

August/September  
2007

# Carderocket



**Carderock Springs Elementary School  
PTA Newsletter**

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**Principal:**  
Susan MacLaughlin

**PTA President:**  
Maxine Schnitzer

**PTA Executive VP:**  
Kristy Keteltas

**PTA VPs:**  
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Jenn Fechter  
Joni Lucas Shapiro

**PTA Treasurer:**  
Lynn deBettencourt

**MCCPTA Rep:**  
Sara Bhatia

**Cluster Rep:**  
Deb Lang

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Lynn Gertzog

**PTA Website:**  
[www.csespta.org](http://www.csespta.org)

## **Letter from the PTA President**

Dear Carderock Families:

Welcome back to another year at Carderock! We have some terrific programs planned for our students and their families this year. Bingo Night is back by popular demand! But we still need some help with a couple of annual favorites, so please check the Volunteer Job Market to see where you can help if you have some time.

A big "Thank You" goes out to all the parents who have volunteered to serve on the PTA Board, Chair committees, and help with what promises to be a great year for the whole community.

We look forward to another year of open communication between parents and our exceptional staff at Carderock. We plan to have five PTA meetings this year. **Important renovation updates and architectural drawings will be presented at our October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.** We've invited the teachers to make a presentation on either Language Arts or Science at our February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. So mark your calendars and remember that your PTA meetings are an opportunity for parents and faculty to come together to let their voices be heard and keep the lines of communication open.

The Carderock Foundation will be making their final push this year to raise funds for the building renovation. Funds raised by the Foundation will pay for "extras" that will further improve and enrich our children's educational experience! So, be on the look out for information from the Foundation on how you can "buy a brick" and participate in the CSES Auction!

But remember that the Foundation and the PTA are separate organizations. When you join the PTA and participate in PTA fundraising efforts, such as Sally Foster and Giant Gift Cards, you are funding the wonderful programs we provide each year for our children, as well as supporting our teaching staff by funding special training and classroom supplies.

We are fortunate at Carderock - almost everybody joins the PTA! As a result, your PTA really does give a voice to the entire school community. Please stay involved or get involved in your PTA. Welcome back! - *Maxine Schnitzer*

**Congratulations to our principal on her July wedding ...  
Welcome back Mrs. MacLaughlin!**




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***“Parent volunteers have always been an important part of Carderock... The children benefit greatly when we give our time.”***

## PTA Committee Vacancies

We are still looking for a few good volunteers to help out this year. As you know, we could not provide the wide variety of activities that benefit and enrich our school each year without parent volunteers!

The FLES Committee is looking for a co-Chair to help coordinate registration for extracurricular foreign language classes. We also are in desperate need of one or two Hospitality Chairs to plan and coordinate the Open House Breakfast in October and the End of Year Volunteer Luncheon in June. Arts and Literacy Night is in danger of falling by the wayside this year if we don't get a volunteer to Chair this wonderful event.

If you have any time at all please let us know. Your commitment of time and energy will be greatly appreciated by all of our children! Please contact Maxine Schnitzer at [mcschnitzer@aol.com](mailto:mcschnitzer@aol.com) or Kristy Keteltas at [kristy.keteltas@verizon.net](mailto:kristy.keteltas@verizon.net)

## Volunteer Committee - Theresa Goldsholle, Ana Sanchez

Welcome to the new school year! Interested in being a: room parent, class volunteer, Habitat Garden helper, Book fair check out helper, International Night host, teacher appreciation cookie baker, or an escort for hearing/vision testing?? These are just a few of the kinds of school projects, activities and events you may see advertised by teachers, staff and the PTA in the **Volunteer Job Market**.

We look forward to another great year filled with volunteer opportunities for all our families! Each Wednesday, your child will be bringing home a **Volunteer Job Market**, advertising many ways to help our school. There are opportunities to fit every schedule and talent, so please consider joining in! Parent volunteers have always been an important part of Carderock, both in the vital role they provide to the PTA, teachers and staff, and in the community spirit they help create. The children benefit greatly when we give our time.

Mark your calendar now for the **Volunteer Orientation and Coffee** scheduled for **Thursday, September 20th from 10:00 - 11:30 am in the Art Room**. We hope to see you there and look forward to working with you!

## Back to School Picnic – Lora Bevirt, Peggy May

Mark your calendar now for the **Back to School Picnic** scheduled for **Thursday, September 20th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the school yard** (rain date September 27th).

Please plan to help us kick off the new school year at the always popular **Back to School Picnic**! Your kids will enjoy running around with their friends while you catch up with yours. We are lining up Potomac Pizza, Carmen's Italian Ice and a great DJ and expect the evening to be full of fun.

If you are interested in volunteering to help out at the Picnic, please email Lora Bevirt at [lbevirt@verizon.net](mailto:lbevirt@verizon.net) or Peggy May at [mfm@georgetown.edu](mailto:mfm@georgetown.edu).

We hope to see you there!

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## Staff Appreciation Committee -- Suzanne Dritschilo, Ana Sanchez

Welcome back everyone from a long, hot summer! Our committee has been busy as bees planning the special ways that we can all show our new and returning staff members how much we appreciate their daily efforts on behalf of our children and our school. This is our last year before the renovation moves us out of our beloved Carderock, so we want to try some new ideas to make our last year even more memorable.

There will be many opportunities to share your creativity and culinary skills this year as we plan the little edible surprises and treats that our staffs love so much. We will be at the Volunteer Orientation on September 20 with a sign-up sheet for all you Rachael Rays, Emerils, and Barefoot Contessas out there who have been waiting all summer to cook up some special treats and recipes that you've been storing up for the winter! The much-loved holiday cookie platters will be on the schedule for December (we'll send out reminders and signups for in Oct and Nov), and the always hugely-anticipated celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week in May will be here before you know it. So as you are out and about during the coming months and see something adorable, keep that event on your never-ending "To Do" list .

To kick off the new year, we welcomed the staff back on their first day, 8/20, with a 'red carpet' walk of fame with all their names on big gold stars hanging at the front entrance, and an edible fruit basket. Fresh breads and pastries and hot coffee greeted them on their first official day of school, 8/27.

We will be thrilled to hear about any ideas you have to share, so please look for either Suzanne or Ana at the Volunteer Orientation meeting, or feel free to email us at [dtppro@aol.com](mailto:dtppro@aol.com) before then. Can't wait to hear from you!

## FLES Committee – Valerie Mercer-Blackman

Attention language-oriented Carderock families: The Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) Program provides quality instruction in French, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish before and after school to children in Montgomery County public elementary schools.

By participating in the FLES Program, CSES students can begin building a firm foundation for the continued study of languages in middle and high school; develop an interest in other cultures; and gain enthusiasm for participating in our increasingly global community. No English is spoken in FLES classes!

WATCH FOR A BROCHURE ABOUT CARDEROCK'S FLES CLASSES COMING THIS FALL! Questions? Please contact Valerie Mercer-Blackman at (301) 299-4218, or [vmercerblackman@imf.org](mailto:vmercerblackman@imf.org).



**Back by popular demand:  
Holiday cookie platters!**

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***“FLES provides elementary students quality instruction in French, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish.”***

## Grade Level Socials – Jill McClelland

Don't miss out on the chance to meet the parents of the children in your child's grade at the grade level socials this fall. These socials typically take place in October and November, and are a wonderful opportunity to get to know other parents in your child's grade in a casual setting in someone's home.

We need YOUR help to make these evenings happen. Specifically, we need a host family (to have the social at their home) and helpers (to help with everything from invitations to organizing food and drinks) for each grade. Please watch for flyers and postings in the Volunteer Job Market at the beginning of the school year so you can sign up to help with these fun evenings. If you are so eager to sign up to help with your child's grade that you just can't wait for the flyers, please call me at 301-767-1649 or e-mail me at [JillScottMcC@aol.com](mailto:JillScottMcC@aol.com). I can't wait to hear from you.

# WELCOME

## Parent Education – Christine Fruehwirth

I am looking forward to another year of organizing Parent Education discussions to benefit the parent community at Carderock.

We have a couple of topics left from last year's survey which I'll do my best to schedule programming for the coming year. If there are any topics and/or speakers you would like to recommend, please contact me at [thefrues@comcast.net](mailto:thefrues@comcast.net).

Look for details of the first Parent Education event later this fall.

## International Night – Ned Hodgman, Bob Erdman

Though it's still early in the year, it can't hurt to jot down the date for CSES International Night and start thinking about how you and your family can participate - from setting up a country booth to bringing your favorite international dish to simply enjoying all the festivities.

This year, International Night is scheduled for Thursday, January 31. If you want to find out more or learn about volunteer possibilities, please write to Ned Hodgman or Bob Erdman at [intlnite@verizon.net](mailto:intlnite@verizon.net), or call Ned at (301) 326-7137 or Bob at (301) 560-4587.



## Carderocket Listserve - Anita Kattapuram, Judy McGowan

Stay connected by joining the Carderock listserv for mailings about school functions and happenings. Subscribe at [carderocketnet@yahoo.com](mailto:carderocketnet@yahoo.com).



## PTA Membership - Tina Carmichael

The Carderock Springs PTA invites you to become a member for the 2007-2008 school year.

Members of the PTA receive a membership card for voting, a monthly PTA newsletter, and a school directory. PTA membership forms will be available at both back-to-school nights, at the school office, and via kids' backpack mail.

If you have any questions, contact Tina Carmichael at 301-365-5083 or [tacarmichael@verizon.net](mailto:tacarmichael@verizon.net).

## Buildings & Grounds/Habitat Garden – Alison Lepard

When you come by school, make sure to visit the Habitat Garden - just behind the music portable. It is in full flower, huge and at its peak. Giant Joe Pye weed, goldenrod, coreopsis and oxeye sunflower are going strong. The fall asters are just getting their started. There are several benches for sitting and enjoying the garden.

Come help out! The Habitat Garden is a place for students to learn and for wildlife to find food and shelter. Be a part of the garden by helping to maintain it. Email Alison at [al\\_st@yahoo.com](mailto:al_st@yahoo.com) and watch out for our fall clean up announcement coming soon.



## Giant Gift Cards Program – Debbie Stone and Laura Friedman

Help raise funds for Carderock Springs ES! The Giant Fundraiser Gift Card Program is an easy way to support the school and our children.

All you need to do is buy groceries! For every \$100 you spend at Giant, \$4 goes to the school. Cards do not expire and come in a variety of denominations (\$100, \$50, \$20).

When you sign up, the first week of every other month (October, December, February, April, and June) OR once a season (October, February, June), a volunteer will deliver cards to your home. You'll give the volunteer a check for the value you've ordered. You may increase or decrease the amount at any time.

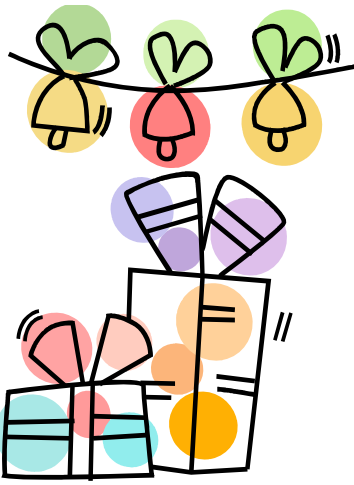
Each time you use the card, your receipt will tell you many \$\$ remain on the card. Gift cards are good at Giant grocery stores and are accepted by Peapod.

Thanks for your support - it adds up quickly. Last year the Giant Gift Card program raised about \$4,000 for our school - enough to cover the cost of the PTA's Cultural Arts assemblies!

Watch for a registration form coming soon. Questions? Contact [dstone4jrich@aol.com](mailto:dstone4jrich@aol.com) or [lwfriedman@comcast.net](mailto:lwfriedman@comcast.net).

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***“Last year the Giant Gift Card program raised about \$4,000 for CSES!”***



**Stock up early ...  
Watch for your  
Sally Foster Gift catalog!**

## Sally Foster – Melanie Caudron, Nancy Holden and Rose Oppenheim

The annual Sally Foster Fundraiser for the Carderock Springs PTA is just around the corner. Be on the lookout for your Sally Foster catalog, coming soon through your child's backpack.

Make your gift giving simple with the array of Sally Foster products –

- Gift wrap and accessories, all high quality in a wide range of stylish designs
- Gifts for home and occasions, including bath and body products and frames and photo albums
- Cookware and serving pieces, including whimsical ice cream bowls and practical kitchen items
- Gourmet edibles and chocolates, nicely packaged for gift giving

Carderock Springs earns 50% of every item sold! Your participation helps fund PTA programs, such as cultural arts, Arts and Literacy Night, International Night, and other ongoing PTA activities!

In addition, there are fun prizes for children who participate. Stay tuned!

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

### September

- 3 Labor Day-No School
- 4 Back to School Night Grades K-2
- 5 Back to School Night Grades 3-5
- 7 New Parent Coffee 10 a.m.
- 13 No School - Rosh Hashanah
- 20 Volunteer Coffee 10 a.m.
- 20 Back to School Picnic 5:30 p.m. (rain date 9/27)

### October

- 2 PTA Meeting and Renovation Presentation 7 p.m.
- 8 Open House - Family Breakfast and Visiting Day 8:15 a.m.
- 19 No School - Professional Day for Teachers
- 31 Halloween Parade 1:30 p.m.

### November

- 1 No School - Professional Day for Teachers
- 6 PTA Meeting and Parent Education Speaker 7 p.m.
- 9 Early Release Day - 12:35 p.m. - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 12 Early Release Day - 12:35 p.m. - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 16 Bingo Night
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Break



**Don't miss out ...  
Mark your calendar!**