



Carrolltowne Connection



The newsletter of the Carrolltowne Elementary PTA
www.carrolltownepta.com

Mort Shuman, Editor (mdduckman@yahoo.com)

Fall 2008

President's Message

By Mary Ellen O'Neill, PTA President

Dear Carrolltowne Families:

Well, I've made it this far and I am still loving being the newest PTA President. That's a good thing, right?! I enjoy getting to know all of the newest PTA members and volunteers. Also, for those I've known a long time, it is great to be working with you again. Thanks for putting up with all of my requests.

Some highlights so far:

The Fun Run - what a great day we had! Under a gorgeous blue sky and in company of a cool, October wind, each grade level ran around Carrolltowne's back property. Parents and siblings came to run, walk, chat, cheer and giggle as the kids had an hour outside. At press time, we have raised over \$17,000 for all of the programs, activities and support that the PTA gives Carrolltowne this year. Thanks to **Michele Geidel** and **Kristen Bernardzikowski** for all of their work to make this such a success.

Hospitality - **Carolyn Case** and **Valerie Streissguth** and their committee have outdone themselves at preparing wonderful treats, meals and good cheer for our amazing teachers and staff. So many teachers have told me how much they appreciate these special days.

School Spirit - **Jenn Harrison** and committee have planned some awesome activities for our students this year! From our first Family Game Night, to the annual Bingo Night, to the festive spirit days, this committee has great ideas to make happy memories for our kids.

Cardinal Tales - Some Fourth and Fifth graders, in an after school club called 'Cardinal Tales,' are busy getting the very first literary magazine ready for publication in January. All Carrolltowne students are invited to submit any type of writing for the magazine, titled, "Cardinal Tales." The club members will collect the writings, read, decide, edit and create a magazine. All families will receive a copy!

As always, much thanks to ALL of you for your dedication and support of Carrolltowne PTA. Special thanks to Michele Carroll, Cheryl Leupen and Mort Shuman for being on this PTA adventure with me. We're having a whole bunch of fun!



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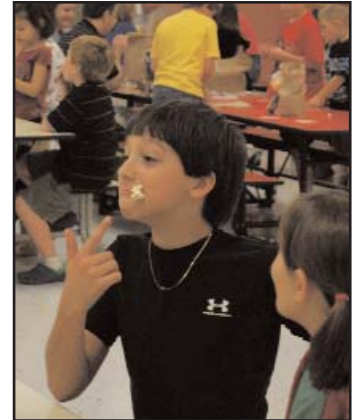
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2008 - 2009 Carrolltowne PTA Board Members

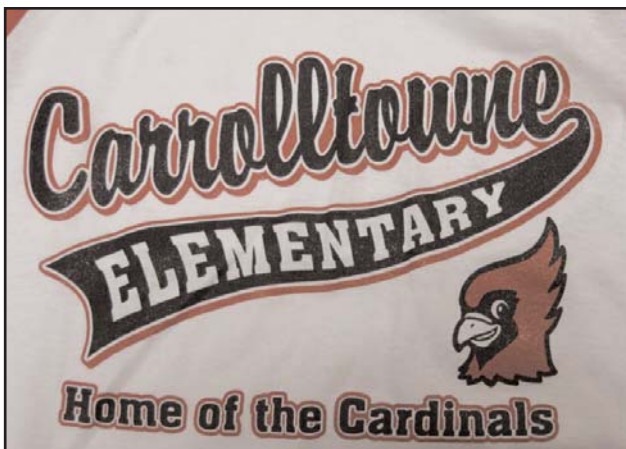
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Family Game Night a Success

The Carrolltowne PTA hosted a "Family Game Night" on **Thursday, October 16, 2008**. We had over 100 people in attendance and a good time was had by all! It was very neat to see families sharing in their favorite games and laughing. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success!



Show Your Spirit!



Spirit Wear is coming in soon! Thanks for your orders. We will have a Spring Spirit Wear sale as well. Let's show our spirit!

Also, the remaining School Spirit Days are listed below:

Monday, December 22, 2008
 Monday, January 12, 2009
 Friday, January 30, 2009
 Friday, February 13, 2009
 Wednesday, February 25, 2009
 Monday, March 2, 2009
 Tuesday, March 17, 2009
 Wednesday, April 1, 2009
 Friday, April 24, 2009
 Friday, May 8, 2009
 Friday, May 22, 2009
 Friday, June 5, 2008

Red and Green Day
Backward Day
Football Jersey Day
Red and Pink Day
Math Appreciation Day
Dr. Seuss Day
Green Day (St. Patrick's Day)
Mismatch Day
Gold and Black Day (Maryland Day)
Sunglasses Day
Patriotic Day
Ice Cream Color Day (Wear your favorite Ice Cream Color)

All Are Welcome!

Remember, everyone is welcome at the monthly PTA meeting! It's held the first Thursday of each month in the Media Center from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

You don't need to be on a committee to attend. It's a great way to find out what's going on at the school and what is being planned for the coming months. Fresh faces and new ideas are always welcome!

PTA Membership Update

Way to go, Carrolltowne! We now have over 400 PTA members, which includes moms, dads, teachers and staff. Have you seen your family's name on the 'Our PTA Rocks' bulletin board? It's located outside of the gym. Check it out! Congratulations to the teachers and staff in third grade. They were the first team to have 100% participation! A special thanks to the kindergarten, first and second grade teams as they now have 100% participation as well. Membership forms are available on the PTA website. If you'd like to join - it's not too late. As always, thanks for your support of the many activities that the PTA provides for our children.



Fun Run Results!

We would like to thank the Carrolltowne Elementary School Community for another successful Fun Run this year. Despite the difficult economy we raised \$ 17,291.20 (only \$2,700 short of our goal). We are happy to say that we were closest to achieving our goal of all the other elementary schools in the Freedom Area!!

Top classes:

- #1 class: **Mrs. Davidson / Mrs. Machiran** = \$855 ice cream winners
- #2 class : **Mrs. Campion** \$831
- #3 class : **Mrs. Parrish** \$805

Children:

- #1 **Garrett Geidel** \$300
- #2 **Hope Bernadzikowski** \$230
- #3 **Ashley Baillargeon** \$200
- #4 **Katherine Starego** \$190
- #5 **Nicole Starego** \$185

83% of the students participated! We would also like to acknowledge the matching corporate gifts we received, and donations from our parents who are small local business owners. We also hope your children enjoyed the "Feeling Great in 2008" posters that came home. All of the other prizes have been ordered and should be distributed prior to Thanksgiving break.

"Cardinal Tales" Comes to Carrolltowne

Announcing a new magazine! Cardinal Tales will be a twice-yearly printed magazine that will include writing from all grade levels of Carrolltowne students. An after school club, comprised of 4th and 5th graders, will select stories that are submitted for possible publication; design the magazine layout; illustrate; edit; type and run off the copies for the school population.

All grade levels are urged to submit a form of writing, whether it is a story, poem, factual information on a subject, a cartoon that tells a story, etc. Club members will write an acceptance letter to those whose work has been chosen. Original copies will be returned. Letters of thanks will be sent to those whose work did not make in to the upcoming edition, urging them to submit again when it is time for the next edition.

A folder will be in each classroom where children can submit writings to be considered. Children can submit more than one piece of writing. Students in preschool, kindergarten and first grade can submit a picture that they have drawn that tells a story. However, an adult must write the child's words that go with the picture.

Our first edition will be published late January. Get writing, Carrolltowne!

Want to stay Connected?

We hope you are enjoying the new Carrolltowne Connection PTA newsletter. In order to save paper, all future issues will be available online only (<http://www.carrolltownepta.com/newsletters.html>). However, if you would like to continue receiving paper copies, please fill out the information below, and return it to school. We will then include a paper copy with your child to take home for future issues. Thank you for your support!

YES, please send a paper copy of all future Carrolltowne Connection home with my child/children.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Students name(s) and grades _____

PTA Website Up and Running

Beginning this October, Carrolltowne parents have a new resource to utilize with regard to your PTA - the new Carrolltowne PTA website!

The site, located at www.carrolltownepta.com, is updated frequently and is always the best place to find the latest news, flyers/forms and other information pertaining to our PTA.

The site features the following:

About Us - Here are email links to the board members of your PTA. There are also photos so you can place names with faces.

Committees - You'll find an updated listing of the latest committees, what they do, and email addresses of the chairperson(s).

Calendar - Want to find out what's coming up at Carrolltowne? What days do the students have off? What PTA events are right around the corner? This is where you would check.

Forms - All the forms you need, from our membership form, to flyers that

go home, to Box Top flyers, etc. It's all here! You'll even find minutes from the PTA meetings in case you couldn't make it.

School Spirit - Get into the swing of things by marking down the dates for our Spirit days. Also, there is a link to the order form for Spirit Wear. Show your pride Carrolltowne!

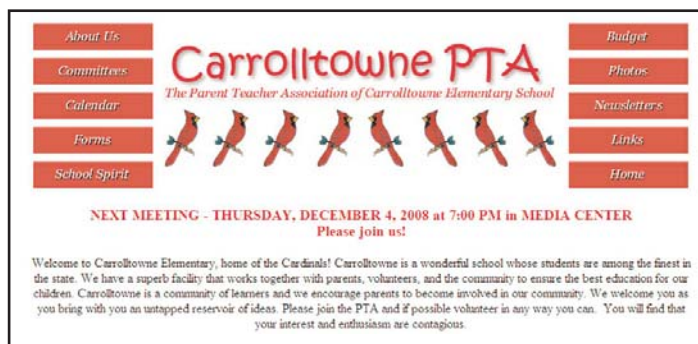
Budget - Want to find out where our money goes? Check out the budget, updated monthly after the PTA meeting.

Photos - A collection of photos throughout the year of PTA-related events.

Newsletters - the new home of the Carrolltowne Connection. All current and future newsletters will reside on the site, in case you missed any during the year.

Links - Links to the various Business Products programs, such as the Bonus Card sign ups, are here. Additionally, you'll find links to the Carrolltowne School Website, along with the State and National PTA.

So check out the site and please let us know what you think. We're certainly open for suggestions on how to continually make it easier to use and provide information you want. We are here for you!



Annual Book Drive is Success

The Community Service Committee sponsored a Book Drive and 'One for Books' event from **Monday, October 20 to Tuesday, October 28, 2008**. It was a huge success! We collected nearly 1,000 new and 'gently used' books and purchased 50 new books using the 'One for Books' dollars and loose change. The types of books collected included both fiction and nonfiction board books, picture books, chapter books, novels, educational workbooks and more (for ages infant through adult).

The books were delivered on Tuesday, November 4, 2008 to The Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc. They are a private, non-profit organization that operates over 26 different programs for at-risk and low-income families in Carroll County. Some of the books will be given out directly to the children and families. Others will be used in the various shelters, as well as the Neighbors in Need Holiday Shop and Second Chances, a "no cost" consignment store.

Thanks to efforts of the Carrolltowne students and parents, these books will go directly into the hands of children and adults in need. Thank you!

The Community Service Committee

