



Carillon Elementary

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Administrative Team

Daniel H. Windish
Principal

Shronda Granger
Assistant Principal

November 21, 2017

Dear Comet Families-

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your time with your families during our Thanksgiving Break. Due to the hurricane, Monday, November 20, 2017, became a teacher workday at Carillon Elementary. Many parents often ask me about what gets done on a "workday." I can tell you that they are nice for using extra time for planning and prepping classrooms. Most of the time is used to get caught up on our paperwork and grading. On days like this week, we also are able to get to little projects that we have been putting off for some time.

One of those projects that I have been putting off as principal is the coordination of a food pantry. It was recently brought to my attention that, out of 37 elementary schools in Seminole County, we were one of 6 schools that did not have a food pantry. Well, this is changing now. We are in the process of coordinating and setting up the **Carillon Cares Pantry**.

The vision for the **Carillon Cares Pantry** is to have some food and supplies ready to help out students and their families that may need the extra help with groceries and supplies. A family in need can ask directly for help by contacting our school counselors, administration, or any faculty/staff member. Teachers, or other staff members, may also notice a need and can refer families for help. Some families may be in a position to donate one month and during another month may find they need help themselves. Thanks to our Student Council Canned Food Drive, we have hundreds of canned items waiting for those in need. We would like to expand this to include some household items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc. Our school communication will be used to solicit certain items as needed throughout the school year.

With a pantry, comes the need for not only supplies, but for volunteer hours to keep it organized and used. Many items can sit around and expire if there isn't anyone to look after those things. Our PTA has worked hard to make room in their "office" to house the actual pantry. Ms. Othmer and Mrs. Wheeler, along with our Student Council, have started to organize the shelves for designated items. If you would like to volunteer some time, please contact Mrs. Granger, our assistant principal, for this and other volunteer opportunities.

I know that the **Carillon Cares Pantry** will be a success because our Carillon Families are extremely generous and give what they can to our school community. This was evident from the Comet Challenge Fundraiser. Our students were able to raise well over \$40,000 to help get a new playground. Combined with last year's total of about \$35,000, and along with commission money from our school pictures the last couple of years, we will have enough to get started real soon on the new playground. Please keep a lookout for more information about that.

If your family needs assistance for the upcoming holidays, please contact either one of our school counselors at the email or phone numbers below:

Jennifer Flora: jennifer_flora@scps.k12.fl.us 407-320-4664

Pam Bailey: Pamela_bailey@scps.k12.fl.us 407-320-4657

On behalf of our Carillon faculty/staff, I would like to wish you and your family a very, **Happy Thanksgiving!** We are thankful that we get to work at such a caring, generous school with 1,000+ of the most amazing students you can find. It's our **"Time to SHINE!"**

Sincerely,

Dr. Windish

Daniel H. Windish, Ed.D.
Principal

