

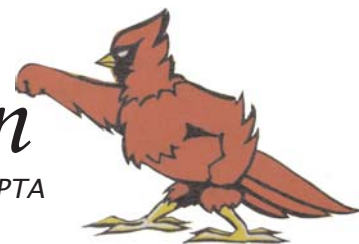


Carrolltowne Connection

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

Mort Shuman, Editor (mdduckman@yahoo.com)

Winter 2009



Vice President's Message

By Michele Carroll, PTA Vice President

Dear Carrolltowne Families,

It's winter time! I'm excited because that means spring is right around the corner. Let me share with you a little of what the PTA has been doing during these colder months:

Community Service: Led by **Chrissy Elliott**, the Community Service Committee and the Carrolltowne kids collected gifts to fill 70 bags to donate to senior citizens at West End Place, an adult day care center located in Westminster. In addition, many young artists right here at Carrolltowne made holiday cards to brighten the holiday season for the seniors.

Language: Chairpersons **Debra Cancro**, **Tina Fiorreli**, and **Cheryle Franceschi** worked long and hard to provide extracurricular language classes to our students. We offered classes in both Chinese and French. At present 25 students are taking advantage of these terrific classes.

Fundraiser: The PTA has been working to purchase a particular high-demand item...a cardinal mascot! Through the leadership of **Whitney Frey**, funds have been raised to make this purchase. Our efforts with Ledo's restaurant earned over \$610. Keep your eyes open - our new mascot soon will be in the school.

Music Programs: Our winter concert was music to our ears. Choral and instrumental musicians performed to a full house in December. The PTA had a small fundraiser, selling decorated cups with hot cocoa mix, marshmallows, and a candy cane. We sold out, making \$119, which was given directly to the music program here at Carrolltowne.

Enclosed Classrooms: We are thrilled that 1st grade and 4th grade classes are now being held in the newly renovated and enclosed classrooms. The floors are no longer carpeted, leaving a need for sitting areas for reading. **Michelle Geidel** has a connection with a flooring business and provided a wonderful solution. Two hundred sample carpet squares were delivered to the school, which will provide comfort when the kids are seated on the floor. The non-carpeted flooring brought about another need-tennis balls for chair legs. The metal chair legs are noisy when moved and also scrape the floor. To alleviate this problem, we are accepting donations of tennis balls to provide a buffer.

School Spirit: **Jenn Harrison** continues to do a fantastic job as chair of School Spirit. Our two next events are serving breakfast to moms, dads, and their kids. Moms-n-Muffins was held on February 6 (see below) and Dads-n-Donuts will be held March 6.



For more photos from this event, visit
<http://www.carrolltownepta.com/photos.html>

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2008 - 2009 Carrolltowne PTA Board Members

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

Caught On Camera!

You may have noticed Carrolltowne Elementary news in some of our local Eldersburg newspapers. We think it's nice for our community to know that there are great things happening at our school. We usually send press releases and photos about school events, but if you feel that there is something happening with your student or their class that is newsworthy, please let PTA Publicity Chair **Jen Murphy** know. The more Carrolltowne publicity the better! Just send an email to jenswriting@verizon.net and she'll do her best to catch the attention of our local media! Thanks.

Tutors Needed

Are you a tutor? Or, are you interested in tutoring? The PTA would like to put together a list of names of those who would like to be hired to tutor a child. The classroom teachers would have a list of tutors so that when parents ask the teacher for a name of someone who may be able to help their child in reading, math, etc. - the teacher could give the parent your name. If you are interested in being part of this list, please email **Mary Ellen O'Neill** at maryellenoneill@gmail.com. Please include your name, email, phone and areas that you are interested in tutoring. Thanks.

Membership Update

Over 400 parents and teachers are members of Carrolltowne PTA! We rock! Our membership has increased since last year. Thanks to all that have joined. We are excited to have you as members. If you are interested in joining, please email **Mary Ellen O'Neill** at maryellenoneill@gmail.com. The cost is \$6.00 for one person and \$10.00 for a couple. Additionally, the membership form can be found at <http://www.carrolltownepta.com/forms/membership.pdf>.

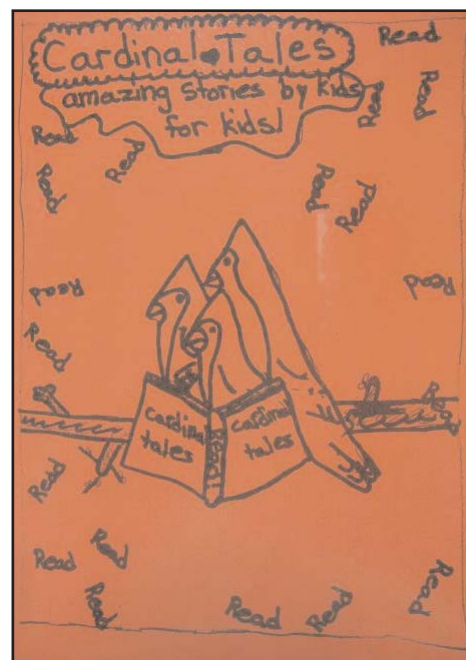
Cardinal Tales Is Here!

The first edition of Carrolltowne's first literary magazine is here! On **Tuesday, February 10, 2009**, all students received a copy of 'Cardinal Tales.' Inside the magazine, you will find stories, poems, articles, and more. All creations are written by Carrolltowne students! The spring edition will be out in late May. Encourage your child to write at home! They can bring their writing into their classroom and ask to put it into the 'Cardinal Tales' folder.

Literacy Update

The PTA Literacy Committee is planning a program for the week of **March 23-27, 2009**. Each day the children will have motivational activities to complete, and be given the opportunity to participate in a 'book swap'.

Also, Author **Barry Louis Polisar** will visit Carrolltowne on **Friday, March 27, 2009**. His books include: *Insect Soup*, *Peculiar Zoo*, *Dinosaurs I Have Known*, and *Noises From Under The Bed*. In addition to children's books, Barry has written familiar poems, stories and songs. Information and details about his visit and purchasing his books will be provided at a later date. In the meantime, be sure to check out Barry's website at www.barrylou.com.



Show Your Spirit!

The remaining School Spirit Days are listed below:

Wednesday, February 25, 2009
 Monday, March 2, 2009
 Tuesday, March 17, 2009
 Friday, April 3, 2009
 Friday, April 24, 2009
 Friday, May 8, 2009
 Friday, May 22, 2009
 Friday, June 5, 2008

Math Appreciation Day
Dr. Seuss Day
Green Day (St. Patrick's Day)
Mismatch Day
Gold and Black Day (Maryland Day) - NOT Steelers Day, Mr. Brecker!
Sunglasses Day
Patriotic Day
Ice Cream Color Day (Wear your favorite Ice Cream Color)



Language Update

Both French and Mandarin Chinese classes began the first week of January. Currently there are 19 Students enrolled in French, and 6 Students enrolled in Mandarin Chinese (1 from each grade!). Mandarin Chinese is being held on Tuesday mornings before school and French is being held Wednesdays after school. The committee is currently looking for a teacher to offer Spanish language classes next year as well. If you know someone who may be interested in teaching Spanish, contact **Debra Cancro** at debond@yahoo.com.

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!

Spirit Committee - Bringing Fun Times to Carrolltowne!

The Spirit Committee's two fun winter activities are going on now! "Moms-n-Muffins" was a tremendous success, and we look forward to an equally great turnout for "Dads-n-Donuts!" on Friday, March 6, 2009. If you are able to volunteer for "Dads-n-Donuts" please contact **Jenn Harrison** ASAP at jennharrison77@gmail.com!

We will be selling spiritwear again this spring. Look for information coming soon!

We are beginning to plan our end-of-the-year bash. If you are interested in helping on this team to plan and run this, please contact **Jenn Harrison** at jennharrison77@gmail.com.

Thanks for continuing to support Carrolltowne's PTA!

School Store - Open for Business

We will be open most Tuesday mornings before the bell rings, the only exceptions being Tuesdays following a Monday holiday. We have our usual selection of pencils and erasers along with some fun school supplies, and we are also selling books. We have a terrific selection of chapter books and books for all ages. No books are priced over \$4 and most are just \$2 or \$3. Please remind your children to visit the store on Tuesday mornings. Special thanks to PTA Member **Danielle Padula** for running the school store!

Upcoming PTA Cultural Committee Programs

The PTA Cultural Committee has the following three events scheduled for the remainder of the year:

Friday, March 27, 2009 - Author Barry Polisar (School Wide; 3rd, 4th and 5th at 9:45 am; Prep, EIK, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd at 2:15 pm).

Friday, April 3, 2009 - Magpie (3rd and 4th Grade - 9:45 am)

Thursday, April 23, 2009 - Cosmic Adventures (5th Grade - 9:30 am)

Providing these informative and educational programs is made possible through the generosity of PTA membership and your support in PTA Fundraisers. Your PTA support is appreciated!

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 _____

JA Biztown - A Taste of the Real World...

Even though our fifth graders can't drive, work, or collect a pay check that didn't stop them from having a great time at JA Biztown in Owings Mills, on **Monday, November 3, 2008**. The 10,000 square foot interactive town gives students a real world look at being an employee. The students were given the chance to learn what it takes first hand to run a business. They worked as bank tellers, insurance agents, radio and television personalities and even UPS delivery people. Everyone earned a paycheck and was given the opportunity to experience banking transactions. They were even encouraged to buy stock in the towns companies and of course donate to their favorite charity.



This was Carrolltowne's first experience with the JA Biztown curriculum; it was so enjoyable that we have already sent off the deposit for the 2009-2010 school year!

For more information, visit http://www.ja.org/programs/programs_elem_biztown.shtml

Teacher Grants Now Available

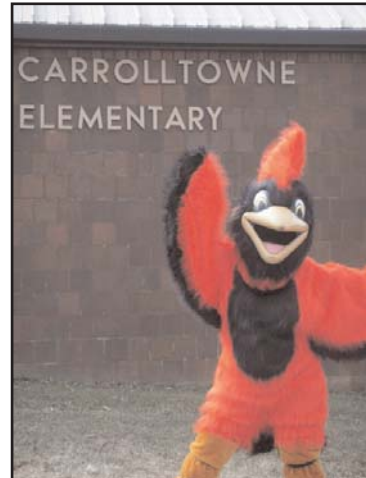
The PTA has begun to offer Teacher Grant's to the classroom teachers. The full-time teachers are given a \$50 grant; while the part-time teachers are given \$25. These grants are offered to reimburse teachers for out-of-pocket expenses accrued for classroom supplies. The grants are just a small token of the PTA's appreciation for all the teachers and staff does for our children.

Carrolltowne Welcomes New Mascot

Thanks to our sales during the Ledo Pizza fundraiser, we raised enough money to purchase a mascot for Carrolltowne! Now all we need is a name for our fearless mascot. Recently, students were asked to vote on their favorite name from the following choices:

Big Red
Carroll Cardinal
Charlie Cardinal
Rocky Redbird
Soarin

The winning name will be announced on **Thursday, February 26, 2009** at the 5th Grade vs Staff Basketball Game. Go CARDINALS!!



2008 - 2009 Carrolltowne Elementary PTA



Our PTA Rocks!!