary scientist, artist, inventor, and agricultural chemist. Mrs. Deppe also wanted to teach students that assembling sculptures is a wonderful vehicle for experimentation, intense problem-solving, team-work, and creative thinking. She said that many engineers first discovered their interest by building things out of cardboard and tape as children.



All 4th graders worked in small groups to make the cakes. When 4th grade student Ella Kiefer was asked about the experience, she said that her group chose to create a cake based on Carver's inventions with peanuts and nature because he loved to create things out of nature, and he studied the peanut plant a lot. She felt like her group did a great job finishing the project in time for the judging. The 30 cakes made by the 4th graders were all displayed on the tables outside of the art room and judged by a panel of teachers who rated the cakes based on creativity, unique use of materials, color, design, originality, and research based on the life of George Washington Carver. The winners got to have their image placed on the frosting of the seven cakes students ate during lunch. What a wonderful collaboration project for everyone involved.



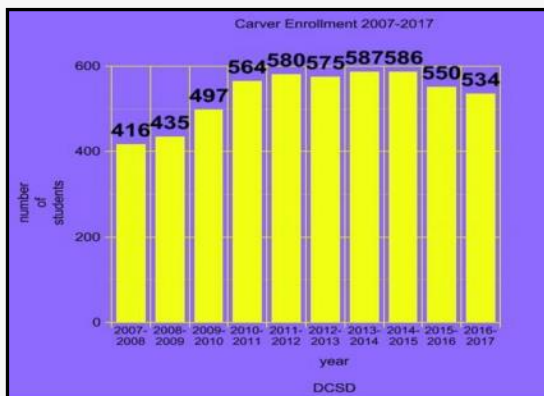
Congratulations to all the cake finalists. Pictured are (top left) Quinn Breitbach, Lauren Bergeron, Eve Heiar (top right then counter clockwise) Payton Gerhard, Trenton Ettema & Will Houselog; Kinnick Kehoe, Cooper VanderPloeg, Collin Bowers & Hailae Blocklinger; Jacob Weis, Korbin Deutsch, Kaitlyn Blaser & Amari Cunningham; Madelyn Johnson, Ethan Holt, Dylan Wernimont & Karley Goedert; Stephanie Niemer, Eliana Gerken & Skyler Cook; Shayla Murphy, Avery Lex & Preston Pena.



Carver Attendance at Record High Year 5

BY MALLORY ZEMAN

Carver Elementary school opened in 2007 with 416 students. An additional twenty students enrolled in year two, and that number almost tripled in year three. The number of students attending Carver peaked in 2013 at 587 students, but has dropped every year since. Today we celebrate Carver's 10th anniversary with 534 students, a 28% increase within 10 years. When you look at the graph to the right you see that the enrollment has been above 500 for seven years. That's because the city of Dubuque and the town of Asbury are growing communities. New houses are being built, so new people move into our district. Carver also added a preschool classroom in the 2009-2010 school year. For a few years, Carver held the district title of "Largest Elementary," however, this year Kennedy is recognized as the largest school with 593 students while Eisenhower has 533. Carver's enrollment falls right in between their numbers. In the 2016-17 we started out the year with 528 students. Enrollment has even grown in the middle of the year as our official count is now at 534.



Year	# of students
2007-2008	416
2008-2009	435
2009-2010	497
2010-2011	564
2011-2012	580
2012-2013	575
2013-2014	587
2014-2015	586
2015-2016	550
2016-2017	528

Here is a breakdown of current enrollment per grade. In Preschool there are 27 students, 15 boys and 12 girls. In Kindergarten there are 76 students, 32 boys and 44 girls. 1st grade has 10 less students than Kindergarten, 66 students-36 boys and 30 girls. 2nd grade has 91 students, 51 boys and 40 girls. But wait, there's more! 3rd grade has 92 kids-44 boys and 48 girls. But that's not all! 4th grade has 101 students-52 boys and 49 girls. 5th grade only has 81 students-36 boys and 45 girls. So it looks like 4th grade has the most students this year! The Dubuque Community school district predicts that next year Carver School will have 544 students. Because the west side of Dubuque continues to grow, the enrollment at Carver Elementary should continue to stay strong.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

BY MRS. SCHMITT



The Hohmann Family

Jackson Hohmann was a Carver Elementary School student from 2010-2014. On November 16, Jackson died very suddenly and unexpectedly from an undiagnosed intestinal abnormality. Jackson had an amazing contagious smile, a fun-loving disposition, and a positive attitude. He loved playing soccer at school and for the Dubuque Soccer Club. Many of his classmates and teachers remember the day he was featured in the Dubuque Community School District's "Kid President" video, smiling and dancing. Jackson was charming, caring, talented, smart, and loved by all whose lives he touched. Carver staff members continue to wear their Jackson t-shirts that include his favorite saying from "The Lego Movie," "Everything is Awesome!" In memory of Jackson, a work of art that he created in art class was framed and placed in the school library. Carver School also purchased two soccer goals and dedicated the soccer field on May 28, 2015 in remembrance of Jackson. The soccer fields will be a lasting tribute to Jackson and his time at Carver.



Let's Give a Hand to the Staff that "Survived" Ten Years

BY ELLA KIEFER AND MADELYN JOHNSON



Olivia Gerdemann



Laney Herma



Cael & Josh Schmitt

There are many staff members at Carver, but only about half of them have been at Carver ALL ten years. These employees can be seen in a photograph in the library, all wearing a t-shirt that reads, "I Survived the First Year!" We interviewed a few of these people who told us what Carver was like in 2007 and how it has changed the past ten years. Mrs. Schmitt remembers the day that Mr. Meade, the principal at the time, asked everyone to gather at school about 10 days before school began. "There were many classrooms that still did not have carpet, desks or chairs," said Mrs. Schmitt. "It was so much fun getting to meet all the new staff members, many who had transferred from one of the schools in the district." Mrs. Treanor was a teacher at Hoover, Mrs. Goerdts taught first grade at Eisenhower, and Mrs. (Waul) Valentine taught at Prescott. Some teachers knew each other from working together at other schools. Mrs. Herman taught at Fulton with Mrs. Becker. Three teachers, Mrs. Budde, Mrs. Puls, and Mrs. Waskow all had connections from teaching at Lincoln. Ms. Weber worked at Kennedy then Irving. Did you know that there were two teachers that did not teach elementary students before coming to Carver? Ms. Gerdemann was a teacher at Jones Early Childhood Program and Mrs. Schmitt taught math and computer science at Senior High School before becoming Carver's TAG/Tech teacher. Some of the teachers who have been teaching at Carver since 2007 reported the best thing about teaching at Carver was sharing learning experiences with their own children. Mrs. Jokiel, Mrs. Herman, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Gerdemann, and Mrs. Schmitt have all shared the Carver experience with their children

attending the same school. These teachers noted that having their own family be part of the Carver family was truly special. Mrs. Valentine shared other wonderful moments while at Carver. She said she has loved it here. "It's been interesting to watch how much we've grown. It's hard to believe 10 years have gone by." She also commented, "I love the connections to the families that I've worked with, and it's great to have siblings of former students. There are many wonderful staff members that I work with that care a lot about education." She loves seeing the excitement of parents and students when they walked around the building for the first time. Mrs. Valentine thinks she will stay here a while longer. There have been some tough times for Carver Elementary in the last ten years as well. The first year Carver was open, the pipes cracked, and there was water in the gym. The entire wooden floor was ruined and had to be replaced. Losing classmate Jackson Hohmann was also very difficult for the Carver community. Jackson was a 3rd grader at Carver. He was kind, respectful, always smiling and loved the game of soccer. We are lucky to have learned lessons from Jackson about how to treat others. Although Mrs. Kass says these last ten years have been amazing at Carver, she does feel she has "weathered" a lot of storms in her ten years of doing cross walk duty in all seasons. "The smiles of the kids and parents every day make up for that!" Mrs. Miller also was interviewed. She says, "I enjoy reading with the younger kids. I really don't have a worst experience, but I don't enjoy cross guard duty when it's pouring out." She has loved the past ten years. She loves it here but nobody can stay here forever. "When I win the lottery, I'll retire. But I'll probably be here a few more years," she said. Mrs. DeHeck commented that her experience at Carver Elementary has been great. Her favorite memories are the times that Carver has come together as a family, to do the little things in life that matter most and make a difference. Mrs. DeHeck said, "We work together to share successes. We come together in times of need to raise money for the Children's Hospital in Iowa



Tyler Jokiel



Tara Jokiel



Kim & Jenna Bell

City. We dedicated a soccer field in honor of a very special little boy (Jackson Hohmann). These are the things you will remember from your childhood for the rest of your life." Mrs. DeHeck also said, "It is AMAZING that we have been at Carver for 10 years! We have shared much. We strive to be the best that we can be, to learn and to stay strong. We continue to be one big Carver family caring for the good of each other, as we pursue our dreams and our goals."

The following 23 employees "survived" 10 years at Carver:

Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Budde, Mrs. DeHeck, Ms. Weber, Mrs. Deppe, Mrs. Doerr, Mr. Enabnit, Mrs. Frederick, Ms. Gerdemann, Mrs. Goerd, Mrs. Herman, Mrs. Jokiel, Mrs. Kass, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. (Murray) Fitting, Mrs. Puls, Mrs. Rusch, Mrs. Schmitt, Mrs. Sutter, Mrs. Treanor, Mrs. Waskow, Mrs. (Waul) Valentine, and Mr. Weber.

10 Year Traditions

BY RIANA TUGANDE

Carver School has held on to many traditions. These traditions have helped establish our identity and signal what the Carver community values. One tradition that occurs at the start of each school year is the welcoming our youngest students to Carver. Fifth graders get to meet their kindergarten buddies on the first day. They eat lunch with them all week and model for them lunch room procedures such as how to line up and how to empty their tray. Carver Spirit Day is another favorite tradition that is celebrated on the first Friday of each month. Students dress up in Carver colors or Carver apparel. Teachers count the number of students showing school spirit, and the class with the most points earns a free recess. Spirit Day also means popcorn day. As students head out to recess, they get popcorn to eat out on the

playground. Another event that occurs annually is

the kindergarten 100 day celebration on the 100th day of school. Students make candy necklaces with 100 candies strung on them, practice counting to 100 by 2, 5, and 10, and proudly display their 100 objects brought from home. The first few years, the teachers and students dressed up like 100-year-old adults. This year students dressed up like Dalmatians, hoping not to be captured by Cruella De Vil (played by kindergarten teacher Mrs. Blatz), who pretended to steal the young Dalmatians. The children enjoyed making headbands with black ears, and some even wore shirts with spots or painted dots on their faces to look like Dalmatians! Character Day, celebrated at Carver all 10 years during Children's Book Week, is a special day

where students can dress up as a character from their favorite book. Each year there seem to be a few students dressed up as a trio from Harry Potter, Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz, and Thing 1 and Thing 2. Another annual tradition is the school Spelling Bee. Students must first pass a written test and then are eligible for the school bee. The winners compete against other spellers at the regional bee. In the past 10 years, Carver is proud to have two students make it as far as first or second place overall. Jack Doyle ('12) won an all-expense paid trip to compete at the national bee in Washington D.C., and Shreya Revada ('17) was this year's runner up. At the end of the school year, there are several traditions that have become family favorites. In May, Carver hosts Family Fun night on the back playground. Students play a variety of games hoping to win special prizes. Face painters, pizza servers, and karaoke singers are familiar sights. In June, students and parents gather for the end of the school year awards program. Many students are recognized for their accomplishments in math, art, PE, music, and various clubs. Four fifth grade students are chosen for the American Legion Award. The perfect attendance award is given near the end of the program. Then it is time for the last day High Five tradition. Carver Staff form two lines and while celebration music is playing, students walk down the tunnel giving their teachers a high five good-bye. The smiles on everyone's faces make this end of the year tradition and event to remember!



Ms. Gerdemann, Mrs. Hermesen & Mrs. Bell



Brock Frieburger- 1T



Mrs. Blatz

An Interview of Mrs. Steffens

BY ALLIE UNSEN

Mrs. Cindy Steffens is the current Principal at George Washington Carver Elementary School. Prior to becoming a principal, Mrs. Steffens taught 5th grade, 1st grade, and remedial reading. She was also a reading consultant and instructional coach. Mrs. Steffens was a teacher for 15 years before wanting to become a principal to help teachers become better at meeting the learning needs of students. She has a Bachelor's degree and two Masters Degrees plus extensive training in a reading program from New Zealand called Reading Recovery. Mrs. Steffens is only the second principal to work at Carver. She began her career here in 2008.



The day in the life of a principal is very busy. Mrs. Steffens said, "There are no two days alike." She often starts her mornings by talking with teachers and taking care of business from the day before. She also walks through the pods to see what's happening and often times helps students on the computers. Mrs. Steffens "loves" to hear from students and families on what a difference the staff at Carver have made for them. However, she said being a principal is hard to stay on top of all the things happening. Being the principal of Carver is a very important job. Mrs. Steffens said her favorite thing to do at Carver is helping at lunch, greeting students in the morning, and saying goodbye to students every day. "I like this," said Mrs. Steffens, "because I get to see all the students, and most of them have smiles on during these times of the day."

Carver Community Groups

BY RIANA TUGANDE

Once a month, Carver students gather together in Community Groups. Community Groups began four years ago when staff members determined the need to meet with students in a small group setting to talk to them about the six character traits (TRRFCC): Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Typically, the entire school meets in the gym and reviews the six pillars of character. Next, students are dismissed to go to their Community Group teacher's classroom.



When students meet in the classroom, they are with about 12-15 kids from all grade

levels and different homerooms. Fifth grade students

are responsible for finding their kindergarten buddy and making sure they go to the correct Community Group with them. During the small group time, the teacher reviews what was talked about in the gym, and then students do a cooperative activity together. In October, students learned the difference between reporting and tattling. The December community meeting was very FUN! Students got to each lunch with their small group and the assembly included a school sing along complete with (fake) snow! In January students learned about having a growth mindset. A growth mindset promotes learning and the desire to persevere to tackle a challenge! Each student wrote about something they would like to either learn or do in the near future, like ride a bike or complete ST Math level 14. Then students put their goals together to make one huge banner. The most recent community meeting was about giving compliments. Each student in the class wrote down a compliment about their partner and put it onto a poster. Community Groups are a great way to make friends with students from other grades!

5th Graders

BY RACHEL MCDONOUGH

I interviewed six fifth graders at Carver and asked them each school-related questions. The first question was about George Washington Carver. I was curious to see if my classmates knew anything about him. The only facts they could quickly recall were that he studied peanuts, that his last name really wasn't Carver, and that he was a slave. The next question I asked was, "What is your favorite thing about Carver?"

Ava: "Spirit days, field trips, and the teachers who are so nice."

Chloe: "I love everything about Carver."

Emma: "My friends and all the fun we have at Carver."

Sydney: "Meeting friends, my amazing teachers, and listening to Mr. A"

Caleb: "Making new friends."

Allie: "All the field trips!"

My third trivia question required students to name all of their teachers in ten seconds. Four of the six participants could, two could not. The next two questions were about their favorite school lunch and favorite game at recess. Pizza Hut pizza or chicken nuggets were voted the best meals, and 4 square was the favorite game. When asked what their favorite subject in school is, the winning subject was writing. Can you guess the favorite field trip and assembly? The tour around Dubuque in third grade won the favorite field trip award, and the BMX biker stunt show in 2015 was hands down the favorite assembly. The last question I asked was, "What is your favorite art project in all the years?" Ava, Caleb and Allie said that their favorite art project was the shaving cream snowman. Chloe and Sydney picked this year's African Animal project, which required them to draw an animal using oil pastels, and then creating a QR code which could be scanned to hear the student reflect on the art work.



STEM DAY REFLECTIONS

"My favorite part of our Anniversary was when I ate chocolate cake because it was so yummy. I loved the sky lab." -**Santino Carrell**

"On our 10th anniversary, we had loads of fun. We all went to Roosevelt and saw an amazing video of the last ten years. We also went to a kind of mini-planetarium, had delicious cake, and of course made amazing rockets. The activities in school were fun but it wasn't all of it! On 3-28-17 from 5:00-7:00 there also were more activities that were fun. That day will be hard to forget. The most amazing day of the year!" -**Andy Zhang**

"My favorite part of our Carver anniversary was programming the robots because it was fun, and eating the cake. -**Jayontae Guice**

"My favorite part of our Carver anniversary was the Skylab and seeing the constellations because it was cool." -**Karlee Benson**

"My favorite part of our Carver anniversary was programming Dash and Dot." -**Andrew Holman**

"I thought the STEM activities at night were a great way to celebrate Carver's 10 years! The kids had a lot of fun while learning! My boys were so excited when I picked them up from school. They couldn't wait to tell me about their day and remind me about the evening activities. I also heard a lot about the cake too!" -**Dawn Jaeger (parent)**



Students
enjoying STEM
family night



10 Things You Probably Didn't Know About GWC

BY ELLA KIEFER

1. George Washington Carver's last name was not Carver. Carver was his slave owner's last name.
2. When George was a few months old, he and his mother Mary, were kidnapped. Mary was never seen again, but George was found.
3. George, unlike most blacks in the south, got a good education growing up.
4. Carver was a student at both Simpson College and Iowa State College before he was a scientist.
5. During college, George thought about becoming an artist but thought being a scientist would help more people.
6. George moved from Iowa to Alabama in 1896 to work at the Tuskegee Institute as a teacher and researcher.
7. Around the 1900's, Carver started a mobile classroom. He would go around town in a school on wheels to educate farmers. The classroom was known as a "Jessup wagon."
8. Besides the peanut, Carver worked with many other plants. He did much research on sweet potatoes, yams, soybeans, and pecans.
9. Dr. Carver's approach to science was based on a strong faith in God.
10. All together, Carver developed 300 products made from peanuts. These included: flour, paste, milk, paint, shaving cream, soap, and skin lotion. He did NOT invent peanut butter.

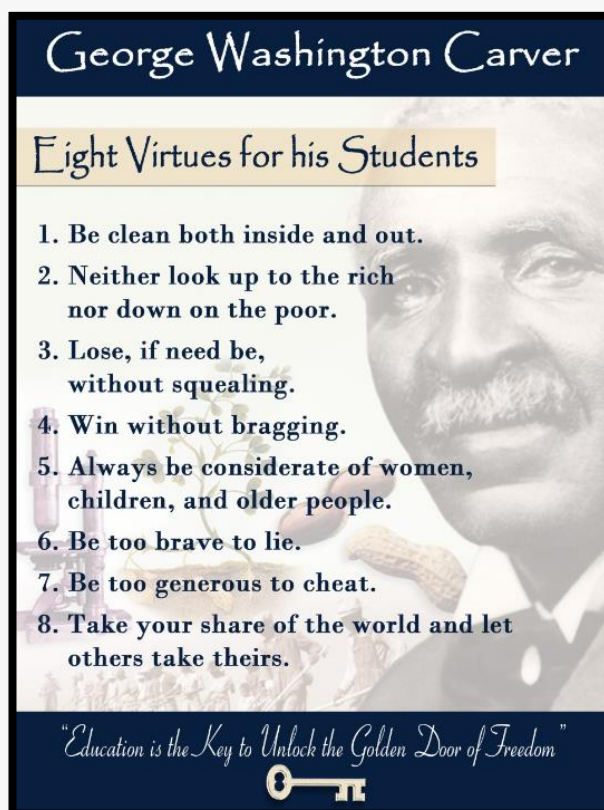
Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/george-washington-carver>

In 1922, George Washington Carver wrote a thank you note to one of his students who had given him a fountain pen as a Christmas present. In the note, he writes:

"I wish to express to each member of the Senior class my deep appreciation for the fountain pen you so thoughtfully gave me. This gift is characterized by simplicity and thoughtfulness, which I hope each of you will make the slogan of your lives. I hope that each of you will rise to the full height of your possibilities, which means the possession of these eight cardinal virtues which constitutes a lady or a gentleman."

Mr. Carver next listed the 8 virtues that can be seen in the image to the left. He ended his letter with these words of hope and encouragement:

*"May God help you to carry out these eight cardinal virtues and peace and prosperity be yours through life.
Lovingly yours,
G. W. Carver"*



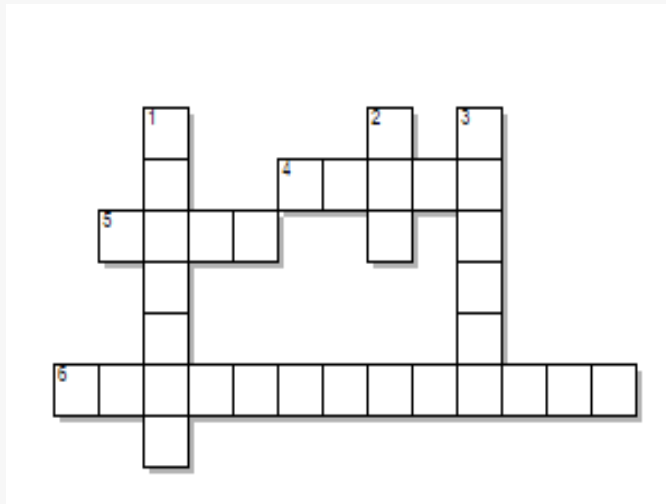
This banner is on display in the Carver Commons Area. It was designed by Becky Schemmel and donated by Envision Sports.

10th ANNIVERSARY CROSS WORD PUZZLE CONTEST

BY ELLA KIEFER

Complete the puzzle below or the survey at the bottom of the page for your name to go into a drawing to win a 10 Year Anniversary t-shirt. Turn in the puzzle below to the library before April 27th and complete the survey to increase the chances of your name being selected. Only correct responses will be entered in the drawing.

Don't forget to include your first and last name: _____ homeroom: _____



Across

4. Carver was born a
5. Carver's mom's name
6. SWEET + POTATOES =

Down

1. A person who educates pupils
2. Food that Carver used a lot besides peanuts
3. The plant that Carver studied and found over 300 uses for

Cool C
Awesome O
Radicle U
Valuable G
Excellent A
Responsible R

SURVEY CONTEST

BY SOPHIA PHELAN

Click the link below for your chance to win a prize

<http://tinyurl.com/Carver10thAnniversary>