Dear Carlson Families,

As you may know the district made the decision towards the end of last year to bring about wireless capabilities at all its elementary schools. Previously only the junior high and high school campuses were wireless. In part driven by the new state testing mandates as well as increased instructional models being supported through technology, all 31 elementary campuses have been identified as requiring wireless capacity.

Having said this, the first thought often wanders to the “1 to 1 computing” environment that a variety of districts and individual schools have selected to adopt. In reality, many 1 to 1 computing environments simply mean that computers are handed to students for use throughout the day. I would contend that simply to have the computer or tablet in front of you and accessible is not sufficient, but rather what is much more important is what students are doing with these devices. As Carlson looks to become wireless in the coming months, that is the very question we will continue to be asking staff as we determine how best to make use of the wireless capacity we have been granted.

Last years PTO Board donated approximately $17,000.00 to assist in the purchase of wireless technology. With these funds we were able to secure a cart of 30 HP Streams (small laptops) that will be able to be distributed and used for instruction as well as testing. This years PTO Board has set an initiative to continue the support of this technology as we look to add additional cards of laptops and tablets to compliment the classroom instruction that is being given. In an ideal setting, each grade level would have access to both a set of laptops to be used in small or whole group settings as well as a set of tablets which are ideal for small group instructional support.

As we move forward, I ask that you support our PTO initiative in helping to raise funds for continued wireless technology. Once we are confirmed that Carlson has indeed become wireless we will start to have increased conversations with staff and students about the capabilities and instructional purposes behind what technology we choose and how best to integrate this into our daily instructional routine.

As always our initiatives at Carlson would not be nearly as successful if it were not for the generous support in funding and time from all our parent community. I thank you so much for all you do for each and everyone one of our Carlson kids and staff.

In Education,

Leo Schlueter - Principal