

February 6, 2008

Carderocket



**Carderock Springs Elementary School
PTA Newsletter**

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Letter from the PTA President

Dear Carderock Families:

Bonjour! Ciao! Czeszc! Salaamalekum! Yobosaeyo! Konnichiwa! Ni hao! Greetings from around the world! I hope you all had the chance to come out last Thursday night and share in the excitement of Carderock's International Night! This is the event where our multicultural community really shines. We owe a debt of gratitude to Ned Hodgman and Bob Erdman who put on another show stopping event this year. Ten countries were represented, spanning the globe from France to Senegal. To top it all off, the International Café was a gastronomical feast while the Fashion Parade was a feast for the eyes. The Flamenco show had us all on our feet standing a bit taller! Sharon Keegan and Kristy Keteltas are to be applauded for organizing the Parade and the Café.

The Fall 2007 issue of the *Carderock Chronicle* came out last month. The student contributors who conducted interviews, wrote advice columns and reviews, submitted creative writing pieces, created puzzles, games and comic strips, and took photos should all be proud of what they produced at Carderock! What a terrific first issue of the *Chronicle*. We are all grateful to Margaret Powell for all her work on publishing our literary magazine. We look forward to the spring issue!

The Carderock sweatshirts and PJ bottoms went home this month! Many thanks to Lauren Sachs for designing the sweatshirts and PJ bottoms and for organizing the sale of Carderock Spiritwear! We are still waiting for some sweatshirt sizes to come in from the manufacturer, so if you ordered a sweatshirt and have not received it, have no fear...it is on the way. If you have not already purchased your 2007-2008 Carderock T-shirt, it is not too late. We will have T-shirts for sale at Spring Fling in May.

Our next big event is the Variety Show! Karen Hutchinson, Lynda McIntyre and Nancy Holden have kicked things off already and are looking for talented youngsters to grace our stage! Our three Variety Show Chairs have developed some guidelines for the show this year so as to ensure a smooth running performance night within a reasonable time frame. Parents should read those guidelines and keep them in mind when working with your performers. So, mark your calendars for March 7th and look for more information on the Variety Show in the days and weeks ahead.

Open communication and a free flow of information between the Principal and the parents are critical components to any well functioning school community. In early January, Mrs. MacLaughlin invited parents to a coffee at school to have a conversation about what ever was on their minds. There was a very good turn out and we touched on a number of issues of interest to parents. Those of us who attended learned some things, cleared some things up and connected with other parents and with our Principal. We all very much appreciate that Mrs. MacLaughlin took the time to talk with us in an informal setting with no pre-set agenda. The coffee and donuts were a treat too! I would urge you to drop into the next Parent-Principal coffee and learn something new about Carderock!

Finally, I hope you will come to hear our next speaker in our Parent Education Series. Christine Fruewirth has invited Pam Mintz, Parent Education Coordinator for YMCA Youth and Family Services, to discuss "Homework Habits" on Thursday, February 7th from 10:00-11:30 in the Art Room.

As always, feel free to give me a call if there is anything that you want to talk about as a parent of this school community.

- Maxine C. Schnitzer



International Night – Ned Hodgman, Bob Erdman

International Night 2008 continued the great CSES tradition of bringing our students and parents together for an evening of culture, food, and music from around the world. The organizers would like to thank everyone who helped out and made this event such a success and so much fun for all involved. You can see from this list that it takes a village to put together International Night. If we missed someone's name, please forgive us -- but please don't forget to sign up again next year!! Thanks to everyone from Bob Erdman and Ned Hodgman, Co-chairs.

Country Booths, Welcome Desk, International Café, Fashion Parade, General Support:

Salma Ali, Louise Amat, Marie Amat, Simon Amat, Meera Ammu, Priya Ammu, Mayu Arimoto, Leslie Bellas, Lynn deBettencourt, Cyndi DeBisschop, Astrid Boon, Sara Bhatia, Katie Coleman, Taylor Daly, Brendan Daly, Vidhya Dandi, Brandon Eng, Patricia Eng, Bob Erdman, Jennifer Fry, Elizabeth Ghauri, Luqman Ghauri, Kay Han, Chris Hodgman, Ned Hodgman, Jing-Fun Hwang,, Ray Hwang, Alice Ihm, Hiroaki Ino, Miki Ishii, Keno Katsuda, Kotta Katsuda, Anita Kattapuram, Meera Kattapuram, Sharon Keegan, Kristy Keteltas, Amy Kwak, Jun Li, Michael Lindstrom, Deborah Livornese, Daiyuan Luo, Barbara Malachowski, Kajetan Malachowski, Kaz Malachowski, Michal Malachowski, Peggy May, Valerie Mercer-Blackman, Shiree Naman, Karen Perl, Margaret Powell, Leslie Reed, Martin Reed, Mikayla Ribeiro, Gretchen Riddle, Alex Roderer, Haruka Sano, Kristen Schenck, Maxine Schnitzer, Trudy Shahabi, Karen Shepardson, Chung Shu, Saima Siddiqui, Martin Spicer, Janeen Stone, Yong Sun, Toru Susami, Amadou Sy, Nabou Sy, Jane Tam, Leanne Till, Seema Verma, Lucy Winkler, Kathy Yu, Mehreen Chaudri Zaman

International Tasting Café Contributors:

Leslie Bellas, Sara Bhatia, Astrid Boon, Lisa Bronfman, Melanie Caudron, Marie Caulfied, Amy Darragh, Cyndi DeBisschop, Sighele Doherty, Alison Ewing, Christine Fruewirth, Jennifer Fry, Lynn Gertzog, Li Gwatkin, Tamara Hodgman, Karen Hutchinson, Anita Kattapuram, Anne Kisslinger, Milena Klucarova, Lois Kramer, Amy Kwak, Maria Labadan, Phyllis Marcus, Marcy Markowitz, Sandy Rauh, Leslie Reed, Gretchen Riddle, Saima Siddiqui, Janeen Stone, Lucy Winkler



**Save a tree ...
Help your PTA transition to
paperless communication**

Carderocket Listserv

Stay connected and help your PTA save paper at the same time! Join the Carderocket listserv for emails about school functions and happenings. Go to carderocketnet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Giant Gift Cards -- Debbie Stone

The Giant Gift Card Committee would like to thank the wonderful parents who help us deliver the cards: Stephanie Sola-Sole, Tina Carmichael, Sharon Keegan, Trudy Shahabi, Vidhya Dandi, Lauren Sachs, and Melanie Caudron. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts!

Arts & Literacy Night (March 13) – Sara Bhatia

Come celebrate our kids' creativity in the arts on the evening of March 13th! We will showcase their gorgeous artwork in the All Purpose Room in a gallery-style display, and hang artwork and writing samples in the hallways. Throughout the evening, there will be live performances by the children and activities to encourage active participation, including a spelling bee, poetry slam, dance workshops, and a graffiti wall where they can join in mural making. Mark your calendars!

I'm looking for volunteers to help with hanging artwork the week of March 10th, and for people to assist with running the live events and activities. Please contact Sara Bhatia at 301-263-9403, or sarabhatia@aol.com.



After School Activities – Sara Bhatia

The PTA sponsors a variety of after school activities at Carderock for kids of all ages. Below is the calendar of activities offered second semester. Information regarding upcoming classes will be distributed via Carderocketnet. If you have a great idea for a new activity, or if your child would like to join a class already in session, please contact Sara Bhatia at 301-263-9403 or sarabhatia@aol.com.

Nature Club -- Grades K - 2; Mondays, 3:15 - 4:15; Ongoing. Current 6-week session began 1/28.

Art -- Grades K - 5; Tuesdays, 3:30 - 4:30; Spring session will begin 3/4.

Science Club -- Grades 2 - 3; Wednesdays, 3:30 - 4:30; Class is full.

Imagination Stage -- Grades 1 - 2; Wednesdays, 3:15 - 4:15; Winter session runs 1/9 - 3/19.

Chess Club -- Grades 2 - 5; Wednesdays, 5 - 6 p.m.; Ongoing. Current 11-week session began 12/19.

Cake Decorating -- Grades 4 - 5; Fridays, 3:15 - 4:15; Session will begin 4/4.



Box Tops for Education -- Karen Hutchinson

Sweet Rewards!

Baking up sweet treats for your Valentine? Don't forget to check the package for the Box Tops for Education coupon. The next deadline for coupon submission is February 29th, and it would be a sweet treat for our school to receive an even bigger check than the last one. Send the kids on a coupon hunt through the pantry, because **the student who submits the most coupons now through Friday, February 22nd will receive a special Valentine surprise!** Please label your bag of coupons with your child's name and place them in the collection jar in the front office. We *love* getting money for our school! Thank you for your support!

4th and 5th Grade Book Clubs - Debbie White, Deb Lang

On February 22nd, both 4th and 5th grade book clubs will be discussing William Steig's The Real Thief. It's a small but wonderful book that lends itself to a great discussion. There are extra copies in the Media Center (thank you PTA!) - or you can pick a copy up at the public library.

Happy Reading! - Mrs. White, Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Martinsen



Yearbook Club -- Holly Welch, Kristina Valencia

The yearbook club is off and running! We have a large student staff this year - great to see so much school pride. We will be meeting Tuesdays after school....emails will be sent to confirm the meetings. We are looking to be all digital this year- PLEASE email photos to welchparty@verizon.net. Thanks!

2008 Calendar

February

- 5 PTA Meeting - Teacher Presentations 7 p.m.
- 7 Parent Education Speaker 10- 11:30 a.m.
- 12 No School - Presidential Primary Elections
- 14 Valentine's Day Parties
- 18 No School - President's Day
- 27 Early Release 12:35 p.m.
- 29 Variety Show Rehearsal

March

- 7 Variety Show
- 12 MSA Testing Begins
- 13 Arts and Literacy Night
- 21 Spring Break begins
- 31 Return to School After Break

April

- 1 PTA Date
- 7 No School - Professional Day for Teachers

May

- 6 PTA Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 5-9 Staff Appreciation Week
- 16 Spring Fling
- 26 No School - Memorial Day
- 30 Rain Date Spring Fling

June

- 2 PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11 5th Grade Promotion
- 12 Last Day of School - Early Release 12:30 p.m.



