

# A TRIP TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

## Children Aren't the Only Ones Learning at Carroll

At Carroll, every teacher is learning constantly! We expect the very best from our children and in order to achieve that, we must expect the best from ourselves. This year we have implemented two research-based strategies for improving our effectiveness as educators.

**Professional Learning Communities:** This year we have really focused on Professional Learning Communities among our grade levels and our staff as a whole. Each grade level meets multiple times a year with Mrs. Ewing and myself. Together we decide on an academic focus based on student data. Then together we come up with specific action plans to better meet those needs for our students. These grade level and staff-wide meetings involve research, analyzing data, and wonderful collaboration! We have some truly amazing educators on staff here at Carroll that are very focused on improving their effectiveness to help your child be even more successful!

**Focus Walks:** Focus walks are brief observations that Mrs. Ewing and I do quite frequently. We target one grade level at a time and during these observations we collect data on specific student learning objectives. We look for things such as student actions (listening, speaking, reading, writing), student activities (hands-on, project-based, cooperative learning, student created materials, etc.), grouping strategies (whole group, small group, paired, independent), and a few other specific areas of instruction. We do several of these walks for each classroom on that grade level. Then we aggregate the data and meet with that team to analyze it together. We look for trends, surprises, areas to celebrate, and areas to improve. As a team, the teachers choose a focus area and together we create a target action plan. We then do follow-up walks to collect new data so we can see if we are meeting our goals for improvement. The effort and energy the teachers have put into this has been amazing! I am so proud to work with a group of teachers that take their effectiveness so seriously. Their passion to always give the children even more is inspirational!



### IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 4th  
School Begins Again!

Jan. 15th & Jan. 18th  
No School

Feb. 9th  
PTA @ 6:30  
ART NIGHT!

Feb. 12th  
Valentine's Day Parties

Feb. 15th  
No School

### Coffee with the Counselor: Teaching Children the Other Three R's

January 28th @ Carroll  
What skills help children succeed socially and academically? The "Other Three R's," respect, responsibility, and resilience, help children reach their potential in their relationships and education. Dr. Brad Schwall will provide practical tips for guiding behavior and helping children treat others with respect, be responsible, and handle emotions.