



Carrolltowne Connection



The newsletter of the Carrolltowne Elementary PTA

www.carrolltownepta.com

Mort Shuman, Editor (mdduckman@yahoo.com)

Spring 2009

President's Message

By Mary Ellen O'Neill, PTA President

Dear Carrolltowne Families,

Happy Spring! As I sit and write this note, about nine robins are on my lawn in search of worms. I have the window cracked and I can smell that earthy, dirt smell, which only springtime provides. Here's wishing all of you a lovely season!

This edition of the Connection will highlight events that have occurred lately and will occur in the month of April and May. All students will receive this newsletter to bring home instead of the notification that it is online. I find that parents are in need of a hard copy of these newsletters so that they can refer to

them for events, etc. Of course, it will also be on our webpage, www.carrolltownepta.com.

It is hard to believe that this school year is almost over. The PTA has had a great year so far and I am thankful to all of you for your support of our many programs! We are in need of more volunteers for some upcoming activities. Please look at your calendars and see if you are free for one of our future events. Thanks! As always, please contact me with any questions, suggestions, thoughts, etc at maryellenoneill@gmail.com.

Carrolltowne Elementary Dates To Remember

The following are upcoming dates to remember - details about most of these events are included in this edition of the Connection.

Thursday, April 2, 2009
 Friday, April 3, 2009
 Friday, April 3, 2009
 Tuesday, April 7, 2009
 Tuesday, April 7, 2009
 Tuesday, April 21, 2009
 Wednesday, April 22, 2009
 Thursday, April 23, 2009
 Monday, May 4 - Friday, May 8, 2009
 Wednesday, May 6, 2009
 Friday, May 8, 2009
 Friday, May 15, 2009
 Friday, May 22, 2009
 Thursday, May 28, 2009
 Friday, June 5, 2009

PTA Meeting in Media Center
 "Magpie" Cultural Program (3rd and 4th Grades)
 Mismatch Day (Spirit Day)
 "Cosmic Adventures" Cultural Program (5th Grade)
 Volunteer Training
 Art Night
 Administrative Professionals Day
 Science Fair
 Teacher Appreciation Week
 Nurses Day
 Sunglasses Day (Spirit Day)
 Beach Party
 Patriotic Day (Spirit Day)
 Play Day
 Ice Cream Color Day (Spirit Day - Wear your favorite Ice Cream Color)



In This Issue...

New Mascot Unveiled (Page 2)
 Yankee Candle Update (Page 2)
 Cultural Programs (Page 2)
 Dads and Donuts (Page 2)
 Language Program (Page 2)
 Literacy Update (Page 3)
 Art Night At Carrolltowne (Page 3)
 Annual Science Fair Info (Page 3)
 SchoolKidz Info (Page 3)
 Volunteer Training (Page 4)
 Play Day (Page 4)
 Nurses Day (Page 4)
 Admin Professionals Day (Page 4)
 Beach Party (Page 4)
 Teacher Appreciation Week (Page 4)
 Why PTA? (Page 4)
 Committee Listing (Pages 5 & 6)

2008 - 2009 Carrolltowne PTA Board Members

Mary Ellen O'Neill President 410.549.9118 maryellenoneill@gmail.com	Michele Carroll Vice President 410.549.4641 michelekarroll@comcast.net
Mort Shuman Secretary 410.549.5761 mdduckman@yahoo.com	Cheryl Leupen Treasurer 410.552.3328 Leupen6@cs.com

Welcome to Carrolltowne, Rocky!

Have you heard about our mascot, Rocky Redbird? Thanks to all of you, and your support of our Ledo pizza night, Carrolltowne finally has a mascot! The children love him and get so very excited when he comes to events. Rocky sometimes needs some help at these events, so if you like to act silly, goofy and would wear a cardinal costume, please email **Mary Ellen O'Neill** at maryellenoneill@gmail.com.



Carrolltowne's new mascot Rocky Redbird goes for a slam dunk during the Fifth Grade vs Faculty Basketball game on February 26, 2009.

Yankee Candle Update

Wow! Thanks, Carrolltowne, for all of your orders for our Yankee Candle fundraiser! The final number is not available at press time, but we made over **\$7,000** in profits. All monies will be used to support our operating budget for this current year, as well as roll-over into next year's budget that supports the many events the PTA provides, such as assemblies, spirit events, classroom items, etc. To know more, come to the PTA meeting this **Thursday, April 2, 2009** to see the current budget. Thanks to **Whitney Frey** and the many volunteers for this fundraiser.

Upcoming Cultural Programs

Money that is raised through the Fun Run and Yankee Candle Fundraiser supports the many cultural programs that are seen by all grade levels and sometime also, by individual grades throughout the year. We have had many great shows that add to what children learn in the classroom!

These include the following upcoming events:

Friday, April 3, 2009 - Cultural program for 3rd and 4th grades, called "Magpie" which highlights their learning of environmental issues.

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 - Cultural program for 5th grade "Cosmic Adventures", which highlights what they learn in science.

Thanks to **Cheryl Leupen** for organizing all of these events.

Dads and Donuts a Success!

360 donuts were ingested at our first Dads and Donuts event, held on **Friday, March 6, 2009**. Happy kids and their dads ate these colossal donuts, from Shoppers in Eldersburg. Only 13 were left over! Thanks to **Jenn Harrison** and the Spirit committee and volunteers, for such a great event.



Language Program Update

Merci and Xie Xie! Translation? Thank you from the French and Chinese language program! Over 25 Carrolltowne students learned either French or Mandarin Chinese this winter and spring thanks to the Language committee and their hard work to get this program up and running! The children loved learning not only words, but also the culture and customs of those two countries. We are looking forward to another opportunity in the upcoming school year to provide another language program. Thanks to **Deb Cancro, Tina Fiorelli** and **Cheryle Franceschi**, for your time and efforts.

Literacy Update

When I heard the laughing and giggling coming from my son's walker line recently, I couldn't wait to ask what was so funny. My fourth grade son, John, said, "Mom! Mom! We had an author come today and he was so funny. Guess what his son's first words were? 'Diaper Rash!'" He and all the kids around him started giggling again.

Author, poet, and songwriter **Barry Polisar** (www.barrylou.com) came to Carrolltowne on **Friday, March 27, 2009** as part of the PTA's promotion of literacy in our school. The PTA's literacy committee worked so hard to make this week fun and exciting for the students. In each suite, students were encouraged to bring in books for a 'swap'. All extra books will be used to supplement classroom libraries. Activities were suggested for children to do at home through a flyer that was sent home mid-March. Also, each child in the school received an age appropriate book on **Friday, March 27, 2009**. It was really a great week for all!

Thanks to **Kim Woodward**, **Whitney Frey** and all members of the literacy committee for making this a success.



Author/Poet/Songwriter Barry Polisar

All Are Welcome!

Our next PTA meeting is **Thursday, April 2, 2009** at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there. The meetings usually last an hour, and snacks are provided!

Remember, 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. Plus, it gives you an opportunity to voice your thoughts and concerns about our school. Fresh faces and new ideas are always welcome!

Art Night at Carrolltowne

Have you heard? Carrolltowne is hosting an Art Night on **Tuesday, April 21, 2009**. Kids bring their crayons, markers, etc and are given special paper, provided by "Original Works". The artwork will be sent away and be transformed into mugs, notepaper, calendars, garden flags, etc! Visit the website to see what can be made at www.originalworks.com.

If can't attend that evening, materials can be sent home to you for your child to create something as well. You can turn in your art and order form by **Monday, April 27, 2009**. RSVP forms were sent home last week and can also be found on our webpage, www.carrolltownepta.com, under the 'Forms' link.

Carrolltowne will receive about 30% profit from all that is ordered. Money raised will go to aiding Carroll County Public Schools in purchasing a heart defibrillator for Carrolltowne. This will be discussed at our next PTA meeting, or if you have questions, please email our treasurer, **Cheryl Leupen** at leupen6@cs.com.

Thanks to **Sue Moore** and volunteers for your help with art night!

It's Science Fair Time Again!

Carrolltowne's annual Science Fair will be **Thursday, April 23, 2009** from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Come and see our budding scientists! Thanks to **Kelly Storr** for organizing this event. You can contact Kelly for more information by emailing her at kstorr@hcpss.org, or visit our website - the information for the Science Fair can be found on the "Forms" page.

SchoolKidz School Supply Kits - Order Forms Coming Soon

Tired of searching for school supplies only to see "out of stock" on your favorite brands or on the colors you need? Or having your child only partially prepared for the first day of school? Let SchoolKidz help! Their pre-packaged, teacher customized supply kits offer popular brand-name products, guaranteed to be in stock and conveniently delivered to our school. Each kit is individually packaged and personalized for each student. Order forms for next year's school supply kits will be distributed next month. Pick up date will be in August. For questions, please contact **Michele Geidel** at nmgeidel@comcast.net.

Volunteer Training

Carrolltowne's last volunteer training of the year will be held on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009** at 6:50pm in our cafeteria. For those attending, please enter through the side doors, near the cafeteria so that you are on time.

In order to attend spring field trips, help in classrooms, at Play Day, etc, you will need to have training. Please contact **Sarah Sheetz** at ssheetz@bcps.org.

Thanks to **Sarah, Lisa Appellaniz** and **Jill Watson** for their service to volunteers this year!

Nurses Day

Special thanks need to go to our fabulous nurses, **Kathy Wantz** and **Kathy Matusak** for their fantastic care of our children during the school day. Nurses Day is Wednesday, May 6, 2009. Send a note or email if you can to thank them! Their addresses are on the school's website - www.carrollk12.org/ces.

Beach Party!

We're having a beach party at Carrolltowne! It will be **Friday, May 15, 2009** from 7 - 9 pm. Details are still being worked on by the Spirit Committee but save the date now! We will need TONS of help for this event to be as fun as possible. Please email **Jenn Harrison** to volunteer at jennharrison77@gmail.com.

Why PTA?

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. 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, 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.

Many of our Committee Chair persons and Committee members are moving onto middle school next year, and we need you! Please read the Committee Descriptions Form, attached. You may find a committee that is right for you. If you are interested in joining a committee, chairing a committee, or serving as an Officer, please complete the attached form and return it to school by **Friday, May 22, 2009**.

Lastly...

By reading over this newsletter, you can see all of the fun we have been having this year! I have a favor - come be a part of it! We really do need many more volunteers on committees and/or for specific events to keep this all happening for our kids. I appreciate you thinking about it. Email me or call me to talk about what you would like to do this year - and next year. Thanks! Mary Ellen O'Neill

THANKS FOR READING OUR SPRING EDITION OF THE CONNECTION!!!!!!

Get ready for Play Day!

Play Day is coming **Thursday, May 28, 2009!** **Mr. Brecker**, one of our great physical education teachers, is looking for volunteers to help with the many, many fun events that are held throughout the day. If you can volunteer - for any amount of time at all - please email him at ttbreck@k12.carr.org.

Administrative Professionals Day

Drop a note or an email of thanks to the staff in the main office that manages a school of over 620 children, their families and more! On **Wednesday, April 22, 2009**, we celebrate Administrative Professionals Day. Thanks to **Lanna Wharton, Donna Farnum, Donna Giasscock, Sharon Allia** and all who make the office run so smoothly! Their email addresses are on the school's website - www.carrollk12.org/ces/.

Teacher Appreciation Week

The PTA's hospitality committee is busy planning for Teacher Appreciation Week, held the week of **May 4 - May 8, 2009**. Each day, the PTA will have something special planned for the great teachers of Carrolltowne! If you are interested in helping out this week, please email **Carolyn Case** at casemail_MD@comcast.net. Thanks to **Carolyn** and **Valerie Streissguth** and committee for planning such great things!

PTA Volunteer Committees (continued)

NON-PTA FUNDED COMMITTEES

Business Products

Manages business product programs that provide supplies and equipment for school. Current programs include General Mills Box Tops for Education, Campbell Soup UPC's, and Tyson Labels. Work entails picking up labels and UPC's from school, clipping, counting, sorting and mailing them. Most of this can be done from home. Also coordinates and promotes local grocery store programs including Martins, Safeway (Escrip) and Giant.

Chairperson: Lauren Glass, laurenglass2@verizon.net

Misc Fundraisers

Coordinates fundraising for school improvement needs.

Chairperson: Whitney Frey, wasfrey@aol.com

School Store

Manages the school store. Works with the school staff member designated for this service. Solicits volunteers to assist in running the store.

Chairperson: Danielle Padula, daniellejosephandmaria@gmail.com

OFFICER DESCRIPTIONS

President

Shall preside at all meetings of Carrolltowne's PTA and of the Executive Board; shall perform duties described in bylaws; shall coordinate work of the officers and committees.

Vice President

Shall act as aide to the president; shall perform the duties of the president in the absence of or inability of the president to serve; shall perform other duties as assigned.

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

Continuous Improvement Council*

Attend curriculum council meetings (4 times per year during the day) and report at PTA meeting. Review proposed changes in curriculum and textbooks.

Chairperson: Needed

Legislative Representative*

Attend PTA functions at State level. Report at monthly PTA meetings.

Chairperson: Needed

PTA Council Representative*

Attend monthly Carroll County Council of PTAs meetings and reports at monthly PTA meetings.

Representative: Needed

School Board Representative

Attends monthly Carroll County School Board meetings at the Board of Education in Westminster and reports at monthly PTA meetings.

Representative: Debra Cromwell, dlc@cromwellunglesbee.com

Treasurer

Maintain the financial records of the PTA and conducts all financial business for the PTA. Attend monthly PTA meetings to present current budget information. Work with the Budget Committee to create a working budget for the fiscal year.

Secretary

Keep accurate records of the proceedings of the monthly meetings. Conducts the correspondence for the PTA.

Together We Can Make a Difference!

Please check the committee and/or representative position for which you would like to volunteer and return this form to school. Please indicate if you are interested in chairing or co-chairing. For questions, contact PTA Secretary Mort Shuman, mdduckman@yahoo.com.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birthday Books | <input type="checkbox"/> School Sign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> School Spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrolltowne Connection Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways and Means |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality/Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine | <input type="checkbox"/> Market Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Language | <input type="checkbox"/> School Store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Improvement Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math/Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> PTA Council Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> School Board Representative |

I would be interested in the following position with Carrolltowne PTA:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary |

I would like to nominate _____ for the position of:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary |

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Students
names
and
grades _____

Please include your name, phone and email on this form! Thank you!