



**Carillon Elementary**

3200 Lockwood Blvd.  
Oviedo, FL 32765  
Phone: 407-320-4650  
Fax: 407-320-4699

**Administrative Team**

Daniel H. Windish  
Principal

Shronda Granger  
Assistant Principal

October 21, 2017

Dear Comet Families-

We are definitely back in full swing at Carillon. Teachers and students are working very hard to make up for the lost week of instruction. I see so much evidence of great effort around campus. From our common EARTH and SPACE TEAMS time through the rest of the each school day, our students are progressing and learning. All of the emphasis on academics is great, but we hope that you don't think that we have forgotten how to have fun.

In the previous Comet's Tale Newsletter, and on our social media outlets, I asked parents for feedback on whether their child enjoys coming to Carillon Elementary School. Over 91% of the respondents indicated that their child does enjoy coming to Carillon Elementary. There were so many reasons why that it would be difficult to list here, but know that many of you indicated that it was your child's teachers and friends that made that feeling possible. For those of you that indicated a "no" on this survey, know that we will continue to do everything we can to make improvements or fix the problems you identified. If you haven't had a chance to respond, I encourage you to do so. This information is important to me, as principal, and I would like to hear from as many people as possible. Listed below is the link.

<https://goo.gl/forms/50LXbGOBdptRaHAV2>

Last Friday (October 13<sup>th</sup>), we held our first "Galactic Games." Our Galactic Games were designed to give our students, teachers, and staff a chance to have fun with the rest of the students in their Orbit. Each Orbit was given a designated area of the campus and they worked together playing an "Over-Under" type relay game. As an outside observer, it was fantastic to see older students interacting with our younger students. Students that usually don't get a chance to see and know each other had that opportunity. Feedback about the event was positive and excitement has been built for the remaining three "Galactic Games" that will take place on the last day of each grading period.

We are also getting ready for another big, fun event- THE COMET CHALLENGE. This event on November 1<sup>st</sup> will be the culmination of our fundraising campaign. I am hoping that by now you have heard about the COMET CHALLENGE and our mission to get a new playground. The more I visit our "Sand Playground" and "Kindergarten Playground," the more I am reminded of the reason for this fundraising. Although our students are happy and content, they deserve better than what we have.

Our school district, I think very wisely, has mandated that each student receive 20 minutes of recess each and every school day. There are numerous studies that we could quote that emphasize the importance of physical, unstructured play time for students. There is also plenty of information about the benefits of building strength, cardio endurance, and other gross-motor skills. The truth is, our ability as a school to encourage this type of play is limited by our equipment. When I visit 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on the "Sand Playground," I see students waiting in line to even get on the equipment and some students preferring to stand by the building because that is the only area that has shade.

The new playground, and sun-shade, will definitely put us in a position to better meet the needs and requirements of a well-balanced recess for each student. I hope this does not come off as complaining, griping, or negative. I am definitely not trying to pressure any of us. We have a lot to be thankful for at Carillon Elementary and we will make do with whatever our community decides is in our students' best interests. If you have not already given money for the Comet Challenge, we are only asking that you please consider doing so. We realize that there are many other ways to give money that are well-deserving and we completely understand if the playground is lower on your list of priorities. We thank those of you that have already pledged and/or donated. The response has been overwhelming.

The greater Carillon Family continues to prove why it's our "Time to SHINE!"

Sincerely,

*Dr. Windish*

Daniel H. Windish, Ed.D.  
Principal

