

CARR LANE VPA



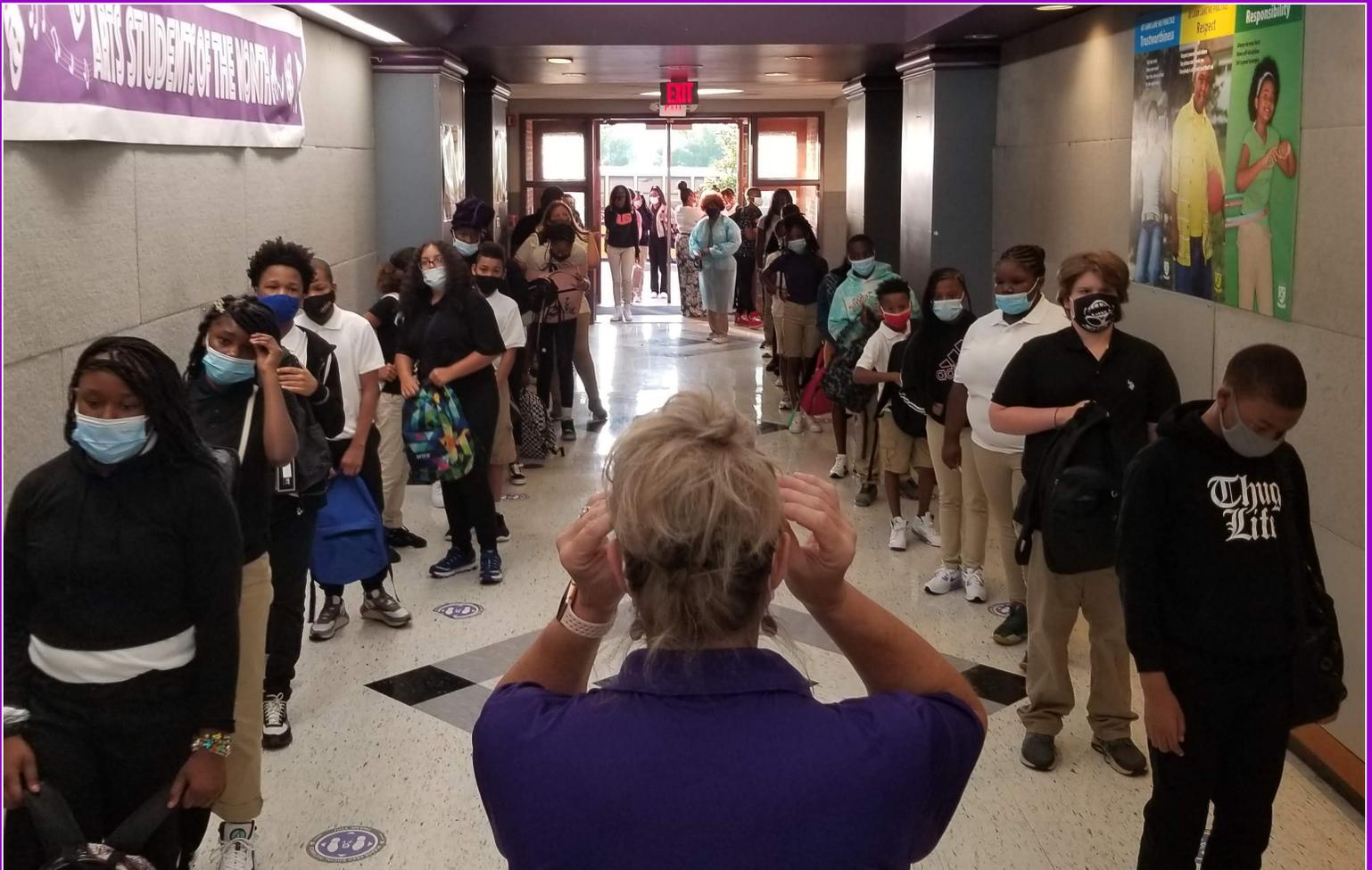
Home of the Jaguars!

CLVPA

December 2021

No. 17

Ms. Shipp's original Bitmoji Carr Lane staff photo from the start of the 2021-2022 school year!



Ms. V greets Carr Lane VPA students on the very first day of class, Monday, August 23, 2021!



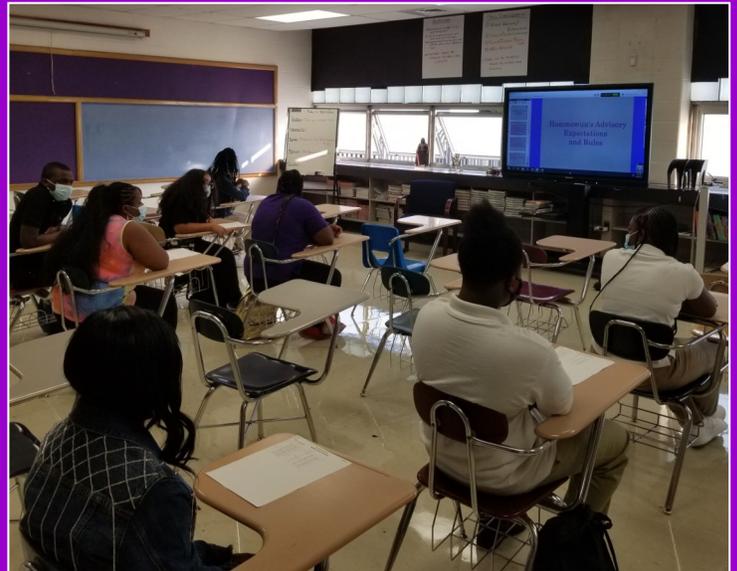
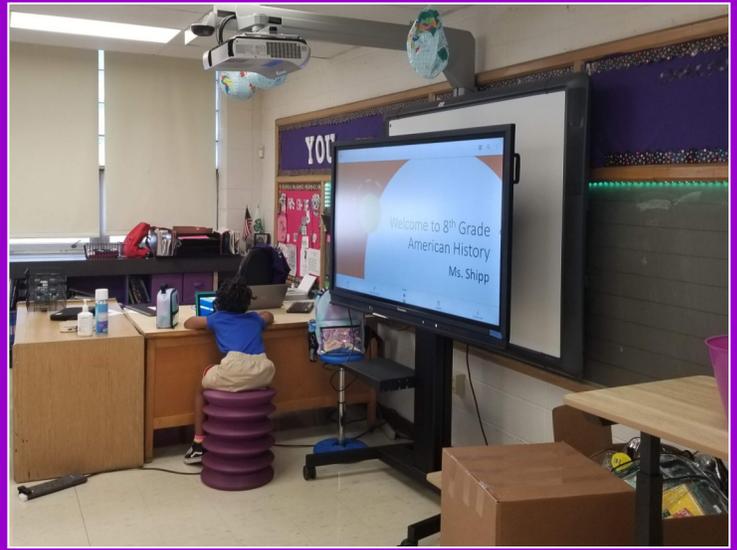
Ms. Gross greets students as they enter the building.



Carr Lane's new and returning students receive their class schedules from Ms. Choate, Ms. Abram, and Ms. Williams. Soon, the students are on their way to their morning advisory sessions.



Students pass the security check-point.



With Day 1 in the history books, students head for the buses on the first dismissal of 2021-2022!



September 2, 2021 — The first fire drill of 2021-2022!



September 15, 2021 — In Mr. Hommowun's 8th Grade Math Class!



October 4, 2021 — Ms. Shipp helps prepare for Ms. Watson's Retirement Party!

Students in Computer Literacy are learning how to format text using word-processing software. They are learning how to select font/style, change point size, adjust spacing between lines, change margin settings, page orientation and add columns. Many students did not realize it could be so complicated, or that they could master the tools and skills to make their stories look just the way they want.

Recently, students 6 through 8th grade were given prompts to share some of their family holiday publications. On the following pages are some of the stories the writers agreed to see published in this issue of Carr Lane News and Views.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Nasir, 8A

On Thanksgiving my family and I get together, and we eat good food we go to a person's house. Sometimes we go over to my grandma's house because her house is real spacey and big. She has 3 floors in her house. Her kitchen is massive. She doesn't let anyone upstairs. She can be picky sometimes, but she makes the best turkey. I don't like pumpkin, but when my grandma makes it I sometimes eat it, depending on how it tastes. My family is so lit! I don't know why, but when my family gets together it is so fun. Still, there will be no drama! My grandma doesn't like when her kids argue. She will yell at them, but at the same time my grandma is all about family. When you need something, she always has it there for you. She doesn't lie about anything. She tells the truth. She never lies. My mama also cooks on thanksgiving. She makes the best turkey, and she makes fish and roast! I eat it with hot sauce, and she makes the best cornbread! She bakes a cake sometimes! She asks me and my siblings: "What flavor should the cake be?" My siblings and I always pick chocolate!

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Stanley, 8A

Christmas is my favorite holiday, because I get gifts from my family members. After I get my gifts, I go over to my grandma's house and most of my family members go over to her house. After we get to her house my dad picks me up and he gives me my presents. Next, we go over to his house. I go over to my grandma and grandpa's house, so they can give me my presents. Then, after we are done, we eat. After that we go to our cousins' house so we can go to the movies or we watch a movie at home. We might be on the video games or be playing outside. After we are done we be put the star on top of the Christmas tree and my brother and my cousins and I go to the basement to play hide and seek. After that we pretty much don't do anything, but yeah, that's all we really do until the next day. Then my brother and I are playing on a game, and then we are walking to our cousins' house to ask them to play outside and that's it! That's all we do!

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Ta'Niah, 8A

For Christmas my Mom and I go to Hobby Lobby and get ornaments for Her Christmas Tree Candy Land Theme. We usually get a lot of pastel candy ornaments and just anything that's pastel themed of that category. My family doesn't really cook for the holidays anymore but just for Thanksgiving, Fourth of July,

and Christmas. For this Thanksgiving, we are having, Ham, Mac 'Cheese, Cheesecake, Sweet potatoes, and Greens. I don't eat half of this stuff I listed like, the Ham and Greens. Ham is nasty and Greens are just as nasty. I only eat the Mac' Cheese and Sweet potatoes, and Cheese Cake for Dessert. For Halloween, we just look at Scary Movies like, *Friday the 13*, *Michael Myers*, and *Scream*. My Mom now just buys candy, and she only buys a Halloween costume for my little sister since she's 5. My other siblings and I are teenagers. For the Fourth of July, we barbeque ribs, hotdogs, and that other stuff. I don't eat meat like that anymore since it's gotten nasty to me. At night, we pop fireworks, and usually my cousins come over and we pop fireworks with them. For this Christmas, we are doing another Candy Land Theme and this time I'm not helping them because it's just too much.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Semaj, 8A

What I do on the holiday for Thanksgiving is that my family and I make the best food. I'll tell what the food is; we make candy yams, ham, upside down pineapple cake, mac and cheese with bacon, the best of the best turkey, honey hot wings and we put a twist in with it. We add in baked chicken, and a baked roast, with apple pie and pumpkin pie. The adults have wine coolers and the kids get soda and Kool-Aid and we play games like *Never Have I Ever*. We play Uno and then, after we are

done with the night, I give every family member extra food because we don't waste food in my family's house, and we are very thankful for each and every family member.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Marqwan, 8A

For my Thanksgiving I'm going over to my auntie's house. I'm going to be playing my video game with my cousins and my auntie will be cooking. I'm going to eat. We are going to have chicken, turkey, ham, greens, peas, macaroni and my mom is going to buy me an iPhone XR and Apple headphones!

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Eliza, 8B

For Christmas I love the movies around this time of year. What do we do on Christmas? We wake up and wait on everybody to wake up, and then we spend time with family. We give each other gifts and see what everybody got each other. Where do we go? We go over to everybody's house that we got gifts, or what got us gifts. We go see the lights late at night, and we stay out to see the lights. What do we eat? I don't eat ham. I don't eat turkey. So, they eat that and we want mashed potatoes. We eat salad, and we eat Christmas cookies, and we eat sweet candied yams. We also eat sweet corn, gravy, and sweet potato pie. We eat mac and cheese and I love cheesecake. What does Christmas mean to me? It mean everything to me! It means love goodness. It's God's day

and the angels. We cherish peace and goodwill to be plenteous in mercy, and to have the real Spirit of Christmas.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Darrynn, 8B

Holiday Traditions are important for a lot of people in this world, especially to me. Christmas is a holiday when people receive and give gifts. Another holiday is Thanksgiving when people such as family and friends come together and spend time and eat. For Thanksgiving people eat turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, collard greens, cornbread, baked mac n cheese, sweet potatoes, etc. Easter is a holiday where most people spend time with their kids and have fun activities such as an “Easter Egg Hunt” with candy and money inside the plastic eggs to let the kids enjoy themselves. Most people don’t celebrate “Traditional Holidays” like everyone else, like my family we all come together a month before to see where we are going to be for the holidays like last year we all came together to celebrate at the “family house”, but this year we rented out an air bnb to celebrate Thanksgiving. Christmas is a traditional holiday more than half of the world celebrates because Christmas was addressed in the bible and most people believe that they should celebrate it. Christians celebrated back in the day to reunite and come together, to have family time with their family and friends, and to get to know each other more.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Marshell, 8B

My holiday traditions are fun and sometimes whack. When we have our holidays sometimes our family comes over but not all the time. My cousins come and we play sometimes and we eat the food that my momma cooks. Sometimes on holidays we play games. We go trick or treating on Halloween, and my momma has festivities for the grown-ups and the kids. On the last 4th of July my brother had a party and all my family was over at my house. We were outside, and we played a slip and slide game with all the family. We had barbecue, chips, juice, potato salad, and more. For the last holiday, which was Halloween, we all went trick or treating and we all had like half a bag of candy, and it was nice. Now, the next holiday is Thanksgiving and my momma is cooking a whole feast of stuff for my family and me. I have a lot of family members, so the food will be a lot. Lately, my favorite holiday has been thanksgiving, so yeah, I can’t wait for Thanksgiving to be here.

THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

By Mackenzie, 8B

What do you do? I go spend time with my family. And I go to church. Where do you go? I either go over to my cousin’s house or stay at my house. Who do you see? I see a lot of my family, like all of my cousins and my mama’s friends. What do you eat? The best food ever created: like ham, greens, mac and cheese,

cornbread, sweet potatoes, and all that stuff. What does thanksgiving mean to you? Thanksgiving is a time of giving thanks and like in the morning we go to church and all the kids go up to the stage and say what they are thankful for. After church they finish up the last bit of cooking, and then my family starts coming over at like 4 or 5 or we'll go over to their house. Then everybody eats and sits and chills before we go back home or clean up if we host. There are some other traditions we have on Christmas Eve. We always have breakfast for dinner. And on Christmas Eve we get to open one gift. So, this is how we celebrate my Thanksgiving and a little of the Christmas holiday!

MY THANKSGIVING

By Carnetta, 8B

On Thanksgiving we all cook together which usually takes all day. This year we might all cook and then go to a dinner with my family. We will probably go somewhere together, though I don't really know because my parents do surprises a lot. We usually cook. I don't even know, but my parents are both into cooking. Me too! I know there will be plenty. To me, Thanksgiving means food and time off studies. The reason why I said "time off studies" is that there are things I study other than school work. I spend most of that time by myself watching TV, cooking, practicing, and doing my language studies. My parents, my sister, cousins and I are going to get together and spend the day over my at my cousins' house. I

don't know what we are going to do though. There are MANY cousins that I haven't seen in a while, so I am going to see them. A lot of them are older, but I believe that I will see kids I have never even seen before. So, I'm going to see a lot younger cousins since not a lot of my older cousins like really going to these things much. I hope Thanksgiving goes well this year, especially since I don't really like Holidays.

MY HOLIDAYS TRADITIONS

By D'liyah, 7A

My holiday tradition is all about Christmas. On Christmas I never sleep late, because I can't wait to open my gifts. I'm always the first one up. I always get my brothers to eat and open our gifts. I hate when my mom wakes up late, because we always have to wait on her. When my mom gets up we open our gifts after we clean up. We wait on our family to get to our house, so we can have Christmas together. I also go see my dad for Christmas. That's about all I do for my holiday traditions.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITON

By Kyrah, 7A

Christmas is my favorite holiday. On Christmas I spend time with my family opening gifts. On Christmas I wake up and open all my gifts. Usually, my mom and granny cook ham and other food. I really enjoy my Christmas when I get exactly what I want. Last year my

mom bought me a big bed and a new room set. I really asked for a game, and that's what I got. I really wanted this game, but since I'm only 13, my mom didn't allow me to get it.

This year I'm going to have a lot of seafood. Last year my mom cooked a thanksgiving dinner for Christmas. I'm actually happy this year, because I get to get my niece and nephew gifts. Also it most likely will snow. I will be getting my niece a tablet with abs games and other toys. I will be buying my nephew toy cars. This Christmas will be great.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Sri, 7A

Christmas is my favorite holiday, because we get to open lots and lots of presents and every year we bake cakes and cookies, and also, my birthday is in December. On Christmas we get to play in the snow and make snow angels and build snow a man and dress it up. On Christmas you get to open up lots of presents that your parents and aunties bought you. What I want for Christmas is some new shoes, clothes, new phone cases, and get my nails re-done. On Christmas we put up our tree and decorate it, and we have a contest to see who does the best decorations.

Christmas is the only time I get lots of things I want and open lots of present with my family and show them what I got.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Christian, 7A

Christmas is my favorite holiday because you can celebrate with friends, family, and relatives. We can have big thanksgiving dinners and put up a big Christmas tree. We put up stockings for St. Nicholas so he can put gifts inside it. Mostly my favorite part about Christmas is that we get presents, but since I'm 12 years old I can't really get gifts anymore. But the one thing I want for Christmas is a gaming PC to play my favorite games like Fortnite, Valorant, Apex Legends, Dead by Daylight and more. I know my 4 year old brother and 3 year old sister are going to get tons of Christmas gifts for Christmas. I know that they want a lot of toys every time we go to Wal-Mart, especially when we are in the toy sections. Also, they wanted some new shoes. This is why Christmas is my favorite holiday.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Summer, 7A

Christmas is my absolute favorite holiday. On Christmas I usually setup a Christmas tree with my family. The usual family I set my Christmas tree up with usually consists of my mom, grandpa, grandma, and two aunties. We also decorate outside of the house for Christmas. It's usually a very long and hard process. It's a long and hard process because it's usually cold

outside and the gate is very difficult to string lights onto. We have the same meal we usually have on Thanksgiving for Christmas. The only thing we might exclude that comes from Thanksgiving is the Turkey. I love opening gifts as well. The thought of having something new and fun to do is a very good thought. Last year was also our first time trying to make a Gingerbread house. It was a very hard process so we decided to just eat the cookies, frosting, etc. Our main purpose overall is celebrating Christmas for the birth of Jesus. This is how our Christmas usually goes every year.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITION

By Aeronna, 7A

Christmas is my favorite holiday. Sometimes on Christmas Eve we will open one present. That's one of the reasons Christmas is my favorite holidays. I like Christmas because you get to get things you like and spend time with your family. Before Christmas my mom, my siblings and I get to wrap my little brother's presents. For me, wrapping presents is fun. Also, we would set up the Christmas tree. Later on, a little bit after setting up the Christmas tree, we would put on the candy canes! And that's my Holiday Tradition.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Briyah, 6A

On New Year's Eve we stay up until midnight and drink sparkling grape juice. On Valentine's Day we buy candy and give it to our classmate.

On Easter we go Easter egg hunting and go to Grandma's house. On the 4th of July we have a party because that is my 4 year old cousin's birthday. On Halloween we go to Fright Fest at Six Flags. On Thanksgiving we go to my grandma's house because she makes a Bussin' Apple Pie. On Christmas we open presents and hang out, and after that we start everything all over again.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Zyan, 6A

Every winter my mother and I go to the Garden Glow at The Botanical Gardens. We see beautiful lights in the trees, and the ponds. We also do "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me," as a game where we must find the things in the song. Last time we went a friend, Storm, came with us. We have been doing this for 4 years. This year would make it 5, I believe. The Garden Glow has all types of cool things you can do. You can make s'mores, make wishes, go to a café, go inside of a snow globe, and you can also go through a maze. Sometimes, we go with my mom's friend Andrew, or it's just me and her. Other than that, it's very fun. Oh! You can also go inside and see the train set-up. I can't remember all there is, but I do know there are miniature figures, dogs, and houses with a train. Lastly, there is also a photo booth.

Now, for Thanksgiving my granny ALWAYS cooks the biggest feast. Sometimes my family comes to my granny's house or to another's.

My granny makes the best sweet potatoes, mac and cheese, ham, dressing, and more. It's always a blessing to be together on the Holidays with my family. Most of my family members cook chicken or pie. My granny always cooks the best food, but it tastes WAY better on Thanksgiving. At this time, I would help my granny put up her Christmas tree and, to be honest, it's fun! I love it when the chicken is crispy; for some reason I like ketchup with it. After my family eats, we head outside, and there's usually a bouncy house, bag race, and more games. Ohhh... the cake they have is the best! They have chocolate cake, red velvet cake, and carrot cake. I love how we always bond with each other on this holiday. It's nice. I also get to play with my little cousins and bond with them, too. Overall, Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because I'm thankful to have a wonderful family and people who care about me.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Bria, 6A

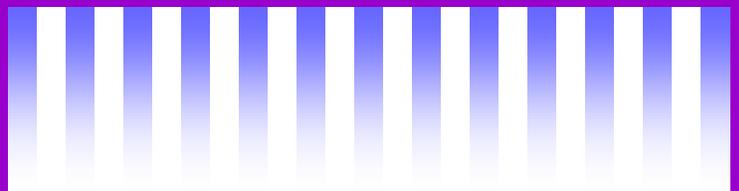
Christmas is my favorite holiday because I receive gifts, and I give gifts. I get to see a lot of my family. Christmas is one of those holidays where you get more than one thing for Christmas. You don't get everything, but you will get most of the stuff you wanted. Christmas is a really special holiday. A lot of people start putting their lights up before Christmas. I really like Christmas, because I see a lot of my favorite cousins.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITION

By DeMarie, 6B

For Thanksgiving, some holiday traditions that my family have are that we would usually go to my aunt's house. My sisters, my cousins, and I would play in the backyard and jump on the trampoline until dinner is ready. We also play family games and joke around as a family. My aunt is usually the one who cooks, but sometimes my grandma cooks, also. Some things that they would cook include ham, turkey, candied yams, macaroni, and greens. Thanksgiving means a lot to me, because I get to spend time with some of my family that I don't get to see very often, and my family means a lot to me. To see them after I don't see them for a while makes me happy.

For Christmas some holiday traditions that my family and I have are that we usually wake up at 7:00 AM, and my sisters and I would open our presents and then get ready to go to my aunt's house, my grandpa's house, my grandma's house, and my dad's house to get the presents that everyone got us. We thank everyone for the presents, and then we would go to my aunt's and eat some food and thank my aunt for the food. Finally, we go back home to watch Christmas movies in my mother's room; for example, we might watch the *Grinch!*



MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Janee, 6B

For Thanksgiving, some holiday traditions I would do are that I would normally start to get ready to go to my cousins' house to have a family dinner. Some people I would see include my cousins, uncles, and aunties. Also, when I see my family we normally make videos and joke around with each other because you don't get to see each other so often. Some things that we will eat at our Thanksgiving dinner are ham, turkey, corn, greens, bread, and etc. So, over all, Thanksgiving means a lot to me, because I get to spend a lot of time with my family and just to be there with them makes me happy.

For Christmas some holiday traditions that I would do are that I would usually wake up and go wake up my sister. After I do that, I would go downstairs to see if we had some gifts, and we did! So, I was so excited, and my mom and dad let my sister and me open our gifts. After we opened them, my mom told us that we were going to a Christmas party. I took a few of the new gifts with me to so show my cousins. Then when we got back home I was looking at all my items that I had gotten. Over all, I really enjoyed my Christmas with my family.

* * *



This year Red Ribbon Week was celebrated during the Halloween Week. The celebration culminated on Friday, October 29, 2021.

That was the day that students were able to enter the auditorium and watch the Fall Festival.

Drum Line, Spirit Squad Dancers, The Carr Lane Concert Choir and the Carr Lane Dancers all performed on the Carr Lane Stage.

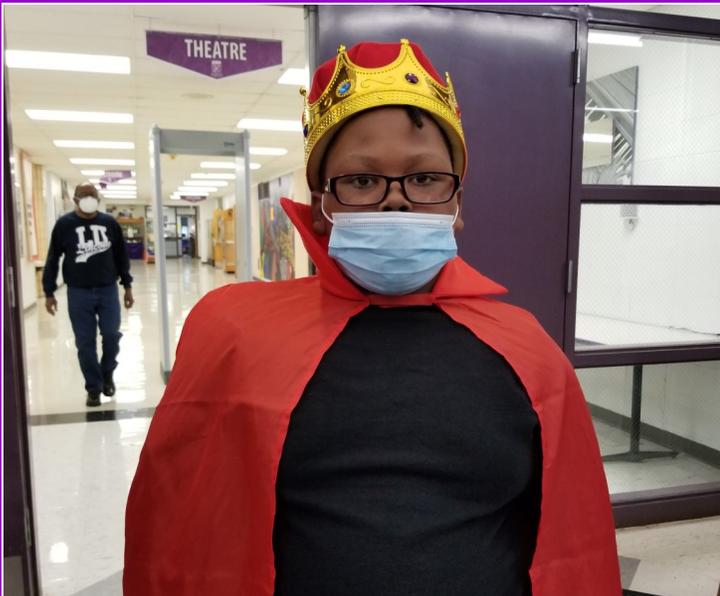
The gathering was also an occasion to recognize members of the Carr Lane Girls' Volley Ball Team and the Carr Lane Boys' Soccer Team! Go, Jaguar Nation!



The Fall Festival DJ!



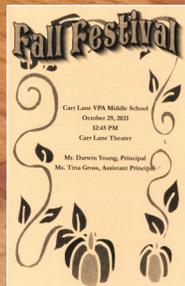
Halloween Costumes!



FALL FESTIVAL!



October 29, 2021 — The Carr Lane Spirit Squad Takes the Stage!





Coach Choate introduces the members of the Carr Lane Girls' Volley Ball Team!





Coach Ford introduces the members of the Carr Lane Boys' Soccer Team!



CONCERT CHOIR!



Ms. Williams and the Carr Lane Concert Choir took the stage, performing for a live audience once again!



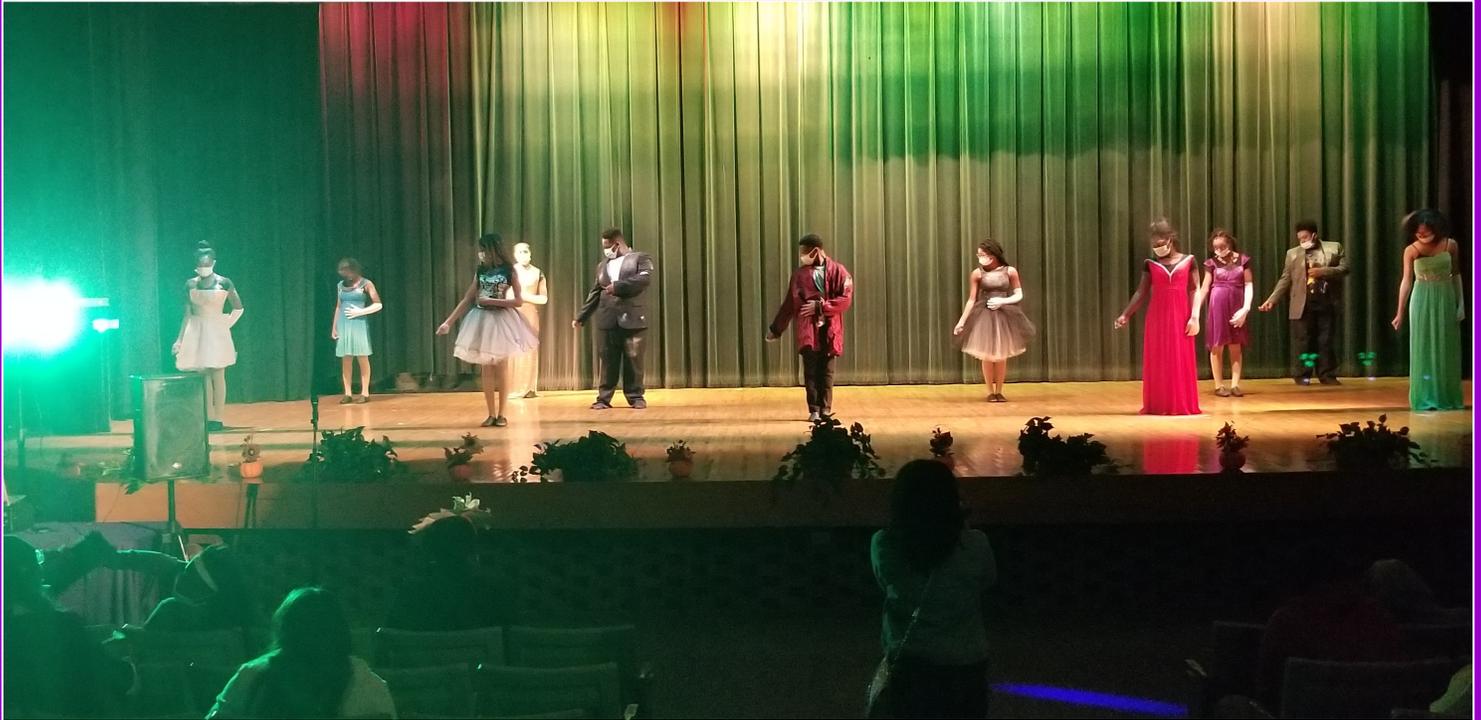
Choir Members step up for solo performance!



The Concert Choir received thunderous applause, and MC, Mr. Phillips, introduced the dance competition



7th Grader Rashad does a great series of flips, but 8th grader, Amiyah wins the dance competition!



It was time for the Carr Lane Dancers to perform, directed by Fine Arts Team Leader, Ms. Parker!



SCREEN SHOTS!



VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE



VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Carr Lane VPA Middle School
November 16, 2021
9:40 AM
Carr Lane Theater

Mr. Darwin Young, Principal
Ms. Tina Gross, Assistant Principal

Carr Lane Jaguars gather in the theater to observe Veterans Day, 2021.



The Carr Lane VPA Flag Team performs!



The Carr Lane Concert Choir



Airborn dancers!



The Carr Lane Dancers!

In Memorium...



Poignant moments as Carr Lane pauses to remember Mr. Fox: teacher, coach, mentor, friend, son...



Tribute from a student...

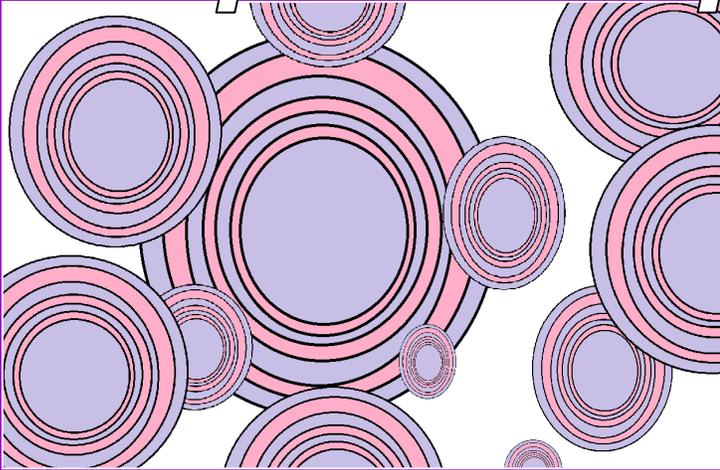


Mr. Fox's classroom desk...

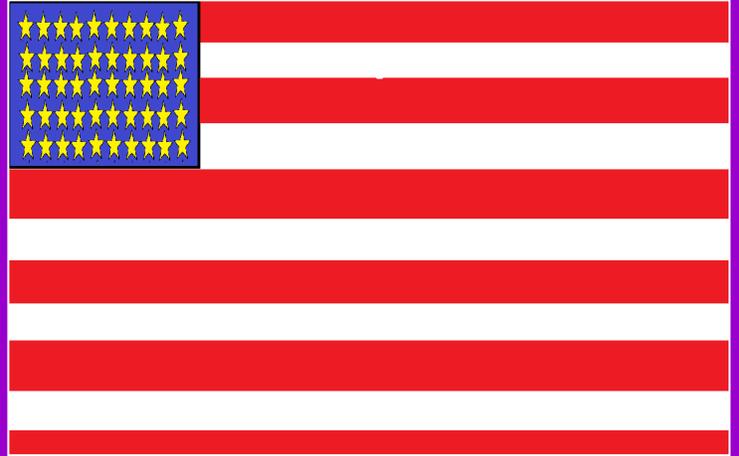


Computer Graphics

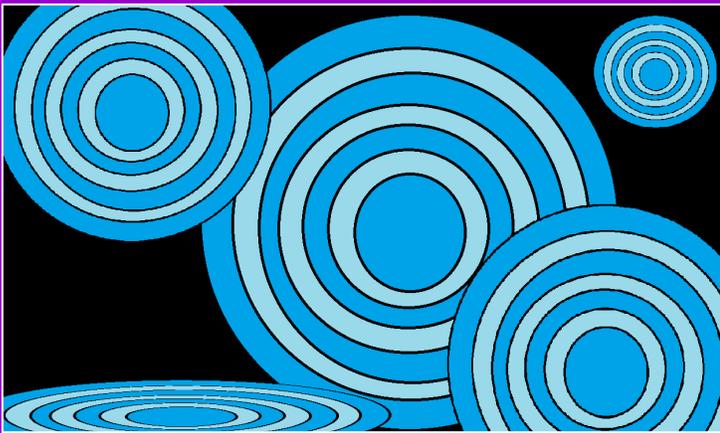
Students used computer graphics software to create this visual images...



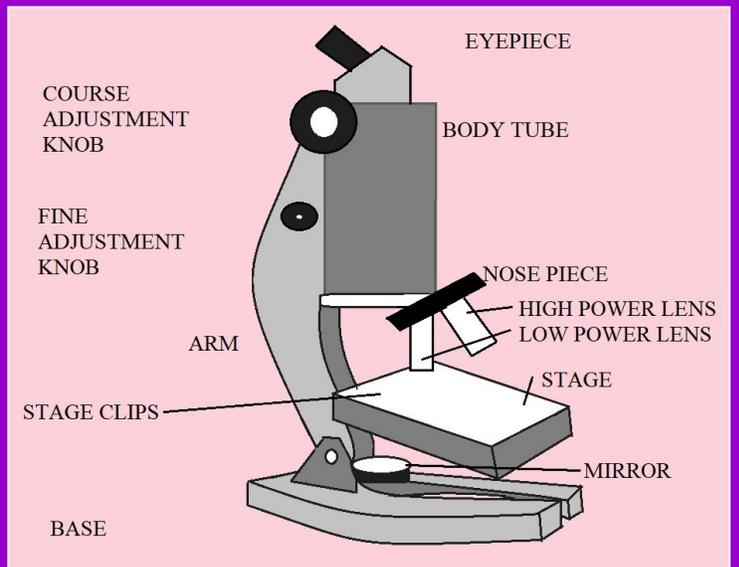
Bulls eye by DeMarie, grade 6



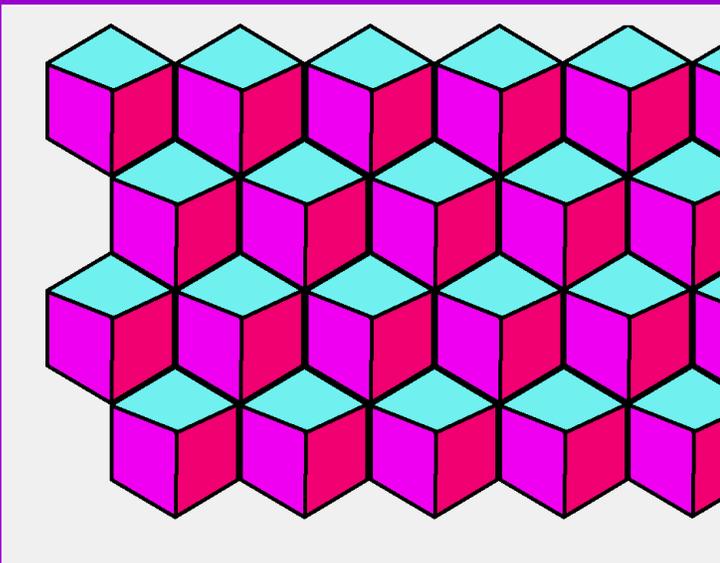
Flag, by Cortez, grade 8



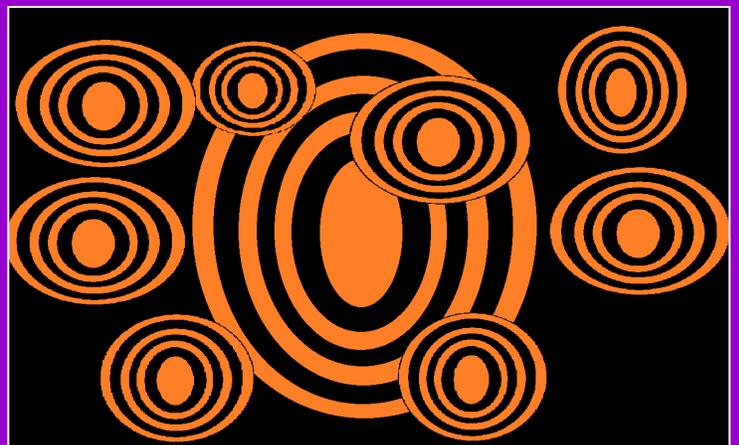
Bulls eye by Ziya, grade 6



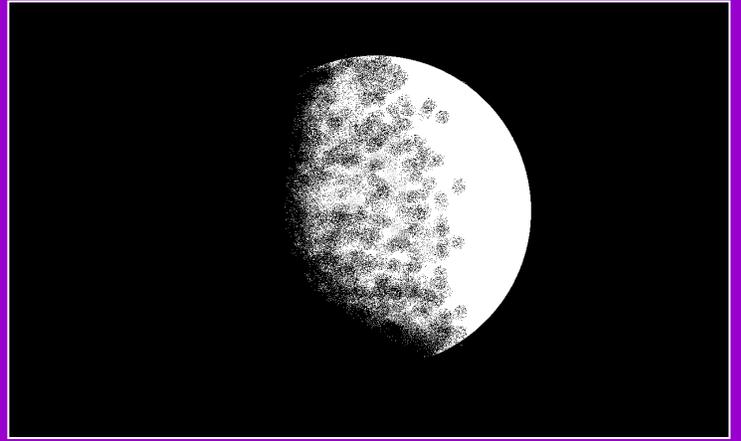
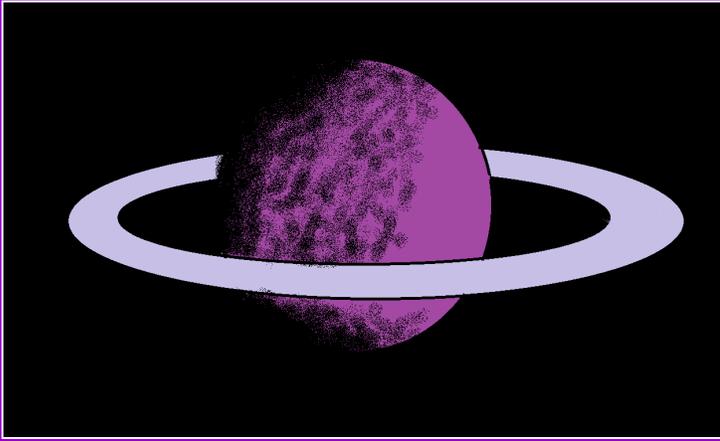
Microscope by Zyan, grade 6



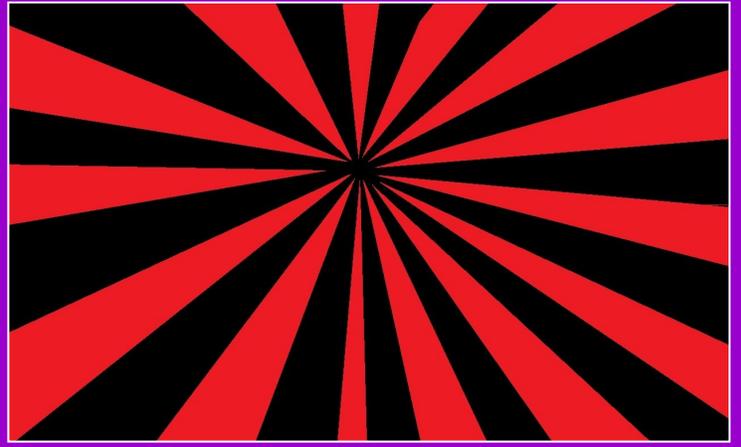
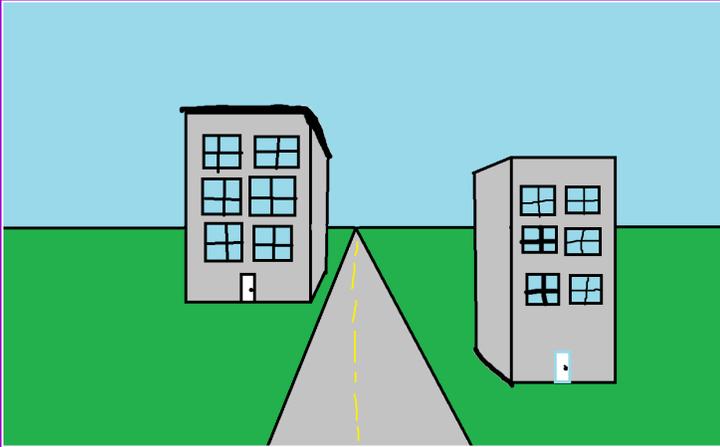
Tessellation by Laila, grade 6



Bulls eye by McKenzie, grade 6

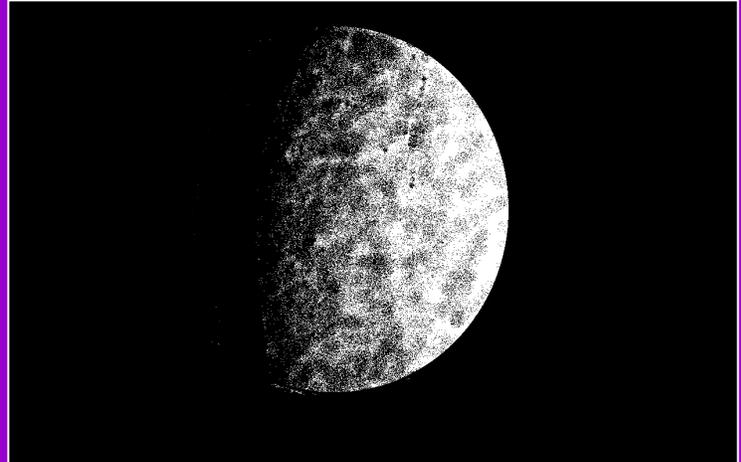
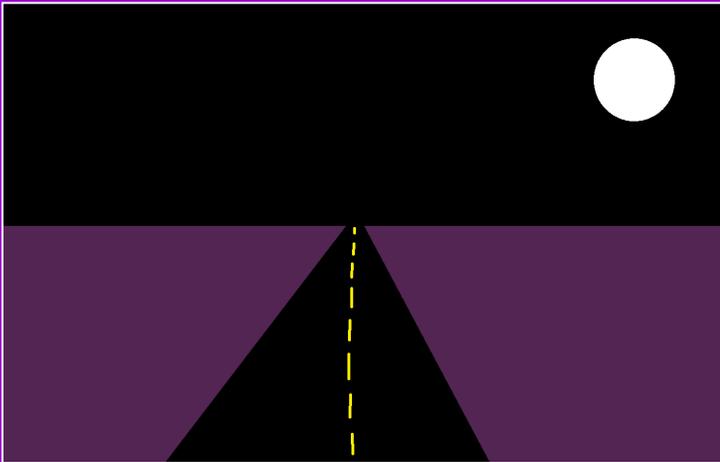


Saturn and Moon by Aeronna, grade 7



Buildings in perspective, Kennedy, grade 7

Starburst, by Anthony, grade 8



Vanishing Road, Darrynn, grade 8

Moon, by Laila, grade 7

Computer Graphics

THE WINTER SHOW!



It may have taken two years, but the Carr Lane VPA Jaguars came roaring back to the stage for the first Winter Show since the 2019-2020 School Year! It was Thursday, December 16, 2021 and virtually the entire school out turned for the first of two performances. The morning presentation was for students, and the afternoon show was Superintendent Adams, his leadership team, and principals from across St. Louis Public Schools! In this photo, the Carr Lane Concert Choir under the direction of Ms. Williams, opens the program!



In the orchestra pit, the players warm-up and await the start of the morning performance.



Mr. Walker conducts the Carr Lane VPA Orchestra.

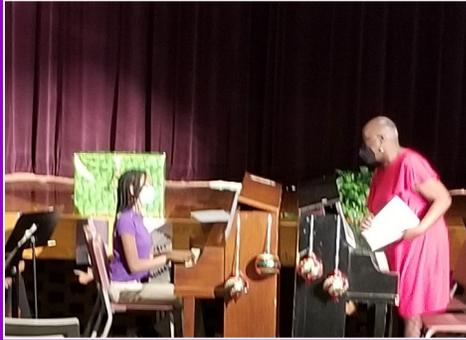
DANCE!



Dance returns to the Carr Lane stage as the Carr Lane VPA Dancers, under the direction of Ms. Parker present the first of two numbers: the first, this colorful, free-spirited, Hip Hop that brought cheers from the house!



The final piece was the solemn, thought-provoking “23rd Psalm.”



A curtain raiser 2021 retrospective from Computer Literacy and Dr. Phoenix's students, wonderful stage dressing and decoration from Ms. Choate and her art students, a student film edited by Ms. Clark, piano solos from Mr. Williams' piano students, and a moving speech by Principal Young who challenged students in the audience to get involved and find a path to perform on the Carr Lane Stage!



The staff celebrates Mr. Blount's 80th birthday!



Principal Young, Ms. Strode, and Assistant principal Gross on the occasion of Ms. Strode's retirement from St. Louis Public Schools and teaching after many years of service.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Carr Lane VPA News & Views
December 2021 — Issue No. 17

Carr Lane VPA News and Views is published by the Computer Literacy Classes from Room 109 with the support of the Carr Lane Fine Arts Team and the students, teachers and staff throughout the building and across the Internet! For this issue, special thanks to Mr. Hommowun, Ms. Shipp, and Mr. Phillips. To the Carr Lane Family: have a great winter break and see you back here in 2022! Students return and classes resume on Tuesday, January 4, 2022!

