

## President's Message

Hello Carrolltowners!

I hope that you are doing well and had time to enjoy the season. My family time is precious to me and I cherish this special time with them, as they are only young once. Their childhood is flashing before my eyes! Wish time would slow down a bit.

The school year is flying by too. We've had a wonderful fall and early winter at Carrolltowne. New this year are our weekly AlertNow messages. In these Sunday night emails, we try to provide to the school community information about the coming week. We hope that you find this to be a useful tool in your planning.

Our committees have been working hard. I am so lucky to know these women and men who share their creativity, kindness, and time with our whole school. Without them, there would be no PTA. Without a PTA, the extras that the children enjoy would not happen. Thanks to ALL of them!

We hold meetings on the first Thursday of the month. They begin at 7pm & we gather in the media center. Many people think that if they attend the meeting, that means they have to volunteer to run a committee. That is not true; we just like to see you there. You really do learn a lot about our school. A teacher representative and administrator are present at each meeting. I do my best to keep it under one hour! We share ideas, experience and laughs. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Thanks for reading our 'Connection' with you. Have a wonderful New Year!

Mary Ellen O'Neill  
PTA President

**WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?  
VISIT THE PTA WEBSITE AT:  
WWW.CARROLLTOWNEPTA.COM**

### ***What we did this fall***

*This issue of the Connection describes what we did this past Fall, and what to look forward to after the holidays.*

### ***Ways and Means***

We had a very busy Fall with the Fun Run. We are thrilled to report that we made a little over \$15,000 for our PTA. All of the students seemed to have a fun time at the event. They all looked great in the Cardinal Shades that they received for participating. We were also happy to see so many parents join in the fun.



All prizes (for students that earned them) were distributed before Thanksgiving break. We hope everyone liked them! For now, the Ways and Means committee is done until summer, when the planning for the 2012 Fun Run begins.

Thank you to the parent volunteers and staff that helped make our day a big success! And a BIG thank you to all of our Carrolltowne Families that supported our event. We could not have done it without you! Carrolltowne Families are the BEST!

Sincerely,  
Lisa Feehley and Jenny Speace

COMING SOON:



Performances to be held:

- Friday, March 2, 2012, evening
- Saturday, March 3  
2 performances (matinee & evening)
- Sunday, March 4 (matinee).

## **2011-2012 PTA Officers**

### **PRESIDENT**

Mary Ellen O'Neill  
President@CarrolltownePTA.com  
410.549.0221

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Megan Greybeal  
VicePresident@CarrolltownePTA.com  
410.795.1280

### **TREASURER**

Lauren Glass  
Treasurer@CarrolltownePTA.com  
410.549.6085

### **SECRETARY**

Amy Young  
Secretary@CarrolltownePTA.com  
410.781.7559



## Yearbook Club needs photos...

The Fifth Grade Yearbook Club is working hard to design a colorful keepsake for Carrolltowne! If you have any photos from Carrolltowne events such as The Fall Harvest Party, the Holiday Shop or any memorable times, please submit your photographs for yearbook consideration. Contact **Mary Ellis** [pmmthe@yahoo.com](mailto:pmmthe@yahoo.com) for more information.

## School Sign...

We hope that the school sign continues to keep you up-to-date on school-wide events at Carrolltowne Elementary. If you think you would be interested in helping keep everyone else informed, please contact Mary Ellis [pmmthe@yahoo.com](mailto:pmmthe@yahoo.com).

### Making a Difference

An old man walked up a shore littered with thousands of starfish, beached and dying after a storm.



A young man was picking them up and flinging them back into the ocean.

"Why do you bother?" the old man scoffed. "You're not saving enough to make a difference."

The young man picked up another starfish and sent it spinning back into the water.

"Made a difference to that one," he said.



**You make a difference, every day.**

## Cultural Arts

### Past Events

October 28, 2011. Cosmic Adventures came to Carrolltowne with their portable planetarium and presented to 5th grade on Friday, October 28th.

December 15, 2011. Author Barry Polisar visited with the students. Mr. Polisar has written and published many children's books and CDs. He provided a variety of his books and CDs to share with the students in preparation for his visit. During the Author's Visit, Mr. Polisar held three sessions with grades K&1, 2&3, 4&5. He shared portions of his work and provided the students with insight into the author's craft. Autographed copies of Mr. Polisar's books and CDs were sold with a portion of the profits going to the PTA.



### Future Events

January 19, 2012. That Thursday, the DinoRock program will perform "Junkyard Pirates" for grades Pre-K thru 2.

This presentation is an interactive musical puppet theatre that focuses on protecting our environment by recycling, reusing, and reducing waste.

Questions? Contact Marsha Dorsey [cultural@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:cultural@carrolltownepta.com)



## School Store

The store sells supplies and fun items for students on Thursday mornings before school. We have some special holiday items in stock, and promotions for each grade level. In 2012, we're looking forward to more special promotions by grade level, and fun, new spring products.

We're only open for 30 minutes at a time, and that time goes by very quickly! We have about eight volunteers, and we would love to make it easier on everyone by having more. If you have any questions, or would like to learn how you can help, please contact:

Kathryn Harsha at [kathrynarsha@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynarsha@gmail.com).

# The PTA Needs YOU!

...and your children need the PTA

The PTA provides opportunities to meet and to talk with other parents who have the same concerns as you. By sharing common concerns, you will feel more empowered to do the tough job of parenting. Being part of PTA results in parental support and makes school involvement easier.

The PTA also provides educational opportunities. From local-level parent meetings to the Maryland PTA Annual Convention, PTA encourages learning and the sharing of accomplishments.

Ultimately, the PTA provides the opportunity to serve, to volunteer, and to contribute to the welfare of all children, because children represent our future. PTA will introduce you to a great variety of new activities and opportunities to share your special talents.

If you are interested in helping out in some way or joining a committee, please contact the Committee Chair. If you have any questions about what we do, or what you could do, please contact one of your Carrolltowne PTA officers.



Excerpt from the National PTA's Web site, online at <http://www.pta.org>

**Parent** involvement is crucial to the health and well-being of a child. As a parent, you are the most important influence in your child's success in school and in life. In this role, you have a fresh opportunity every day to get involved with your child.

Parent involvement in children's education allows kids to perform better in school, and navigate more easily some of the challenges of growing up, such as bullying.

PTA is committed to being the leading resource for parent involvement. We offer comprehensive resources for helping parents get involved and stay involved in the lives of their children.

## Sunshine Committee

recognizes Carrolltowne Elementary staff life events by sending cards, flowers and/or gifts following a birth, wedding, death, illness or retirement. **To help out**, contact the chair, Stacey Ellis [stacyellis@comcast.net](mailto:stacyellis@comcast.net).



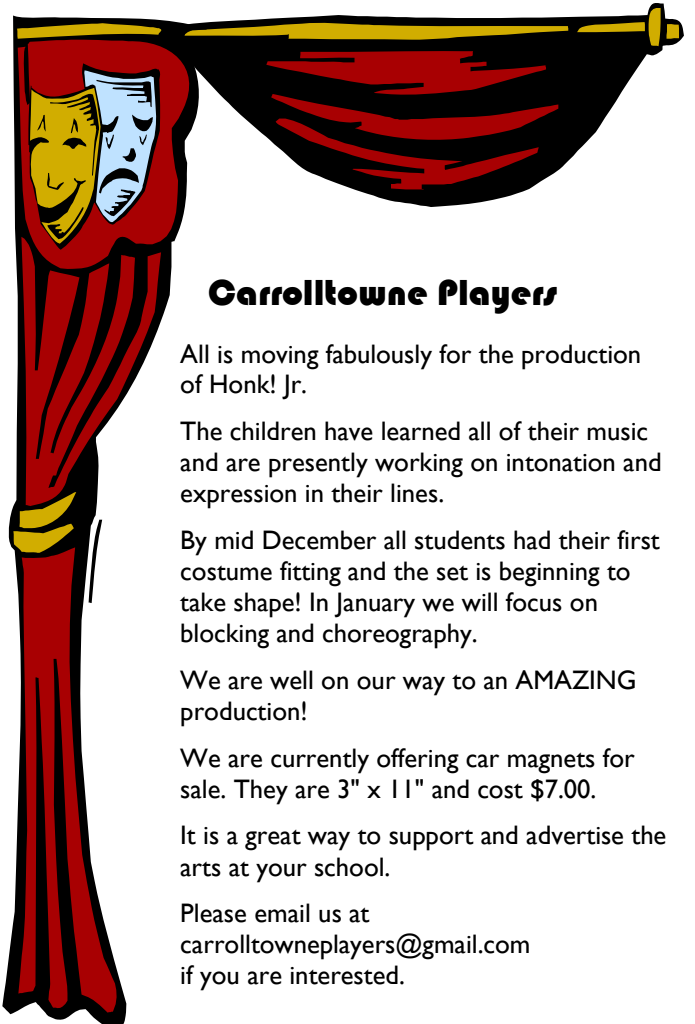
## Community Service

This committee was quite busy in November—collecting donations of used books and monetary donations for the "One for Books" program. We donate the collected books to the Human Services Programs of Carroll County (HSP). HSP gives these books to families in need.



The Carrolltowne Elementary School community is amazing. Through your monetary and used book donations, we were able to donate over 1,400 books this year!!

Stay tuned for more information regarding our plan to collect toiletry items for Spring Bags that will be donating to Springfield Hospital Center.



## Carrolltowne Players

All is moving fabulously for the production of Honk! Jr.

The children have learned all of their music and are presently working on intonation and expression in their lines.

By mid December all students had their first costume fitting and the set is beginning to take shape! In January we will focus on blocking and choreography.

We are well on our way to an AMAZING production!

We are currently offering car magnets for sale. They are 3" x 11" and cost \$7.00.

It is a great way to support and advertise the arts at your school.

Please email us at [carrolltowneplayers@gmail.com](mailto:carrolltowneplayers@gmail.com) if you are interested.

# School Bus Traffic Safety



During this busy time of the year, it is easy to drive a little too fast or not pay attention for children on the streets. We must take some time to slow down and obey school bus traffic laws. Remember to drive with caution, especially around all schools, bus stops and cross walks.

The Maryland State Police as well as the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office are actively enforcing these laws.

## Please help us keep our kids safe.

### School Bus Laws:

- Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and children are getting on or off. Motorists approaching from all directions must wait until the red lights stop flashing before proceeding.
- It is **against the law** to pass a stopped school bus while its lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended.
- On undivided roadways, with no physical barrier or median, vehicles must stop on both sides of the roadway. Such as Liberty Road (RT 26). **ALL** lanes on both sides must stop when a bus is stopped.
- When a bus is stopped at an intersection, with red flashing lights, all vehicles shall remain stopped until the bus is back in motion.

Motorists may not proceed until the school bus either turns off the flashing red lights or resumes motion. This law does not apply to motorists on a divided highway, if the school bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway from the motorist. A divided highway means a highway that is divided into two or more roadways by an intervening space or barrier, such as a concrete or grassy median. Liberty Road in Eldersburg is not a divided highway.

### Pedestrian Laws:

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks. Crosswalks exist at **all** intersections – even if they are **unmarked**.
- Pedestrians have the right of way at crosswalks; motorists must yield to them when turning. Stop for pedestrians when making a right-turn-on-red or left-turn on full green, leaving enough room at intersections so that pedestrians can cross safely.

Drivers must vigilantly watch the roadway at all times, and always follow the speed limit, which may be lowered in designated school zones. Drivers need to remember the unpredictability of children and be on the lookout for all pedestrians.

More information can be found online at:

<http://choosesafetyforlife.com/>

Contributed by Scott Walthour

*Reviewed by the Sheriff’s Department [Editor]*

## Carroll County Public Schools Calendar January—March, 2012

### January

- 2 Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday
- 3 Schools/Offices Reopen
- 16 Schools/Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 27 Schools Closed for Students – Teachers Work on End of Marking Period Items

### February

- 10 Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal for Elementary Students; Professional Time for Elementary Teachers; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten Students
- 20 Schools/Offices Closed – Presidents’ Day
- 21 Schools Closed for Students; Professional Development Day for Teachers

### March

- 5 Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Professional Development Time available for Instructional Staff; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten Students
- 30 Last Day before Spring Holiday

## Hospitality/Welcoming

Thanks to the members of this committee the Back to School Breakfast for teachers and staff and the New Families' Welcome night were a success!

## Membership

We have great, supportive adult community at Carrolltowne, as is demonstrated by the large number of parents and staff who have become PTA members (over 50% of both groups!). It is never too late to become a PTA member. Contact a Membership Committee chairperson to obtain your membership card and welcome packet: Chairpersons: **Kim Koroma**, kandmo01@msn.com; **Kristie McCorkill**, aday12000@yahoo.com or use the mail drop: membership@carrolltownepta.com

## School Spirit!

Rocky Redbird is not the only character with lots of spirit. **Christine Wassman** <spirit@carrolltownepta.org> and her fellow committee members have kept morale high with a series of show your Spirit days in addition to the Fall and Spring Spirit Weeks. They also promote fun and togetherness at Family Fun Nights!

Fall Spirit Week was a success the week of October 24:

- \* Monday—they wore colors to celebrate Autumn
- \* Tuesday—following the latest fashion trends, they found clothes for **Mismatch Day**.
- \* Wednesday—they demonstrated the answer to the question: **How crazy can your hair get?**
- \* Thursday—found friends dressing alike for **Twins Day**
- \* Friday—the neighbors' children didn't oversleep, they celebrated **Slumber Party Day** wearing pajamas and slippers!



### Look out! Spring Spirit Week will be here soon:

Monday—Retro clothes day

- \* Monday—Retro clothes Day (60s, 70s, 80s, or 90s, pick your decade!)
- \* Tuesday—Green Day (reduce, reuse, recycle, or just wear Green)
- \* Wednesday—Character Day (dress like a character from a favorite book...now where can I find a purple velvet frock coat?)
- \* Thursday—Geography Day (find a shirt with a place on it...and wear it Thursday!)
- \* Friday—USA Rocks! (wrap them up in the Red, White & Blue...because July 4 is not just for the summer).

And make sure your child knows when to wear the Carrolltowne Cardinal red and white (hint: the first Friday of every month): The next three dates are: January 6, 2012 ♦ February 3, 2012 ♦ and March 2, 2012.

## Business Products / School Rewards Program

Each of you buy food or other products from companies that have programs supporting education. Even if you do not attend a single meeting, chair a committee, or volunteer at an event, you can help your child's school by sending in boxtops, registering your grocery store bonus card, or just watching satellite TV (yes, DirecTv has a program to support education). For full details, visit the links page on our Web site: <http://www.CarrolltownePTA.com/Links/> . Here are some of the programs that do not require a computer:

- Martin's Bonus Card Program (School ID is 00267) call 1-888-448-4642.
- Safeway Bonus Card Program (Group ID is 149513220) call 1-800-400-7878.
- Food Lion - Classroom Rewards call 1-704-633-8250 ext. 3810.
- Clip Tyson's Project 'A' labels and drop in LFE bin in school lobby, each label is worth \$0.24 to Carrolltowne Elementary.
- Clip the UPC from certain Campbells' product labels and drop in LFE bin in school lobby.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR BONUS CARD(S) EACH YEAR.

Questions? Contact **Kristin Bernadzikowski**. <businessproducts@carrolltownepta.com>



(if you would like to learn more about Carrolltowne PTA, complete the below and send this portion into school with your child)

### What Do You Want To Know About Carrolltowne PTA?

Please circle any committee(s) for which you would like to learn more and return this form to school. For general questions, please contact any one of the Carrolltowne PTA Officers (see front page for list).

Birthdays Books

Business Products

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Service

Connection

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural

Hospitality/Welcoming

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Language

Math

Students name(s) and teacher(s):

Membership

Miscellaneous Fundraisers

\_\_\_\_\_

Performing Arts

Publicity

\_\_\_\_\_

Science

School Sign

\_\_\_\_\_

School Spirit

School Store

Sunshine

Volunteers

Ways and Means

Yearbook

School Board Representative

### Did you know? ...

The eSchoolNewsletter alert system has been replaced by the "AlertNow" system. The AlertNow system requires no sign up - if you have an email address on file with the Carroll County Public School System, you are automatically signed up for this service.

And every Sunday, the Carrolltowne PTA sends an AlertNow message informing you of key events and news for the upcoming week.

However, we will continue to produce Carrolltowne Connection to document on paper what we have done, and what we intend to do over the school year.

